

CONCEPT NOTE

Beyond War and Towards  
Reconciliation:  
Multi-Religious Peace  
Roundtables

The Third Tokyo Peace  
Roundtable

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1 JULY - 3 JULY 2025

## Background

The international community is grappling with an alarming escalation of conflicts and humanitarian crises, leading to unprecedented levels of insecurity and human suffering. Armed conflicts have surged globally, with a 25 percent increase in incidents of political violence in 2024, and crises across regions – Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Myanmar, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Haiti and many others – underscoring devastation of communities and instability among nations. The rising deaths and suffering from these crises underscore the urgent need for innovative and sustained peacebuilding efforts.

Global humanitarian needs are at record highs, with approximately 305 million people requiring urgent assistance and protection. Forced displacement has reached an alarming scale, with nearly 123 million individuals uprooted by mid-2024 – a twelfth consecutive annual increase. In the same year, 72.1 million people were internally displaced due to conflict and violence, with women, children, and marginalised communities bearing the brunt of heightened violence, exploitation, food insecurity, and human rights violations.

The interconnected nature of these crises – spanning armed conflict, displacement, food insecurity, gender-based violence, and climate emergencies – requires a coordinated and inclusive global response. As moral leaders and trusted pillars within their communities, religious and faith actors are uniquely positioned to foster reconciliation, uphold human dignity, and promote lasting peace. Sustained collaboration among political leaders, religious leaders, policymakers, civil society, and intergovernmental entities strengthens efforts toward a vision of shared human flourishing.

Against this backdrop, the Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable, a mechanism for religious actors, policymakers, and political leaders to collaborate for peace emerges as a vital platform for fostering collaboration and strengthening solidarity and collective resolve in the face of unprecedented global crises. Convened by Religions for Peace International and Religions for Peace Japan in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilization, this roundtable builds on the successes of the first and second Tokyo Peace Roundtables, uniting diverse religious leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to foster reconciliation and advance sustainable peace. Given the ongoing conflicts in Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, and Myanmar, the Tokyo Peace Roundtable will give participants from these regions a chance to reflect on the pathways for peace and security in their respective communities, leveraging the unique strengths of interreligious dialogue and collaboration to open avenues for dialogue to build a future of shared human flourishing.

To deepen this engagement, the roundtable will incorporate the “Council” principles that encourages a “practice of open, heartfelt expression and attentive, empathic listening.” Additionally, a dedicated session on national dialogue will focus on successful models, with a particular emphasis on Myanmar. These sessions will provide participants with both theoretical frameworks and practical strategies to apply in their respective efforts for reconciliation and conflict resolution.

## **Laying the Groundwork for Reconciliation: The First & Second Tokyo Peace Roundtables**

In September 2022, Religions for Peace launched the First Tokyo Peace Roundtable, *Beyond War and Towards Reconciliation: Multi-Religious Peace Roundtables*, to create a safe space for religious leaders from Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, and Ukraine to exchange practical narratives of building social cohesion and diverse reconciliation efforts, based on their respective conflict settings. The discussions culminated in a landmark statement that underscored their commitment to heal communities torn apart by war through dialogue, cooperation, and the promotion of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

Building on the momentum of the inaugural gathering, the Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable, convened in February 2024, brought together religious leaders from Colombia, Haiti, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Myanmar, Palestine, Peru, Russia, Spain, Türkiye, Ukraine, and the United States to build trust, heal divisions, and foster forgiveness and explore pathways for reconciliation. United by a multi-religious vision of peace, participants adopted the official statement, condemning war and violence, calling for the depoliticisation of humanitarian aid, and emphasising the dignity and sanctity of all human life.

## **The Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable and the Tokyo Peace Process**

In the face of the persistence of these challenges and an urgent need for sustained multi-religious cooperation, Religions for Peace will convene the Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable from 30 June to 4 July 2025. Building on the success of the first two roundtables, this gathering will seek to deepen dialogue, cultivate sustainable partnerships, and advance actionable strategies to address the root causes of the conflicts in Russia-Ukraine, Palestine-Israel, and Myanmar.

