

INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE CENTRE



KAICIID



Voices of Dialogue

KAICIID QUARTERLY

QUARTER 1, 2025

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FOREWORD



**By Ambassador António
de Almeida-Ribeiro**
Acting Secretary
General, KAICIID

It is my honour to introduce the first quarterly newsletter of 2025. This quarter marks a leadership transition, as I was entrusted with the role of Acting Secretary General following the conclusion of the former Secretary General's tenure. This change, formalised in January 2025, has been supported by constructive engagement with the Centre's governance bodies, reinforcing our shared commitment to continuity, effective governance, and the long-term strategic direction of KAICIID within the broader intergovernmental landscape.

This year also coincides with the United Nations' designation of 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust, offering a timely reflection on the importance of sustainable programming and interreligious collaboration. As the world grapples with complex challenges, KAICIID remains dedicated to fostering inclusive dialogue, multifaith cooperation, and trust-building across societies and sectors.

The Centre's commitment towards peace is reflected in the diverse regional programmes featured in this newsletter, from interreligious efforts in conflict zones to inclusive dialogue initiatives. These endeavors build on KAICIID's core belief that dialogue, when nurtured with purpose and institutional support, remains one of the most powerful tools for building peaceful, cohesive, and resilient societies. In addition to our ongoing programmes, we continue to deepen our presence in Lisbon, engaging with national and regional stakeholders while honoring our global intergovernmental mandate.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our Council of Parties, Board Members, Fellows, partners, affiliated networks and staff who make this work possible. Their contributions uphold the Centre's vision and enable us to meet the urgency of this moment with humility, resolve, and clarity of purpose.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

Highlights from the Executive Office of the Secretary General | Q1 2025

Advancing Dialogue: KAICIID's Global Engagement in Action

In the first quarter of 2025, the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) led a series of coordinated engagements aimed at deepening KAICIID's ties with diverse global and regional actors, advancing its long-term strategic priorities and reinforcing its institutional identity as a unique intergovernmental organization which fosters dialogue among people of different faiths and cultures.

In addition to these high-level engagements, the EOSG has actively advanced outreach efforts at both national and international levels. The Acting Secretary General (ASG) Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro has been actively engaging in strategic discussions with key global and regional partners to align KAICIID's strategic programming in addressing emerging global challenges.

Furthermore, through its participation in diverse platforms and events, the Centre consistently underscored the critical role of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (IRD/ICD) during these pivotal times.



- Jan 7: Special CoP Session – ASG Appointment
- Jan 29–30: MFAC Retreat, Mission to New York -MFAC Retreat and Meeting with H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, USG and UN High Representative of UNAOC
- Feb 03–06: participation at PaRD Leadership Meeting
- Feb 5–21: Diplomatic meetings in Lisbon
- Mar 4–6: Outreach to Madrid. Meeting with Mr. Mariano Jabonero, OEI's Secretary General and with Mr. Andres Allamand, Secretary General and Ambassador José Frederico Ludovice, Deputy Secretary General, at the Ibero-American General Secretariat-SEGIB.
- March 10–11: Commission on the Status of Women
- Mar 13: Mafra Dialogues
- Mar 18: Mission to Istanbul – Meeting with Patriarch Bartholomew

Shaping Global Agendas: Broadening Engagement in New York

During a strategic mission to **New York**, the ASG, , held a series of bilateral meetings with United Nations entities, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Office of the Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, notably of Portugal, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Austria and the Observer Mission of the University for Peace.

The meetings reflect KAICIID's approach to multilateralism, expanding the collective impact of religious literacy and multi-faith cooperation as tools for peace, social cohesion and sustainable development.

The mission also included participation in the Annual Retreat of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development (MFAC-IATF), where KAICIID is an active voice among international faith-based organizations shaping the future of multi-stakeholder cooperation for sustainable development.

Building Trust Within Multifaith Networks

As part of its work to advance collaboration between religious and secular stakeholders for peace and sustainable development, KAICIID maintained and strengthened its institutional representation at the MFAC-IATF and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD).

The Centre continued its longstanding roles as a Steering Board Member and co-lead of PaRD's Gender Equality and Empowerment and SDG 16 Workstreams. In Q1, KAICIID participated in PaRD's hybrid Spring Leadership meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Centre contributed to the strategic discussions and decisions on the partnership's priorities for 2025. One of the main developments was the approval of PaRD's commitment to the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and a related flagship project dedicated to food security.

In addition to co-sponsoring two activities on the margins of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, KAICIID **was elected Co-Chair of the MFAC Gender Working Group**, positioning the Centre at the forefront of global conversations on faith-based approaches to advancing gender equality (SDG 5).



KAICIID remains committed to these global principles by serving as a bridge between multilateral actors, faith-based organizations, and communities.



Faith actors have a legitimate seat at the multilateral table"

Advancing Strategic Partnerships

In the host country, KAICIID partnered for the third consecutive year with the Institute for the Promotion of Latin America and the Caribbean (IPDAL) for the organisation of the Mafra Dialogues. The event brought together diplomats, academics, government officials and religious leaders. The ASG delivered opening remarks, highlighting the role of multistakeholder cooperation and transformative dialogue in fostering peace.

KAICIID's work is anchored to its core belief that religious leaders and policymakers must work together in order to effectively address the many conflicts and contemporary challenges. In the first quarter of 2024, the ASG met with His All-Holliness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis current chairman of KAICIID's Board of Directors during the mission to Istanbul. During his mission to Madrid, the ASG met with Spain's representative to the KAICIID Council of Parties.

In Portugal, the ASG engaged with diplomatic representatives accredited to the host country, as well as prominent organizations such as:

- United Nations Population Fund - London Office
- North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- European Institute for Peace
- European Public Law Organization

In addition, the Centre hosted students affiliated with the **European Public Law Organization** for an immersive learning visit to KAICIID Headquarters to increase understanding on religious literacy and interreligious competencies.



Our efforts this quarter reaffirm KAICIID's value as a diplomatic and institutional bridge between faith-based actors and multilateral institutions".

António de Almeida-Ribeiro,
Acting Secretary General



Looking Ahead: Strengthening Institutional Dialogue and Global Engagement

As part of its strategic vision for 2025 to provide a space for reflection on transformative dialogue approaches for peace and social cohesion, the EOSG is working to expand KAICIID's engagement with the diplomatic corps in the host country through a cycle of regional roundtables, starting with an Ambassadorial Roundtable involving the Arab Region Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Portuguese Republic. .

At the global level, the Centre will continue to engage in international platforms and multistakeholder networks, with planned contributions alongside the **2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** in New York – particularly around initiatives that align with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and interreligious dialogue's role in global peacebuilding.

Additionally, KAICIID is deepening its cooperation with its **Founding Observer, the Holy See**, through bilateral dialogue and planned participation in activities related to the **2025 Jubilee Year**, further highlighting the Centre's unique positioning and commitment to faith-based engagement.



