



Workshop outline

Dealing with the Past Through Interreligious Dialogue



General information

Dates: Thursdays, 18th & 25th of June 2026 | Monday, 29th of June 2026

Time: 10:00-12:30 EAT, 9:00-11:30 CET/SAT

Modality: Virtual Exchange

(zoom link provided after registration at beginning of the workshop)

Co-designing and co-facilitating institutions:

Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies (IRDIS), Tangaza University, Nairobi / Kenya

Foundation for Religious Studies (FSCIRE), Italy

University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania

Makerere University (MAK), Uganda

Educational Inspiring Peace Laboratory (EIP Lab), Italy

swisspeace, Switzerland

Contact persons for registration: Matteo Rovellini matteo.rovellini1@gmail.com (for all participants)



Workshop's Purpose

Confronting the consequences of past violence is a vital step toward restoring trust and rebuilding social bonds at all levels of society. Sustainable peace requires a clear understanding of how historical injustices occurred, how they are remembered, and how their effects continue to shape people's lives today. In many contexts, religious leaders have played an important role in guiding communities through processes of dealing with painful histories and fostering spaces for dialogue, healing, and reconciliation.

This workshop examines why violent histories leave communities fragmented and prone to recurring tensions. It further introduces key approaches and practical measures that support individuals and societies in acknowledging, addressing, and healing from past harms—thereby strengthening resilience and reducing the risk of future conflict.

This interactive workshop is offered under the Virtual Exchanges in Religious Euro-African Dialogue (VEREAD) programme. It is coordinated by the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies (IRDIS) at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya together with the Foundation for Religious Studies (FSCIRE, Italy) and co-designed/co-facilitated by the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN, South Africa), the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM, Tanzania), Makerere University (MAK, Uganda) and EIP Laboratory for peace (EIP Lab, Italy). In the opening module, IRDIS will equip participants with the foundational concepts and frameworks necessary for the workshop. In the second and third modules, interdisciplinary lecturers will guide thematic sessions, offering field-specific perspectives on violence and reconciliation. This approach allows participants to explore diverse analytical lenses and deepen their understanding of how societies confront histories of harm.

Learning Objectives


The following learning objectives are expected and will structure the work of this course:

- To become aware of the complexity of the topic, and to learn how 'dealing with the past processes' have been implemented in different historical contexts and from different theological perspectives, based on a few case studies.
- To explore how Dealing with the Past tools are applicable to Peace Building and IRD practices.
- To engage in meaningful discussions and an exchange of ideas with peers on the topics addressed by the workshop.

Workshop Structure & Content

The workshop features three main modules, each combining lectures with interactive group work. During the seminars, expert lecturers will explore specific topics and interdisciplinary case studies. In the group sessions, trained facilitators will guide participants through collaborative discussions on the lecture material.

Students will be introduced to the four pillars of Dealing with the Past (DWP): right to justice, right to know, right to reparation and guarantee of non-recurrence. The workshop will explore concepts underpinning social cohesion and resilience, victim and offenders' relationships, as well as experiences of violence and trauma. It will also offer history as an analytical tool for engaging with narratives of Dealing with the Past alongside with different theological views on violence, healing and reconciliation. Furthermore, this workshop will emphasize the significance of Interreligious Dialogue, storytelling and remembrances as spaces/mechanisms for healing and reconciliation.



In order to meet the learning objectives, the following topics and case studies are proposed:

	Time	Topic	Facilitated by
Day 1 <i>Thurs.,</i> <i>June 18th</i> (moderation: Wibke Angelike)	10.00 am – 10.10 am	Introduction to VEREAD & modalities of the group work-based sessions Definition of learning objectives	Dr. Ilaria Macconi (FSCIRE, VEREAD coordinator)
	10.10 am – 11.10 am	Introduction to Dealing with the Past (DwP)	Claudia Josi, swisspeace
	11.10 am – 11.30 am	Which past are we dealing with? Whose past are we dealing with? Bridging DwP, Religion & Interreligious dialogue	Wibke Angelike (IRDIS / TU)
	11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Guided discussion / exchange of students	Facilitated by Camilla Venturini and Claudio Dondi (EIP Lab)
Day 2 <i>Thurs.,</i> <i>June 25th</i> (moderation: Dr. Ilaria Macconi)	10.00 am – 10.45 am	Christian Theology (Systematic): Views on DwP and strategies to deal with violence	Dr. Xolani Sakuba (UKZN)
	10.45 am – 11.15 am	Guided discussion / exchange of students	Facilitated by MAK
	11.15 am – 12.00 pm	The question of the past in African Philosophy.	Prof. Evaristi Magoti Cornelli (UDSM)
	12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	Guided discussion / exchange of students	Wibke Angelike (IRDIS / TU)
Day 3 <i>Mond.,</i> <i>June 29th</i> (moderation: Wibke Angelike)	10.00 am – 10.45 am	Islamic Theology: Views on DwP and strategies to deal with violence	Dr. Adan Golole (IRDIS / TU)
	10.45 am – 11.15 am	Guided discussion / exchange of students	Facilitated by UDSM
	11.15 am – 12.00 pm	Oral history, intergenerational dialogue, storytelling as a way to foster healing & reconciliation	Dr. Ilaria Macconi (FSCIRE, VEREAD)
	12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	Guided discussion / exchange of students	Facilitated by FSCIRE

Mode of delivery: virtual exchanges – online

This workshops targets university students and practitioners in Africa and Europe, utilizing an online format to guarantee accessibility for all participants.

Certification

The VEREAD coordination will issue a certificate of participation to anyone who has attended at least 70% of the workshop.