

NOMINATION FORM: Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards

Note: Nominations are open to CEOs (present or past) of companies who have championed interfaith understanding and peace.

Nominee Contact Information

1. Nominee Full Name: Cornelis Hulsman
2. Corporate Title: Director
3. Company Name: Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation
4. Company Headquarters Location (Country): Cairo, Egypt
5. Engagement with the UN Global Compact and/or the Religions Freedom & Business Foundation*
 - ☐ Company is a signatory of the UN Global Compact
 - ☐ Company has joined Business for Peace
 - ☐ Company has signed the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation's pledge to protect freedom of religion
 - ☒ Company intends to join one or more of the initiatives listed above in the next six months, please specify
Company signed the letter of commitment to the UN Secretary-General and signed up for membership of Global Compact. They also wrote Ms. Tejeda asking to join Business for Peace. However, the company is not large enough to join. Company intends to sign the pledge.

* Nominees are invited to:

1. join the [UN Global Compact](#) and its [Business for Peace](#) platform and,
2. make the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation's [corporate pledge to protect freedom of religion or belief](#) (FoRB)

Nominator Contact Information

1. Nominator Full Name: dr. Willem Kuiper
2. Corporate Title: Assistant Professor emeritus
3. Company Name: University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
4. Email Address: willem.kuiper@uva.nl
5. Phone Number: 0031756175388
6. Relationship to the Nominee: Research Database Arab-West Report

Please submit a Biography of the Nominee (max 200 words)

Cornelis Hulsman (1955) founded Arab-West Report (Egypt, 1997), the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (Egypt, 2005), the Stichting Arab-West Foundation (The Netherlands, 2005) and the Center for Arab-

West Understanding (Egypt, 2005) through engaging a large number of Egyptians and non-Egyptians in mutual understanding through truth finding, also highly sensitive subjects, and acceptance of internationally proclaimed human and labor rights. Corruption is fought through the promotion of full transparency of governments and private sector. He built a large electronic library on contemporary Muslim-Christian relations in Egypt and served over 180 student interns since 2006. Hulsman studied development sociology at Leiden University, obtained leading positions in the Dutch emigration service and in 1994 fully dedicated himself to intercultural dialogue. In 2006 former Dutch PM Andreas van Agt visited Egypt in support of his work. In 2008 HRH Prince Hassan organized a one day event honoring his work. In 2011 Hulsman spoke in the European Parliament about Muslim-Christian relations in Egypt. In January 2016 the Dutch Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences accepted all his work in the DANS database. Hulsman is widely respected by scholars, religious leaders and government officials in Egypt.

Information about the policy, programme or initiative

1. Please describe a policy, programme or initiative that the Nominee has launched or spearheaded to advance the company's efforts to champion interfaith understanding and peace (max 300 words)

Hulsman first came to Egypt in 1976, saw the poverty of both Muslims and Christians and the need for dialogue to oppose sectarian strife and develop programs to fight poverty together. For this reason he studied development sociology (1977-1984) with a focus on both development and Muslim-Christian relations. He sacrificed his position as director of the Stichting Dienstverlening Emigratie Nederland (Netherlands Emigration Service) in 1994 in order to champion interfaith understanding and peace in Egypt. Hulsman documented in 1995-1996 why a number of Egyptians converted from one religion to the other which showed him the limits of media reporting that very often lacks depth and can be very partisan. That motivated him to build, since 1997, Arab-West Report, both an online publication and database with today 40.000 articles and reports with a focus on pluralism in convictions. Arab-West Report shows how people of different convictions in Egypt live together, including Muslims and Christians and Islamists and non-Islamists, and where tensions occur as well as investigating the reasons for such tensions. Patterns in tensions are mapped. Arab-West Report forms the core of dialogue meetings around these data, the basis of (academic) publications (influencing a substantial number of PhD and MA studies) and the training of over 180 student interns. Hulsman maintains good relations with Egyptian religious leaders (Muslim and Christian), scholars and government which has resulted in a good working relationship with Egyptian officials in hosting both Egyptian and non-Egyptian interns. He has also been able to build good relations with Islamist leaders during 2011-2013 and is advocating non-violent solutions for the standoff between Islamists and non-Islamists.

2. Which category or categories does the policy, programme or initiative fall into:

- ☒ Core business
- ☒ Social investment & philanthropy
- ☒ Advocacy and public policy engagement
- ☒ Partnership and collective action

3. Does the policy, programme or initiative address any of the following related to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)¹:

- ☒ Promote sustainable and innovative business through protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)
- ☒ Non-discrimination and/or non-harassment on the basis of religion or belief
- ☒ Religious accommodation and inclusion
- ☒ Protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in the community
- ☐ Other (describe below, max. 25 words)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4. Please describe the objective of the policy, programme or initiative and the need, goal or gap that it was designed to address. (max 200 words)

The objective of the initiative is to show the cultural similarities between peoples of all convictions in Egypt and showing the need to listen to one another and seek common denominators and interests. The objective is also to be cautious with (media) reporting and not rush into conclusions, condemnations of the other or be drawn into different phobias. Westerners are cautioned not to look at Egypt with partisan eyes, favoring one group over the other but instead focus on development for all Egyptians. Reporting is mostly done in English since this is the language that is most commonly used in dialogues between Egyptians and non-Egyptians.

