



Global Action 2 - Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts

Application Guidelines

Violent conflict is often expressed in religious terms and religious discrimination has been on the rise over the past decade affecting every religious group. From the persecution of Rohingya in Myanmar and the Kurds in Iraq to Christians in Syria, Jews in Argentina, and Muslims in Nigeria, Europe and the United States, religious minorities are victims of discrimination on every continent.

While religious doctrines, traditions and norms can be a powerful force in encouraging and justifying discrimination and legitimizing violence, the underlying causes (the root causes) of Faith or Religious Belief (FoRB) violations or tensions have less to do with theological differences than with economic, socio-cultural, and political factors and with how societies memorialize the past.

Work carried out by Sites of Conscience around the world has also shown that in many contexts, religious belief and faith-based actors are playing a positive role in peacebuilding, social cohesion and conflict prevention by encouraging peaceful co-existence and tolerance and by influencing transitional justice processes.

To explore these intricacies and identify proactive strategies to address them, from **July 27-29, 2021** the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (the Coalition) will hold "[Embracing Religious Diversity](#)," the second of three global workshops that comprise our 2021 Global Summit, "[Building Global Capacity for Inclusive Democracies](#)," designed to support peer-to-peer learning, capacity building and project collaboration in promoting inclusivity and democratic values in our communities.

Workshop participants will engage in the following sessions:

- Interactive session on the multiple factors creating conditions for Faith or Religious Belief discrimination and violence today and how communities can combat violations of freedom of Faith or Religious Belief and partner with Faith Actors to foster peaceful and inclusive societies.
- Training on dialogue as a tool for engaging community members in cross-cultural, religious, inter-faith and inter-generational participatory programs, laying the groundwork for advocacy initiatives that foster social cohesion and lasting peace.
- Training of trainers on how to develop comic books pertaining to Freedom of Faith and Religious diversity and inclusion.



Sep 06 – Nov 26, 2021

Building on discussions held, lessons learned and skills gained from the **“Embracing Religious Diversity”** global workshop, ten selected Sites of Conscience will work with youth and religious and faith-based actors in their communities to create comic books, and implement community engagement activities pertaining to freedom of faith and religious diversity and inclusion and to raise awareness and/or enhance the participation of faith-based actors in transitional justice initiatives.

These ten community engagement grants – collectively entitled, **“Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts”** – aim to build technical capacities at the community level to prompt new understandings of various faith-based beliefs and their role in civic engagement, peacebuilding, social cohesion and truth, justice and reconciliation initiatives.

Following the workshop, each of the ten selected members will train and work with interested youth in their communities to produce two to three short comic books. The resulting comic books will be used as springboards for dialogue at sites around the world, functioning as accessible tools and platforms to raise awareness and foster dialogue, mutual understanding and social cohesion in divided communities.

In parallel, selected members will identify and engage relevant community religious and faith-based actors in at least two community engagement activities to support the development of the comic books. Community-based activities will enhance the collaboration between participating youth and local religious and faith-based actors involved in transitional justice initiatives, raising awareness and/or enhancing their involvement on truth, justice and reconciliation goals.

After six weeks, participants will convene online to discuss their comics and community-based projects and provide advice to one another. Upon completion, the comics and reports of the community-based projects will be shared on the Coalition’s Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition’s [Resource Center](#), where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar youth-based projects in communities around the world.

At the end of the grant, participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share findings and lessons learned and speak about the impact of the comics and the community engagement activities in their communities. The session will support members as they continue their efforts to further build inclusive programming locally.

Overview

Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts will provide ten selected members with financial and technical support to engage youth and religious and faith-based actors in their communities in the development of two-three comic books and the implementation of two community engagement activities pertaining to freedom of faith and religious diversity and inclusion and strengthening transitional justice processes, particularly truth, justice and reconciliation goals . Funding will include \$750 for the development of the comic books and \$2100 for the development of the community engagement activities.

- **Participants:** 10 Sites of Conscience members



- **Duration of the project:** 12 weeks
- **Timeline:** Sep 06 – Nov 26, 2021
- **Application Deadline:** August 13, 2021

Timeline

N.	Action	Date
1	Participate in the Training of Trainers held on July 29th as part of the Global Workshop 2 – Embracing Religious Diversity or Participating members will receive training on how to create graphic depictions of the experiences of people with different religious beliefs.	July 29
2	Identify Participants Participating members will identify community youth (ages 15-20 years old) to develop two-three comic books. Participating members will also identify community religious and faith-based actors to take part in the community engagement activities.	Week Sep 06-10
3	Community Training on Comic Book Making Participating members will host a comic book training class in their communities specifically targeted to young people interested in the project (ages 15-20). Training will be based on the recording of and the skills gained during the training of trainers held on July 29th as part of the Global Workshop 2 - Embracing Religious Diversity.	Week Sep 13-17
4	Project Development Participating members will work over 12 weeks with interested youth and religious and faith-based actors in their communities to produce two to three short comic books and implement two community engagement activities.	Sep 17 – Nov 26
4	Submit Project Outline Participating members will submit preliminary outlines for their comic books' content, story beats and creative approach, and for their community engagement activities. Outlines must be submitted at globalactions@sitesofconscience.org .	Week of Sep 20
5	Sixth Week Group Meeting After six weeks, participating members will convene online to discuss their comic books and progress of their community engagement activities and provide advice to one another.	Week of Oct 18



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| 6 | Peer Review
Completed comic books and reports on the community engagement activities will be shared with all participating members for peer review and feedback. | Nov 08-12 |
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| 7 | Comic Books Revision
Participating members will incorporate comments made by peers into the comic books, and develop a final community engagement activities to pilot the comic books as tools for dialogue. | Nov 15-19 |
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| 8 | Launch Webinar – Global Action 2
A launch webinar will be held to disseminate the comic books and community engagement activities as a dialogue framework for sites around the world, functioning as non-threatening, informative introductions to various religions to which community members adhere. | Week of Nov 19 |
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| 9 | Project Completion
Comic books and reports on the community engagement activities will be shared on the Coalition’s Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition’s Resource Center , where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar youth-based projects in communities around the world. | Week of Nov 26 |
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| 10 | Final Meeting
Participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the comic books and community engagement activities in their communities. | Nov 29 |
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| 11 | Project Reporting
Participating members will submit final narrative and financial reports within 2 weeks of completing the project to Diana Naoum (dnaoum@sitesofconscience.org) and Gegê Leme Joseph at (gjoseph@sitesofconscience.org) | Dec 10 |
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Who can apply?

All Coalition members in good standing (dues fully paid and membership information up to date) may apply. If you have a question about your membership status, please contact membership@sitesofconscience.org



Please note that applicants must submit final narrative and financial reports from previous projects or exchanges before applying for new grants. Previous Coalition grant recipients must wait a minimum of twelve months following the close of their most recent project to reapply.

How to apply

To apply, please complete the application form through [this link](#).

As part of the programmatic support offered by the Coalition, **applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Global Networks team at globalactions@sitesofconscience.or and schedule a call.**

Members are allowed to apply for only ONE of the three Global Action – Community Engagement Grants.

The final submission deadline is August 13, 2021. You may submit your application only through the online form provided through the link above in English, Spanish, French or Arabic before August 13, 2021.