



East Africa Credible Voices Exchange Program, 2017

Diversity as a Source of Strength: Interfaith, Community and Inclusiveness

(Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Somalia)

MD, NY, DE and DC

October 9 - 26, 2017

Biographical Document

UGANDA DELEGATES

MOHAMMAD ALI WAISWA



Sheikh Waiswa is a member of the National Council for Higher Education, the Uganda Population Secretariat, and the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda. He acts as the School Imam at Makerere University School of Business, as well as the Deputy Mufti of the Muslim Supreme Council. Most recently, Sheikh Waiswa was appointed as a member of committee in the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity. Sheikh Waiswa has Bachelor's Degree in Islamic Law from the University of Saudi Arabia, and Master's Degree in Religious Education from Makerere University.

AMINA NABIRUMBI



Amina teaches women communication skills, literature, and English language at the Islamic University in Uganda. She has been coordinating for Skills Enhancement Program for Imams since 2015. She also coordinates the Kazinga women's group for sustainable development. Amina Nabirumbi earned her bachelor's degree in Education from Makerere University and continued on to earn her master's degree in literature from Kyambogo University for which she is currently writing her dissertation.

NASIIFU KIZITO



Nasifu Kizito is a Hafidh of the Quran and earned a bachelor's degree in ICT Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He is currently the chairperson of a Muslim youth NGO called FROQAN, an umbrella body that binds all youth who have memorized the QURAN, studying and teaching the Quran in Uganda, as well as Quran schools whose numbers are over the mark of 15,000 youth.

TANZANIA DELEGATES

ATHUMAN JUMA KORONGO



Athuman Korongo holds Advanced Diploma in Logistics (2011) and Graduate Studies in Project Management (2015). He attained his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2008. In 2001, he and the team established the first Global Network of Religions for peace. He was able to arrange a meeting of over 100 participants from 15 different countries to establish the network. GNRC was able to establish a number of peace clubs in different higher learning institutions.

SEMENI JAMAL MNETE



Semeni is a Secretary for SOS Children's village Tanzania-Sponsorship where she is responsible for communication, reporting, planning, and works as a part of care and child protection team. In 2016, Semeni earned Bachelor Degree in Public Administration from Kampala International University Dar es Salaam. She has attended workshops on Youth Participation in political issues, harmonization of peace, adaptation of culture and environment to youth engaged on voluntary work from Europe to Africa, introduction to psychosocial support, sexuality and reproduction, HIV/AIDS Status. She's also attended fundraising workshops, parenting skills trainings, and workshops to combat extremist ideologies.

NASSOR HAMAD OMAR



Nassor Omar is a Director General of Zanzibar organic producer, a company dealing with processing spices and fruits in Zanzibar. As an entrepreneur, he has been selected as the chairman of the Sunday market in Zanzibar as well as the facilitator of vegetable, fruits, and spices clustering. Educationally, Nassor majored in Education and was employed by the ministry of education from 1988 to 1995. In 2016, UNICEF awarded the "Best Activist of GBV" award for the entire country. Last year Omar also joined Credible Voice East Africa and visited Uganda, Kenya and Zanzibar as part of learning about violent extremism.

KENYA DELEGATES

JUMA ASARIA JEREMIAH



Pastor Jeremiah is a Kenyan who began pastoring in 2006 and ministers with the Kenya Assemblies of God (KAG) church in Majengo. He has been pastoring for the last ten years before founding his own ministry called Jesus Assemblies Church (J.A.C). He earned his Higher Diploma in Theology from KAG University and a Higher Diploma in Psychological Counselling from KIBCO College. He is a trained peace builder and has attended various workshops addressing Violent Extremism.

MAKI YUSUF NASUR



Sheikh Yusuf is a trained Imam at Al-Azhar University in Egypt. He holds a Diploma in Religious Studies from the Nairobi School of Religious Studies. He also holds an Advanced Certificate in Governance, Diplomacy, Peace and Security (GDPS) from the International Peace Studies Training Center (IPSTC) Karen, Nairobi. He is the Imam of Jeddah Mosque in Kibera Nairobi, as well as the head of Religious Affairs Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims Nairobi West Region .

JAMILLA NJERI WAHOME



Jamilla works as a therapist and is a registered trainer and lecturer. She is very interested in human rights work and considers herself to be a human rights defender. She values gender and women empowerment as she believes empowering a woman impacts the whole family. Jamilla has a Bachelor Degree in Psychology and Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. Wahome has taught youth of several organizations about violent behavior, peer pressure and substance use and abuse.

SOMALIA DELEGATES

MOHAMED AHMED ALI



Mohamed Ali is a social activist who organizes, leads, and motivates the youth on social development. He aided in setting the foundation for the formation of youth associations and initiatives including the national union of university students, Banaadir students' union and a football club. In 2011, Mohamed was actively involved in the emergency response to famine that affected south-central Somalia. Additionally, Mohamed is a founding member of the IFIYE center, the Centre for literacy and culture, initiated by self-sponsored youth in Mogadishu. The center runs the first-ever free public library in Mogadishu since the collapse of central government. Mohamed also spends time as a blogger and active social media user, who writes about leadership, good governance, politics, administration and economy.

MOHAMED AHMED MOHAMOUD

Mohamed Mohamoud is a Community Organizer and Youth Activist. He represented Somali youth in many regional and international Conferences. He is currently District Commissioner for Hodan, Mogadishu's most populous and diverse district. Before this, Mohamed worked for Wakiil Organisation, a non-governmental initiative promoting democracy and open governance in Somalia. He has received the Somali Youth Champion Award from the Office of Somali President in 2016 for organizing Somalia's first and biggest youth conference and for his work with Somali youth. He is a keen promoter of cultural activities to bring together Somali youth from different regions and empower them to work for political and social change from within their own communities.

