
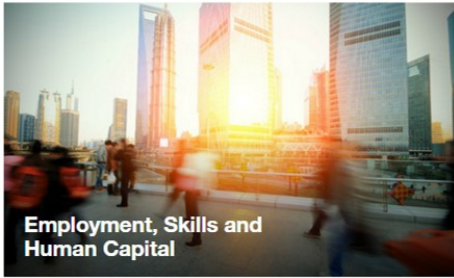


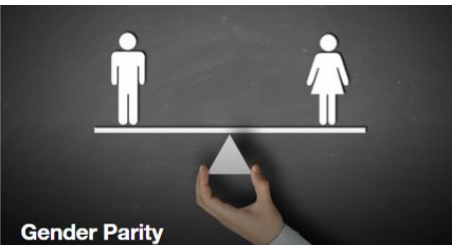


# The Role of Faith in Addressing Key Global Challenges

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## Where the role of faith is part of the ...

Global Challenges	Solution	Problem	Perspective
 <p><b>Economic Growth and Social Inclusion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and ethical ‘capital’: hospitality and engagement for the local society</li> <li>• Urban networks for social cohesion</li> <li>• Teaching on caring for others</li> <li>• Global communities and solidarity</li> <li>• Countering economic fundamentalism by asking critical questions: What are the true indicators of economic growth? How does it affect poor people’s life? What are the costs of ecosystems?</li> <li>• Countering the ‘marketisation’ of human society by a reminder of higher values</li> <li>• Strong ethics of work</li> <li>• Valuing the past and what is to come; temporal inclusion not short-termism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sectarianism</li> <li>• Unwillingness to change</li> <li>• Conservation of social differences and/or separation</li> <li>• Denial of the value of this life and focus on the next</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critique of unlimited growth based on justice, inequality, long term memory, creation-oriented worldview</li> <li>• Liaison with states on corruption, political stability</li> <li>• Focus on just distribution but neglect of</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Employment, Skills and Human Capital</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human rights and dignity (some faiths)</li> <li>• Holistic views of personhood and human potential</li> <li>• Concepts of meaning and value of work, relevant to the imbalance of overwork and unemployment</li> <li>• Emphasis on the value of education, as well as providers of education</li> <li>• Nurturing a culture of wisdom beyond the value of capitalism</li> <li>• Strengthening resilience in individuals and communities</li> <li>• Work against human trafficking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploitation in the name of religion</li> <li>• Failure to promote enabling behaviours and environments</li> <li>• Restricting employment, education and power by gender, caste, etc.</li> <li>• Age discrimination; neglect dignity of children (e.g. sex abuse)</li> <li>• Clericalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some businesses are faith-based and may restrict employment to members</li> <li>• Networks may be closed to outsiders</li> <li>• Some faiths may discourage employment or limit job options</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Environment and Resource Security</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergenerational and other long-term perspectives</li> <li>• Creation-oriented: emphasis on human-nature-interdependence</li> <li>• Holistic cosmic understandings (the Dhar-mic faiths; some indigenous faiths)</li> <li>• Ability to motivate changes of life-style, including necessary sacrifice</li> <li>• Communitarian impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apocalyptic views of this world’s future</li> <li>• A theo-centism which leads to fatalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different views of nature (e.g. organism, mechanism, ware-house of resources, creation)</li> <li>• Anthropocentrism</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Food Security and Agriculture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Feed the hungry” as a core value</li> <li>• Rituals of care in regard to the land, its cultivation, harvest, food production, “sacred” meals</li> <li>• Fasting as a reminder of the interdependence between humans and the rest of creation</li> <li>• Advocacy for global justice</li> <li>• International aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protectionism counter-acts global justice</li> <li>• Spiritualization of ‘earthly matters’ as obstacle for development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal rights</li> <li>• Resistance to gene modification</li> <li>• Food regulations</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Gender Parity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive communities</li> <li>• Important role models</li> <li>• Strong, enabling networks for change</li> <li>• Work against domestic violence</li> <li>• Focus on women and children in local and international social work</li> <li>• Work with gender roles and gender justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditionalism and conservatism</li> <li>• Patriarchal, slow-changing structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedom of religion can help improve conditions for women</li> </ul>

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Global Challenges	Solution	Problem	Perspective
 <p><b>Future of Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers of healthcare</li> <li>• Charitable trusts</li> <li>• Emergency response (e.g. Ebola)</li> <li>• Holistic concepts of health and healing: Promoting healthy lifestyles; Attention to existential health</li> <li>• Religious communities engaged in : Aid work; Prevention; Education; Advocacy</li> <li>• Focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and other human rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent resistance against certain policies such as birth control and vaccinations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views on Sexual reproduction and human rights</li> <li>• Women's rights</li> <li>• Views of the human body</li> <li>• Concepts of sin/guilt and forgiveness</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Future of the Global Financial System</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurturing communities of trust</li> <li>• Critique of inequities</li> <li>• Ethical codex</li> <li>• Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting status quo and unjust financial systems</li> <li>• Romanticizing poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical or negative view of possessions</li> <li>• Wealth of faith groups</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Future of the Internet</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in communication and building relationships</li> <li>• Community organizing</li> <li>• Concern to avoid harm</li> <li>• Concern for equal access</li> <li>• Concern for integrity of persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radicalization of virtual, closed religious communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance to trends &amp; sudden changes</li> <li>• Global transmission of certain values</li> <li>• Critique: Not all that's possible should be realized</li> </ul>
 <p><b>International Security</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious freedom is shown to be causally related to lower conflict and religion-related violence</li> <li>• Faith groups often engage in peace-making activities and have peace as a doctrinal component</li> <li>• Global networks allow bonds between faith groups across borders, providing potential interlocutors for peace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion can be a source of conflict and division, including sectarian and communal divisions</li> <li>• Terrorist groups sometimes use religious rhetoric and justifications for terror</li> <li>• Secular-religious conflict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious traditions justify violence through doctrines, such as Just War Theory and Jihad (meaning struggle for righteousness)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>International Trade and Investment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical investment, with risk-taking in order to stabilize insecure societies</li> <li>• Trust mediated by faith groups</li> <li>• Fair-trade</li> <li>• Faith groups monitoring agents in society</li> <li>• Work with anti-corruption standards</li> <li>• Faith groups divesting from fossil fuels</li> <li>• Faith groups as actors in international aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious associations with businesses, legitimizing unjust and/or harmful practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philanthropy</li> <li>• Religious communities as active investors</li> <li>• Bypassing rule of law and the state</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Long-Term Investing, Infrastructure and Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious organizations belong to the most sustainable and experienced</li> <li>• Relief and developmental work</li> <li>• Access to "grassroots" even in remote areas</li> <li>• Purpose-driven investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romanticizing poverty</li> <li>• Legitimizing inequalities</li> <li>• Hostility to secular initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious communities as active investors</li> <li>• Power of religious leaders</li> <li>• Poor coordination with state</li> </ul>