Inspiring story

KAICIID Strengthens Multi-Faith and UN Partnerships During Outreach Mission to New York

KAICIID's recent outreach mission to New York marked a significant step in reinforcing its institutional priorities for 2025 and expanding its collaborations with key UN entities, diplomatic representatives, and faith-based organizations. Led by the Acting Secretary General (ASG); Ambassador António de Almeida Ribeiro, the mission focused on participation in the Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC) retreat, strategic bilateral meetings, and dialogues aimed at strengthening KAICIID's engagement with the UN system and global faith-based actors. The outreach mission coincided with the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and reaffirmed the Centre's unwavering commitment to fostering interreligious dialogue, mutual understanding, and sustainable peace.

FROM THE MARGINS TO THE CENTRE: STORIES OF DIALOGUE THAT CHANGE COMMUNITIES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PROGRAMME DIVISION

In the first quarter of 2025, KAICIID's Programme Division continued its interreligious and intercultural dialogue (IRD/ICD) mandate by supporting impactful dialogue initiatives across diverse contexts; from conflict-affected regions to urban and educational settings. Through close collaboration with faith-based organizations, civil society, educators, and regional institutions, the Division commenced the year by advancing a broad portfolio of activities aimed at promoting social cohesion, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared challenges. From local interventions in Africa and the Middle East to capacity-building efforts in Asia and Europe, KAICIID's programming remained anchored in the belief that dialogue is an essential instrument for building inclusive and peaceful societies.



CROSS-REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Promoting Peace, Safeguarding Heritage: The Mafra Dialogues

In March, KAICIID joined forces with the Portuguese Institute for the Promotion of Latin America (IPDAL) and the Municipality of Mafra to host the fifth edition of the [Mafra Dialogues](#), one of Portugal's leading public diplomacy forums. This year's convening, held in the historic National Palace of Mafra, brought together over 100 experts, government officials, religious leaders, and peacebuilders from around the world.

Over two days, participants explored the intersection of global conflict, diplomacy, and interreligious cooperation. The first day tackled high-stakes geopolitical developments in the **Asia-Pacific region** and the **Middle East**, while the second day shifted focus to the **war in Ukraine** and the **role of interfaith dialogue in peacebuilding**.

KAICIID's presence was both strategic and symbolic. A panel on **Interreligious Dialogue as a Conflict Resolution Tool**, moderated by Africa Region Programme Officer-Pietro Siena, featured a diverse roster of peace actors from Latin America, Europe, and the Islamic world, including Indigenous and Ahmadiyya leaders.

Panelists explored how shared narratives and sacred spaces can serve as entry points to humanising conflict. The event further solidified KAICIID's reputation in Portugal and Europe as a **thought leader in dialogue diplomacy** and highlighted the Centre's commitment to elevating diverse voices, including those of indigenous, faith minority, and interregional leaders.



Inspiring story

Forging Paths to Peace: Safeguarding Heritage, Preserving Peace at Mafra Dia- logues 2025

The historic town of Mafra once again became a hub of international diplomacy and dialogue during the 5th edition of the Mafra Dialogues, held on 12th and 13th March, 2025 in Portugal. This year's theme, "Safeguarding Heritage, Preserving Peace," couldn't be more timely, as discussions unfolded against a backdrop of increasing global tensions and threats to cultural and religious heritage.



Belonging doesn't start at the border. It starts when someone listens to your story."

Youth Participant, Lisbon

AFRICA REGION

Faith in Action: Local Solutions, Lasting Peace

In Q1 2025, KAICIID's Africa Region team advanced its work in preventing violence, promoting coexistence, and strengthening community resilience across Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria. The efforts reflect the Centre's long-standing commitment to placing faith actors at the heart of peacebuilding and social transformation.

Preventing the Instrumentalisation of Religion to Justify Violence

Braga, Portugal | 13 March 2025

At the University of Minho in Braga, Portugal, KAICIID and the Clube de Lisboa, in partnership with the CICP - Research Centre in Political Science, hosted the third seminar in a continuing series on preventing the instrumentalisation of religion to justify violence. This edition focused on Kenya, where religious identity has, in certain contexts, been misused to fuel tension and violence.

The event gathered distinguished Kenyan experts to unpack the drivers of religiously motivated violence and explore the role of interfaith dialogue in conflict prevention. Featured speakers included:

- Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Executive Director of Arigatou International – Nairobi
- Raudhat Sayeeda Saddam, Conflict researcher at HORN Institute
- Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome Asmani, Legal Advisor to the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims

Discussions emphasised that when faith is manipulated as a tool of division, religious leaders must rise as peacebuilders, using dialogue to reclaim faith as a force for healing, not harm.



Inspiring story

International Education Day: Promoting Interreligious Dialogue for Conflict Management in the Central African Republic

As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4) highlights, education is central to achieving sustainable development and peace. In alignment with this framework, KAICIID's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan prioritizes the promotion of Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) and Peace Education as a cornerstone of conflict prevention and societal transformation. With this vision, KAICIID formalized its collaboration with the University of Bangui to advance the teaching of IRD as a critical tool for conflict resolution in the Central African Republic (CAR).



Read more about
Africa Region programme



Countering Extremism Through Intra-Muslim Dialogue

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

Cabo Delgado, a region grappling with insurgency and social fragmentation, continues to suffer from extremist narratives rooted in religious distortion. In response, KAICIID organised a two-day Intra-Muslim Dialogue in Pemba, bringing together local imams and religious leaders to build consensus, unity, and shared action in the face of radicalisation.

This effort is part of KAICIID's ongoing strategy to equip local peace committees with tools to prevent extremism, foster intra-faith cohesion, and promote resilience at the community level. Religious leaders were trained on building counter-narratives, community dialogue facilitation, and youth engagement strategies – all aimed at restoring trust and strengthening local ownership of peace.

Strengthening the Protection of Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB)

Kano and Ebonyi States, Nigeria | January 2025

Religious freedom is not just a legal issue – it's a cornerstone of societal peace. In Nigeria, KAICIID continues to work with the National Human Rights Commission, The Kukah Centre, and the Nasrul-Lahi-I-Fatih Society to map violations of freedom of religion and belief (FoRB) and raise awareness around inclusive governance.

Following the 2023 launch of a six-state study on FoRB (covering Plateau, Sokoto, Edo, Osun, Kano, and Ebonyi), KAICIID advanced into the second phase of its initiative in Q1 2025. This phase focused on documenting discrimination and violence linked to religious identity in Kano and Ebonyi, with activities including:

- Training of local FoRB monitors (25 January 2025)
- Deployment of questionnaires to civil society, government bodies, and security actors
- Data collection and case documentation beginning 28 January, with completion expected by end of April

The evidence gathered will form the basis for targeted community engagement, dialogue facilitation, and policy recommendations aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights.



