

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### **The Akkar Summer School of Spiritual Solidarity**

#### **Topic: “Religion & Human Rights in Syria and Lebanon”**

Location: R&R Peace Centre, Bkarzla, Akkar Governorate, Lebanon

Dates: Monday, 18 July, till Sunday, 24 July 2021 with the possibility to extend it with a volunteer stay for the Summer Mountain Camp until 12 August.

After nine years of work in the Syrian refugee camps and different local communities of the Akkar Governorate, in the North of Lebanon, Relief & Reconciliation International (R&R) is calling for applications to participate in its annual summer academy. The “Akkar Summer School of Spiritual Solidarity” is combining theoretical modules with the practical implementation of youth encounters between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities.

#### ***Who we are***

R&R is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels that is combining peacebuilding with humanitarian help in response to the Syrian crisis. At local level, we are uniting all communities present around a common cause: the future of the youth. In 2013, our Lebanese branch opened a first Peace Centre for the youth of all local communities in the Akkar Governorate, Lebanon. More than 180 international volunteers have lived and worked there so far. More than 1,800 students have participated in our regular educational and psychosocial activities.

#### ***The Akkar Summer School***

During the week of the Akkar Summer School, participants will live and learn at the R&R Peace Centre. One week of theoretical reflections and field visits will be followed by an optional two weeks of youth work, implemented together with young leaders of local communities (see application form).

The topic of this year’s Akkar Summer School is “Religion & Human Rights in Syria and Lebanon”. We invite all participants to submit a final academic paper of *1500 words or more* (excluding footnotes and biography) by 30 September 2022. Those validated by the peer review and published on our website will receive a refund of the participation fee of €100.

We call for papers along the following topics in different disciplines:

#### *In the field of International Relations:*

- The R2P principle (‘responsibility to protect’) in the Syrian Civil War and beyond
- International governance for dealing with the movement of refugees and migrants

#### *In the field of Political Sciences:*

- Democracy and human rights beyond the monopoly of power in the modern nation state
- Individual human rights in conflict with the collective emancipation of communities and nations

#### *In the field of Philosophy/Ethics:*

- Universal human rights in view of different religious convictions and identities
- The common good in a world/state of multiple identities

*In the field of Theology (Christian and Islamic):*

- The will of God and the law of the commonwealth, in Islamic & Christian perspective
- Human progress and salvation, in Islamic & Christian perspective?

Lecturers of the “Akkar Summer School of Spiritual Solidarity” will include academic researchers as well as practitioners of humanitarian organisations and representatives of local communities. R&R will issue a certificate upon successful completion of all assignments. The findings of the research groups shall be presented in the framework of an academic conference in the end of the project.

***What we are looking for***

- An interest in refugee issues and concerns, particularly with regard to the Syrian crisis;
- An interest in peacebuilding, interfaith dialogue and humanitarian aid;
- Minimum 2 years university education, bachelor degree desirable;
- Minimum 18 years of age (no upper age limit);
- English language skills required, Arabic desirable;
- Experience studying/working in the Arab World desirable;
- Experience working with adolescents or children desirable.

***Costs and Conditions***

€100 per participant, payable upon acceptance. Furthermore, participants are asked to pay for their own travel to and from Lebanon and for their travel insurance. R&R will cover basic accommodation and meals (basic food supply with at least one warm meal per day) for the duration of the programme and all transportation within Lebanon related to the programme’s activities.

***Disclaimer***

Some foreign embassies have issued formal travel warnings for the Akkar Governorate. The security situation has been stable over the last two years and R&R has a tested safety procedure. However, all participants are asked to register with their embassy and sign a voucher of legal responsibility.

***How to apply***

No need for long motivation letters. Just download the application form for the Akkar Summer School from our website: [www.reliefandreconciliation.org/volunteer](http://www.reliefandreconciliation.org/volunteer)

Once you have filled it out, please send a scan of the signed form together with your CV via email to [contact@reliefandreconciliation.org](mailto:contact@reliefandreconciliation.org). Please note that places are limited.

*Learn more about R&R:*

[www.reliefandreconciliation.org](http://www.reliefandreconciliation.org)  
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