



Ecumenical Patriarchate



World Islamic Call Society

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PRESS RELEASE

Dialogue between Islam and Christianity

Launch of Inter-Religious Training Partnership Initiative

The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the World Islamic Call Society have launched the Inter-Religious Training Partnership Initiative. This will provide joint training opportunities for young imams, priests, theologians and students of respective Muslim and Christian Orthodox communities. The Inter-Religious Training Partnership Initiative will train participants to use inter-religious dialogue as a tool to facilitate peace and reconciliation. The aim is to learn and share good practice from around the world and to look within the respective faiths for guidance.

The Initiative commenced with a three day Seminar (December 11 – 13) held in Athens that included over 65 participants who came from all the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches and the Islamic communities of North Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

In 2009 the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the World Islamic Call Society will organize two training courses. The first training course will focus on inter-religious mediation by empowering young people with the skills to facilitate dialogue; and broaden the awareness of the importance of cooperation between Christians and Muslims in North Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The second training course will concentrate on communication and media strategies with the aim of making the dialogue more visible.

Through the Inter-Religious Training Partnership Initiative the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the World Islamic Call Society will establish a network of trust for future religious leaders to support their counterparts at the local and global levels.

Media will be used to reach out to people who are involved in Christian-Muslim initiatives.

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