



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



Center for
Faith
Identity &
Globalization





About

Rumi Forum was founded in 1999 to foster **interfaith dialogue** and **intercultural understanding**.

The Forum is affiliated with the **Hizmet Movement**, a transnational civil society network that focuses on **preventing conflict** through dialogue, **overcoming ignorance** through education, and **eradicating poverty** through empowerment.

Mission

Rumi Forum's mission is to **build relationships**, **offer learning opportunities**, and **mobilize leaders** to advance intergroup understanding, strengthen social trust, and eliminate polarization.

Vision

An **inclusive**, **cohesive**, and **harmonious** society where differences are celebrated and human potential prospers.

Our Impact by the Numbers:

43

Events

2,344

Participants

37

Partnerships

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

Community Events

Community Events are where we unite efforts with a wide array of stakeholders. Together with our partners, we collaborate on occasions like iftars, concerts, and unity walks, which are opportunities for people from all walks of life to meet their neighbors in an interfaith context.

Religious Literacy

Religious Literacy gatherings provide a space for members of different religious communities to learn about each other's faiths and strengthen their sense of cohesion through cordial conversations.

Scriptural Reasoning

Scriptural Reasoning (SR) is a practice in which Christians, Jews, and Muslims study each other's sacred texts. SR participants meet once a month to read short passages from their respective scriptures on a certain topic. Moderated by a study leader, each session is an opportunity to listen and share various perspectives. SR sessions thereby help participants reflect on a curious list of topics within the Abrahamic tradition.

IFC'S UNITY WALK 2025

PARTNER EVENT

Rumi Forum partnered with **IFC** for its **Unity Walk 2025**, an annual public demonstration of love and support for all who live in our region.

The annual walk began at **Washington Hebrew Congregation** and ended at the **Islamic Center of Washington, DC**.



Participants of all ages walked to visit different houses of worship in upper NW DC to learn about and experience **diverse faith traditions**. They also had additional opportunities to engage with fellow walkers through moderated speed dialogues and various family activities.



2025 ANNUAL GALA AND DIALOGUE AWARD CEREMONY

A traditional component of Rumi Forum's endeavor is recognizing the lifetime dedication of inspirational public figures who have championed its cause. The **Rumi Forum Dialogue Award** honors successful practitioners with outstanding track records in **interfaith engagement, community service, human rights, and education.**



2025 ANNUAL GALA AND DIALOGUE AWARD CEREMONY



2025 Rumi Forum Dialogue Award Honoree

Dr. John Borelli

Special Assistant for Catholic Identity and Dialogue to the President of Georgetown University.



Award Presented By

Dr. Leo D Lefebure

Professor and Matteo Ricci Chair of Theology at Georgetown University

COMING TOGETHER IN GRATITUDE: THANKSGIVING PROGRAMS

Rumi Forum was grateful to join hands with diverse faith communities to host **two multifaith celebrations**—one in **Maryland** and one in **Virginia**.

Both gatherings were powerful moments of shared witness, renewed community bonds, and heartfelt appreciation for neighbors of all backgrounds.



RUMI FORUM YOUNG PROFESSIONALS QUARTERLY SOCIALS

Rumi Forum's **Quarterly Social** is an opportunity to meet individuals from various backgrounds and engage in **stimulating conversations**.

Each Quarterly Social features a different theme, about which participants share thoughts in an **open** and **welcoming environment**. The meetings are facilitated conversations in which the participants themselves are the speakers.



RUMI FORUM YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TRAILS & TALKS

Rumi Forum's **Trails & Talks** brought together **young professionals** in the great outdoors while engaging in **meaningful conversations** about topics that matter.

The program invited participants to **share perspectives** while **exploring nature** together. The hikes are as much about **thoughtful dialogue** as they are about the journey itself!



NOSTRA AETATE AT 60

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PARTNER EVENT

Rumi Forum and **Georgetown University's** conference convened scholars and practitioners to reflect on one of the most significant documents in the history of **Christian-Muslim relations**.

