# AI FAITH AND CIVIL SOCIETY COMMISSION SUMMIT



AI FAITH & CIVIL SOCIETY
COMMISSION

## ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS, COLLABORATIVE ACTION: BUILDING HUMAN–CENTERED AI WITH SHARED VALUES

# 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

### CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# INTRODUCTION

With Artificial Intelligence advancing at an ever-increasing rate, it has never been more important to ensure appropriate regulation and accountability structures are in place to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This is why the Forum for Peace is hosting the AI Faith and Civil Society Summit on the topic of *'Ethical Foundations, Collaborative Action: Building Human-centred AI with Shared Values'.*

## About the Forum for Peace



The Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace was established in 2014 in response to the challenges facing religious communities in the modern world. Renowned for its unique approach of drawing on scripture and traditional legal philosophy to address conflicts concerning Muslim societies, the Forum has since grown to include other faith groups, in search of the shared values.



The Forum draws inspiration from the teachings of traditional religions, looking to move beyond mere tolerance and toward mutual flourishing. Drawing on the Prophet Muhammad's Constitution of Medina, which first established the rights of religious minorities, the Forum has led a number of interfaith initiatives and official treaties, such as the Marrakech Declaration and the Alliance of Virtue to protect and empower different faiths.



The Forum is not only an ambassador of religious freedom, but a defender of the theological principles that underlie it. It recognises the value of diversity and difference without forgetting that which is universal, and it is proud to be both firmly grounded in tradition and conscious of the contemporary context.

# THE JOURNEY SO FAR

## November

Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit

## October

The week before the AI Safety Summit, the first High Level meeting for Faith & Civil Society Leaders on the implications of Artificial Intelligence on Global Society was convened by the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum, and hosted by Google.

## December

The inaugural AI Faith and Civil Society Summit, hosted in Westminster Central Hall, 'Ethical Foundations, Collaborative Action: Building Human-Centered AI with Shared Values'
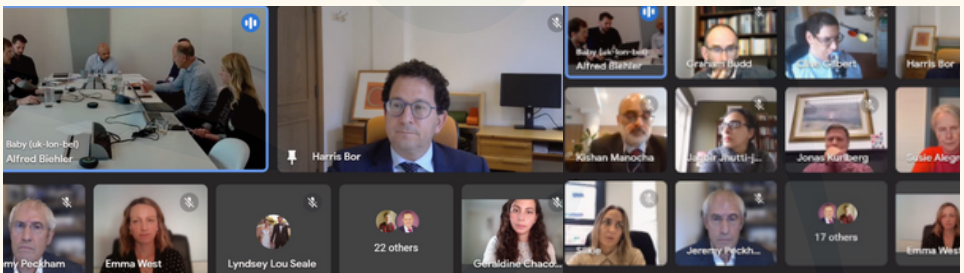
# 26TH OCTOBER MEETING

In October, key leaders from across faith and civil society gathered for a high-level meeting to discuss the ethical and practical implications of the advancement of AI for Global Society. Overall, six key themes were identified from our discussions and summarised in an open letter to Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP ahead of the UK Government's AI Safety Summit hosted by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at Bletchley Park earlier in early November.

This letter was signed by 20 key leaders representing diverse perspectives across faith and civil society. At the High Level Meeting, it was widely agreed that there is a need for ensuring the ongoing engagement of faith communities and civil society in international policy and legislation.





*Meeting on 26th October 2023*

# THE SUMMIT

Taking place at Central Hall, Westminster, the first venue for the United Nations General Assembly, this inaugural summit will convene 35+ leaders from across faith communities and civil society organisations.

After discussing the outcomes of the Bletchley Park Summit and exploring the current AI ethics landscape, attendees will begin identifying and defining the key human-centred values they deem imperative to be at the heart of AI regulation.



## KEY GOALS & TOPICS

- Discuss the outcome of the Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit

- Review the current state of AI regulation and existing ethical frameworks

- Hear from a wide range of different organisations about some of the specific sectors and groups affected by AI

- Identify and begin to define key human-centred values and their applicability to include in future ethical frameworks

# LETTER TO MICHELLE DONELAN MP

On behalf of faith or belief & civil society leaders (as listed below)

Michelle Donelan
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

Dear Secretary of State,

The implications of Artificial Intelligence raise significant ethical and arguably existential questions that demand our collective attention. We therefore strongly welcome the UK's leadership in highlighting its potential risks, and establishing a common understanding around them.

When faced with questions of such consequence, it is essential that all parts of society can fully contribute to the principles and processes that will shape future governance. Given the speed at which these technologies are developing, it is understandable that the relatively small number of technical and policy specialists in this space will dominate early discussions. There is clearly a risk, however, that short-term commercial and economic interests will outweigh long-term social and ethical concerns if we do not find ways to engage a wide range of religious and cultural perspectives. While we recognise the limited and practical focus of this week's AI Safety Summit, it is notable that there will be almost no civil society representation beyond several academic institutes.

That's why, ahead of this important summit, 30 leaders across faith or belief & civil society met last week to discuss the implications of Artificial Intelligence and to submit their reflections for your consideration, under the distinguished chairmanship of The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP. This meeting marked the inception of an ongoing initiative designed to ensure the active involvement of faith or belief communities and civil society in the discourse surrounding Artificial Intelligence. This first step in building a collaborative coalition was made possible through the generous support of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace and the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life and hosted by Google. We will follow developments in the AI Safety Summit closely and plan to reconvene in December this year. The December event will officially inaugurate a UK-based AI for Faith and Civil Society Commission with the aim of harnessing the opportunities of Artificial Intelligence for human flourishing while protecting communities from potential harm.

During the meeting, we discussed the aims of the AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, and emphasised the paramount significance of incorporating the perspectives of faith or belief and civil society organisations into these discussions.