ARAB REGION

Building Dialogue from the Ground Up: Media, Communities, and Interreligious Partnerships

In Q1 2025, KAICIID deepened its investment in media development and grassroots IRD/ICD across the Arab region. A new cohort of Dialogue Journalism Fellows and the rollout of Dialogue360 initiatives reaffirmed the Centre's long-term commitment to inclusive communication, ethical storytelling, and community-driven peacebuilding.

Dialogue Journalism Fellowship: A New Cohort for a New Era

A competitive open call in September 2024, garnered 240 applications. KAICIID selected **23 Dialogue Journalism Fellows (DJF)** from across 13 Arab Region for the 2025 cohort. The selected journalists reflects gender (13 women, 10 men), faith (19 Muslim, 4 Christian, 1 Yazidi), and geographic diversity, creating a dynamic environment for learning and exchange.

This cohort brings the total DJF network to **79 journalists** from across the region, forming a growing movement of media professionals committed to dialogue, inclusion, and responsible reporting.

Throughout the year, the Fellows will receive expert-led training in:

- IRD/ICD
- Conflict-sensitive journalism
- Tools to **counter hate speech** and promote **social cohesion** in divided media spaces

In addition to strengthening their journalistic practice, each Fellow is equipped to serve as a dialogue ambassador in their communities – amplifying narratives of tolerance, trust, and coexistence in an increasingly polarised media landscape.



Read more about
Arab Region programme



Inspiring story

Hind Kabawat Appointed to Syria's National Dialogue Preparatory Committee

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), is proud to announce that Ms. Hind Kabawat, a steering committee member of the Interreligious Platform for Cooperation and Dialogue in the Arab Region (IPDC), has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Preparatory Committee for Syria's National Dialogue Conference.

Q1 Highlights:



240
Applications
garnered



23
Dialogue
Journalism
Fellows (DJF)



from across
13 Arab Region
for the 2025 cohort.

Dialogue360: Supporting Local Dialogue Across the Region

As part of its flagship Dialogue360 initiative, KAICIID selected **23 grassroots-led projects** from **12 Arab countries**, along with two regional initiatives, to receive technical and financial support under the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World (IPDC).

These initiatives address four priority areas central to KAICIID's regional strategy:

- Countering hate speech and rising religious intolerance at national and regional levels
- Empowering faith leaders to address humanitarian and societal changes
- Promoting inclusive values and peaceful coexistence through interreligious education
- Preserving cultural heritage and sacred sites

KAICIID provides the selected initiative partners with grants and tailored technical support. Dialogue360 not only fosters new partnerships but also strengthens ongoing relationships with past initiative partners. A multiplying effect is achieved by ensuring the growth of new and sustainability of existing initiatives.

By focusing on **locally rooted, community-led solutions**, Dialogue360 continues to bridge religious, ethnic, and cultural divides. It has become a central platform for a growing network of dialogue practitioners across the Arab world – and a model for investing in IRD as a peacebuilding mechanism from the ground up.

THEMATIC PILLARS



**Countering
Hate Speech**



**Protection of
Cultural Heritage
& Sacred Sites**



**Response
to crises**



**IRD & Common
Citizenship, Diversity
& Education**



These are not one-time interventions – they're part of a growing regional movement for dialogue and resilience."

KAICIID Programme Officer



12
Countries
Represented



2
Regional
Projects



23
Total Initiatives
Funded



**€4,500-
€7,100**
Grant Range

ASIA REGION

Strengthening partnerships by advancing young people's capacity to utilise IRD/ICD in peacebuilding

KAICIID's work in Asia in Q1 2025 focused on deepening institutional relationships and empowering youth actors in IRD/ICD. From high-level engagements in Singapore to capacity building in ASEAN countries, the Centre reinforced its commitment to inclusive, locally grounded peacebuilding across one of the world's most religiously diverse regions.

ASEAN Youth: Dialogue at the Heart of Peacebuilding

Virtual and In-Person | 5–20 February 2025

As part of its long-term investment in youth-led dialogue, KAICIID partnered with the ASEAN Foundation to implement the ASEAN Youth Empowerment for Peacebuilding and Tolerance project. This cross-country initiative trained **11 young leaders** from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste in the theory and practice of IRD/ICD.

KAICIID delivered the training in three phases:

- A participatory online workshop introducing dialogue as a peacebuilding tool
- A two-week e-learning course on Intercultural Communication
- An in-person workshop in Jakarta focused on dialogue design and facilitation

Participants explored techniques for addressing religious intolerance, countering discrimination, and fostering inclusive communities through youth-led action.

By equipping the next generation of leaders with dialogue tools for grassroots peacebuilding efforts, KAICIID is promoting young people as agents of change and pluralism in their societies.



Inspiring story

Transforming Lives Through Interreligious Dialogue: The Journey of Preet Kaur Veygal

Interreligious dialogue (IRD) is more than just an exchange of beliefs, it has the power to transform lives. For 27-year-old Preet Kaur Veygal, a trained nurse in Singapore, her engagement with IRD has reshaped her career aspirations, inspiring her to pursue a new path as a counselor.

Her journey highlights the tangible impact of interfaith engagement, particularly in diverse and multicultural societies like Singapore.

Her engagement with IRD has reshaped her career aspirations, inspiring her to pursue a new path as a counselor.



Read more about
Asia Region programme

EUROPE REGION

Dialogue in Practice: Promoting Inclusion, Solidarity and Shared Values Across Europe

In a Europe marked by intersecting crises and growing polarisations, KAICIID's Europe Region Programme continues to harness the power of IRD/ICD to strengthen social cohesion and support reconciliation across the 46 countries of the Council of Europe.

From film screenings and policy events to youth leadership and interfaith collaboration, the first quarter of 2025 demonstrated how religious and civic actors can work together to foster understanding across divides.

Celebrating International Migrants Day: A Tradition of Dialogue and Cinema

Each year, International Migrants Day serves as a moment to reflect on the lived experiences of individuals who leave their homes in pursuit of safety, dignity, and a better future. In Europe, KAICIID has helped shape a meaningful tradition around this observance through its collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC).

Since 2022, the annual event has taken place at Lisbon's historic São Jorge Cinema, pairing a panel discussion with the screening of a socially resonant film. In January 2025, attendees viewed *The Old Oak* by Ken Loach, a compelling narrative exploring the tensions and transformations within an English town welcoming Syrian refugees. The film highlighted themes of displacement, solidarity, and the complex path to integration, echoing the core message that home is not just a place, but a shared human experience.

Through this initiative, KAICIID and its partners reaffirmed their commitment to advancing dialogue around migration and inclusion. The Programme continues to amplify voices that foster empathy, connection, and the values of a more cohesive society.



