

PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

IN THE TOPIC OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND WIDER RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN ALBANIA

STATE AGENCIES

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

H. E. Ilir Meta hosted this year a conference on religious harmony and peace.

Relevant advisors: - Ilir Kulla, Advisor to the President on Security and Religious Issues (<http://president.al/>)

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

- **The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism - Albania**

National Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism/Director of the Coordination CVE Center - Albania,
Mr Agron Sojati (<https://cve.gov.al/> , info@cve.gov.al)

- **State Committee on Cults** - the state agency that has authority to regulate relations between faith communities and the state of Albania. The Committee is under the Ministry of Culture. (<http://kshk.gov.al>, komitetishk@kshk.gov.al)

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:

MPs of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania whose public work has shown their interest to safeguard freedom of religion and engage on matters of interfaith dialogue:

- Mr. Fatmir Mediu - Head of the Republican Party of Albania, regular participants in the National Prayer Breakfast, United States.
- Mr. Florenc Spaho - MP, Member of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB)
- Mrs. Eriola Brahaj, - MP, Member of the International Assembly for Tolerance and Peace.

Office of the Albanian Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination

- Robert Gajdja, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination

Informing Authority on Former State Security Files

- Gentiana Sulaj, Head of the Informing Authority on Former State Security Files

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Municipalities of Elbasan, Librazhd, Cerrik, Pogradec -have been directly involved in first activities. Most of them have established security council's whose mission is also to safeguard religious harmony and co-existence at the community level
- Partner municipalities of founding organizations: municipalities of Tirana, Korca, Shkodra, Lezha, Fier, etc
- Local Education Directories

NATIONAL PARTNERS FROM FAITH COMMUNITIES AND SELECTED KEY CONTACT POINTS

ALBANIAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

- o Skender Brucaj, former AMC head, current professor at Beder University
- o Elvis Naci, Imam in Tirana, high profile charity and media figure (elvicnaci.al)
- o Ledjan Cikalleshi, Mufti of Korca
- o Muhamed Syrtari, Mufti of Shkodra (<http://myftinia-shkoder.org/>)
- o Ali Zaimi, Head of the Tirana Madrassa
- o Lauren Luli, Mufti of Tirana
- o Indrit Aboliaj Albanian Muslim Intellectual Forum
- o Ardian Muhaj, Executive Director, Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization <http://www.aiitc.net/>

ALBANIAN AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH

- o Father Andon Merdani, Mitropoliti i Elbasanit, Shpatit dhe Librazhdit, Priest
- o Father Joan Pelushi, Priest
- o Father Staver Cipi , Elbasan (Board member), Priest

ALBANIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

- o George Frendo, Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës in Albania, Head of Interreligious Council of Albania
- o Dom Gjergj Meta, (Rreshen Mirdite local area), Priest
- o Sokol Lulgjuraj, Head of the Ecumenical Religious Office in Elbasan, Catholic Church St. Pious
- o H.E Charles Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Albania

COMMUNITY OF ALBANIANS PROTESTANTS

- o Pastor Akil Pano
- o Pastor Ilirjan Gjoni (Head of the Advisory Board of Interreligious institute)
- o Pastor Ylli Doci

ALBANIAN BEKTASHI COMMUNITY

- o Baba Faik Selmani, Cleric
- o Baba Edmond Brahimaj, Cleric

ALBANIAN INTERFAITH COUNCIL - an umbrella platform established by the faith communities in Albania to coordinate efforts of promoting religious harmony (www.knfsh.al , info@knfsh.al),

- o Genti Kruja, Secretary General

NATIONAL PARTNERS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

- Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations, headed by former FA Minister and AHS Board member Besnik Mustafaj) <http://afalc.org/en/> .
- Women Forum Albania
- Women Center For Development and Culture
- IDM Albania ((www.idmalbania.org , info@idmalbania.org)
- Counselling Network for Women and Girls
- MJAFT Albania
- Albanian Helsinki Committee (www.ahc.org.al)
- Tirana Centre for Journalistic Excellence (TCJE) www.tcje.org

ACADEMIA

- Professor Gjergj Sinani, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tirana (Advisory Board Member)
- Ferdinand Gjana, Rector of Beder University
- Professor Kostas Giakomouis, Polis University Tirana.
- Professor Eva Londo, Faculty of Media and Communications, University of Tirana
- Ermir Gjinishi, Lecturer, Institute for European Studies
- Zemaida Mozali, lecturer University 'Zoja e Keshillit te Mire' Tirana
- Gjergji Pendavinji, Dean of Social Studies Faculty, University of Korca
- Elona Mustafaraj, lecturer, Psychology department , University of Elbasan (Board member)

MEDIA

- Tirana Times (weekly, English www.tiranatimes.org)
- Gazeta 'Mendimi'
- Europa magazine (Albanian)
- Top Channel TV network www.topchannel.tv

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN ALBANIA

- OSCE - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- United Nations Albania
- Council of Europe

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- ILIRJAN GJONI - Pastor, Protestant Community, *Head of the Advisory Board*
- Prof. Dr. GJERGJ SINANI, Head of Philosophy Department at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana. Dr. Sinani has authored numerous publications on the role of religion in society, the historical and legal aspects of religion in Albania. He has been engaged as an independent consultant from the Council of Europe in Stasbourg with regards to minority issues.
- Dr. ZEMAIDA MOZALI, Senior Expert in EU integration. Dr. Mozali is the Head of the Albanian Institute for Public Affairs (AIPA) and lecturer at the University of Tirana. She has a vast experience as lecturer in various higher education institutions in Albania.
- DIANA ÇULI, Albanian writer, journalist and politician. She graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tirana in 1973. Since 2006, she has been a representative of Albania in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Ms. Çuli is well-known for her work on women's rights in Albania. As of 2004 she is the chair of the Albania Women's Federation.
- Rabbi YISROEL FINMAN - Rabbinat of Albania
- SKENDER BRUÇAJ - former head of the Albanian Muslim Community, currently at the Institute for Religious Freedom, Beder University.
- ELONA MUSTAFARAJ - professor of psychology at University of Elbasan, active in local civil society.
- Dom GJERGJ META - has covered several duties within the Catholic Church in Albania. He specializes in Canon Law at Papal Gregoriana University in Rome. He is currently the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Tirana - Durres and a spokesman for the Press Office of the Bishops' Conference of Albania.
- Father STAVER ÇIPI - Orthodox priest, Elbasan
- ROBERT GAJDA - Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination of Albania (public institution)