It is our shared belief that, in addition to bridging the gap between technological experts and the broader public, faith or belief and civil society organisations serve as critical watchdogs holding both AI developers and policymakers accountable. We also discussed how faith or belief and civil society groups are often the first to identify harms which may affect specific communities. Therefore, while

faith or belief and civil society leaders may not be experts on AI, it is imperative that their diverse set of concerns, viewpoints and recommendations are given due consideration in the upcoming AI Safety Summit.

This initial gathering was a testament to the rich diversity of perspectives across faith or belief and civil society sectors, attended by leaders from various faiths or beliefs and sectors across the UK, Europe, the US, and the UAE, with representatives from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities, as well as different civil society sectors and representatives od academic institutions with a focus on ethics and human rights.

Following these discussions, we would like to bring to your attention the following points, ahead of the AI Safety Summit:

1. Ensuring Accountability: International Human Rights frameworks and rules-based orders are helpful tools which should be effectively used to manage the risks and harms of AI and ensure accountability.

2. Enabling the Accessibility of Progress: Much of the benefit and impact of AI is limited to a small number of firms. It is important that the ownership of AI is democratised, and the right of communities to benefit from scientific progress and its application under both article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is re-emphasised.

3. Establishing Ethical Guidelines:New robust,specific and sustainable ethical guidelines which incorporate values and beliefs shared across different sectors and faith or belief groups must be established to reflect the diverse viewpoints which make up our society.

4. Addressing Short-Term Harms:It is important to consider and address the current AI harms which are often overlooked in favour of the longer-term harms. This includes the current threats posed by the use of AI in surveillance, algorithmic biases, copyright infringement, decision-making in the social welfare sector and overdependence in technologies that are not accessible to all, as well as the risks of AI to children and vulnerable workforces.

5. Including Diverse Voices: Decision-makers must engage with more diverse voices and perspectives in the conversation around governance framework and AI harms. This is especially relevant to disabled people, for whom technology can already play a massive role in their lives. It also includes faith or belief and civil society organisations more broadly, which are often the first to identify harms facing specific communities and are able to engage with the public and represent their concerns.

6. Closing the AI Literacy Gap: There is a lack of AI literacy across civil society sectors and especially among faith or belief communities. This must be acknowledged and urgently addressed to avoid widening the technology gap and preserve people's right to make informed choices about AI risks.

We hope that you will take these points into consideration during the forthcoming AI Safety Summit

and beyond. Following that, as part of your post-summit engagement, it would be an honour if you would be willing to speak at the inauguration of the AI Faith & Civil Society Commission. With your support we will be delighted to work with your office and finalising a date in December that works best for your diary. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work with you in advocating for the interests of faith or belief and civil society.

The strength of the Commission lies in its collaborative approach of diverse communities. We

look

forward to contributing to the wider discussion so that we may harness the potential of AI responsibly

and in line with ethical and societal values.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Susie Alegre, Director, Alegre International
Rabbi Dr Harris Bor, Barrister
Graham Budd, Executive Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion
Clive Gilbert, Policy Connect
Dilwar Hussain MBE, Chair, New Horizons in British Islam
Jonas Kurlberg, Centre for Digital Theology, Spurgeons College
Kishan Manocha, The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Revd Professor Philip McCormack MBE PFHEA CMgr FCMI, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Centre for
Digital Theology, Spurgeons College, London
Rachel Miner, Bellwether International
Nathan Mladin, Theos Think Tank
Debbie Moss, Director of Strategy and External Affairs, Barnardo's
Jeremy Peckham, Author and AI Entrepreneur
Revd Dr Peter Phillips, Centre for Digital Theology, Spurgeons College, London
Krish Raval OBE, Director, Faith in Leadership
Revd Dr Russell Rook OBE, Good Faith Partnership
Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ)
Adrian Weller MBE, Head of Safe and Ethical AI, The Alan Turing Institute
Liam Whitton, Humanists UK
Zeshan Zafar, Executive Director, Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace

# AGENDA

| Time | Session |
|------|---------|
| 10.00 - 10.25 am | **Introduction**<br>• Interview on goals of the Commission<br>• Keynote speech |
| 10.25 - 10.50 am | **Overview of Bletchley Park Summit**<br>• Interview<br>• Q&A |
| 10.50 - 11.15 am | ***Where are we now?***<br>• *Lightning Talks*<br>• Overview of current AI regulation and frameworks |
| 11.15 - 11.30 am | **Break** |
| 11.30 am - 12.30 pm | **Roundtable Discussions** |
| 12.30 - 1.00 pm | **Lunch** |
| 1.00 - 1.45 pm | **Feedback & Q&A on roundtable outputs** |
| 1.45 - 2.00 pm | **Closing speech and next steps** |

# LIST OF GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Qari Muhammad Asim

Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah

Alfred Biehler

Harris Bor

Andrew Brown

Graham Budd

Silkie Carlo

Yaqub Chaudhary

Samuel Coates

Jon Cruddas

Simon Cross

Kate Devlin

Gavin Freeguard

Alex Fry

Clive Gilbert

Maria Harb

James Hawkey

Dilwar Hussain

Jagbir Jhutti-Johal

Alice Jackson

Eva Klute

Kishan Manocha

Rachel Miner

Nathan Mladin

Chinmay Pandya

Jeremy Peckham

Peter Phillips

James Poulter

Kathryn Pritchard

Peter Robinson

Mark Rowland

Luca Schiavoni

Liam Whitton

Sam Wells

Abaas Yunas

Zeshan Zafar

• *As confirmed on 1st December 2023*

AI FAITH & CIVIL SOCIETY
# COMMISSION

www.ai-commission.com

AIFaith_Civil

ai-faith-civil- society-
commission