Inspiring story

KAICIID, IOM, UNRIC United for Inclusive Migrant Integration

On 16 January, Cinema São Jorge in Lisbon hosted the 9th edition of the International Migration Film Festival, an initiative that brought together experts, government representatives, and community leaders to reflect on what it means for migrants and refugees to establish a new home in an unfamiliar place, often far from beloved ones and habits. During the panel discussion, the real-life story of Ghalia Taki, a Syrian refugee in Portugal, was a powerful reminder that building a sense of belonging goes beyond physical relocation: it requires satisfying the human need for love and recognition, creating meaningful connections with host community members.



[Watch the Global Migration Festival video](#)
– English captions

Brussels: Interfaith Iftar at the European Parliament Advancing Religious Literacy and Countering Islamophobia

In commemoration of the United Nations International Day Against Islamophobia and during the holy month of Ramadan, the KAICIID's supported platform, European Muslim Leaders Majlis (EuLeMa) organised an Interfaith Iftar at the European Parliament in Brussels.

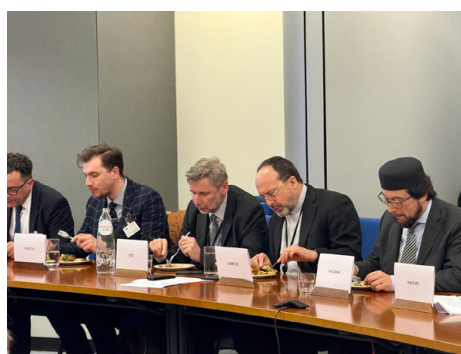
The Iftar was built on the Policy Talks organised by KAICIID in late 2024, which addressed the institutional role of dialogue in shaping the EU's vision of a community "United in Diversity". The Iftar was hosted by the Italian Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Leoluca Orlando and attended by KAICIID and EuLeMa representatives, MEPs, policymakers and religious leaders, and created a space for spiritual reflection and political dialogue. In his online address, Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro, KAICIID Acting Secretary General, described the Iftar as a powerful symbol of interfaith unity and called for stronger collaboration between religious communities and European institutions.

EuLeMa President Imam Yahya Pallavicini, alongside the EU Coordinator on Anti-Muslim hatred, Marion Lalissee, called on European leaders to strengthen their efforts in combatting anti-Muslim hatred. Imam Pallavicini particularly emphasised the urgent need for greater religious literacy among politicians and policymakers



Building Values-Based Communities: A Shared Responsibility

[Read the Acting Secretary General's opinion article](#)



Walking the Path of Trust: Young Jews and Muslims on Friendship, Faith, and Mutual Understanding

Launched in 2016, the [Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council \(MJLC\)](#), a Europe-wide coalition of 46 Imams and Rabbis, was designed to foster interfaith solidarity and trust-building. Today, the [MJLC Ambassadors' Programme](#) continues that legacy, equipping emerging Muslim and Jewish leaders with the skills to challenge polarisation and foster shared community leadership.

With support from KAICIID's Europe Region Programme, these Ambassadors engage in collaborative activities, mentorship from senior religious figures, and dialogue initiatives that bridge generational and cultural divides. The result is a new cohort of leaders committed to inclusion, cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

In Q1, KAICIID spotlighted this initiative through a podcast episode featuring Amina Croce and David Fiorentini, two young MJLC Ambassadors. The conversation offers powerful reflections on identity, faith and friendship, and highlights how cross-generational mentorship and joint community action are helping to break down barriers of mistrust.

As one of the podcast guests noted, "We are not just representatives of our communities – we are bridges between them." This ethos continues to define MJLC's mission in building a Europe where religious difference becomes a source of shared strength.

Through this programme, KAICIID and its partners are shaping what interreligious leadership looks like in 21st-century Europe – one grounded in lived experience, shared values, and the courage to lead dialogue across difference.



CIID

Listen to the podcast

[Young Ambassadors of Change: A Muslim and a Jewish Doctor Bringing Religious Inclusion to Italian Hospitals](#)

This podcast was produced by Zenit Arti Audiovisive for the International Dialogue Centre, KAICIID, with thanks to the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council, Amina Croce, David Fiorentini, Imam Yahya Pallavicini, and Rabbi Amedeo Spagnoletto.



Read more about **Europe** programme

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME

Bridging Divides: The 2025 Fellows Begin Their Journey

At a time of increasing global fragmentation, the [KAICIID International Fellows Programme](#) continues to strengthen the capacity of dialogue professionals working at the intersection of faith, identity, and peacebuilding. In Q1 2025, the Centre welcomed its new **2025 Fellows Cohort** – sixteen professionals from diverse faiths, cultures, and international institutions embarking on a transformative year of learning and exchange.

Foundations of Dialogue and Leadership

The Fellows' journey began on in February with an online orientation, featuring opening reflections from Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro. This inaugural session grounded the group in KAICIID's mission and emphasised the role of dialogue in shaping peaceful, inclusive societies.

Throughout February and March, the Fellows engaged in interactive learning sessions designed to deepen their knowledge and sharpen their tools for practice:

- Introduction to KAICIID's Dialogue Approach with Professor Andrew Boyd
- Interfaith Photovoice Training – an innovative storytelling method using photography to deepen self-reflection and shared understanding
- Dialogue, Identity, and Conflict session with Professor Patrice Brodeur and Programme Officer Yulia Korysheva, exploring the roots of human difference and the power of dialogue to navigate them constructively

This early learning phase grounded Fellows in both the theoretical and applied dimensions of dialogue, equipping them with practical skills for trust-building, conflict prevention, and social cohesion.



Inspiring story

KAICIID Launches 2025 Fellows Cohort

The International Dialogue Centre - KAICIID proudly announces the launch of its 2025 International Fellows Programme Cohort, a milestone that marks the 10th anniversary of this flagship initiative. Since its inception in 2015, the KAICIID International Fellows Programme has grown into a dynamic platform dedicated to equipping global leaders with the tools and methodologies necessary to advance interreligious and intercultural dialogue (IRD/ICD) across the globe. Since its inception in 2015, the KAICIID International Fellows Programme has grown into a dynamic platform dedicated to equipping global leaders with the tools and methodologies necessary to advance interreligious and intercultural dialogue (IRD/ICD) across the globe.



Read more about **International Fellows** programme



14
nationalities



67%
women
participants



implement
initiatives and
contribute to
peacebuilding

A Cohort of Global Change Agents

The 2025 cohort reflects a wide spectrum of cultural and religious backgrounds, bringing together professionals from **14 nationalities** and four major world religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The cohort is also majority female, with **67% women participants**, continuing KAICIID's commitment to inclusive leadership in the dialogue space.

Together, these Fellows are building a shared foundation in dialogue practice, preparing to implement initiatives and contribute to peacebuilding in their respective contexts over the coming year.



Planning Ahead: Celebrating 10 Years of the Fellows Programme

As the 2025 cohort begins its journey, preparations are also underway to commemorate the **10th Anniversary of the International Fellows Programme**, with a landmark global conference scheduled for **Q4 2025**. The upcoming quarter will see the launch of a dedicated conference website, registration portal, and call for presentations.

