

**Report**  
**On National Efforts to Enhance Religious Freedoms in Egypt**  
**From July 1 to December 31, 2023**

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This report presents the national efforts to enhance religious freedoms in Egypt during the period from July 1 to December 31, 2023.

**First: The Evolution of Constructing Places of Worship and Reviving Religious Heritage:**

1. The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt inaugurated “Al-Sayyida Nafisa Mosque”, after its renovation, in the presence of Sultan Mufaddal Saifuddin, Sultan of the Bohra sect in India. This comes within the framework of His Excellency’s directives to restore and renew the shrines of Ahl El-Bayt (Prophet Muhammad’s family) in a manner consistent with their historical and spiritual nature, and within the framework of the Egyptian State’s plan to develop historic Cairo and restore its authentic cultural character.
2. The Sultan of Bohra expressed his deep appreciation for Egypt, praising the notion of citizenship in the country that is based on religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence, in a way that creates an enabling environment for social peace. The Sultan also praised Egypt’s openness to all religions and sects, that reflects great Egyptian Civilization
3. The Egyptian Ministry of Endowments inaugurated (1,100) mosques, including (863) new or replaced and renovated mosques, while it maintained and developed (237) mosques. More than (2,000) mosques were furnished at a cost exceeding 150 million Egyptian pounds, and (317) mosques obtained a Class A accreditation and quality assurance certificate.
4. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, inaugurated the Church of the Virgin Mary and St. Paul the Apostle, in the New Hadra area in Alexandria, as part of the efforts exerted to promote religious tolerance, maximize freedom of worship, renovate and restore churches in Egypt. These steps took place in line with the efforts carried out in regards to mosques, and in a way to highlight the crucial role of mosques and churches in countering extremism and contributing to community development.
5. The Coptic Museum in Cairo organized an archaeological exhibition titled “A Wonderful Birth Story”, which includes a unique collection of the museum that demonstrates the masterpieces of Coptic art. The collection encompasses 15 different archaeological pieces, including a collection of manuscripts, icons, metals, textiles, and woodworks. It shed light on rare and diverse Nativity scenes, including an icon depicting the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary at the birth of Jesus Christ. The exhibition also includes Four Gospels in Arabic, and a bronze censer decorated with scenes representing various events from the life of Jesus Christ, including the scenes of the Annunciation and the Nativity. In addition, the collection includes the “Manuscript of Synaxarium” in Arabic, which illustrates the days of fasting and feasts.
6. The “Ben Ezra” Synagogue in the Fustat area in Old Cairo was inaugurated after the completion of its restoration. It is considered one of the oldest Jewish synagogues in Egypt, and contains many books related to Jewish customs, traditions, and social life in Egypt.
7. The Jewish community in Cairo celebrated the Jewish New Year for the first time in 70 years, at the Jewish Synagogue in Heliopolis.

8. Implementation of the “The Great Transfiguration over the Land of Peace” project in the vicinity of Mount Moses and St. Catherine in Sinai continued, with the aim of establishing a spiritual shrine on the mountains surrounding the Holy Valley, to be a destination for spiritual, mountain, healing and environmental tourism worldwide.
9. Continuing the implementation of the Path of Holy Family project as more than 90% of the development of points of the Path of Holy Family within the project were completed. In addition, all areas have been provided with tourist services and are being rehabilitated with services, infrastructure.