This special conference marked the **60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate**, featuring a day of rich **scholarly exchange** on its **enduring legacy** and **relevance** for Christian-Muslim relations today.



FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT

PARTNER EVENT



Rumi Forum joined partners at the Cathedral of **St. Matthew the Apostle** for a screening of **The Sultan and The Saint** — a powerful film exploring the historic meeting between Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Kamil, and what it means to seek peace across divides.

A beautiful night of reflection on faith, dialogue, and the friendships that make it possible.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION SERIES

A SACRED PIECE OF HOME

PARTNER EVENT



Rumi Forum and **Focolare Forum for Dialogue's** screening series was an opportunity to explore the **rich tapestry of faith** and **sacred architecture** that defines the Washington, D.C. region.

Each screening featured a different episode of the **PBS documentary A Sacred Piece of Home**, inviting participants to reflect on how communities of many traditions have shaped the **spiritual** and **cultural** landscape of the city. Following each film, participants were joined by the creators themselves for **open dialogue** and **shared conversation**.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

JOIN OR DIE

PARTNER EVENT



Rumi Forum and the **Friends Committee on National Legislation** co-hosted a screening of the film **“Join or Die”**, a **thought-provoking documentary** that explores the vital role of **community**, **civic engagement**, and **human connection** in a healthy democracy.

Join or Die invites participants to **reflect** on the forces shaping **American society** and what we can do to strengthen it. The film follows the half-century story of America's civic unraveling through the journey of legendary social scientist Robert Putnam.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

ABRAHAM'S BRIDGE

PARTNER EVENT



Rumi Forum and partners, **IFCMW** and **Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign's** film screening explored the power of **interfaith collaboration** and what it looks like when **communities choose to build**.

Abraham's Bridge is an award-winning documentary that invites participants to reflect on the shared values and common humanity that unite people **across faith traditions**. The film follows the inspiring story of **Jewish, Christian, and Muslim** communities in Omaha, Nebraska, who came together to build their houses of worship side by side.

IRF SUMMIT 2026

PARTNER EVENT

Rumi Forum was a **Convening Partner** and **Steering Committee Member** of the **IRF Summit 2026**, which brought together a broad coalition that passionately **supports religious freedom** around the globe for a two-day in-person event in Washington, DC.

The **IRF Summit brought** attention to the plight of religious adherents who are **persecuted, individually and collectively**. It grew the grassroots and global movement for religious freedom. Breakout sessions hosted by the convening partners explored important IRF topics.

Rumi Forum`s** research center, **Center for Faith, Identity, and Globalization`s booth presented a rich collection of publications during the summit.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ramadan Iftar Series

Ramadan 2026 was an extraordinary time for Rumi Forum and its **community partners**. We were busy with various Iftar gatherings we hosted or co-hosted in the DMV area. This unique period was the moment to reconnect with our **friends** and **allies**, sharing the joy of Iftar while engaging in fruitful conversations regarding future endeavors. Ramadan also allowed us to continue our monthly **Scriptural Reasoning** series in person, followed by an Iftar.

We are grateful to all our partners and guests for their support in making the holy month an opportunity to reconnect and reinforce our commitments to the **interfaith endeavor**.

RAMADAN IFTAR SERIES



**2nd Interfaith Iftar
Microsoft Offices**



**Rumi Forum
Young Professionals
Iftar**



**Scriptural
Reasoning and
Iftar at VTS**

RAMADAN IFTAR SERIES



**Rumi Forum
Annual DC Iftar**

**Rumi Forum and
Braver Angels
Panel & Iftar**



**Rumi Forum and
Jewish-Islamic
Dialogue Society Iftar**

RAMADAN IFTAR SERIES



**Rumi Forum
and Holy Trinity
Iftar**



**Rumi Forum and
faith250 Iftar**



**3rd Annual Religious
Freedom Iftar at Foley
Law Firm**

FAITH250: BURKE-SPRINGFIELD CLUSTER PARTNER EVENT

faith250 brings together **faith leaders** and **communities** in **meaningful dialogue, fellowship,** and **shared reflection** as America approaches its **250th anniversary.**

Each gathering brings together congregations from multiple faith traditions to listen deeply to one another, clarify shared **civic values**, and celebrate their hopes for **America's future.** The **Burke-Springfield Cluster's** first gathering featured **14 congregations** exploring themes, sparking **thoughtful, honest,** and **inspiring** conversations around the tables.

