

Sent: Friday, 5 December 2025 8:25 AM

Subject: RE: UNESCO UniTwin Network for Inter-religious Dialogue and Intercultural Understanding Newsletter #4



UNESCO UNITWIN
Network for Inter-Religious
Dialogue and Intercultural
Understanding (IDIU)

Newsletter

Hello from the convenor

Dear IDIU Network members,

It has been a challenging year for many of us around the world as we bear witness to a world divided by fear and confusion.

These difficult times underscore just how important our work and network are, in striving for peace, intercultural understanding and inter-religious dialogue together. As we look to 2026, I am grateful for your collegiality and collaboration, which has been uplifting and inspiring.

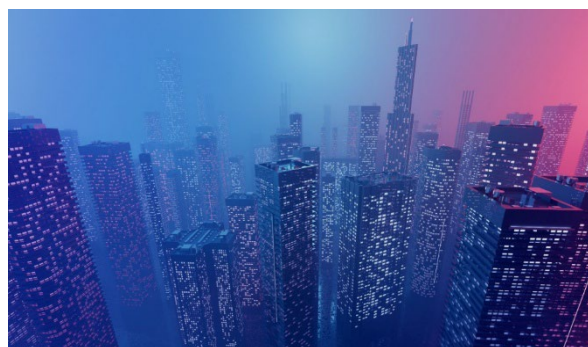
I encourage you to continue sharing your achievements and aspirations with the network, and to read about the work of our Network members below.

With kind regards until next year,

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Network Opportunities



UNESCO invites you to Futures Dialogues: Shaping the Conversations of Tomorrow

UNESCO invites you to join monthly webinars on emerging issues and trends across UNESCO's mandate.

[Read more](#)

Chairholder Spotlight

Dr. Darla K. Deardorff, UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence (September 2025)



How does your Chair approach the themes of inter-religious dialogue and intercultural understanding?

As the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence, our work is deeply rooted in advancing both inter-religious dialogue and intercultural understanding. These are not peripheral themes—they are central to our mission. We focus on the fundamental question: *What does it take for human beings to truly live well together across difference?* This includes differences of religion, language,

ethnicity, race, gender, generation, and socio-economic background.

We explore the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and conditions necessary to foster genuine connection, empathy, and mutual respect. Inter-religious dialogue, in particular, offers a powerful lens through which to practice intercultural competence in real and meaningful ways, and we see it as a vital part of peacebuilding and ethical global engagement.

Is there anything you'd like to share with the Network?

We are truly grateful to be part of this inspiring Network and see immense potential in fostering stronger connections among UNESCO Chairs. One concrete idea would be to host quarterly recorded virtual gatherings where different Chairs share a brief overview of their current work, followed by 1–2 ideas for potential collaboration.

This would not only deepen our mutual understanding but also help identify shared priorities and innovative pathways for working together. We would welcome opportunities to engage in joint research, co-hosted events, or capacity-building initiatives that align with the values of intercultural competence and ethical engagement.

If you could travel anywhere tomorrow, where would you go?

First of all, I'm very happy being right here in Stellenbosch but if I could travel anywhere, I'd go back to Nafplion, Greece where I was a couple months ago – it was a very special place.

Network News



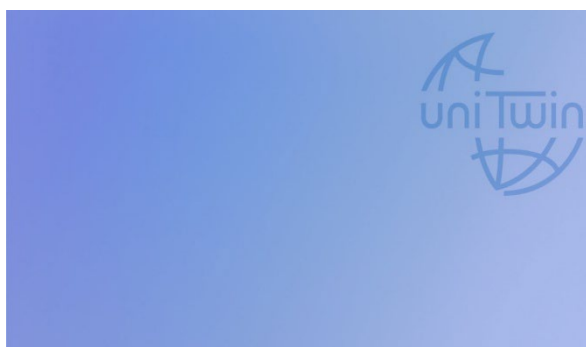
[The 12th meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders in Oxford](#)

The twelfth meeting of the Elijah Board of World Leaders in Oxford is scheduled for December 1st – 5th, 2025. The focus of the meeting will be “The Human Person: Religious Ideals and Contemporary Challenges.” [Read more](#)



[Second Intercultural Competence Conference held in Rabat](#)

The UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University successfully hosted its flagship intercultural conference, bringing together around 170 scholars. [Read more](#)



