

# AMAN

# Annual Report

## 2019



**AMAN**

Promoting Human Dignity, Social Justice and Peace for All

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| Bangkok, Thailand



## About AMAN

AMAN is a network that brings together individuals, groups and associations of Muslims in Asia subscribing to a progressive and enlightened approach to Islam. Since its inception in 1990, AMAN has been cooperating with groups from all faiths and believes that are working with grassroots communities or engaged in research and policy advocacy for the eradication of poverty, environmental protection, human rights, social justice, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, communal harmony and peace. As a network AMAN provides a forum to share ideas and experiences and facilitates follow-up processes to synchronize the actions and programs launched by common interest groups and individuals in Asia within its effective reach.

**AMAN's Vision** is one of a just, peaceful and sustainable world, starting here in Asia. A world that celebrates both identity and diversity through tolerance and understanding.

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## Our Mission

- Facilitate, interact, dialogue, and exchange in order to enhance inter-faith understanding and cooperation towards peace, women's human rights, and sustainable development in Asia and beyond.
- Facilitate and consolidate progressive voices to take up collective advocacy to promote the agenda of peacebuilding, women human's rights, and sustainable development at a national and global level.
- Collaborate with universities to perform research on the changing situation in Muslim communities in Asia in countering ethnoreligious conflict and violent extremisms.
- Strengthen national movement of AMAN to increase the capacity of associates organizations and local NGOs, and support partnerships with governments.
- Establish an appropriate mechanism in mobilizing financial resources needed for program implementation such as the capacity building of networks, facilitating CSOs forum, supporting national and international advocacy, and emergency response.



## Our Focus



Spreading inclusive religious interpretation through seminars, public discussions, workshops, and also through collaboration with policymakers and institutions working directly on education issues. The aim is to ensure that the interpretation of inclusive religious teachings becomes mainstream in the community in order for the public to think and be open to diversity and current challenges.



Increasing capacity among Muslims and interfaith leaders, youth, and women. This is one of the main goals of the network, necessary to contrast the low capacity of Muslim groups, especially in responding to current issues.



Facilitating transformation from within, with a special focus on Islamic education, in order to lead to a more inclusive and problem-solving oriented society.



Building collaborative works among practitioners, researchers, policymakers and journalists to make better use of research, analysis, and evidence regarding peacebuilding and inter-faith communities. The collaborative works will lead to the conceptualization of the national experience of working on peacebuilding, community empowerment, women-peace-security, or emergency response into lessons learned documents and measurable work programs.



## International Institute of Peace and Development Studies



The International Institute of Peace and Development Studies (IIPDS) was born in 2004 from a joint initiative of the Asian Resource Foundation (ARF) and the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) and offers courses all year round. AMAN promotes progressive teachings of Islam and forges inter-faith collaboration while ARF is engaged in education to children in 12 countries and has been offering humanitarian assistance in disaster-affected areas in Asia. The Institute aims at empowering women, men, youth, children, social and human rights workers, scholars, researchers, faith and community-based leaders, and at promoting the principles of humanity, education, development and inclusion.

Each year, more than 250 social workers, scholars, trainers and trainees, early-stage and mid-level professionals participate in the courses, workshops, forums and meetings offered by IIPDS and our precious partners. Participants are coming from all the continents.



**PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL**



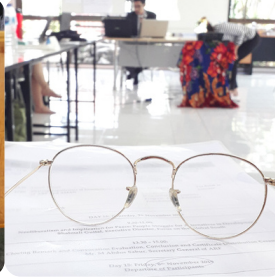
Transform



Conflict



Art



Peace



Development

# School of Peace and Conflict Transformation

Conflicts can be transformed by individuals as well as with collective efforts. By learning about concepts developed in the field of Peace Studies, as well as other people's experiences, a deeper understanding and awareness would emerge to deal with conflict.

The flagship program of IIPDS, the School of Peace and Conflict Transformation, is guided and inspired by these peacebuilding endeavours and paradigms and aims at equipping its participants with the conceptual clarity and applied knowledge of peacebuilding and conflict transformation process.

## OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate a collective learning process for a comprehensive understanding of peace and conflict studies
- To develop a critical awareness among the participants about realities and challenges and engage them in social actions for peace, justice and development
- To enhance and strengthen Peace Networks across the globe

## PARTICIPANTS

In 2019 two School of Peace and Conflict Transformation were conducted; one in February (18th School of Peace) and one in October-November (19th School of Peace). A total of 35 young leaders, scholars, teachers, postgraduate students, activists, NGO and social workers, practitioners and artists participated in the program from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Spain, South Africa and Thailand.