5. How was the policy, programme or initiative implemented? What role did the Nominee play? (max 200 words)

Cornelis Hulsman investigated in 1994-1997 concrete examples of Muslim-Christian tensions, saw major differences between Egyptian and non-Egyptian reporting on the same subjects and differences between reporting and results from field research. Obviously much media reporting was influenced by partisan interests who did not carry out in-depth local research. Hulsman collected since 1997 data from Egyptian media in 1997 about Muslim-Christian relations which often did not match Western reporting. This resulted in the Religious News Service from the Arab World which later was renamed to Arab-West Report. In 1998 he conducted a major investigative research in al-Kosheh that led to further investigative research in other hotspots. He built in 2004 a web-based database with an extensive index with the help of his Egyptian wife. In the years 2011-2013 attention was focused to Islamist – non-Islamist relations. In 2013 his database was destroyed, rebuilt in 2014-2015, today carrying over 40,000 articles and reports, many written with the help of student interns. Hulsman became more focused on academic recognition since the greatest impact of his work will be through the training of students who will become ambassadors of peace and understanding in the positions they will occupy after they have completed their studies.

6. What were/are the most persistent challenges in implementing the policy, programme or initiative? How were they/are they being overcome and what was the role of the Nominee? (max 200 words)

¹ Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

A flood of biased reporting about Muslim-Christian relations in Egypt that tend to aggravate tensions and a lack of qualified staff to respond to this. Cornelis Hulsman has overcome this to a certain extent with fundraising and contributions of volunteer interns. He is currently seeking links to (Egyptian) academic institutions for agreements on paid teaching positions in relation to working at the company. He is also seeking a micro-payment scheme for selling articles from his database for a small fee which would make users pay for the service offered.

7. What are the key lessons learned from launching the policy, programme or initiative? (max 200 words)
- Media in Egypt (Egyptian and non-Egyptian) rarely do in-depth investigative reports on the context of the causes of tensions taking place here. Instead much media rush to conclusions and with this tend to be partisan and inflame tensions instead of reducing them. Egyptian authorities do not often provide details of tensions known to them for public use. The transparency of Egyptian authorities could be much improved. Investigative research has brought a wealth of information that could be used for conflict resolution but Egyptian authorities are not strong in building government relations with non-government entities.

Impact and Reporting on Progress

1. How do you monitor and evaluate progress on the policy, programme or initiative? If relevant, what indicators and metrics are used? (max 200 words)
- CIDT and CAWU make bi-yearly financial and narrative reports. In this they report the number of (investigative) reports produced, the number of student interns hosted, the growth towards linking our company stronger to Egyptian academic institutions. References to our data in media and research are important but are with our capacity hard to measure.
2. What outcomes or impact have been reached to date? Please be as specific as possible and supply available data. (max 200 words)
- Training of over 180 student interns since 2006. It is unlikely any other institution in Egypt has hosted such a large number of student interns, each staying two to twelve months with CIDT. Access to areas with tensions without Egyptian security intervention. Probably thousands of references in academic studies and media to data from our database.
3. Is the Nominee's company reporting on its practices, policies, programmes and/or initiatives to champion interfaith understanding and peace? If so, please provide relevant weblink(s) for posting on the Awards' website. If integrated into the company's corporate sustainability report, Global Compact COP or GRI Report, please indicate relevant pages and/or sections. (max 200 words)
- www.arabwestreport.info – this is the database, the core for all peace building projects CIDT, CAWU and the Arab-West Foundation (AWF) are involved in. CIDT, CAWU and AWF all contribute in different ways to Arab-West Report. www.cidtegypt.com – Egyptian company with a track record in translation and publishing www.cawu.org – our Egyptian NGO, for our internship program see: <http://www.cawu.org/internshipsOn>

the CAWU website you see various peace and development projects CAWU is involved. For example: http://www.cawu.org/adoption_qufadah_village www.arabwestfoundation.com – a friendship organization for Arab-West Report, CIDT and CAWU in Egypt.

Additional Information:

1. Are there additional actions the Nominee has taken on an individual level to support interfaith understanding and peace within the organization? If so, please specify. (max 200 words)

Cornelis Hulsman is the main motor behind all these initiatives, including production, seeking funding for a period of 22 years now, management, networking, speaking assignments, supervising interns, etc.

2. How has the Nominee taken action to support and promote the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles? If so, please specify. (max 200 words)

Principles 1, 2 and 10 belong to the core of Arab-West Report. Arab-West Report advocates freedom of association (principle 3), the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour (principle 4), the abolition of child labor (principle 5) and child marriages. CIDT and CAWU have the policy that board and staff are always mixed Muslim/Christian, male/female. Of course Arab-West Report supports principles 7 to 9.

Please provide any additional information to be considered. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Nominations team nominations@religiousfreedomandbusiness.org

The various letters of recommendations written throughout the years show well how wide spread the respect for the work of Cornelis Hulsman is in very different circles, including Egyptian government officials, academics, religious leaders, journalists, etc.