In parallel, national Fellows chapters have already begun celebrating the milestone. In February, the Nigerian National Chapter hosted a virtual event titled "Strengthening Interfaith Collaboration for Sustainable Peace in Nigeria: The KAICIID Fellowship Experience," featuring presentations by alumni and KAICIID experts, including Professor Andrew Boyd and Field Officer Joseph Atang.



Belonging doesn't start at the border. It starts when someone listens to your story."

Youth participant, International Migrants Day, Portugal



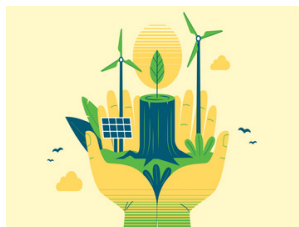
E-LEARNING PROGRAMME

Expanding Access, Strengthening Impact: KAICIID's E-Learning Milestones in Q1 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, KAICIID's E-Learning Programme continued to scale its global reach and institutional impact, offering new courses, enhancing learning methodologies, and deepening partnerships across regions. Through content innovation and a strengthened evaluation framework, the programme supported 335 participants across 27 cohorts – reinforcing the Centre's commitment to inclusive, accessible learning in IRD/ICD.

New Courses for a Global Audience

Five new moderated and self-paced courses were launched in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, addressing critical issues including climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and faith-based grant management:



- Engaging Faith Actors to Strengthen Cities' Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters – Targeted at municipal government officials, this course equips learners with tools to integrate faith actors into disaster risk reduction and climate preparedness.
- Faith and Ecosystem Restoration (Spanish & Portuguese) – Designed to build capacity among faith-based actors in biodiversity protection, aligned with SDGs 14 and 15.
- Faith and Sustainable Lifestyles (Portuguese) – Aimed at promoting low-impact living grounded in faith teachings, contributing to SDGs 10, 11, 12, and 13.

E-Learning by the Numbers – Q1 2025



27
courses
delivered



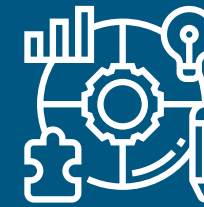
335
total
participants
trained



163
learners
awarded
**Certificates of
Completion**



- Monitoring and Evaluation of KAICIID Grants – Developed in partnership with the M&E Unit, this course enhances participants' ability to evaluate and report on dialogue-related grants effectively.
- Updated Intercultural Communication and Peacebuilding Modules – KAICIID's flagship courses were revised to include new case studies and methodologies, enhancing relevance and engagement.



Strengthening Accountability: Assessing Learning Impact

In Q1, the E-Learning Programme finalised and piloted its newly approved **Impact Evaluation Methodology** for long-term course assessment. Two digital tools are now in place to track how graduates apply IRD/ICD learning in their institutions, one year after course completion, enabling evidence-based reporting on outcomes and organizational influence.

Empowering Educators and Youth



Third Teachers Cohort – Kenya and Zimbabwe:

300 teachers from diverse faith backgrounds began a **6-module course** on IRD/ICD and SDGs. The orientation session gathered **100 participants** and included sign language support.



Youth Parliamentarians – Southern Africa

In partnership with the **Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYOF)**, **20 young leaders** completed courses on faith and climate change, and budgeting for impact.



Fellows Engagement:

The 2025 KAICIID Fellows cohort joined **two courses**: Using IRD to Strengthen Peace (moderated) and Intercultural Communication (self-paced), integrating dialogue learning into their professional development.



ASEAN Youth Dialogue

As part of a blended learning approach, **11 youth** and **6 staff** from the ASEAN Foundation completed the Intercultural Communication e-learning course, in preparation for in-person IRD/ICD training.

University & Faith-Based Learning Partnerships

- Kenya National Commission for UNESCO & St. Paul's University: A moderated version of the Intercultural Communication course reached 33 university students, with a welcome by Dr. James Njogu, Acting Secretary General of Kenya's National Commission for UNESCO.
- Evangelical Lutheran Churches Youth Chapters: 63 youth and young pastors from Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania enrolled in the Faith, Environment and Climate Change course.

NextGen TALKS: Youth-led Dialogue in Action

In February, in celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week, KAICIID launched the NextGen TALKS webinar series, featuring four 30-minute sessions under the theme: "Faith in Action: Youth-led Projects Making a Difference."

- 69 participants from 21 countries
- Represented **Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam**
- Achieved **50/50 gender balance**, with **61% aged 18–35**
- Officially registered as WIHW events with full reporting

These interactive discussions highlighted youth-driven IRD/ICD models and created a platform for replicable, community-based solutions.



4 session



69 participants



21 countries



50/50 gender balance



Inspiring story

NextGen Talks: Faith in Action – Empowering Youth-led Interfaith Initiatives

As KAICIID celebrates World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in February 2025, we are excited to introduce Faith in Action: Youth-led Projects Making a Difference, the first four episodes of our NextGen Talks webinar series. This youth-focused initiative will showcase groundbreaking interfaith projects spearheaded by the next generation, highlighting their role in fostering inclusive and peaceful societies through innovative interfaith activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Interfaith Photovoice: A New Dialogue Lens for Reflection, Belonging, and Storytelling

In a world increasingly saturated with words, sometimes it is images that spark the deepest conversations. KAICIID's **Interfaith Photovoice** initiative offers a groundbreaking approach to IRD/ICD; one that empowers participants to use photography as a medium for reflection, inclusion, and transformation.

Launched in late 2024 and scaled up in Q1 2025, the programme has already left a lasting impact on staff, Fellows, and dialogue professionals, drawing on the Interfaith Photovoice methodology developed by Interfaith Photovoice, with whom we collaborated for training; you can learn more about their work [\[here\]](#).

In a **12-hour immersive training**, 17 KAICIID staff explored how images can shape, challenge, and expand perspectives on faith, identity, and belonging. The methodology blended theory with creative practice and was organised around four structured learning modules:

A Step-by-Step Journey Through Photovoice:



1. **The Golden Rule and Photography Tips** – Foundations of ethics and visual storytelling



2. **Faith and Belief in Everyday Life** – Reflection through personal lenses



3. **Bridges and Barriers to Belonging** – Exploring tensions and connections in community



4. **From Snapshot to Social Engagement** – Curating photos to inspire action

Participants praised the methodology for its interactive, human-centered approach. The training created a safe space for self-expression and collective introspection – allowing staff to connect across personal experiences, institutional roles, and cultural worldviews.

It also marked a shift in how visual tools can be embedded into KAICIID's broader IRD/ICD programming – not only for training, but as an instrument of internal dialogue, evaluation, and community engagement



Facilitating a dialogue session using photos is very engaging. It allows for a deeper understanding of people's perceptions with ease and comfort."

