RELIGION AS A WEAPON OF WAR: IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

June 22-26, 2026
Skopje, North Macedonia
(Complex Macedonian Village)

unesco
Chair

Република Северна Македонија
Министерство за култура

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Conference Overview

Following the exceptional scientific and organizational success of the First and Second European Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation, as well as the First, Second and Third World Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation (under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism), the Center for Intercultural Studies and Research at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje will organize the Fourth World Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation on the topic: Religion as a Weapon of War: in the past, present and future (under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism). This conference will be attended by eminent professors and researchers in the field of religion and culture, who will be representatives of the largest number of countries from all continents in the world. At the Conference, we will bring together eminent and talented professors and researchers with expertise in religious studies, sociology of religion, sociology of culture, theology, philosophy of religion, history of religion, psychology of religion, anthropology of religion and other scientific fields, to present the results of research projects that have a great impact in scientific circles around the world; we will enable the exchange of knowledge with religious dignitaries from around the world to present their views in the interdisciplinary, interfaith debate on the connection between religion and war; we will promote the innovative use of digital tools and new technologies to maximize the impact of research; we will involve the general public, policymakers and religious communities in finding solutions to these challenges.

The denominational map of Hungary and in 2011

Fourth World Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation

Please submit a 200-300 word abstract of your presentation (according to the instructions for authors given on the Conference web site:

http://icrd.fzf.ukim.edu.mk/,

by e-mail (wcrdc@fzf.ukim.edu.mk),

no later than April 15, 2026

KEY DATES

Submission of paper proposals (abstracts):

April 15, 2026

The final date of the registration for the Conference: **May 15, 2026**

Final program: **June 10, 2026**

Submission of full papers: **October 1, 2026**

Registration Fee

Regular Participants: 220 euro

Participants from high income countries: 320 EUR

(Canada, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States)

PhD Students Participants: 150 EUR

On line participants: 120 EUR

For persons accompanying the participants of the Conference: 120 EUR

Registration fee includes:

- Conference printed materials (program, book of abstracts, certificates for participation in the Conference)
- Publication of the final papers in the Journal: Religious Dialogue and Cooperation https://journals.ukim.mk/index.php/rdc/mk/index
- Participation in Opening Ceremony of the Conference and welcome reception cocktail (22.06.2025)
- Participation in working sessions with coffee breaks
- Visit to the cultural and historical monuments in Skopje (Monastery of Saint Panteleimon in Gorno Nerezi, Marko's Monastery in Markova Sušica; The Church of the Ascension of Jesus; Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Independence and dinner in a traditional Macedonian restaurant (23.06.2026)
- Visit to the cultural and historical monuments in Skopje (Mustafa Pasha Mosque; Yahya Pasha Mosque; Murat Pasha Mosque; Kursumli An; Old Skopje Bazaar and dinner in a traditional Macedonian restaurant (24.06.2026)
- Visit to the cultural and historical monuments in Tetovo (Painted Mosque; Arabati Baba Tekke; Leshok Monastery; Isa Beg Hammam; St. Nikolas Church) and gala dinner

The cost of travel and accommodation is not included in the conference fee

Registration fee is paid to the account of the Hotel (complex Macedonian Village), where the Conference venue is located

For the method of payment of the registration fee, write to:
makedonskoseloskopje@gmail.com

