

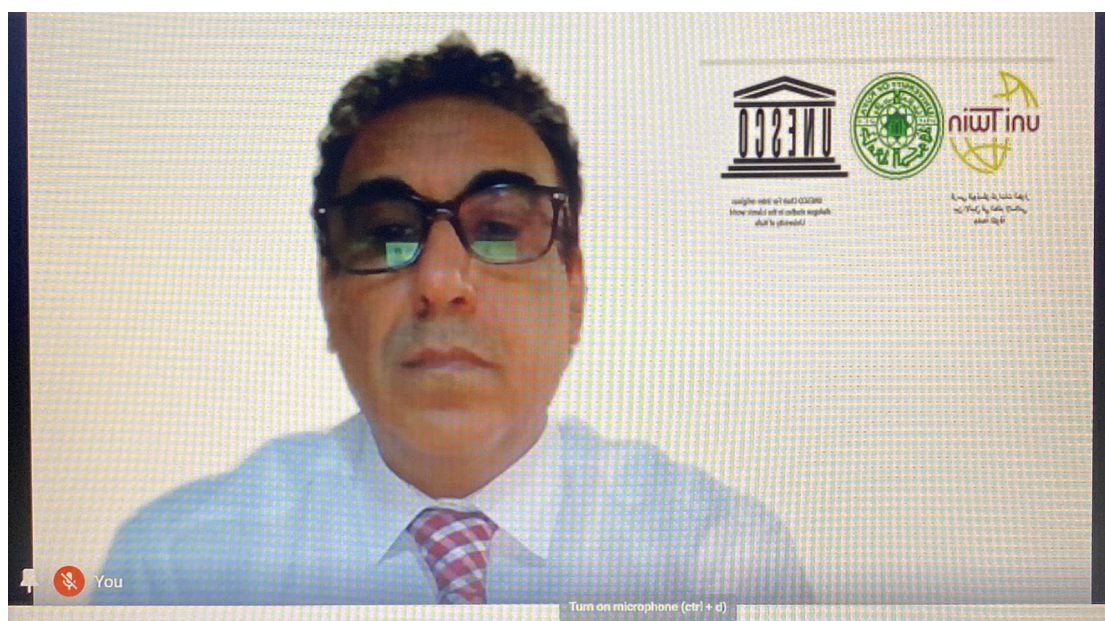
The Dimensions of the Visit of Pope Francis to Iraq

Symposium

2 March 2021

The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue at the University of Kufa held a symposium entitled (The Pope's Visit and its Repercussions on Societal Peace in Iraq) on Tuesday 2 March 2021. The symposium was presented by Mr. Mudar Al-Helou Al-Khatib, a researcher interested in Islamic Studies, and Dr. Iyad Al-Anbar, a professor of political science and Professor Antoine Charpentier, a researcher in Theology and History of Religions. The seminar was managed by Dr. Alaa Shatnan, Director of the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue.

The symposium discussed the historical visit of His Holiness Pope Francis, its symbolic and realistic dimensions, and its impact on the societal reality and local peace in Iraq. Furthermore, it shed light on the historical meeting between the Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali al-Sistani and the Pope and its influence, spiritual and practical dimensions at the local and international levels.



The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Promoting Dialogue in Iraq".

4/March/2021

The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue, in cooperation with Department of civil society of Arts, University of Kufa, conducted a symposium entitled "the role of civil society organizations in promoting dialogue in Iraq". the symposium hosted legal adviser Dr. Mohammed Abdul Amir Anooz Saturday 4/3/2021. The symposium addressed the role of civil society organizations in promoting national dialogue in Iraq. Dr. Alaa Shatnan ,the Director of the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue Started the Symposium by explaining the Concept and History of Civil Society and the Supporting Role of Civil Society Organizations in Building States on the Path of Political and Community Stability. He reviewed the main constraints facing civil society organizations in Iraq.

On his part Dr. Mohamed Anoz described in detail the role of civil society organizations in Iraq after 2003, the main ones concerned with national dialogue, their field of work, the main constraints encountered and the absence of a governmental role in supporting them. He addressed the financing, legal and regulatory problems that faced and confronted the activity of these organizations and how to find solutions.



A Series of Activities to be conducted by the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue and the French Institute at the University of Kufa.

Seminar

11, March 2021

The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue, in cooperation with the French Institute in Baghdad and the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, held a series of seminars on Islamic studies.

