

Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania



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BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOR PEACE TANZANIA (IRCPT)

INRODUCTION

IRCPT is an interfaith organization made up of Member Faith Based Organization, for the purpose of enhancing peace and peaceful coexistence through constructive dialogue and collaboration. Founded and got its first registered in 1992 as ***The Great Peace Journey Trust.*** (GPJ) Founder Members were three Women peace activists from Christian and Muslim faiths. In 1996 religious leaders agreed to establish an interreligious council and an became an Affiliate of the World Conference on Religions for Peace International (WCRPT), now known as Religions for Peace (RfP)

In 2000, WCRPT was re-registered and extended its membership from being of individual faith people to religious institutions. From 2000 to 2010 Faith institutions engaged in building interfaith relation, conflict prevention through dialogue and jointly addressing social economic issues, engaging Women and Youth of faith for inclusivity and sustainability. In 2010 the organization gained a wider acceptance bringing Nine Religious Institutions to work together as an interfaith community.

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

In November 2009 Representatives from Faith Based Organizations restructured the organization to be a Member Based interreligious organization for the purpose of addressing penitent social economic issues and prevention of conflicts and religious discrimination and religious violence. In January 2010 the Name of the organization was changed from World Conference on Religions for Peace Tanzania, (WCRPT) to The Interreligious Council for Peace Tanzania, (IRCPT) and Registered with that new name.

In April 2012 Secretary Generals of Faith Based Members met with WCRPT Trustees to agree on the official adoption of IRCPT by signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signing ceremony was done on the 12th November 2016 in Dar es Salaam.

The Religious Leaders from the following Faith Based Organization signed the MOU;

1. **Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC)**
2. **The Supreme Council of Muslims in Tanzania (BAKWATA)**
3. **Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)**
4. **Ahamadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Tanzania**
5. **The Council of Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania (CPCT)**
6. **Hindu Council of Tanzania (HCT)**
7. **Buddhist Association of Tanzania**
8. **Council of Islamic Institutions (BARAZA KUU)**
9. **Mufti's Office Zanzibar**

IRCPT have interfaith structures from the national level to Ward levels, these structures are made up by religious leaders from every religious community at the regional level district, sub district and at ward levels. These structures are known as Interfaith Committees a.k.a Peace Committees.

IRCPT in collaboration with FBOs have established Women Interfaith and Youth Interfaith Networks. (TWIN and TYIN respectively).

IRCPT as many other Non Governmental Organizations was required to re- register under the NGO Act 2002; therefore on the 18th July 2019 IRCPT was registered No, NGO/R2/00099

PARTNERSHIP WITH UN AGENCIES.

Since its beginning WCRPT/IRCPT have been partnering with UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF.

From 2011 to 2015 we had a successful partnership with UNICEF in areas of GVB and Child Development and Security

Multi-religious collaboration in the following thematic areas:-

- Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- Prevention of Violent Extremism and radicalization,
- Advocacy and Awareness creation
- Public Health – HIV/AIDS , OVCs, Malaria
- Economic Empowerment//Poverty Reduction through INTER-RELIGIOUS VICOBA
- Endowment Building for the Institution's Sustainability
- Gender – cross cutting in all areas – through the Tanzania Women Inter-religious Network (TWIN); the Tanzania Youth Inter-religious Network (TYIN).and Child Care and Development.
- GVB and Child Security and Development (CDS)
- Climate Change and Environment

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FROM YEAR 2000 TO 2018

- Institutional Building and Asset Development with support from the FORD FOUNDATION - 2000 to 2005;
- Introduced Village Community Banks, (VICOBA) NCA Support
- Civic & Voters Education Project – with support from the UNDP;
- PACT Tanzania/Community Reach Program on Stigma – with support from PACT-Tanzania/Community Reach – 2005
- Capacity Development for Interfaith Co-operation – with support from NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID (NCA) – 2006 – 2010;
- Strengthening Faith-based Responses to HIV/AIDS through Multi-religious Collaboration – WCRPTz as a Sub-grantee of World Conference of Religions for Peace – New Partners Initiative Project – funded by the USG through HRSA – 2008 – 2011.
- Environment and Climate Change, advocacy COP17 Partners; NCA and KAS
- **Violence Against Children Support from UNICEF 2011-2015**
- Peace building through constructive dialogue, trainings, consultations and capacity building
- Amani Kwanza, before, during and after Election results, 2015. Funded by Swiss Embassy
- PVE Awareness building and Capacity building. 2017/18 Funded by Foundation for Civil Society
- Child Security and Development, 2018. Funded by Religions for Peace.
- Preparation and printing of Peace curriculum for learning institutions 2018 by the support KAIICID
- Produced Peace Training Manuals for Community Facilitators and conducted trainings to 150 TOT religious leaders from 2018 to 22

COVERAGE

IRCPT is a national organization made of Member-Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) who have structures from national to village levels; as implementers, through Inter-religious Committees,

Vision: Sustainable Peace Justice and Religious Harmony in Tanzania and in the region

Mission: Mobilize Religious Communities through their leaders to enhance interfaith respect, build peaceful, just, and harmonious societies in Tanzania.

Our Motto: *Love and Peace; Different Religions*

Core values: *All Human beings are equal in the face of God therefore they are sacred; have right to live and to be protected.*