

RESOURCES ON ISLAM & CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

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[for the Australian Catholic Council for Ecumenism and Inter-religious
Relations]

15-03-07

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1. BASIC INFORMATION

Appreciating Islam

This is a small booklet giving basic information on Islam. It is produced by the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils. It is available on their website at: <http://www.afic.com.au/apislam.htm>

Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know About Islam

This is an excerpt from *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam* © 2002 John L. Esposito. It is an excellent summary of basic information. A “printer-friendly” version is available on the internet at:

http://arabworld.nitle.org/texts.php?module_id=2&reading_id=62&print=1

A Background Brief on Muslims in Australia

This was prepared by UNIYA, the Jesuit Social Justice Centre in 2003. It is a summary of the Muslim presence in Australia, and includes basic information on beliefs and practices in Islam. It is available on their website at: http://www.uniya.org.au/pdf/muslims_lowres.pdf

Debunking Myths about Muslims in Australia

Debunking Myths about Muslims in Australia (Just Comment, 2005 Vol 08 Issue 5) is a document prepared by the Edmund Rice Centre in Sydney. It challenges popular myths or stereotypes associating Islam with violence. The text can be viewed on their website and downloaded in a 2-page format. See:

http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=documents&JAS_DocumentManager_op=viewDocument&JAS_Document_id=8 [Press CTRL + click to open the text. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “download” for a 2-page “printer-friendly” version.]

Fact Sheet on Islam in Australia

This contains basic information on the Muslim population of Australia. It is based on the 2001 Census. It is available on the website of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial_discrimination/isma/consultations/facts/fact_muslim.html

2. WEBSITES ON INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

<http://www.ccee.ch/english/fields/islamcommittee.htm>

This is from the website of the **Council of Episcopal Conference of Europe** (CCEE). The Committee for Islam in Europe have the task of reflecting on and advising the Council on pastoral responses to the growing presence of Islam in Europe. It contains a number of useful resources, in particular the study paper of April 2003 entitled [Meeting Muslims?](#) (39 pages)

<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/index.htm>

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has been operative for the last twenty years. The publications section provides resources and reports on what has been done in the UK. For some practical resources and information for parishes see especially *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs* (basic principles of human respect for differences, 4 pages) and also *Connect: Different Faiths Shared Values* (oriented to youth).

http://www.usccb.org/seia/islam_index.shtml

This is the website of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It contains resources on Islamic Catholic Relations and a select bibliography. **Catholic-Muslim Relations**, by John Borelli, Ph.D has some very good insights and practical comments based on two decades of experience in the USA.

<http://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au/eic/eic-aboutus.htm>

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has some good resources and links to materials (see under Articles).

<http://www.interfaithdialoguebasics.be/guidelinesel.htm>

Worked out in 1994 after one year of interfaith dialogue promotion activity. It lists seven principles, and then elaborates on each one (10 pages).

http://www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue/guidelines_interfaith.php#goals

Scarboro Missions are Canadian based. Their website provides some very good summaries of practical guidelines principles for interfaith relations. They are easy resources for presentations. Note especially the **Assisi Decalogue**, and **The Golden Rule**.

3. WEBSITES ON ISLAM & CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

http://arabworld.nitle.org/introduction.php?module_id=2

This is the website of *National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education* (NITLE). It contains modules with summary information on Islam by acknowledged scholars. The pages of *Readings* are particularly useful. They contain basic information (the article by Esposito referred to above), introduction to the Holy Qur'an, development of Islam in history, political Islam in the 20th century.

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/>

This is the website of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) of the University of Southern California (USC). Clicking on headings or highlighted texts gives very easy access to an impressively wide range of educational material on Islam - e.g. Allah, the Prophet, the Qur'an (including three English translations), Sunnah, Pillars and other special topics. The reference section has a word search for the Qur'an and Hadith, and a useful glossary of Arabic words.

<http://www.uga.edu/islam/>

This is the website of Professor Alan Godlas from the Department of Religion at the University of Georgia (UGA). Clicking on headings or names of articles provides very easy links to a wide range of information on Islamic topics e.g. Quran, Sunnah, Sunni and Shia Islam, Sufism, history, philosophy, women, terrorism, interfaith relations and many other contemporary issues.

<http://www.answers-to-muslims.com/index.html>

Christian Troll SJ has made the text (and ongoing updates) of his book **Muslims Ask, Christians Answer** available on this website. The material consists of the questions that Muslims commonly ask of Christians, provides theological background and presuppositions involved in the questions, and indicates possible ways that Christians might respond that would be more readily intelligible and adapted to the mentality of the Muslim partner. The material is certainly not the starting point for conversation, but it is very useful background for the Christian involved in dialogue. When relations between Christians and Muslims have grown into maturity and the time is ripe, then these issues might become topics for fruitful foreground discussion.

P.S. While there is a welter of websites on Islam and on Interreligious Dialogue they are of varying quality. The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations provides a brief annotated reference to some sites [for more details see http://www.columban.org.au/useful_websites.html].

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