

THE TANDEM PROJECT

<http://www.tandemproject.com>.

UNITED NATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

*The Tandem Project is a UN NGO in Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

Separation of Religion or Belief and State

PROPOSED FORUM

ACADEMIC DISCOURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ACADEMIC FACULTY, GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

*Program on Human Rights and Freedom of Religion or Belief for Study, Research
and Engagement from Multidisciplinary Perspectives at the University of Nairobi*

OBJECTIVE: **Implement** a multi-disciplinary approach to international human rights law on freedom of religion or belief **at academic and research institutions**, as a follow-up to the Kenya Universal Periodic Review and the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education (2010-2014), Second Phase Plan for Higher Education. Organizations and individuals in this Proposed Forum have not been approached or asked for an endorsement.

University of Nairobi Academic Faculty

- **College of Humanities and Social Sciences: Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, School of Law, School of Economics, Center for International Programmes and Links, Gender & African Studies, School of Journalism, School of Education, College of Education and External Studies.**

Academic Faculty: Proposed Panel Topics: (1) Multi-disciplinary approach to human rights and freedom of religion or belief at the University of Nairobi, (2) Strategies and obstacles from diverse academic disciplines, (3) Follow-up to the Kenya Universal Periodic Review, (4) Plan of action for Human Rights Education proposed by the U.N. Human Rights Council in September 2010.

Government & Civil Society

- **Government and Civil Society Representatives: Kenya Government Delegation for the Kenya Universal Periodic Review, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Nairobi Mayor's Office and**

Police Department, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Nairobi Places of Worship, Indigenous Representatives.

Government & Civil Society: Proposed Panel Topics: (1) Vision 2030 First Medium Term Plan 2008-2012, (2) Universality of Human Rights, (3) Constitution of Kenya Review Act of 2008, Kadhis' Courts, (4) United Nations and Civil Society, (5) International human rights law and freedom of religion or belief within the Kenya national constitution and legal limits of the country, (6) Kenya obligations to Somali Refugee Camp, (7) Indigenous Rights and Witchcraft, (8) Obligations and responsibilities for implementing the Kenya Universal Periodic Review at a local level. (9) Local Governments Response to 66/167, a *Culture of Tolerance and Peace Based on Religion or Belief*.

[United Nations Resolution – a Culture of Tolerance & Peace Based on Religion or Belief](#)

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/167 may be the best hope since 1984 to reconcile issues and divergent views on human rights and freedom of religion or belief, assimilation and multiculturalism. UN *Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters Relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief (1984)* ST/HR/SER.A/16, Geneva: United Nations.

World Programme for Human Rights Education (2010-2014)

Second Phase Action Plan for Higher Education

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/secondphase.htm>

Draft plan of action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/15/28): U.N. Human Rights Council

(b) Teaching and learning processes and tools

27. Introducing or improving human rights education in the higher education system requires adopting a holistic approach to teaching and learning, by integrating programme objectives and content, resources, methodologies, assessment and evaluation; by looking beyond the classroom and the higher-education institution to society; and by building partnerships between different members of the academic community and beyond.

(v) Develop multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary human rights academic programmes. 20

²⁰ Multidisciplinary programmes would include the study, research and engagement with human rights from different disciplinary perspectives, such as philosophy, sociology, languages, international and domestic law, etc. Interdisciplinary programmes would entail the crossing of boundaries between disciplines and the pooling of approaches and methodologies to study, research and engage with human rights with a new integrated perspective.

There can be no adequate understanding of the most important issues we face when disciplines are cloistered from one another and operate on their own premises. It would be far more effective to bring together people working on questions of religion, politics, history, economics, anthropology, sociology, literature, art, religion and philosophy to engage in comparative analysis of common problems. As the curriculum is restructured, fields of inquiry and methods of investigation will be transformed.

End of the University as We Know It – Collaboration Rather than Specialization, New York Times Op-Ed, April 29, 2007, Mark C. Taylor, Chairman of the Religion Department, Columbia University, New York.

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

<http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/>

Vision: A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

Mission: To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge. In order to realize the above vision and mission, certain shared values shall be nurtured.

There is great need for the University to be guided by the right values derived from the virtues and moral standards of the Kenyan and wider society. The University shall be guided by the following core values:

- We shall promote and defend freedom of thought and expression in academic inquiry and other activities. Innovativeness and creativity shall be the hallmark of our activities as we initiate and adapt to change. We embrace and practice good corporate governance. In this regard, we shall ensure that all our processes and procedures are marked by efficiency, effectiveness and transparency; we are accountable for our decisions and actions; our decision-making processes are participative and consultative; and our decisions and actions reflect meritocracy and are open and transparent; We shall foster a work environment characterized by team spirit and teamwork. In all our actions and interactions, we shall maintain ethical behaviour, professional etiquette and honesty. We shall provide quality services to our clients. We shall nurture responsible corporate citizenship and strong social responsibility. In all our activities, we shall strive to respect and protect the environment.

The Tandem Project a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1986 to build understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity of religion or belief, and to prevent discrimination in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief. The Tandem Project has sponsored multiple conferences, curricula, reference material and programs on Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights- Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion – and the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.