### **Second: Efforts to renew Religious Discourse, Counter Extremism, and Promote Citizenship:**

10. His Excellency the President of Egypt called during the celebration of Prophet's birthday for getting inspiration from the values of honesty, integrity, sincerity, and mercy from the life of the Holy Prophet, and learning the virtue of patience in the face of great hardships, and steadfastness in the truth and faith, especially in difficult times.
11. Al-Azhar launched the “A Country that Unites Us - Love and Peace” initiative, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the aim of training the youth to counter negative narratives and spread tolerance among all segments of the society.
12. Al-Azhar Islamic Research Academy organized a seminar titled “The Love and Peace Trilogy”, in cooperation with the Egyptian Family House. The seminar discussed the meaning of patriotism among the citizens, and emphasized the necessity of continuing the call to establish peace and stability within the society, along with clarifying that the relationships between religions should be founded on communication through dialogue between religious symbols domestically and abroad. The seminar also discussed the importance of collaboration between Al-Azhar and the Church in the face of internal and external crises and conspiracies.
13. Al-Azhar Mosque held a seminar titled: “Awareness and its impact on building societies”, where the participants emphasized that knowledge is the way to proper awareness that could lead to any society's development and thus knowledge must be derived from a credible source.
14. Al-Azhar also held another seminar titled: “Raising awareness about the country's main matters in the family and society”, where the participants reassured that raising the people's awareness requires knowledge, unity, and action. Participants also discussed that there are many forms of raising Islamic awareness, including highlighting the importance of morals and religiosity, and understanding the meaning of citizenship, and building unity among the nation's citizens.
15. Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism continued its efforts to pursue the false narratives of the terrorist organizations, as well as following up on what is issued by far-right organizations, to prevent more innocent people from falling into the cycle of violence. The Observatory has also been engaged in following up on activities related to Islam and Muslims around the world, including events, seminars, and meetings aimed at clarifying the true teachings of Islam, as well as the Observatory's interaction with the latest developments related to the phenomenon of Islamophobia, increasing rates of hatred, and immigrant and refugee crises around the world. In this context, the Observatory issued, through its website and social media pages, (334) publications and reports in Arabic, and (1,541) publications and reports in foreign languages. It also issued (118) pieces of news, (18) articles, and (27) reports on the topics of (countering extremism - the Palestinian cause - following up on the conditions of Muslims).

16. The Observatory received many visits to discuss means to enhance cooperation in the field of countering extremism, and to review its online and offline efforts in that regard. The most prominent of these visits were carried out by: the Director of the Royal Institute for Religious Studies in Jordan, a delegation from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and a high-level Malaysian delegation headed by the Minister of Religious Affairs, a delegation from Myanmar headed by Sheikh Amir Nour Al-Din, Supreme President of the Islamic Research Academy, and the Minister of Youth and Sports within the framework of the initiative (A Country that Unites Us). In addition, Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism received students from different universities, including the Suez Canal and Helwan Universities within the program titled "Towards a youth vision to confront extremism and terrorism".
17. The Observatory participated in a number of events, most notably: University's Youth Week at Helwan University, several meetings at El-Minya University within the framework of "A Country that Unites Us" initiative, "The Role of Al-Azhar in Connecting Cultures and Societies" conference that was held in India, and a conference in Morocco titled "The Role of Knowledge in Confronting Extremism".
18. The Observatory also organized several activities within the "Listen and Speak" initiative, the most prominent of which were: two seminars consisting of two lectures in cooperation with Benha University, the first of which was titled "The Role of Media in Building Collective Awareness" and the second was titled "The Role of Egypt and Al-Azhar in Supporting the Palestinian Cause".
19. Al-Azhar's Islamic Research Academy launched "Man Ahiaha" (Whoever saves a life) initiative to reduce the phenomenon of illegal migration, in the governorates and villages from which this phenomenon originates, through 3,000 male and female preachers present throughout the country within universities and government institutions, to reach the segments targeted by this initiative, and to employ important online platforms of Al-Azhar to spread awareness of the dangers of illegal migration.
20. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II met with Mrs. Katlin Novak, President of Hungary. His Holiness emphasized during the meeting that Egypt is a country with a rich history and civilization, where Egyptians of all religions live in strong national unity and coexistence. In addition, His Holiness stated that the Church has a strong relationship with all State institutions, as well as with Al-Azhar and all churches in Egypt.
21. The Coptic Orthodox Church's Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services held a number of activities in support of peace and fraternity to consolidate the values of love and tolerance, simultaneously with changing the misconceptions to provide an environment based on peace, love, tolerance and respect for others. The aim of such environment is to build a society capable of activating its full potential, accepting diversity and respecting differences while enjoying human dignity.
22. In this context, children's festivals were held to support the values of tolerance and fraternity; youth clubs were inaugurated in the governorates, which focus on the role of youth as leaders of change to support the values of peace and love in their communities; and meetings were held with religious leaders, including sheikhs and priests, to create an environment supportive of sustainable peace, convergence of visions, and the search for common grounds to break the vicious cycle of conflict and activate the role of civil society.
23. The Papal Office for Projects, in cooperation with the Social Coptic Foundation for Development, launched the first workshop to encourage technical education. The workshop targeted young males and females aged 14 years, during which 20 students from the preparatory stage participated, titled "Self-discovery and awareness of the importance of technical education and the significant fields of the future". The workshop presented learning methods through interactive