KAICIID Staff Participant



We came as strangers divided by faith. We left as a network of hope."

KAICIID Fellow, Mindanao, Philippines

Looking Ahead: Expanding the Photovoice Ecosystem

Inspired by its success, participants proposed several expansion pathways:



- Hosting **internal exhibitions** within KAICIID to strengthen team reflection



- Integrating Photovoice into **teacher training and Fellows programming**



- Organising **external digital and physical exhibitions** that showcase the stories captured

KAICIID will continue to develop Photovoice as a flagship methodology within its capacity-building work – not only as a tool for education but as a **catalyst for empathy, trust, and connection**.



Summary Metrics



5
New Courses



20+
Countries



4
Webinars



27
Cohort

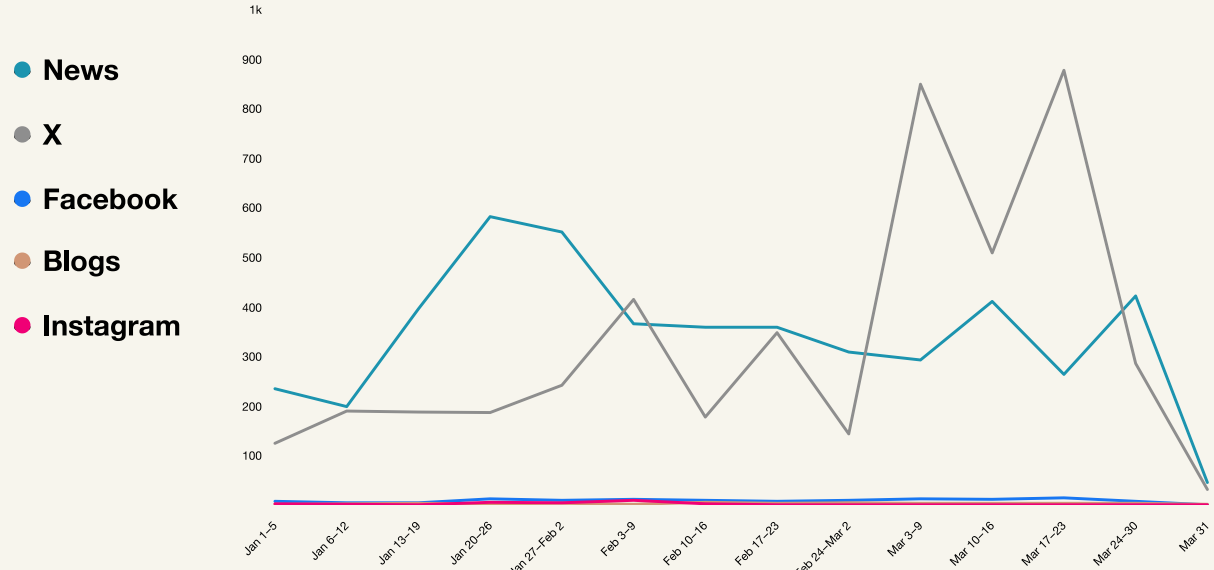
BUILDING VISIBILITY AROUND INTERRELIGIOUS & INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE



For the first time, KAICIID implemented a structured approach to **social listening** – the process of monitoring online media, digital discourse, and public mentions of the Centre and its themes. By identifying peaks in coverage, thematic trends, and geographic visibility, the Centre can better understand how its values and initiatives are received by the global public. In a rapidly shifting media environment, social listening helps identify new areas for engagement and strengthens KAICIID's ability to proactively address any emerging global challenges through a lens of transformative dialogue.



Mentions Trends



KAICIID IN THE MEDIA

Understanding Our Reach, Framing and Relevance Through the News.

The Q1 report included over **141 news mentions** of which **60 were independent articles** referencing KAICIID across Europe, the Middle East, North America, and Africa, spanning multiple languages and types of outlets.



Where We Were Seen: Media Reach & Geography

Several articles featured direct quotes from institutional leaders and aligned events with **international observances** such as **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, reinforcing KAICIID's presence during strategic calendar moments.

Coverage of the **Mafra Dialogues**, in particular, reinforced KAICIID's positioning at the intersection of **policy, faith, and society**, drawing visibility from a diverse mix of religious leaders, political figures, and civil society actors.

Framing of KAICIID in editorial sources remained consistently **neutral to positive**, with particularly affirmative coverage of KAICIID's programmatic work in relation to youth engagement, capacity building, and cultural events.

Top Performing Stories

Mafra Dialogues (Portugal): Extensive regional pickup in Portuguese press

ASG Appointment: Global diplomatic media (Saudi Press Agency, World News, Turkey News Gazette)

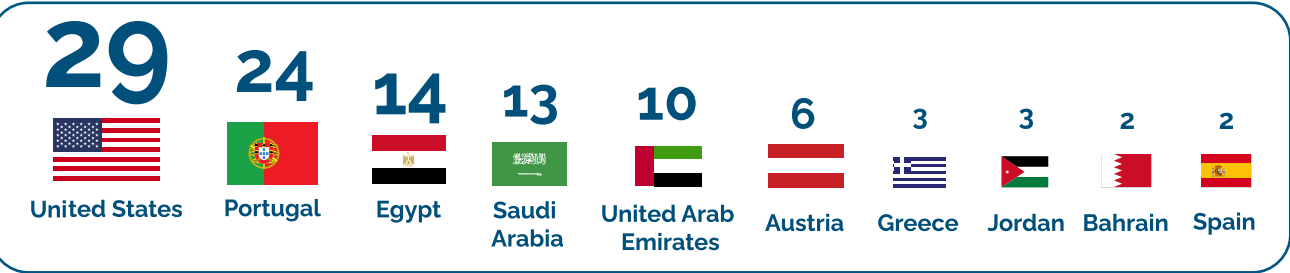
Youth Engagement and Fellows Launch: High resonance among international policy and faith outlets



Institutional Visibility: Highlights

- The appointment of **Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro** as ASG received **wide international coverage**, from MSN Portugal to Saudi Press Agency, Turkey News Gazette, and World News.
- Articles emphasised the Centre's multilateral governance model and role as a **"unique intergovernmental platform for dialogue."**
- Regional outlets highlighted KAICIID's contribution to **local diplomacy**, such as Lisbon's **interreligious policy footprint**, and the Centre's continued collaboration with Portuguese cultural institutions.

