



# INTERFAITH DIALOGUE A MUSLIM LEGAL PERSPECTIVE ON ITS VALIDITY, CONCEPT AND PRACTICES

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## A B S T R A C T

The purpose and definitions of interfaith dialogue vary from person to person depending upon the areas from where they come and the nature of the encounter they are facing. Many Muslims participate in multi and inter faith dialogues for propagating Islam, providing clear understanding about its tenets and at times for the sake of securing their interests in the country they live in as a minority. It necessarily involves exchange of visits, holding common prayers or participation in coalitions and joint demonstrations. Such practices for some Muslims conflict with the basic tenets of Islam while for others, these endeavours provide a sizable opportunity to present Islam as a religion of tolerance that supports coexistence. This paper delves into the well-established rules of Islamic Jurisprudence, *uṣūl al-fiqh*, the Prophetic *Sunnah* and the recognised exegeses (*tafāsīr*) of the Glorious Qur'ān to evaluate the concept and practices of multi or inter faith dialogue from an Islamic *sharʿī* perspective. The present paper, however, does not discuss the political motives and dimensions of interfaith dialogue.

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