 **faith250**



POTLUCK PROJECT DC

PARTNER EVENT

Rumi Forum's participation in the **Potluck Project** is an opportunity to bring together members of different faith communities in a warm and welcoming space for meaningful connection and dialogue.

The Potluck Project is a gathering where participants from across faith traditions can share **fellowship**, build **genuine relationships**, and **engage** in the kind of **open conversation** that strengthens community bonds. The DC gathering, held on April 23 at Friends Meeting of Washington, was a beautiful embodiment of that spirit.



SCRIPTURAL REASONING

in collaboration with
Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)



Monthly Study Session Topics

September 2025	Peacemaking
October 2025	Creativity
November 2025	Stewardship
December 2025	Generosity
January 2026	Abraham's Journeys
February 2026	Beginnings
March 2026	Cain and Abel
April 2026	Clothing & Modesty

CENTER FOR FAITH, IDENTITY, & GLOBALIZATION (CFIG)



The **Center for Faith, Identity, and Globalization** (CFIG) is Rumi Forum's interdisciplinary research and publication unit.

CFIG hosts scholarly exchanges, engages fellows, creates publications, and generates media. CFIG contributes **academically-informed analysis** that **enriches public discourse** and **advances actionable work** at the intersection of faith, identity, and globalization.

Research Areas:

- Interfaith Engagement
- Religious Nationalism
- Conflict Resolution
- Religious Freedom
- Globalization
- Spirituality

CFIG SPECIAL PANEL FETHULLAH GÜLEN'S LEGACY & THE HIZMET MOVEMENT'S FORWARD TRAJECTORY



Center for
Faith
Identity &
Globalization

Oct. 29, 2025 @5pm

USC Capital Campus
1771 N St NW, Washington, DC

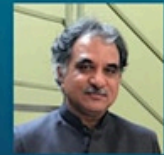
Fethullah Gülen's Legacy and the Hizmet Movement's Forward Trajectory



Ori Z. Soltes
Teaching Professor,
Center for Jewish Civilization
Georgetown University



Moderator
Lyndsey Eksili
Editorial Director,
Tughra Books & Fountain Magazine



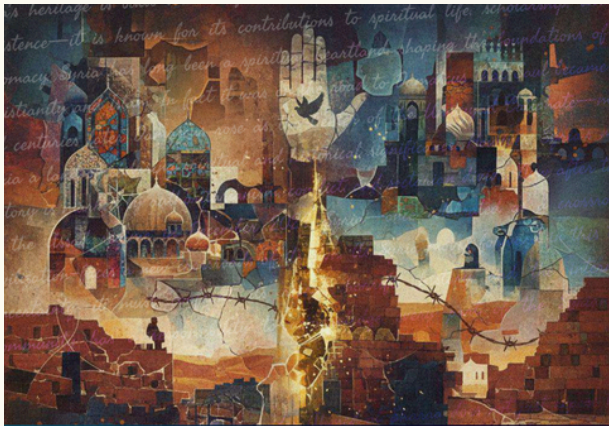
Anwar Alam
Professor,
Ala-Too International University
Kyrgyzstan

Rumi Forum's Center for Faith, Identity, and Globalization's special panel was an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of **Fethullah Gülen** and explore the path forward for the **Hizmet Movement**.

The panel brought together voices from across the movement to **engage** in **thoughtful conversation** about **faith, identity, and global civic engagement**. This special gathering marked the **first anniversary** of Gülen's passing, honoring his life and vision while looking toward the future he inspired.