activities with visual content for the students to discover themselves and their abilities and gain self-confidence; while emphasizing the importance of incentivizing studying and being an influential person in society. This workshop came within the directives of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II to draw attention to technical education and to provide awareness and training programs for young people with the aim of preparing them for the labor market and enabling them to grow and develop.

24. The Papal Office, under the auspices of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population and the National Council for Women, organized a medical convoy with all specialties within the presidential initiative “100 Healthy Days” for one day, in the St. Mark’s Cathedral in Abbasiya. The convoy included many specialties, and the number of women who benefited from the services reached 328 female citizens. On the sidelines of the convoy, a seminar was held at the Papal Residence titled “My health is a responsibility... my country is a responsibility”. The seminar hosted a number of writers and experts who emphasized the State’s interest in the health of citizens, and the experts helped women to learn more about the importance of their role towards the country.
25. St. Mark’s Cathedral in Abbasiya hosted an educational day for the Egyptian child titled “Ana Ibn Misr” (I am the son of Egypt) – the development of the Egyptian child is the basis of the development of the Egyptian family), coinciding with the celebration of World Children’s Day, under the auspices of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population, the National Council for Women and the Social Coptic Foundation for Development. During his speech, His Holiness emphasized the importance of the national initiative “Egyptian Family Development” in developing the Egyptian child. On the sidelines of the educational day, the National Council for Women organized a cultural workshop for girls within the national initiative “Dawwie Storytelling Circles”, aiming to motivate girls to express their opinions, hopes, and fears, share stories and experiences, and build on these experiences to empower them within their communities. The Social Coptic Foundation also organized a cultural and artistic workshop for boys through interactive activities with visual and practical content, with the aim of helping them discover themselves and their abilities and build self-confidence.
26. The efforts of the Peacemakers Committee of the Coptic Catholic Eparchy of Minya continued to spread the culture of peace and fraternity among religions within Minya Governorate. In this context, awareness meetings were organized for students in public schools to spread the values of peace, fraternity, and acceptance of others. The Human Fraternity Document was disseminated within Al-Azhar institutes. In addition, community initiatives were implemented in schools (cleanliness, school planting, and graffiti), and reconciliation sessions were held between families within the governorate.
27. The International Day of Peace was also celebrated, which included various performances by students ,as well as many sportive, artistic and cultural activities, along with honoring some of the religious and community leaders for their efforts. That day Muslim and Christian students participated and cooperated in various activities, as taking part of cultural trips to some of the museums to enhance national belonging among students.
28. Caritas Egypt continued to implement a number of new projects to improve the capabilities of the target groups, especially poor families who suffer due to economic and social challenges, in addition to children with disabilities and their families, and homeless children. The projects also aimed to empower the youth in local communities and support and develop micro enterprises, in addition to strengthening the capabilities of local service providers. The number of children benefiting from the organization’s various services, including centers for children

at risk, informal nurseries, “My Precious Daughter” projects, the child helpline, and various cultural and educational activities, that reached an estimated 3,300 children. The number of beneficiaries of the activities of social empowerment of women, supporting and empowering girls, and eliminating habits harmful to women’s health reached 18,000 beneficiaries. Nearly 4,800 people also received various social assistance from the social assistance sector and the “Be Safe” project in cooperation with Handicap International.

