

PETERSBURG DECLARATION

ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FORUM

«Religious world: spiritual activity in the context of regulation of the epidemiological situation»

On September 06 - 08, 2021, the St. Petersburg International Religious Forum was held in St. Petersburg on the topic: «The Religious World: Spiritual Activity in the Context of Regulation of the Epidemiological Situation».

FORUM ORGANIZER:

- Muslim Religious Board of St. Petersburg and the North-West Region of Russia;

CO-ORGANIZERS:

- Spiritual Assembly of Muslims of Russia;

- Herzen State Pedagogical University;

- Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences;

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

- Administration of the Governor of St. Petersburg;

- Fund for the Support of Islamic Culture, Education and Science.

RESOLUTION

1. Participants of the St. Petersburg International Religious Forum (SPIRF) «Religious World: Spiritual Activity in the Context of Regulation of the Epidemiological Situation» argue that the holding of this Forum is a relevant and important scientific and political event aimed at finding effective solutions to the problems of interreligious, interethnic, intercultural and intercivilizational cooperation in the context of regulation of the epidemiological situation in Russia and the world.

2. The Forum participants consider it necessary to appeal to representatives of the political elites of Russia and the world community to unite efforts in maintaining and

preserving peaceful coexistence and cooperation, peoples, confessions, cultures, which becomes especially acute and urgent in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the instability of the epidemiological situation in Russia and the world.

3. Forum participants consider any incitement to hatred or violence based on religious beliefs or ethnicity to be unacceptable in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. The Forum participants call on the States of the world in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to eliminate any discrimination in providing assistance to needy and vulnerable groups of the population and to ensure equal access to public services and health care for all people, regardless of their religion or nationality. We believe it is extremely important to ensure that all communities comply with health protection measures, as well as develop and use in practice relevant ways to adapt religious practices as part of measures to prevent COVID-19, and comply with preventive measures to combat coronavirus in places of worship.

5. The Forum participants call on the States of the world, religious leaders and civil society organizations to actively support social inclusion and solidarity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and to resist incitement to hatred by involving and informing the population. To combat misinformation, states must use effective communication strategies and channels so that citizens can receive accurate and reliable information.

6. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, political instability and heightened confrontation in the international political arena, we call on all states of the world to strictly respect and observe the norms of international law on freedom of conscience and religion, the agreements reached and to ensure their implementation.

7. The Forum participants draw attention to the relevance of identifying social, religious and psychological factors that give rise to acute conflict situations in society, as well as the need to take adequate measures to overcome them. Exchange of scientific and religious experience and experience in the fight against extremist ideology between the spiritual administrations.

8. The delegates of the Forum consider it necessary to expand the interaction of international state and public institutions for the development and preservation of ethnic and confessional diversity. Unite efforts to maintain cooperation and coexistence between peoples, cultures and civilizations.

9. The Forum participants call on the basis of an extensive scientific and religious dialogue to show that true religious teachings have as their main goal - the achievement of peace, enlightenment, mutual understanding, mutual respect and do not accept any form of violence.

10. The conference participants declare the expediency and relevance of the practice of exchange of experience in the environment of the international scientific and expert community to strengthen interreligious dialogue and prevent the ideas of extremism and terrorism.

11. The forum participants note the importance of strengthening civil peace and harmony in the Russian Federation on the basis of interethnic interaction and interreligious dialogue between representatives of various confessions, religious and public figures, diasporas, authoritative scientists and representatives of government agencies.

12. The forum participants consider it extremely important to further improve the system of mechanisms for interethnic and interfaith interaction in the context of educating the younger generation and society as a whole, developing political identity, strengthening civil peace and harmony in Russia based on traditional ethno-confessional values.

13. The Forum participants emphasize the relevance of using ethnocultural values for patriotic education, rejection of manifestations of fanaticism, dogmatism, nihilism. Avoiding hate and violence based on religious beliefs or ethnicity. Improving the mechanisms of communication with the young generation, empowering them and making optimal use of their energy to create a dynamic society that preserves values and uses the tools of our time.

14. The Forum participants call on the public and the media of Russia and the countries of the world to more widely popularize the ethno-cultural, spiritual and moral values and historical traditions of the peoples, to actively counter the influence of the Internet - dependence on the youth environment and society as a whole.

15. The delegates of the Forum encourage further development of new methods to prevent manifestations of extremism in modern society, as well as search for relevant forms of effective countering the ideas of extremism and terrorism on the Internet and social networks. Dedication to religious and social dialogue with the aim of demonstrating the truth of tolerant religious teachings and rejecting extremism and terrorism.

16. The delegates of the Forum condemn the deliberately false information injections into the media and social networks that provoke interfaith and interethnic conflicts, inciting sectarian enmity and hatred. The speakers urge to move away from the old, irrelevant and harmful journalistic language of cliches, stereotypes and labels, which are still used by reporters and individual politicians, replacing religious concepts, roles and meanings.

17. The delegates of the Forum urge to fight against disinformation, rumors and extremist ideas and to immunize young people and society from falling into them.
18. The Forum participants note that the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation, focused on human rights, freedom of religion and national self-determination, respect for spiritual and moral values, historical and cultural characteristics of peoples and religions, are a positive factor determining processes in the world political arena ...
19. The Forum participants note the positive effect of the joint work of the delegates of this Forum on the development of interreligious dialogue, spiritual activity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and an unstable epidemiological situation, and express their gratitude to the organizers and all participants for their efforts to preserve and strengthen interethnic and interreligious peace and harmony.
20. The Forum participants instruct the Organizing Committee to prepare and publish the materials of the Forum, to provide coverage in the media and scientific journals of the Forum's progress and its results.

07 September 2021

*Saint Petersburg city, Russian Federation
Park Inn Pulkovskaya hotel, Conference hall*