Accommodation

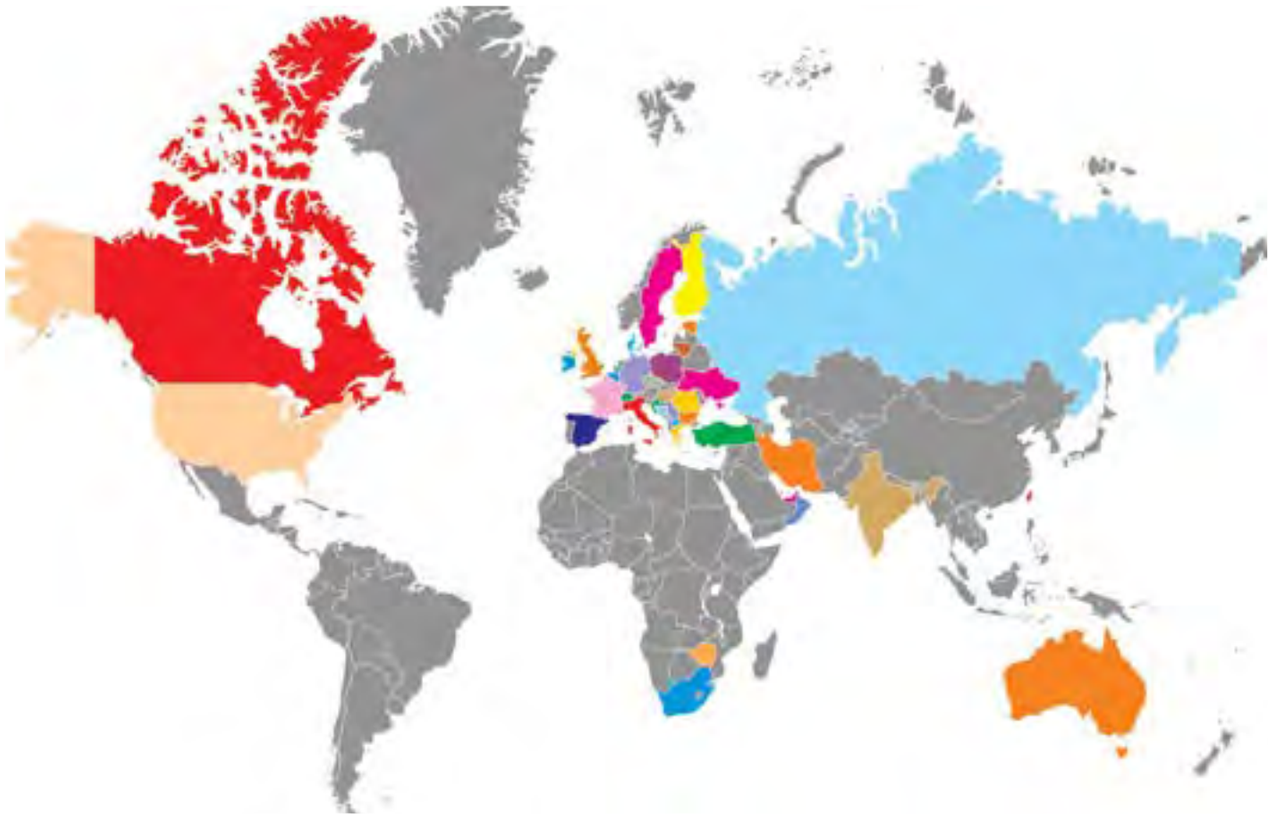
- For the participants of the Conference, Complex Macedonian Village (https://makedonskoselo.com/) offers reduced prices for accommodation with included meals.
- HB (breakfast and lunch): 70 euros per person per day in a single room
- If you are interested in accommodation in double rooms, the price will be determined in agreement with the hotel

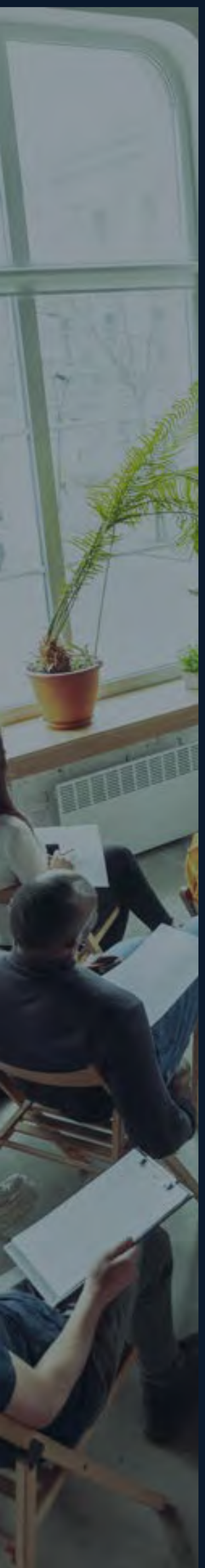
For the method of payment of the hotel accommodation, write to: makedonskoseloskopje@gmail.com

Background
(for Call for Papers)

Since 2019, the Conferences for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation—held in Struga, Strumica, and Krusevo (North Macedonia)—have developed into one of the most recognizable international platforms dedicated to interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Across five consecutive editions (2019–2025), the conferences have gathered a total of 348 participants. Scholars, have come from a diverse range of countries, including North Macedonia, Poland, Italy, England/United Kingdom, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Serbia, Turkey, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, France, Zimbabwe, Northern Ireland, India, USA, Cyprus, Romania, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Republic of Ireland, Russia, Ukraine, Oman, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Switzerland, Malta, Germany, South Africa, Taiwan, Estonia, Canada, Iran, Australia, Sweden, and Denmark.

This broad international presence underscores the growing global relevance of the conferences and their role in promoting understanding, cooperation, and peace among different religious, cultural, and academic communities.