29. Caritas Egypt participated in the first regional conference titled “Social Welfare Policies and Achieving Social Security”, and in a meeting titled “Integration of the Role of Religious and Social Institutions in Forming Organized Social Awareness, organized by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Caritas Egypt also participated in the community forum for the “Equal Opportunities and Social Development” project implemented in Al-Asmarat neighborhood under the slogan “We are all stronger through inclusion”.
30. The Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development of the Catholic Church implemented a formal education program. It aimed to improve the lives of children in Upper Egypt through a sustainable, effective, efficient and innovative education system that enhances knowledge, social awareness, morals, and children’s psychological and social health. Local community participated as well in that program by focusing on poor children, girls, and those who have learning difficulties. In this context, the association established 35 regular schools in the governorates of Cairo, Minya, Assiut, Sohag, Qena, and Luxor, of which 20 schools hold a certificate of accreditation and quality. There are (12,540) children in these schools, 44% of whom are girls.
31. The association also implemented a non-formal education program, which aimed to provide non-formal education opportunities for those who did not attend school or dropped out in Upper Egypt - most of whom are girls and women - in an educational environment centered on active learning and dialogue methods. The association also works to develop students’ self-learning skills, and some soft and vocational skills, which enable them to develop themselves, obtain their basic rights, and participate in the development of their community.
32. In this context, a number of parallel schools were established, aiming to provide non-formal education opportunities for children in Upper Egypt (from 9 to 14 years old), with the number reaching 16 parallel schools in the governorates of El-Minya, Assiut and Sohag. Community campaigns were also implemented to support the education of children, especially girls, such as the “No to Early Marriage” campaign, “Your Return Makes Us Happy” campaign to encourage children to return to school, and the “Your Hygiene Protects You” campaign.
33. The association also completed the implementation of the leadership program, which aims to develop trained calibers capable of managing and making change. In this context, the association organized the second workshop on the topic of changing management process for 24 participants with the aim of understanding how change occurs, discussing theories of change management, presenting international experiences and expertise for change such as Finland’s experience, and trying to find collective vision for future learning initiatives and change through art.
34. The association continued to implement the cultural development program through the public libraries that the association established in a number of villages and cities. The program aims to develop the intellectual, cultural, and artistic awareness of children, youth, and adults in Upper Egypt, and to consolidate the values of coexistence, citizenship, tolerance, and peacebuilding. This is achieved by providing an environment that allows interaction, mutual learning, and free expression, to enable participants to discover themselves, their potential, and their abilities by using all available artistic tools and capabilities, to eventually become partners in the responsibility towards a comprehensive and

sustainable societal renaissance. In this context, the association has established 14 cultural centers in Upper Egypt to provide reading material and a space to practice creativity, encourage talents, and enable them to express their dreams for themselves and their communities. 2,000 cultural meetings were held, with 2,500 participants, with the aim of reviving civilizational and cultural heritage, coexistence, equality, non-discrimination, and rejecting violence.