A significant milestone of this gathering will be the institutionalisation of the Tokyo Peace Process, an initiative designed to establish a framework for sustained and coordinated multi-religious dialogue and diplomacy addressing all stages of the conflict cycle, including peace-making, post-conflict reconciliation, prevention, and long-term peacebuilding.

## **Through the Tokyo Peace Process, Religions for Peace aims to:**

- Establish a framework for reconciliation whereby religious leaders from regions and countries in conflict are brought together for interfaith dialogue aimed at fostering reconciliation;
- Integrate key learnings, reflections, and insights from global interfaith initiatives to address localised and transnational conflicts effectively;
- Advance a strategic approach to addressing conflict cycles through interreligious dialogue and cooperation, focusing on prevention and sustainable peace; and,
- Strengthen partnerships for joint mobilisation of resources to foster reconciliation and implement long-term peacebuilding in conflict-affected communities.

As the world's oldest and most representative multi-religious leadership platform, Religions for Peace has over a 50-year legacy of facilitating mediation and reconciliation efforts, interreligious dialogue and cooperation, as well multi-religious critical service provision, through its Interreligious Councils, Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth Networks in nearly 100 countries. By advancing common actions not only in collaboration with religious institutions and faith-based organisations, but also with secular civil society organisations, policymakers, and governmental and intergovernmental entities, Religions for Peace is uniquely situated to foster sustained cooperation and peacebuilding. For this reason, Religions for Peace International and Religions for Peace Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilization, and the support of Religions for Peace Asia, Japanese International Trustee Group and the International Initiatives of Change Association of Japan, aims to leverage the foundations established by the previous roundtables to institutionalise the Tokyo Peace Process.

### **The Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable: Objectives and Outcomes**

1. Religions for Peace International and Religions for Peace Japan will convene diverse religious leaders, alongside policymakers and experts, for the Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable, to:
2. Review commitments and progress from the Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable, identify barriers to meeting them and determine the actions needed to overcome them;
3. Deepen trust and mutual understanding among religious leaders in the affected countries to foster a collaborative environment that strengthens multi-religious reconciliation efforts;
4. Facilitate meaningful dialogue rooted in the core principles of each faith tradition, aimed at fostering reconciliation and advancing shared commitments to peace;
5. Promote multi-religious collaboration with political leaders and policy makers to drive peacebuilding efforts at the grassroots level, engaging local communities in humanitarian responses, conflict prevention, and reconciliation; and,
6. Cultivate alliances with policymakers, intergovernmental entities, and civil society to strengthen the impact of peacebuilding efforts.

As a result, the Third Tokyo Peace Roundtable will directly contribute to:

1. The strengthened implementation of commitments made during previous roundtables, ensuring meaningful progress in peacebuilding;
2. Development of adaptable and scalable models for multi-religious peacebuilding in conflict-affected communities;
3. Deepened trust and unity across diverse communities impacted by conflict and violence; and,
4. Leveraging the moral authority and unique capacity of religious leaders to drive peacebuilding efforts and advocate for sustainable peace in conflict-affected communities.

## Relevant Links

### Documents from the Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable (2024)

- [Press Release for the Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable \(2024\)](#)
- [Statement for the Second Tokyo Peace Roundtable \(2024\)](#)

### Documents from the First Tokyo Peace Roundtable (2022)

- [Press Release for the First Tokyo Peace Roundtable \(2022\)](#)
- [Report of the First Tokyo Peace Roundtable \(2022\)](#)
- [Statement from the First Tokyo Peace Roundtable \(2022\)](#)

## Religions for Peace Publications and Resources

- [Religions for Peace: The Global Movement Through Impact](#)
- [Faithful Peace: Why the Journey to Build Resilience is Multi-Religious](#)
- [Religions for Peace Multi-Religious Humanitarian Fund](#)

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