

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

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE FOR RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION



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





C o n f e r e n c e O v e r v i e w

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.



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



A c c o m m o d a t i o n

- 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



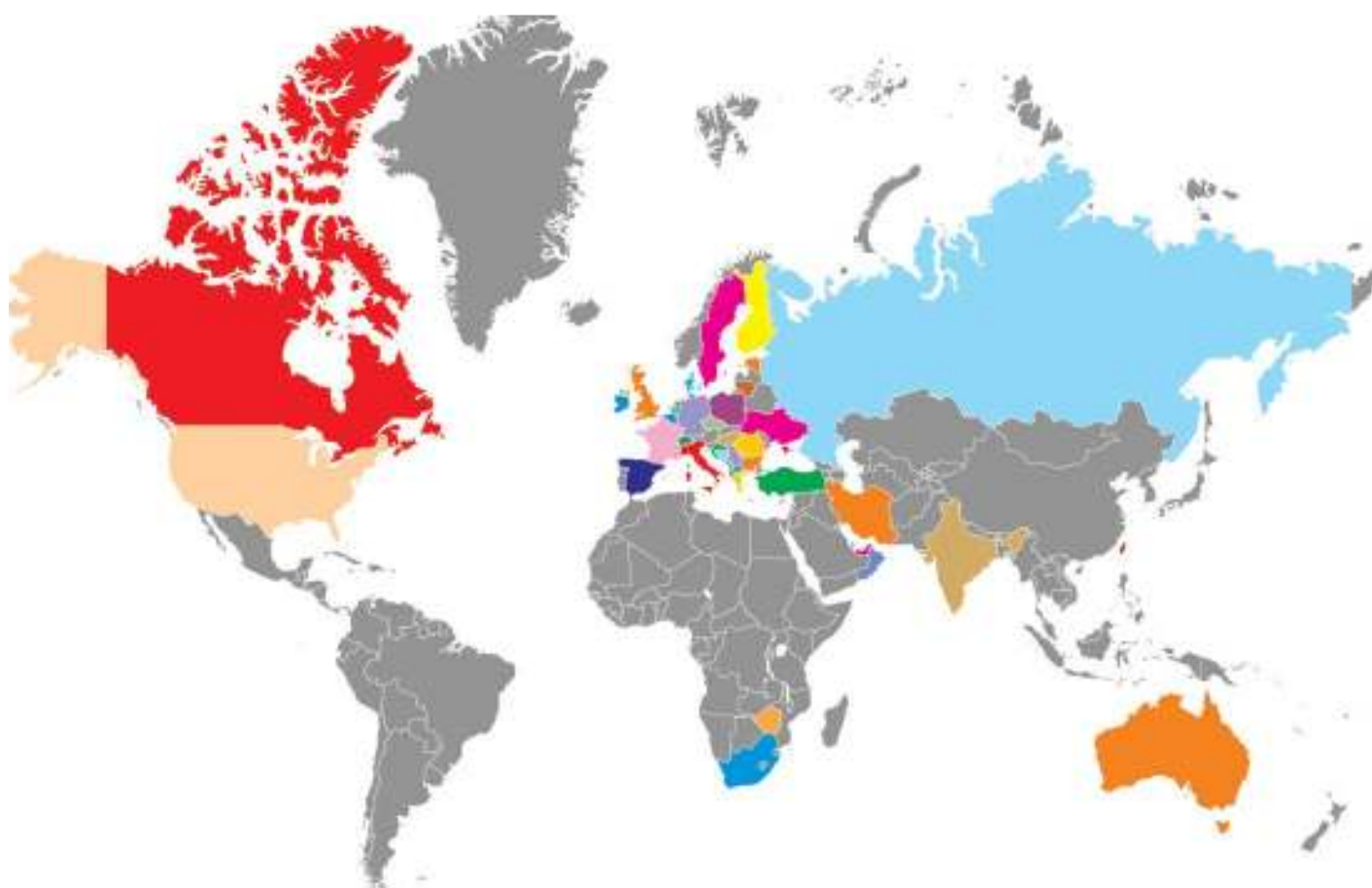
**For the method of payment of the
hotel accommodation, write to:
makedonskoseloskopje@gmail.com**

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.

