



# UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

*A Global Network of Peacebuilders*

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION



Al-Liqa' Center for Religious, Heritage and Cultural Studies in the Holy Land

A Virtual Conference on

## ***FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND BELIEF***

*Theological, Philosophical, Political and Sociological Perspectives*

**25 February 2022, Friday**

**16:00-19:00 Jerusalem • 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM New York**

Freedom of thought and belief are affirmed by people all across the world. However, these values are crucial for human development, but often compromised or even threatened. In this conference we will explore the foundations of freedom of thought and will attempt to identify factors that impede freedom of thought and belief. Panelists will speak to the topic from a variety of academic perspectives.

### **REGISTER HERE:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DA2tQVQ\\_Q6ObZZuEw-3lpQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DA2tQVQ_Q6ObZZuEw-3lpQ)



**Friday, February 25 [Times listed are based on Jerusalem Time]**

**16:00 PM** **Opening Session**

**Welcoming:** Bishop Munib Younan

**Remarks:** Dr. Yousef Zaknoun, Director, Al Liqa Center  
Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chairman, UPF International

- 16:15 PM **Session Two: Philosophical and Political Foundations of Freedom of Thought and Belief**
- Panelists:** Dr. ~~Raed~~ Raed Abd- Al Masih, Professor of Philosophy and Medical Ethics-Bethlehem University, *"The Impact of Philosophy and Culture on Freedom of Thought and Belief"*
- 16:30 PM Dr. Ján Figel, Member of the Governing Board of The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)- Slovakia *"Political Systems and Freedom of Thought in The Western Context"*
- 16:45 PM **Session Three: Nation States and the Freedom of Religion and Thought**
- Panelist:** Dr. Iyad Al- Barghouti, Professor of political sociology and philosophy- President of the Arab Network for Tolerance *"Freedom of Thought and Belief- Political Systems in the Middle East"*
- 17:00 PM Bishop William Al-~~Shomali~~ Shomali, General Vicar and Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine *"Freedom of Thought, Belief and Conscience in the Catholic Church"*
- 17:15 PM **Session Four: The Role of Educational Institutions in Educating on Freedom of Thought**
- Panelist:** Dr. Omar Abed ~~Rabo~~ Rabo, Professor of Islamic History and Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, and Jerusalem studies, Head of the Humanities Department- Bethlehem University *"The Role of Universities in educating on Freedom of Thought and Belief in Palestine"*
- 17:30 PM **Session Five: The Role of Media and Social Media in Promoting Freedom of Thought and Belief**
- Panelist:** Ziad El Sayegh, Expert on Public Policies, Executive Director of Civic Influence Hub- Lebanon, *"Social media and its impact on human relations and coexistence"*
- 17:45 PM **Discussion**
- 18:30 PM **Closing Session: Concluding Reflections and Recommendations**
- Remarks:** Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chairman, UPF International  
Bishop Munib Younan

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