CENTER FOR FAITH, IDENTITY, & GLOBALIZATION (CFIG)

MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS



Sectarian Fault Lines in Post-Assad Syria:

Religious Freedom and the Future of Minority Communities in Transitional Syria

Jessalyn Wienk
Associate



February 2026

rumiforum.org/cfig



Enduring Persecution:

A Theo-Ethical Framework in Fethullah Gülen's Post-2016 Discourse

Semih Kiyima
Hizmet Scholar



April 2026

rumiforum.org/cfig



Divine Simplicity and the Flexibility of the Human Heart:

Insights from Kathryn Tanner and William Chittick

Nathan Jowers
Research Fellow



October 2025

rumiforum.org/cfig



Special Rumi Issue

Reclaiming Radicalism in a Mis-Radicalized World:

How Rumi's Path of Love Can Transform Humanity

Sarah Snyder
Rumi Scholar

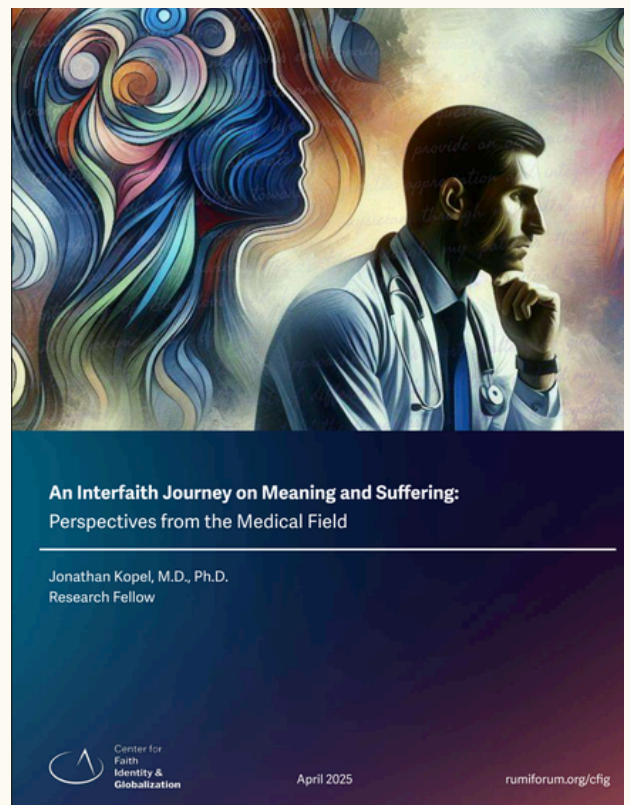
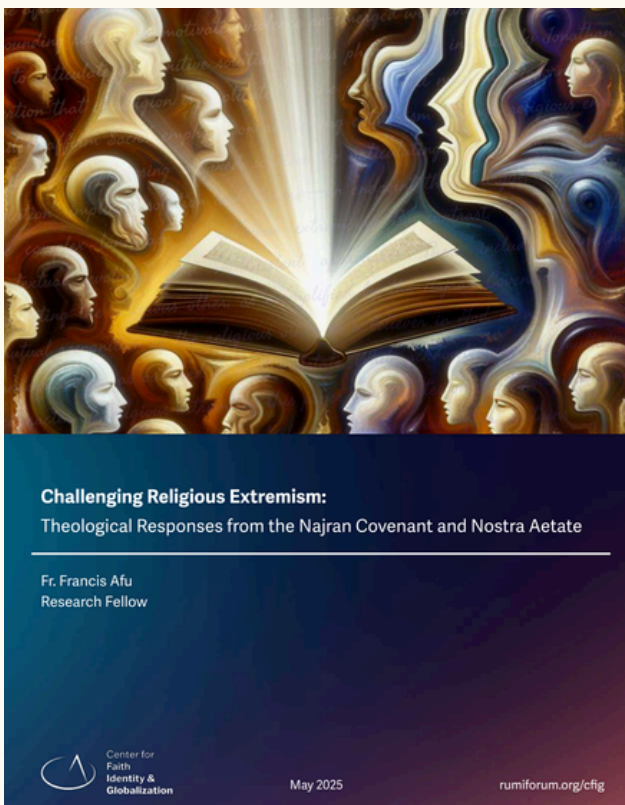
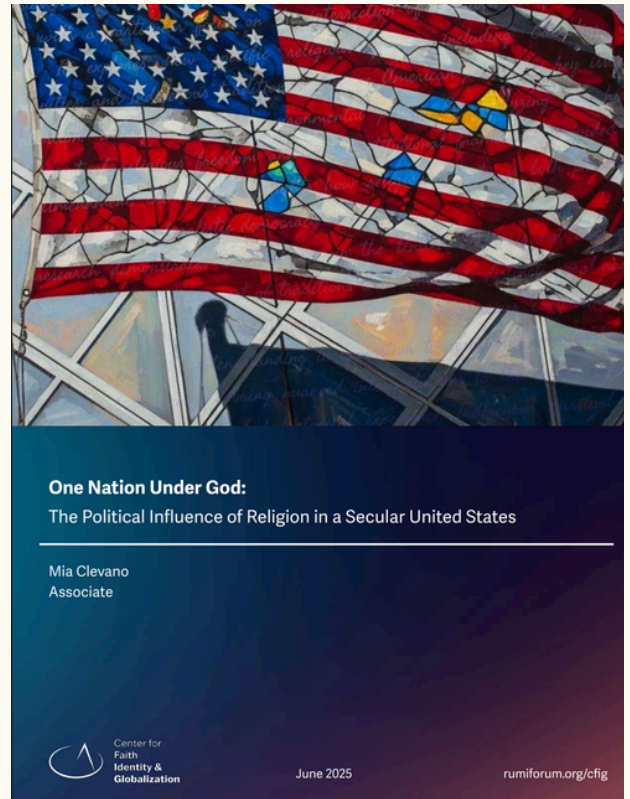