# Capacity Building Workshop for Women and Women-Led Organizations

With the aims of bringing together, women leaders and representatives of small and mid-level women-led organizations for capacity building and empowerment, AMAN organized a 7 days workshop (from 16 to 22 August) where women from social background and leaders of social organizations from South and South East Asia where assisted in reviewing the strengths, weaknesses, and potentials of their organizations; besides also building their capacity in resource mobilization, fundraising strategies and networking.



## Youth in Conflict Areas

### Healing and Peace-Building through Social Engagement

Asia is home to 60% of the global young population. According to the UN, in the 21st century, 60% of the global conflict takes place in the Asian region, where the youth definitely participates and gets affected. Hence there is an immediate need of addressing the prevailing negative impacts on the youth in conflict areas, although the damage done by the conflicts to the lives of the youth is not easy to heal and turning their lives back to normal is not a simple process.

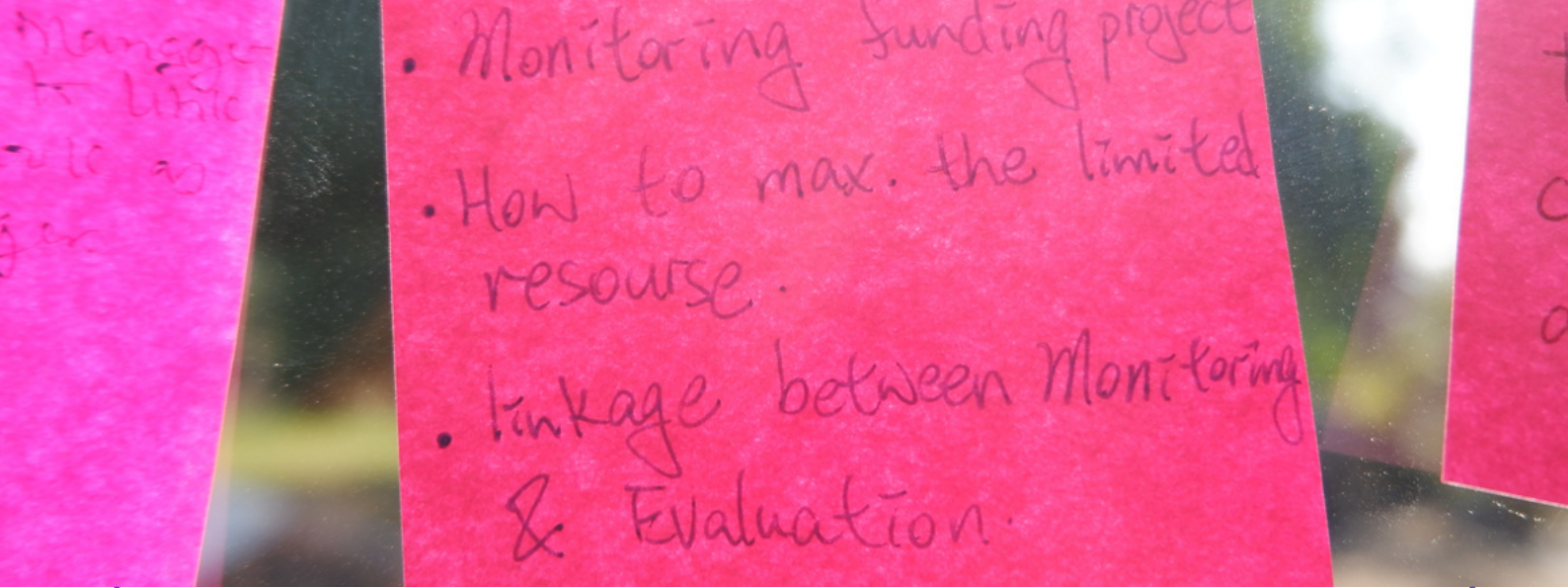
The 5-day workshop on “Youth in Conflict Areas: Healing and Peace-building through Social Engagement”, co-hosted by AMAN, ARF, NIWANO Peace Foundation and IIPDS was designed to empower the youth from the different conflict areas of Asia by understanding conflict, it’s dynamic, levels and ways.



#### PARTICIPANTS

32 young social workers, researchers, journalists, and media activists from 13 countries attended the workshop who were directly or indirectly affected and impacted by the conflicts in their respective regions.

Among the participants, there were 15 females and 17 males. There were 3 participants from Bangladesh, 1 from Cambodia, 1 from China, 6 from India, 2 from Indonesia, 4 from Myanmar, 1 from Nepal, 1 from Pakistan, 5 from Philippines, 1 from Sri Lanka, and 6 from Thailand.