Top 10 Locations: Online Media Mentions



Key Themes and Framing

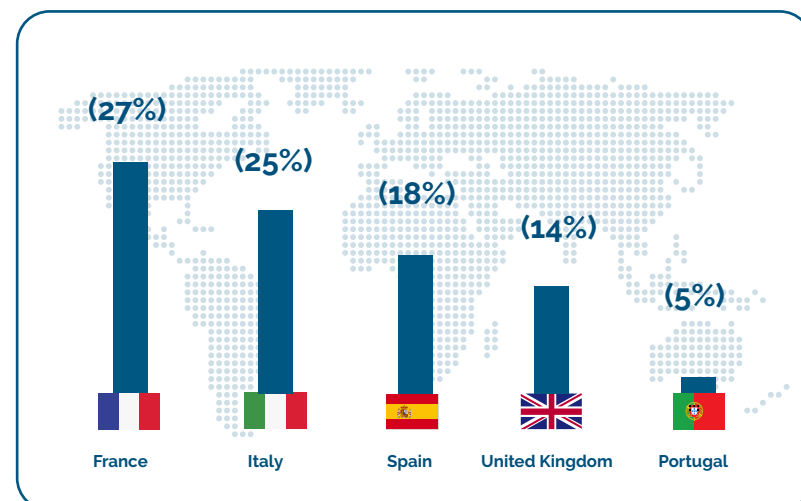
- Religious coexistence and peace diplomacy
- Countering hate speech and polarisation
- Support to minority voices, refugees, and women in dialogue spaces
- Partnerships with governments, UN entities, and cultural platforms

HOW THE WORLD ENGAGED WITH DIALOGUE

The Centre was referenced across **online news articles, blogs, and major social platforms**, including Facebook, Instagram, and X. Peaks in mentions aligned with KAICIID's participation in key multilateral events, international missions, and thematic observances such as **World Interfaith Harmony Week**.



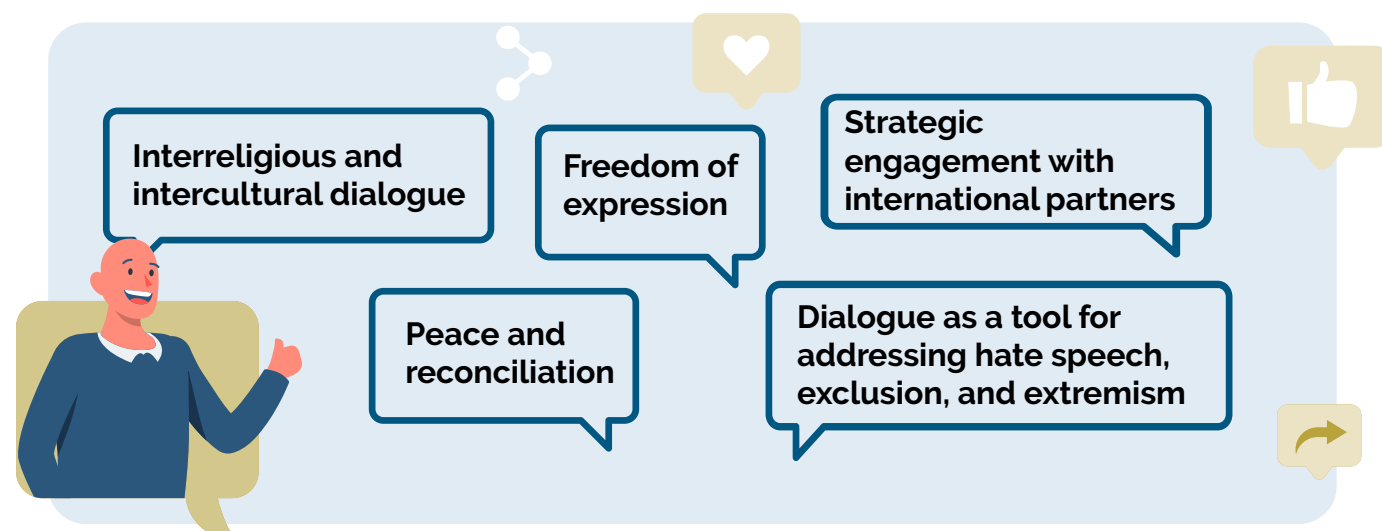
Top Geographies of Digital Visibility:



These reflect the regions where KAICIID's messaging, partners, or programmes were most actively featured by media outlets or in digital conversations.

Key Themes:

Digital coverage linked to KAICIID prominently featured the following topics:



These align closely with the Centre's programmatic and institutional messaging, reaffirming the relevance of its voice within current global challenges.

Notable Media Sources:

Among the most influential outlets covering KAICIID's themes were:

By reach:



BBC, MSN France, ANSA.it, El Español, and Le Figaro

By frequency:



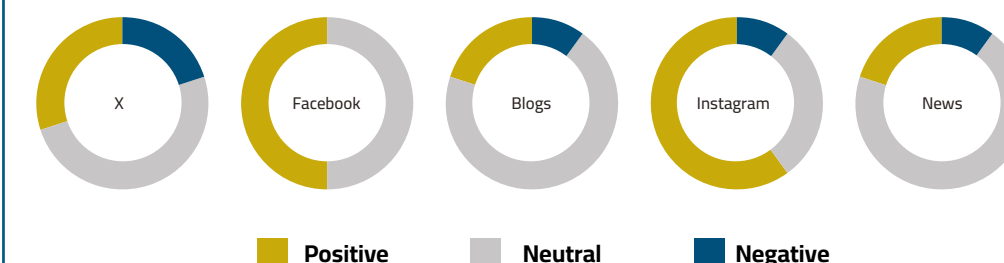
Religión Digital, Libero 24/7, AZERTAC, and Servizio Informazione Religiosa

These sources reflect a mix of general international press and thematic media platforms that engage with religious affairs, diplomacy, and civil society issues.

Sentiment Analysis:

Most mentions were assessed as **neutral to positive**, suggesting consistent alignment between how KAICIID positions itself and how it is reflected publicly. Mentions associated with conflict contexts or sensitive religious topics were generally framed around constructive dialogue, moderation, or policy-level engagement.

