DECLARATION OF INTENT

on Preventing the Political Abuse of Religion

Founding Charter of the International Partnership to Prevent the Political Abuse of Religion.

Voluntary framework for governments, institutions and distinguished leaders to work together for lasting global impact.

Convened by
BPUR International and
National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH)

Adopted on 09 September 2026

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Preamble

We, the participants in this Declaration, representing governments, national human rights institutions, parliaments, religious institutions, international organisations and civil society from across the world,

Determined to strengthen peace, responsible governance, equality before the law and social cohesion by preventing the political abuse of religion;

Recognising that religion has inspired humanity's highest moral values, shaped civilisations and brought hope, compassion and purpose to countless communities, and that its moral authority should never be instrumentalised for abusive political or ideological purposes;

Recognising that the political abuse of religion remains a primary cause of instability, discrimination, extremism and violence across societies, religions and political systems;

Deeply concerned that its consequences are often borne most heavily by women, children, minorities and other vulnerable communities, affecting the dignity, security and wellbeing of people in every region of the world;

Affirming that preventing the political abuse of religion is not directed against any religion, belief, nation or culture, nor does it seek to diminish the positive role of religion in public life, but to protect its integrity from political or ideological abuse;

Reaffirming that this Declaration respects the constitutional systems and sovereign choices of States and seeks not to regulate the role of religion in public life, but to prevent its political abuse in ways that undermine equality, freedom of religion or belief, and social cohesion;

Recognising the primary responsibility of all States to uphold the rule of law, protect equality before the law, strengthen national cohesion and safeguard the rights and freedoms of all people;

Welcoming the growing international support for the objectives of this Declaration, built on sustained engagement since 2020 with governments, lawmakers, international institutions and civil society across regions;

Convinced that this Declaration presents a timely opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and the effectiveness of existing international instruments through practical and progressive action;

We hereby adopt this Declaration as the founding charter of the International Partnership to Prevent the Political Abuse of Religion, dedicated to advancing the objectives of this Declaration through cooperation, dialogue and shared leadership.

I. Shared Objectives

Participants in this Partnership declare their shared intention to:

1. **Strengthen** the effectiveness of existing international principles and instruments in addressing the political abuse of religion.
2. **Encourage** the progressive development of practical international rules and cooperative measures that help governments address recognised implementation gaps while respecting national constitutional systems.
3. **Advance** clear and practical international standards to protect equality and prevent religious discrimination in rights and duties, religious exclusion in public law and governance, and restrictions on freedom of religion or belief.

4. **Address** recognised root causes of religious conflict and discrimination by strengthening the practical effectiveness of the international legal framework.
5. **Promote** greater consistency in protecting equality before the law, freedom of religion or belief, responsible governance and social cohesion.
6. **Encourage** international cooperation, the exchange of experience and the sharing of good practice in preventing the political abuse of religion.
7. **Build** broad international consensus towards a practical international framework that strengthens prevention, implementation and international cooperation.
8. **Support** a government-led process through which participating States may collectively determine appropriate future international instruments and cooperative measures.

II. The International Partnership

This Declaration establishes the **International Partnership to Prevent the Political Abuse of Religion** as a voluntary global platform for cooperation among governments, national human rights institutions, parliaments, religious institutions, international organisations, civil society and other stakeholders committed to advancing the objectives of this Declaration.

The Partnership shall promote dialogue, encourage cooperation, facilitate the exchange of experience and support practical initiatives that strengthen the effectiveness of existing international principles and instruments in addressing the political abuse of religion.

The Partnership shall support the progressive development of a practical international legal framework to strengthen the effectiveness of the existing international legal toolkit, including, where participating governments determine that sufficient international consensus has emerged, the possible development of an international treaty.

Participants are invited to contribute according to their respective roles, expertise and capacities through dialogue, cooperation and practical initiatives in support of this Declaration.

III. International Steering Committee

An International Steering Committee shall be established to provide strategic leadership for the Partnership and promote cooperation among participants.

The Steering Committee shall facilitate international engagement, encourage broad participation and support the progressive implementation of this Declaration.

Its composition, functions and working arrangements shall be determined by the Partnership, ensuring broad geographical representation and institutional diversity.

IV. Pathway Forward

Participants recognise that strengthening the effectiveness of the international legal toolkit in addressing the political abuse of religion is a progressive process requiring broad international cooperation and governmental leadership.

Accordingly, the Partnership shall encourage dialogue on practical international rules, cooperative measures and the progressive development of an international legal framework, including, where participating governments consider appropriate, future international legal instruments.

V. Final Provisions

This Declaration expresses the shared intentions of its participants and serves as the founding charter of the International Partnership to Prevent the Political Abuse of Religion.

It does not create legal obligations under international law and shall not affect the rights or obligations of States under existing international agreements.

This Declaration shall remain open for endorsement by governments and other eligible participants that support its objectives.

The Partnership shall meet periodically to review progress, strengthen international cooperation and consider future initiatives consistent with this Declaration.

Annexes

The following links provide access to the Annexes to this Declaration, maintained as regularly updated registers of the Partnership:

- **Annex I - International Steering Committee**
- **Annex II - Institutional Partners**
- **Annex III - Individual Partners**
- **Annex IV - Founding Patrons**

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