## Results Based Management

Twice a year IIPDS hosts a 5 days Training of Trainers on Results-Based Management (RBM), Monitoring and Evaluation, where social workers and trainers from all over Asia and beyond learn how to:

- Explain the concept of RBM and put it into practice by linking it with project designing, planning, implantation and evaluation phases.
- Deliver the training and technical assistance components of the Communities That Care system with fidelity.
- Understand the philosophy and principles of RBM.
- Develop Result Based Indicators, M&E Plan for their identified projects.
- Apply Results-Based Management throughout the project cycle management.
- Use of evidence from monitoring and evaluation in decision-making
- Ensure quality and accountability in humanitarian and development programmes by focusing on CHS (Core Humanitarian Standards).

In 2019 a total of 55 social practitioners participated in the two training, which took place in June and December.

## Knowledge Management

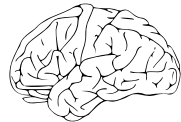
From 21st to 23rd of December 2019, 10 social workers and trainers joined a workshop on Knowledge Management, which was designed for professionals engaged in information and knowledge management, change management, project and programme planning, monitor, evaluation and learning, communications and organisational development.

Through a mix of practical activities, theory and case study examples participants learned how to:

- Advocate for effective knowledge sharing
- Foster an enabling environment within your own organisation that encourages knowledge sharing
- Conduct a knowledge management assessment of your organization
- Apply knowledge sharing tools and techniques in practice
- Develop a knowledge management strategy to institutionalise KM practices within your organization



# Role of Mental Health in Effective Social Work and Peace Building



Peacebuilding through social work can only be achieved by ensuring the health of all, which according to the WHO is 'a state of optimum physical, mental and social well-being and not just the absence of illness'. So health is not just about doctors or just related to physical well-being and absence of illness.

Mental health is crucial to the psycho-social well-being and pivotal to fulfilling the 17 SDGs given by the UN.

**BECAUSE EFFECTIVE SOCIAL WORK IS INTEGRAL TO PEACEBUILDING, DEVELOPING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF AID AND SOCIAL WORKERS AND THAT OF THEIR TARGET POPULATIONS IS PARAMOUNT**

For this reason, IIPDS, from the 1st to the 5th of July 2019, welcomed 27 social workers and activists from India, Liberia, Bangladesh and Thailand for a capacity-building workshop on the role of mental health in effective social work and peacebuilding.

The five intense days workshop contributed to the empowerment of participant's capacity to manage their intra/interpersonal conflicts, enabling them to help others resolve the latter's conflicts, thus ensuring a better mental health of themselves and that of others, which consequently will contribute to peacebuilding through effective social work.

Through interactive, experimental and participatory sessions the participants had the opportunity to also gain knowledge on conflict management tools.

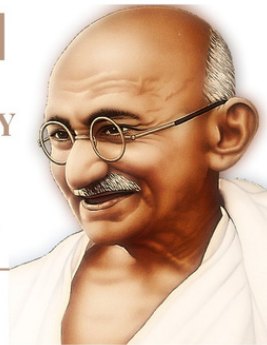


INTERNATIONAL FORUM

## GANDHI'S 150TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Renewal of Non-Violent Movements  
Towards Peace in the 21st Century  
Inspirations from the Sacrifices of Afro-  
Asian Leaders

July 6-7, 2019 | 9 am - 5 pm  
at IIPDS, Bangkok, Thailand



# Gandhi's 150th Birthday Anniversary

Renewal of non-violence movements towards  
peace in the 21st century: Inspirations from  
the sacrifices of Afro-Asian leaders

6-7 July 2019



Nelson Mandela

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan  
Bhashani

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

Bongobandhu Sheikh Mujibur  
Rahman

Abdurrahman Wahid

Jamaluddin Afghani

The event was organized to discuss Mahatma Gandhi's life and works and in order to draw lessons and inspirations to address contemporary challenges. This was also an opportunity to recognize and discuss the contribution of other renowned leaders and scholars in Asia and Africa, namely Late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Jamaluddin Afghani, Benigno Aquino, Bongobondhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman, Mowlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Ho Chi Minh, Kim Dae-Jung, Pridi Banomyong, and Abdurrahman Wahid.

During the event, areas, where they could not experience positive changes during their life-times, were also identified and presented as areas where present and future generation of leaderships must strive for.

More than 30 participants from all over the world gathered together to remember the legacy of non-violence left behind by Gandhi and other outstanding leaders of Asia and Africa.

The two-days forum saw more than 15 researchers and experts present papers around these outstanding figures, over the themes of politics and Governance, the Gandhian struggles to democratize the state and restore people's dignity, the pan-islamic movements of kinder, caring and inclusive societies and the envisionment of the future.

