



Business Symposium

25 April, 2016

“Living Together In Inclusive Societies: The Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector“

Thematic Discussion Briefing Note

Private sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace

Background

Religious freedom and interfaith understanding are key ingredients to peace and stability. Interfaith understanding strengthens business by reducing corruption and encouraging broader freedoms while at the same time increasing trust and fostering respect. When companies are sensitive to the religious and cultural issues around them, they can strengthen their social license. Moreover they can increase employees' morals and productivity, while also addressing difficult social needs. Business can often be at the forefront of creating space where people from different cultures and religions meet and cooperate. Positively engaging around the issue of interfaith understanding helps business to advance trust and respect with consumers, employees and possible partner organizations, which can give companies a competitive advantage as sustainability and ethics come to the forefront of corporate engagement with society.

Roundtable Discussion Objectives

Recognizing that interfaith understanding is good for the private sector, the Roundtable Discussion will explore ways how companies can make practical contributions in the area. The aim is to identify innovative approaches for companies to take action in the workplace, marketplace and local communities.

Discussion Questions

- What actions can companies take to promote interfaith understanding and peace in the workplace, marketplace and local communities?
- How could core business expertise and resources be further leveraged to find innovative local solutions that benefit companies and societies alike?

Facilitator

- Brian Grim, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

Lead Discussant

- TBC





Engagement Opportunities and Further Reading

- The UN Global Compact, the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, its Brazilian affiliate, the Associação pela Liberdade Religiosa e Negócios are looking to recognize CEOs for the [Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards](#). Recognition will be given to current or past CEOs who have demonstrated leadership and championed interfaith understanding and peace. Nominations can be submitted until 30 April 2016.
- The publication entitled [Business: A Powerful Force for Supporting Interfaith Understanding and Peace](#) (2014) presents case studies on why and how companies can make contributions to interfaith understanding and peace.

