

# MEDIA RELEASE

## LOCAL CATHOLIC AND ISLAMIC LEADERS ARRANGE HISTORIC WORLD PEACE SIGNING CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

*December 17, 2019 (Hamilton, Bermuda)* The landmark “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” dated February 4, 2019 and signed in Abu Dhabi between His Holiness Pope Francis and The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, has been adopted by local Catholic and Islamic Leaders as part of an historic commitment to regional awareness, reconciliation and forgiveness on matters of interreligious diplomacy.

At the request of The Most Reverend Wes Spiewack (Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton) and Emir Saleem Talbot (Imam of the Bermuda Islamic Cultural Center at Harrington Sound), it was agreed to co-sign a copy of “The Document” at Government House on December 17, 2019 at a private gathering hosted by His Excellency the Governor of Bermuda, John Rankin CMG. The event also featured the exchange of peace prayers and a symbolic bird release by the three leaders.

The signing ceremony is being conducted under the banner of the "X-Roads Double SuperJubilee" and is the end product of a long-term process of collaboration between Sahaba Crossroads in Bermuda, Mahdah Urf Co in Barbados, the Revelation Network in Los Angeles and members of the Secular Franciscan Order in New Zealand.

The Bermuda strategy is inspired by the historic peace summit 800 years ago in 1219 between Saint Francis of Assisi (on behalf of Christianity) and Sultan Malik Al-Kamil of Egypt (in the name of Islam). This historic meeting of the minds between contrasting traditions paved the way for a lasting agreement that enabled Christian Pilgrims to avoid the hostilities created by the Crusades and travel safely through Muslim territories on their way to the Holy City of Jerusalem. The summit is also believed to have contributed to one of the most significant transformations of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Franciscan component and quest for global peace and reconciliation has been initiated and seen through by Ireland-born, London raised Professor Elizabeth Greenwell, founder of Global Cooperation Day. Professor Greenwell has resided in New Zealand for over forty years. Professor Greenwell’s son, Adam, is a member of the Secular Franciscan Order (Ofs) and Professor Greenwell is the recipient of a medal from St. John Paul II for her film for the new millennium, *No Chance to Paint the Canvas*.

Father Federico Lombardi SJ, in his capacity as Papal Spokesman and Director of the Vatican Press Office, informed Professor Greenwell that her upcoming documentary, *Watering the Fields of Humanity*, once completed, will be archived in the Vatican for perpetuity. *Watering the Fields of Humanity* will include filmed progress of the full content of this communication.

The X-Roads Double SuperJubilee is designed to facilitate a triangular framework - addressing theological, secular and environmental commonalities within monotheism itself - for trusted collaboration between Muslims and Christians on matters of sustainable development. Bermuda will itself be the focus of an annual X-Roads Peace Summit that promotes continued rehabilitation of the "original sins" of the Atlantic Slave Trade towards indigenous peoples in Africa and the Americas.

### Further Contact

- Emir Saleem Talbot - Bermuda Islamic Cultural Center (Tel) 732-1559 (Email) [saleemtal@gmail.com](mailto:saleemtal@gmail.com)
- Bishop Wes Spiewick - Diocese of Hamilton (Tel) 232-4144 (Email) [bishopwes.bm@gmail.com](mailto:bishopwes.bm@gmail.com)