ABDIKARIM DAUD MOUSSE



Abdikarim Daud Mousse is a community worker and youth activist, who addresses the contemporary youth predicaments in the world with a particular bent on the context-specific challenges that Somali youth face. He is the country director (Somalia) of Anti-Tribalism Movement (ATM), a non-profit organization, which was established in 2010 in London by a group of young British-Somalis, who wanted to tackle clan-based discrimination within tribal communities. In 2015, he was part of the team that did the first ever Mogadishu Book Fair and he hosted the president of Somalia. In 2015, he was part of the team that organized the first and biggest youth conference in Somalia after the civil war.

UMYDF STAFF

HASSAN NDUGWA – SENIOR PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, UMYDF



Hassan Ndugwa is a Senior Programs Coordinator at Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF) an organization he co-founded in 2011 after surviving the 2010 FIFA world cup bombings in Kampala Uganda. He heads the programs department and his duties range from developing and conceptualizing ideas around CVE, implementation of CVE program activities, representing the organization in CVE and other peace related workshops and conferences to providing strategic direction through developing innovative approaches to preventing violent extremism in Uganda and East Africa. He holds a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University Kampala where he majored in Political Science and Public Administration. He's currently pursuing a Masters' degree in Local Governance and Human Rights at Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi.

CECF STAFF

IMAM MOHAMAD BASHAR ARAFAT – PRESIDENT & FOUNDER, CECF AND AL BASHEER SEMINARY



Imam Bashar is the Founder and President of *Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF)*, a non-profit organization that functions as an umbrella to bring people together for exchanges aimed at creating a better world that promotes peace and cooperation. He has provided religious and cultural training, consultation, and orientation services for the international exchange students and staff of the U.S. Department of State's sponsored *Youth Exchange Study Program (YES)* in the USA since 2004. Born in Damascus, Syria, Imam Bashar received a degree in Islamic Studies, Arabic Language, Islamic Law from Damascus University. Under the guidance and mentorship of the late Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro, he studied Qur'anic interpretation, wisdom of the "Shari'ah" and the Islamic spiritual teachings for 15 years. He accompanied the Grand Mufti during most of his international programs and conferences from 1989-97. Since moving to Baltimore in 1989, he has been heavily involved with interfaith work, both nationally and internationally, promoting better understanding between Muslims and other Faith Traditions.

ROBERT H. STUCKY - PROGRAM OFFICER, CECF & INTERFAITH FACULTY, AL BASHEER SEMINARY



For the past fifteen years, Robert has collaborated with a devout Muslim friend, scholar, and Saudi diplomat, Sadig A. Malki, in promoting Faith in Diversity- FID. At the invitation of Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Rob has recently joined the faculty of Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center and Institute, and the Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation, fostering mutual understanding between religions, and promoting the positive spiritual values and practices common to all traditions.

Rob earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, as well as a Master of Anglican Studies degree from Berkeley Episcopal Divinity School. He studied Indian Philosophy, Yoga, and Meditation intensively under the direct tutelage of Swami Muktananda Paramahansa of Ganeshpuri, India, for nine and a half years, and served as an Episcopal priest for sixteen years. He left the priesthood in 2002 to dedicate himself to the promotion of trans-cultural spirituality and intercultural understanding. As a writer, he has authored several articles and books that challenge and explore our preconceptions and encourage us to embrace the divine presence in all walks of life. These include: *Reductionism, Globalization and Faith*; *The Tantric Jesus- Christ as God, Guru, and Self*; and *Paradigms- Why We Believe, What We Believe, and How It Can Change*.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM A. AU III, PH.D. – INTERFAITH FACULTY, AL BASHEER SEMINARY

Fr. William A. Au, Ph.D. is a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was ordained in 1975 and is a graduate of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, where he received a BA. In Philosophy and an STM. in Theology. In 1983, he received a Ph.D. in Church History from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C... He has published a book and several articles on the American Catholic debate on issues of war and peace. He currently serves as pastor of **The Shrine of the Sacred Heart Church** in the Mt. Washington section of Baltimore. Prior to this he has served as associate pastor in two other Baltimore parishes and as Pastor of SS. Philip and James Church in Baltimore, and as Assistant Chancellor and Director of Public Relations for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also served on the Clergy Personnel Board and Priests Senate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has been very involved in ecumenical and interfaith work.

KIMBERLY KING – PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, CECF



Kimberly King, a native of Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Army and traveled during her 4-years of service throughout the United States and abroad. After completing her time in the service, she moved to Maryland to pursue her degree in Business Administration and Management. She has worked in various levels of management for the last 25 years, the most recent being **Programs Director** of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation. Since becoming Muslim in 1989, she continued studying Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies in Islamic Centers throughout Maryland, D.C., and Virginia before traveling to Damascus, Syria to advance her studies.

SARAH ARAFAT – PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CECF



Sarah Arafat graduated from Notre Dame of Maryland University with a bachelor's degree in Biology to pursue a career in dentistry. While attending NDMU, she was the president of the Muslim Student Association and inducted into the Biology Honor Society. Sarah has been serving as a private Qur'an tutor for children for the past four years. She has also been serving as a long-term intern for Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation as a Youth Programs Coordinator. In 2017, upon graduation from NDMU, she became a Program Coordinator for CECF's International Observer Programs and the Better Understanding for a Better World Conferences. She values diversity, cultural competency, the concept of global citizenship and believes we can all contribute to improving our world.