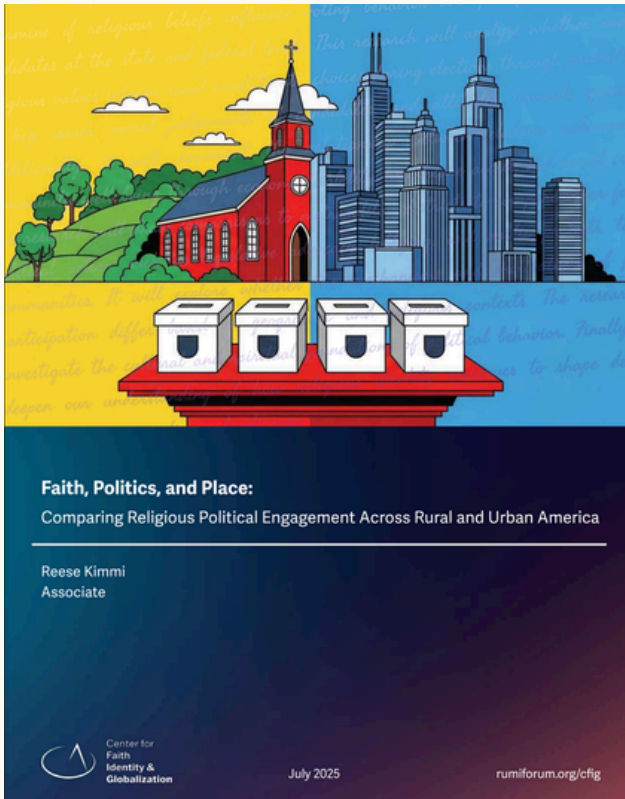


December 2025

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CENTER FOR FAITH, IDENTITY, & GLOBALIZATION (CFIG)

MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS



Annual Report

CENTER FOR FAITH, IDENTITY, & GLOBALIZATION (CFIG)

MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS



A Faith Internship Model: The Outcome of Contemplative Leadership

Merylann (Mimi) J. Schuttloffel, Ph.D
Senior Fellow



March 2025

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Religion and Demographic Shifts: Analyzing Population Trends Using Durkheim's Theory

Jungyeon Lee
Associate



February 2025

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Religious Identities and Global Politics in Tension: A Latin American Perspective

Nicolás Panotto, Ph.D.
Research Fellow



January 2025

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