The first workshop was titled (Arba'een Pilgrimage: from the Viewpoint of Social Sciences) and conducted on Thursday 3/11/2021. The French researcher Sabrina Mervan presented an anthropological study on the Arba'een Pilgrimage with a graphic presentation of the Pilgrimage and its spiritual and social dimensions from the point of view of anthropological sciences. The workshop was attended by the President of the University Kufa, Prof. Dr. Yasir Lafta Hassoun, the French Ambassador in Baghdad, Mr. Bruno Hubert, and the French Cultural Attaché, Mrs. Salwa Nakouzi.

Dr. Alaa Shatnan, Director of the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue, stated that the Pilgrimage, with all that it implies, embodies the characteristics of the Iraqi people being distinguished by hospitality, generosity, altruism, acceptance of others and coexistence, and with all the symbols and local and international religious and social connotations it contains, which we found in a scientific anthropological study presented by the French researcher and anthropologist Sabrina Mervin.



The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue Organizes a Symposium on Displacement and Forced Migration

15th March, 2021

The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue at the University of Kufa, in cooperation with the Department of Civil Society at the Faculty of Arts, University of Kufa, conducts the symposium entitled "the Phenomenon of Displacement, Understanding the Great Migration, a Comparative Study between Iraq and Venezuela) on Monday the 15th March, 2021. the symposium was presented by Professor Jonathan Hill from Southern Illinois University in the United States and Dr. Ahmed Jafar Al-Ansari from the Department of Civil Society in the College of Arts.

Professor Jonathan Hill discussed the phenomenon of displacement or mass immigration from Venezuela to the United States and neighboring countries, which he considered the largest immigration in South American countries. He attributed the causes in the first place to the deteriorating economic situation in Venezuela, mismanagement and corruption. He compared the situation in Venezuela and Iraq and the similarities and differences in being two oil states, and despite this, they suffer from the same conditions.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari touched on the series of immigrations from Iraq to the United States in a historical series, analyzing their reasons and the circumstances that accompanied them. Moreover, he discussed the situation of Iraqi immigrants in the United States, especially in Michigan, and the extent of their communication with their mother country, Iraq.



"Dialogue Ambassadors" visit the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue

16 March 2021

Dialogue Ambassadors, a group of promising young leaders, visited the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue, accompanied by Dr. Saad Salloum, director of the Masarat Foundation for Cultural Development and one of the founders of the Iraqi Council for Interfaith Dialogue. This cross-sectarian dialogue project consists of nearly 4,000 ambassadors for dialogue in the Iraqi governorates in order to build bridges between the various sects of Iraqi society in order to enhance the national identity and citizenship.

Dr. Saad Salloum said that this visit to the University of Kufa, is part of a series of meetings that include dialogue with religious and social leaders and executive officials in various parts of Iraq. Dr. Alaa Shatnan welcomed the team of ambassadors for dialogue and introduced them to the tasks of the UNESCO Chair for Interfaith Dialogue at the University of Kufa and the nature of its work. Also, he thanked them for their national efforts in peace-making and restoring national identity.



The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue Participates in "Tahawer" Project.

30 March, 2021

Dr. Alaa Shattan, Director of the UNESCO Chair for Dialogue at the University of Kufa participates in the concluding session of the dialogue project "Tahawer" that took place in Baghdad on Tuesday, 30 March, 2021. The event was attended by prominent figures; among them were representatives of the European Union, the British Council, the Iraqi Minister of Culture, in addition to clerics of different religions and a group of young people who interacted from all Iraqi provinces.

The event included discussions on how to confront hate speech, promoting the prospects for freedom and the values of tolerance and respect of others, as well as women empowerment. It also highlighted the importance of voluntary initiatives that enhance dialogue between the different spectrums of Iraqi people.



The World Press's Repercussions of the Visit of the Pope to the Grand Ayatollah al-Sayyid 'Ali al-Husayni al-Sistani

The UNESCO Chair for Dialogue at the university of Kufa, in collaboration with the Faculty of Languages at the University of Kufa, has held the seminar entitled (the pope's visit and its Repercussions on the World Press on Thursday, 1/4/2021 at 9 p.m.

The seminar sought to explore and review the most important information reported by the media about the visit of His Holiness the Pope to Iraq and his meeting with supreme leader Sayyid Ali al Sistani in Najaf al-Ashraf. It is an objective review and reading of this historic and important event in the main French, Vatican, British, Persian, Turkish, and Russian media and its implications for domestic and international dialogue and community peace.

Lecturers in the event:

Dr. Alaa Shatnan/Director of UNESCO Chair for Dialogue

Dr. Musab Abdul Zahra Rahim

Dr. ameer alkalabii

Dr. Akram Baqer Ibrahim

Dr. Muhammad al-Qazzaz