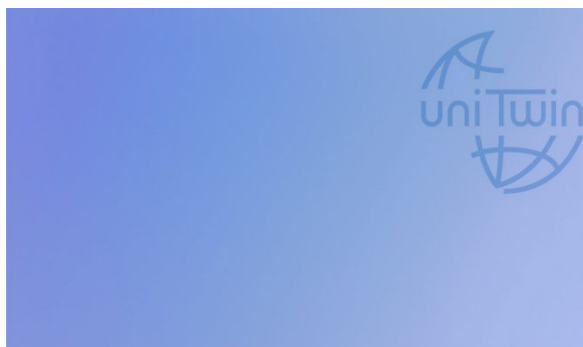
[New Inquiry into Religious Attitudes of Mountain Jews](#)

Professor D. Spivak has published findings from a mass survey of religious attitudes of citizens of present-day Russia, with a focus on Mountain Jews. [Read more](#)



[Public Conference on National Anthems and Public Memory: La géopolitique chantée](#)

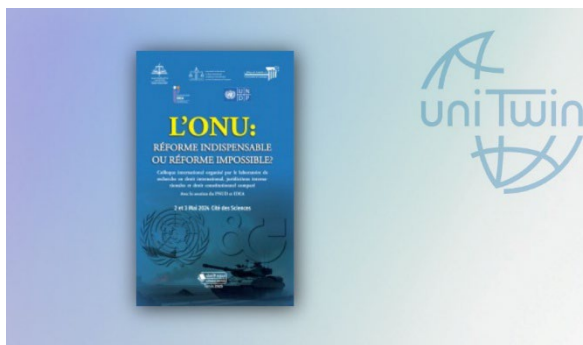
In partnership with the Centre Al-Mouna de N'Djaména, the UNESCO Chair for Mémoire, Cultures et Interculturalité held a public conference online and in Chad about national anthems, memory and people's hopes for peace. [Read more](#)



[Spring Intercultural Symposium at Stellenbosch](#)

Nearly 100 participants from 10+ countries attended Stellenbosch University's 2025 Spring Intercultural Symposium, featuring UNESCO Story Circles training and presentations on intercultural initiatives.

[Read more](#)



[Publication on United Nations reform: La réforme du Conseil de sécurité : un impératif catégorique](#)

Professor Roger K. Koudé has contributed an important chapter to a new publication on United Nations reform. The French collection is entitled L'ONU : RÉFORME INDISPENSABLE OU RÉFORME IMPOSSIBLE ? [Read more](#)



[Youth Connect Sahel 2025 Delegation meeting with the Prime Minister of Chad](#)

Professor Roger K. Koudé met with the Prime Minister of Chad, as part of a delegation of the Sahel Youth Connect Forum 2025. [Read more](#)



[The UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competences Webinar Series](#)

Since last newsletter, there have been webinars on *Educating for Humanity: Social-Emotional Learning and Intercultural Competence in Africa's Next Generation* and *Ubuntu in Nature*. For more information, visit the [UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence website](#).



[Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions Wins Prestigious Global Interfaith Prize](#)

The [Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions](#), at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (formerly Tashkent Islamic University) was awarded first prize in the 2025 HM King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize.

[Read more](#)



[The place and authority of international law today](#)

Professor Roger Koudé spoke to RCF on the role and authority of International Law, particularly in the light of current global events. [Read more](#)



[UNESCO's Digital Learning Week 2025: The Future of Education](#)

Professor Fethi Mansouri attended UNESCO's Digital Learning Week 2025 in Paris, where participants explored how artificial intelligence is reshaping education and what it looks like for learners, educators, and education systems globally.



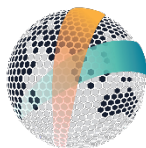
[Youth for Peace: UNESCO Intercultural Leadership Programme](#)

In late August, as part of the UNESCO Youth for Peace Intercultural Leadership Programme, Professor Fethi Mansouri presented to 50 inspiring youth leaders from around the world about intercultural leadership and tackling discrimination and injustice.

[Read more about the programme](#)

You have received this email because you are a member of the UniTwin Network for Inter-religious Dialogue and Intercultural Understanding (IDIU). Feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and networks. Visit our website for regular posts at <http://unitwinidiu.org>

We receive news and updates through emails from Network members and newsletters we receive from UNESCO Chairs in our Network. Thank you to everyone who has shared their updates with us. If you would like to give feedback, share information, events or updates with the network, please email jasmin.chen@deakin.edu.au. To contact the Convenor directly, email fethi.mansouri@deakin.edu.au.



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands and waterways on
which Deakin University staff live and work.