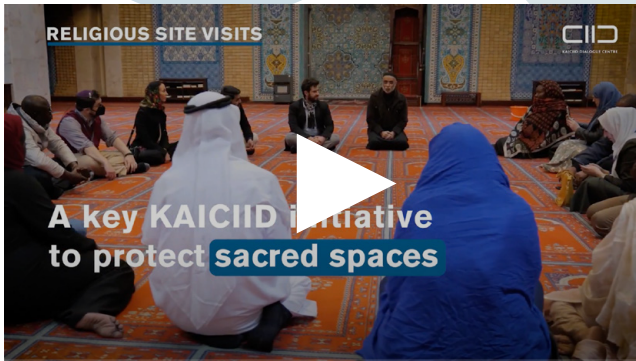
Sentiment by Source Type



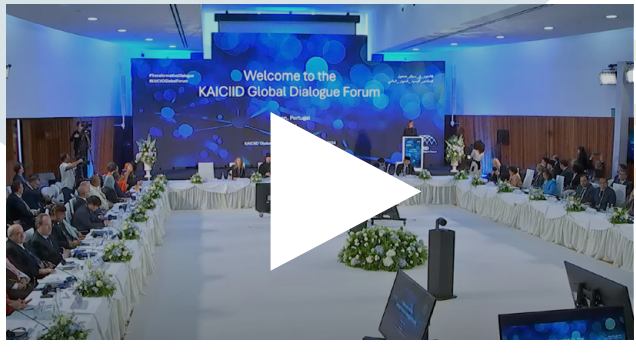
Top Keywords



KAICIID MULTIMEDIA HUB



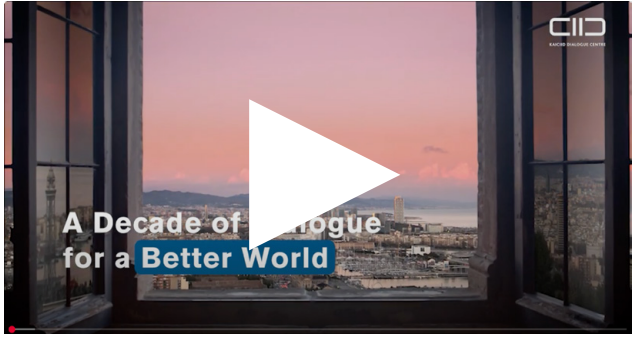
A Key KAICIID Initiative to Protect Sacred Spaces



KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum



Protecting Sacred Sites: Baptist Theological Seminary



A Decade of Dialogue for a Better World



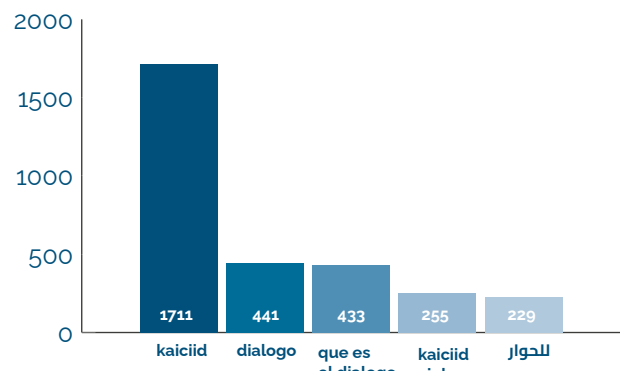
Justine: A KAICIID Fellow's Journey



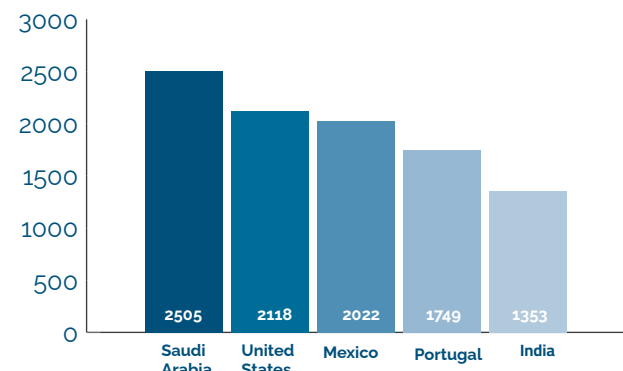
The European Policy Dialogue Forum

Q1 WEBSITE ANALYTICS

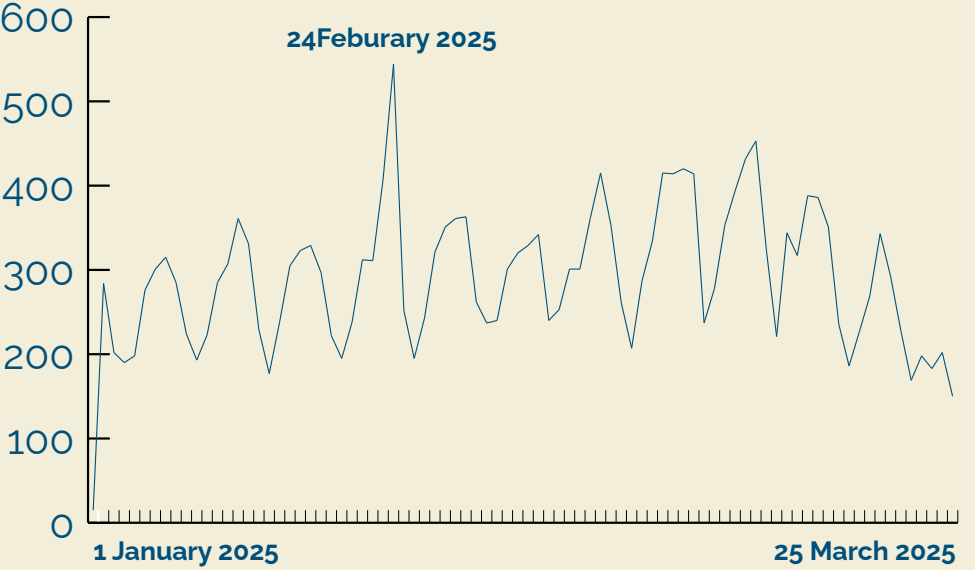
Top Search Queries by Clicks



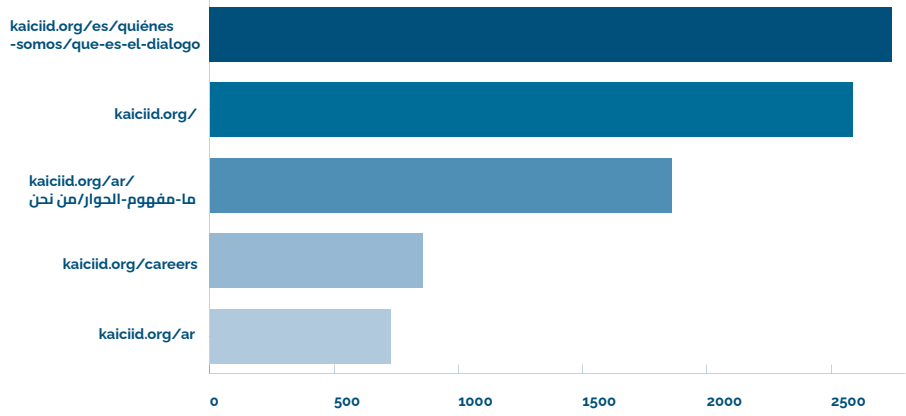
Top Countries by Clicks



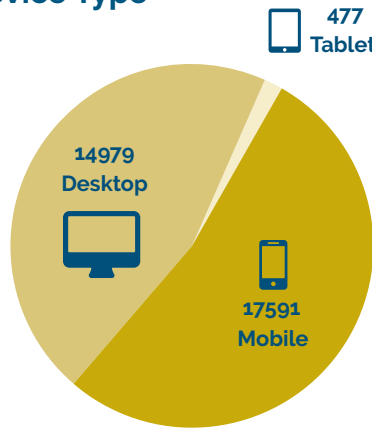
Clicks Trend Over Time



Top Pages by Clicks



Clicks by Device Type





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