



אגודת המפגש הבין דתי (ע"ר) • جمعية اللقاء بين الديانات  
INTERFAITH ENCOUNTER ASSOCIATION

## *“Faith for Rights” through Interfaith Encounter*

The Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA) works to promote genuine coexistence and sustainable peace, through joint grassroots community building, using interactive interfaith dialogue as its vehicle. IEA's apolitical and all-inclusive approach and activities enable the successful participation of a very wide range of participants and thus continuously builds a true social movement that constitutes human infrastructure for peace in the Holy Land.

In its sixteen years of existence, the IEA has held nearly 2,500 programs, with many thousands of participants. A most significant fact is that the participants in IEA programs include people of all political and religious views, as well as all ages, genders, walks of life etc; and that the vast majority of them have met 'the other' for the first time through IEA. Until now, IEA has founded 94 ongoing community-groups of interfaith encounter – from the Upper Galilee to Eilat, including 36 groups that bring together on a regular basis Israelis and West Bank Palestinians. See more online at [www.interfaith-encounter.org](http://www.interfaith-encounter.org)

Some of the principles included in the 18 Commitments on “Faith for Rights” are already reflected in the modus operandi of IEA. For example: joint constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts is the core of IEA's methodology. We also give special attention to young adults and teenagers, both through very large portion of dedicated groups, through inclusion in organizational leadership roles (three of our six Board members are currently young adults) and through support and help in realizing initiatives.

IEA will translate the 18 Commitments into Hebrew. Further integration of “Faith for Rights” in IEA activity can take the form of several groups (general groups, youth groups, women groups, religious leaders groups etc.). They will receive the Hebrew, Arabic and English versions of the 18 Commitments and dedicate to it a series of encounters, each focusing on one of the commitments: studying its Jewish, Muslim and Christian relevant sources, understanding its meaning and implications and exploring ways to share the knowledge and commitment they gain with others.

Several examples are: attitudes towards other religions or minorities, roles of women and men in society, love your neighbor, disagreements, significance of education and helping other nations, no compulsion in religion. Groups may also chose to focus on interpretation in religion in general and/or in studying themes that are often used to criticize specific societies, such as Jihad for Muslims or Chosen People for Jews, and expose their true meaning.

Costs:

Pilot scale – 4 groups, 10 encounters each: \$20,000

Medium scale – 8 groups, 10 encounters each: \$40,000

Larger scale – 12 groups, 10 encounters each: \$60,000

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