International Scientific Program Board

- Professor Zoran Matevski, PhD (North Macedonia), President of the International Scientific Program Board
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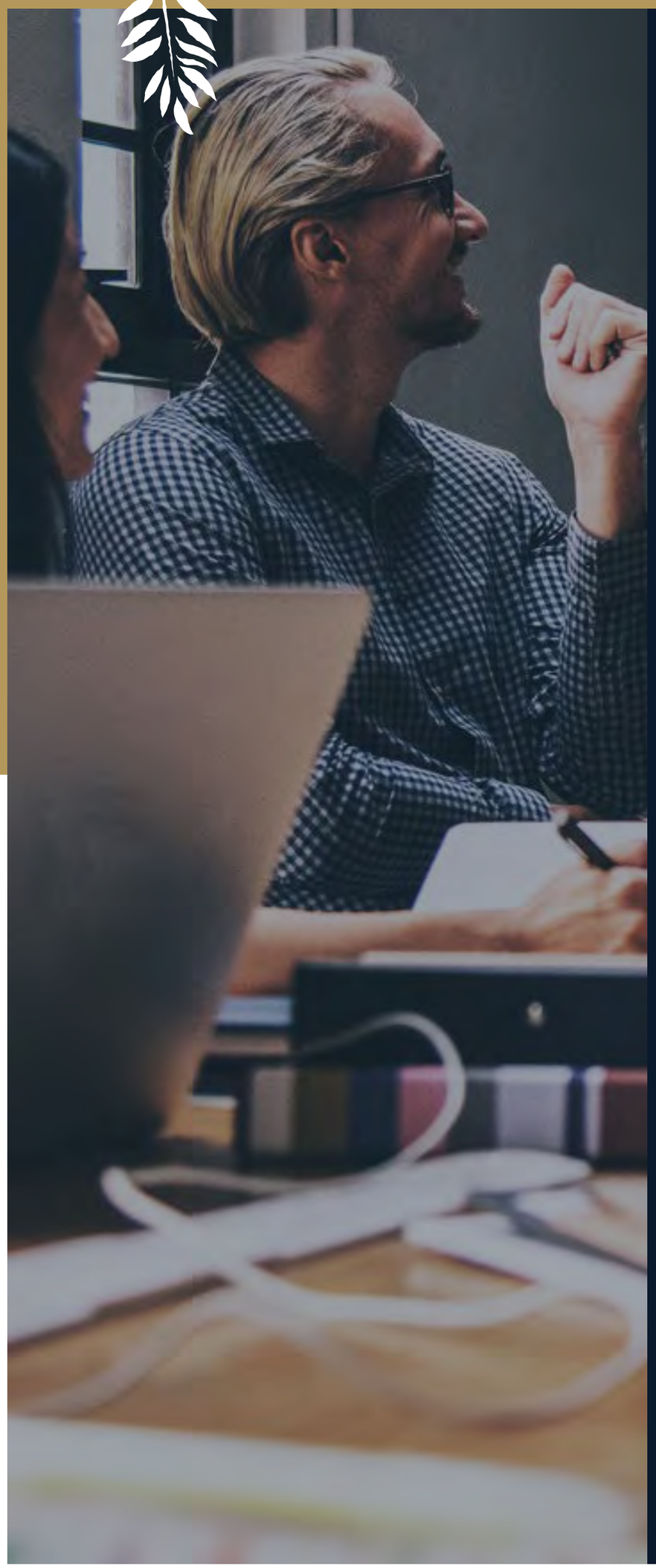
- Professor Pál Iván Szontagh, PhD (Hungary)
- Professor John Berry, PhD (Malta)
- Professor Jason Cherng, PhD (Taiwan)
- Professor Emma Chen, PhD (Taiwan)
- Senior researcher Reet Hiiemäe, PhD (Estonia)
- Professor Rita Santillan, PhD (Canada)
- Professor Rendani Tshifhumulo, PhD (South Africa)



Religion is often perceived as a problem. The conference explored how to make religion a resource for international dialogue and peace. Aware that we can not solve all problems, as scholars we believe that creating spaces of dialogue between and within religions offers valuable opportunities for promoting peace. Religion today is often misused for political purposes and for supporting wars, while secular ideologies try to exclude religion from the public sphere. Persecution and discrimination of religious minorities continue in different parts of the world. Religions are expected to act as a voice for peace, forgiveness, coexistence, tolerance, and understanding. The essence of religion is to celebrate the creation of the world, not its destruction. However, religions have produced a divided society, with divided identities, divided education, divided loyalties, divided worldviews, which may and often does lead to polarization and conflicts. Instead, religions can promote values that bind and unite, inspire flourishing interreligious relations.

- Who we are? We are scholars of religion.
- What we want? We want peace among religions, spiritual movements and nonbelievers.
- What we do? Since 2019, we hold an annual conference in North
- Macedonia, a multireligious. multicultural, and multiethnic country, where we discuss religions' role in a global and fractious world.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD
RESEVING YOUR ABSTRACTS!!!

Professor Zoran Matevski, PhD
President of the International Scientific Programme Board
Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Studies and Research at
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Ivanna Hadjievska Angelov, M.Sc.
President of the Organizing Committee
Faculty of Philosophy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
http://icrd.fzf.ukim.edu.mk/