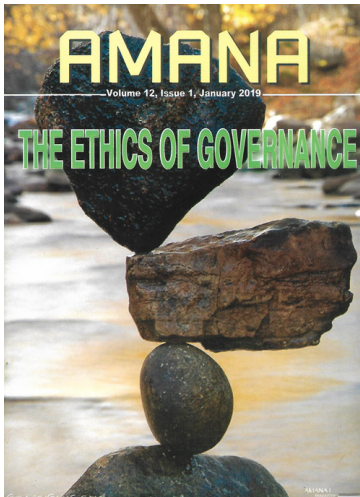
Following the international forum, a booklet was produced, where the articles presented during the event are collected and distributed to a wider public.



PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL

# AMANA MAGAZINE

The AMANA magazine was initiated in 2005 following suggestions made at the first round of the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) 'Peace Studies & Conflict Transformation' course. In Arabic, Amana means trust and embodies the primary objective of the publication in highlighting peace initiatives, peace collaborations, progressive Muslim action and inter-faith dialogues, cooperation and understanding. Throughout the years countless AMAN members, partners and alumni have contributed to the magazine.



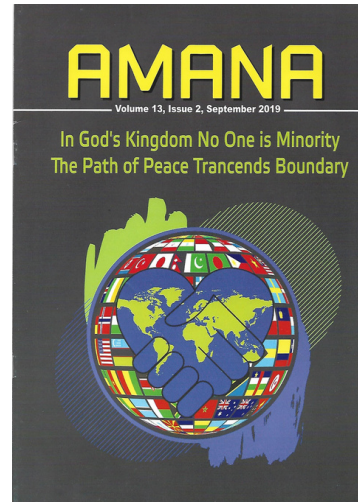
Volume 12, Issue 1  
January 2019

***The Ethics  
of Governance***

The 12th issue of AMANA Magazine is titled 'The Ethics of Governance' and it features articles from lifelong partners and contributors of AMAN.

Dr. Clarence, in his article, states that the term 'governance' is not synonymous with 'government' and highlights the United Nations initiatives in promoting the concept of Good Governance. Dr. Azra discusses governance from an Islamic perspective and he calls for strategies to enhance the capacity of civil society and empower people for informed and effective participation as stakeholders in Governance. Shreya Bhattacharya explores how human rights and duties are enshrined in Indian philosophy and religious traditions. Other articles also examine what roles community values play in shaping ethical principles in local self-governance.

The issue also explores many other aspects of governance and human rights.



Volume 13, Issue 2  
September 2019

***In God's Kingdom  
No One is Minority:  
The Path of Peace  
Transcends  
Boundary***

Those belonging to faith-based organizations believe that in this unique universe, all living beings are created by God. Among them human beings are the highest creation in terms of knowledge, innovation and creativity. Therefore, in God's Kingdom, there is no concept of minority and majority.

But in the real world, in the nation-states discrimination, deprivation, dehumanization, exploitation and exclusion still prevail. That is why mechanisms of protection and promotion of rights have been enshrined in the United Nations Charter. But there remain gaps of serious efforts and investment to achieve much-needed progress in implementation.

In this issue, these mechanisms are discussed and critically reflected upon by journalists, researchers, faith leaders and social workers in an effort to find ways to positively transform how minorities are protected.



## HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

AMAN, in collaboration with ARF, responds to immediate disaster needs in collaboration with community-based NGOs and international aid agencies. Its emergency team has been assisting in the rebuilding of communities and the delivery of critical aid through the distribution of essential items in disaster-affected countries since early 2000. Thanks to volunteers in the field, partners and alumni network, AMAN ensures that resources are used efficiently and that programs are responding to the needs of the populations.

### **SOUTH & SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

In 2019, AMAN and ARF reached their hands to vulnerable communities in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Myanmar during natural disasters as floods and harsh winter, man-made disasters, displacement of people and lack of basic services like food and clean water access.

Thanks to this shared effort, AMAN and ARF reached out to more than 100,000 beneficiaries just in 2019.

### **THAILAND**

Bangkok, Thailand, is home to an increasing number of urban refugees and asylum seekers. However, the country is not a signatory to the 1951 convention or the 1967 protocol. Due to its immigration laws, the vast majority of people seeking asylum and recognized refugees are regarded as illegal migrants by the authorities. Thus they are subjected to arbitrary arrest and live in constant fear of being discovered by the police forces. AMAN has been distributing food packs from early 2000 to urban refugees of Bangkok. In 2019 AMAN, through its FAAM program, distributed food packs to 1,200 families from Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, benefitting approximately 5,000 people.

# AMAN

Promoting Human Dignity, Social Justice  
and Peace for ALL

## OUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

United Church of Canada (UCC) - Canada  
Niwano Peace Foundation - Japan  
Maryknoll Mission - Thailand  
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