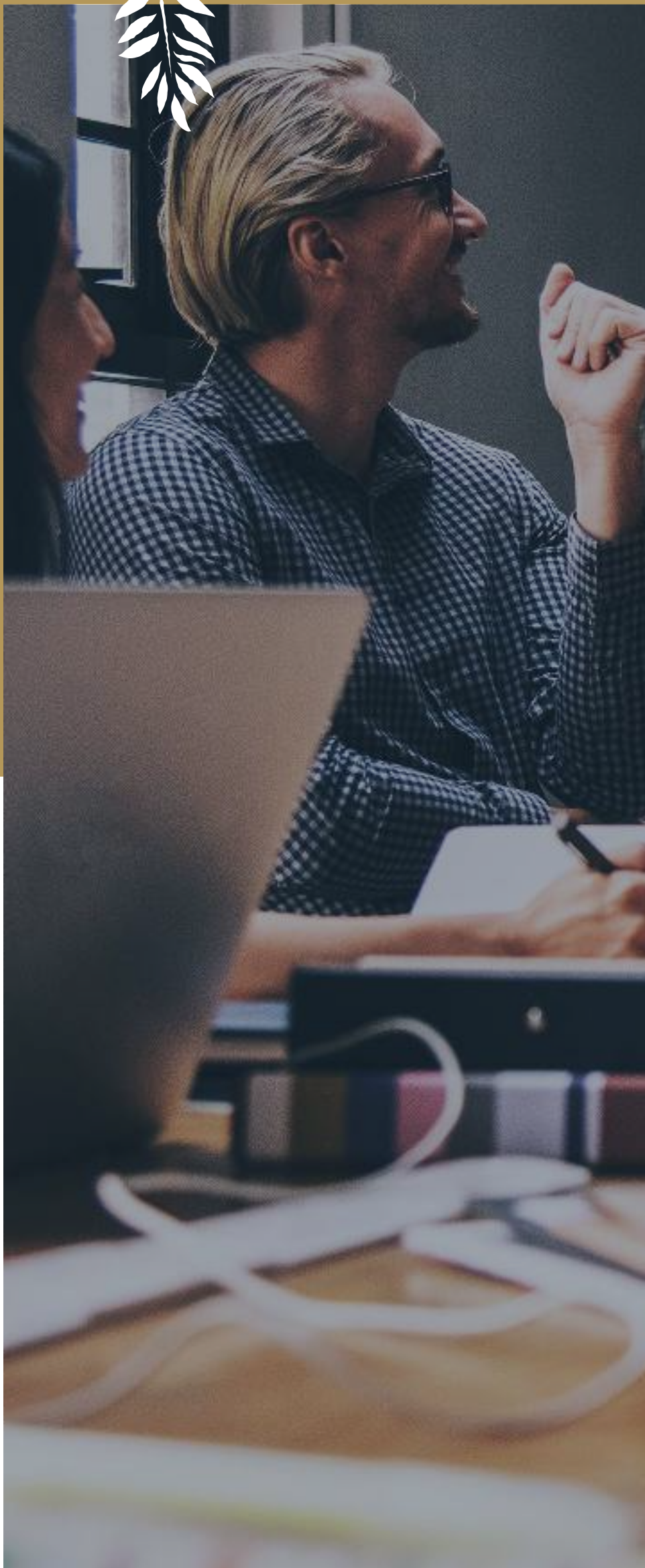
This broad international presence underscores the growing global relevance of the conferences and their role in promoting understanding, cooperation, and peace among different religious, cultural, and academic communities.





International Scientific Program Board

- Professor Zoran Matevski, PhD (North Macedonia), President of the International Scientific Program Board
- Professor Ratko Duev, PhD (North Macedonia), Director of the Centre for Intercultural Studies and Research
- Professor Oliver Bakreski, PhD (North Macedonia), Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje
- Professor Marija Todorovska, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Massimo Introvigne, PhD (Italy), Founder of CESNUR, Turin
- Professor Alexander Hwang, PhD (USA), President and CEO, Two Cities Press, USA
- Professor Iulian Moga, PhD (Romania)
- Professor Dyron Daughrity, PhD (USA), Dean of the Religion and Philosophy Division at Pepperdine University in Malibu
- Professor Alma Tasevska, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Svetlana Trbojevikj, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Ognen Spasovski, PhD (North Macedonia)
- High Reverend Naum, Metropolitan of the Strumica Diocese, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Dushka Matevska, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Tatjana Stojanoska Ivanova, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Anica Dragovikj, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Professor Marija Drakulovska Chukalevska, PhD (North Macedonia)
- Assistant Ivana Gegoska, M.Sc. (North Macedonia)
- Assistant Emil Dimitriev, M.Sc. (North Macedonia)
- Professor Gerard Kester, PhD (Netherlands)
- Professor Nora Lombardini, PhD (Italy)
- Rosita Šorytė (Lithuania)
- Professor Daniel Bramer, PhD (USA)
- Professor Uros Shuvakovic, PhD (Serbia)
- Professor Danica Igrutinovic, PhD (Serbia)
- Professor Vladan Stanković, PhD (Serbia)
- Professor Zoran Milosavljević, PhD (Serbia)
- Professor Mario Marinov, PhD (Bulgaria)
- Yana Fileva, M.Sc. (Bulgaria)
- Professor Patrick Pasture, PhD (Belgium)
- Professor John Maiden, PhD (UK)
- Professor Marian Niezgoda, PhD (Poland)
- Professor Marcin Skladanowski, PhD (Poland)
- Professor Carmen Gabriela Lazareanu, PhD (Romania)
- Professor Liudmyla Fylypovych, PhD (Ukraine)
- Evelyn Reuter, PhD (Germany)
- Dinka Marinović Jerolimov, PhD (Croatia)
- Professor Balázs Mezei, PhD (Hungary)
- Professor Pál Iván Szontagh, PhD (Hungary)
- Professor John Berry, PhD (Malta)
- Professor Jason Cherng, PhD (Taiwan)
- Professor Emma Chen, PhD (Taiwan)
- Senior researcher Reet Hiimäe, 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 TO
RECEIVING YOUR ABSTRACTS!!!*

Professor Zoran Matevski, PhD

President of the International Scientific Programme Board
Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Studies and
Research at
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Professor Ratko Duev, PhD

Director of the Centre for Intercultural Studies and Research at
the Faculty of Philosophy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University
in Skopje

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/>