35. The association implemented a project titled “World’s Children Together to achieve Sustainable Development Goals” in partnership with Partage association and with the support of the French Government. The project is based on the communication between school students in three countries: France, Egypt (El-Minya and Luxor governorates), and Cambodia. This resulted from cultural exchange between children from the three countries, and they agreed on the following topics: children’s right to education, gender equality, global citizenship, cultural diversity, and acceptance of others.
36. The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services implemented several initiatives promoting the values of tolerance, citizenship, and peaceful coexistence, as follows:
  - An initiative titled “Generations of Peace” that took place in five governorates, namely Cairo - Alexandria - Beni Suef - Minya - Aswan, the cities that are included in “Decent Life” Presidential initiative which are the communities with the most in need. The state is working to develop the infrastructure and reshape the value system of these communities’ population. (1,500) citizens participated in the initiative, in cooperation with the General Authority for Cultural Palaces, Youth Centers, and the General Federations for Scouts and Girl Guides. The initiative aimed to improve the culture of acceptance and respect for diversity and pluralism among youth and children. It promotes the opportunity for joint work and dialogue among youth and children from different cultures. The initiative’s activities varied in each governorate to suit the target groups of youth and children, and relied on the use of culture, art, and sports as entry points to achieve the goal of the initiative, consisting of (storytelling workshops, traditional crafts workshops, an artistic cultural festival, a scout camp, field visits to the High Dam and the Nubian Museum, and an interactive theater).
  - The “Forever Friends” initiative was carried out in Ismailia governorate through religious leaders, targeting children in middle school and their parents. The initiative aims to spread the values of love, peace and countering violence and bullying. (50) children (Muslim and Christian) participated in the initiative. A set of joint activities and games were implemented among children with the aim of conveying cooperation and coexistence, in addition to holding seminars for parents with the aim of tackling misconceptions on the subject of discrimination and understanding children’s feelings in a state of anger.
  - “I Am Peace” initiative was implemented in Alexandria governorate, aiming to spread the culture of dialogue, peace and online safety for children, and targeting (50) children and (50) parents. The activities varied between interactive skill workshops in drawing and music, and training was given on how to create digital content and developing an online page for the initiative titled “Culture of Peace and Acceptance of Others” to reach a larger number of audience to disseminate and consolidate these principles.
  - The “Ambassadors of Citizenship” initiative in Beni Suef governorate, in which (300) universities students. The initiative addressed important topics such as citizenship and positive participation in the society.
  - The “Let’s Understand” initiative, in cooperation with the cultural palace in El-Minya governorate, in which (140) citizens participated, aimed to enhance the culture of dialogue, support effective communication skills among

generations, consolidate the values of love, peace, and understanding between different generations, and overcome the gaps between them.

- “Our Beautiful Ethics” initiative targeted (140) young people from El-Minya University, and aimed to consolidate morals, values, acceptance of others, and call for peace and coexistence.

37. The Dialogue Unit of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services continued to promote the culture of dialogue and peacebuilding for workers in the field of dialogue, especially young religious leaders from Islamic and Christian religious institutions and workers in cultural, media, academic and civil society institutions, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental bodies and institutions at the local, regional and international levels. These efforts aim to contribute to building a democratic and pluralistic society, based on the values of citizenship and human rights principles. In this context, the unit implemented a program to enhance the capabilities of religious leaders, academics, media professionals, civil society, and public officials, through communication and coordination with the Ministry of Religious Endowments, Al-Azhar, and churches of different sects, as the following events were held:

- 10 workshops for religious leaders from the governorates of (Cairo, Ismailia, Alexandria, ElMinya, Assiut, Sohag, Luxor, Qena, and Aswan) on the topics of sustainable development and Egypt’s Vision 2030 and community cohesion, targeting (250) religious leaders.
- 4 workshops for female religious leaders on the topics of citizenship - dialogue and acceptance of others - negotiation and conflict resolution skills - a reading of the National Human Rights Strategy, targeting (50) female religious leaders, which include female preachers and church servants.
- 7 workshops for (100) academics in the governorates of (Alexandria - Cairo - Beni Suef - ELMinya - Assiut - Luxor - Aswan). The workshops addressed various topics such as human security issues and their impact on climate change, the role of scientific research and academic work in raising awareness and reducing climate phenomena, skills for integrating human values into practical research literature and academic courses.
- 7 workshops for (175) media professionals in the governorates of (Cairo, Alexandria, and Upper Egypt). The workshops covered various topics such as (the media code of honor and media practices to support cultural diversity - the role of the media in limiting rumors).
- 6 workshops were held for (150) representatives of civil society organizations in the governorates of (Alexandria - Cairo - Beni Suef - Minya - Assiut - Sohag - Luxor - Qena - Aswan). The workshops covered various topics such as (participation and volunteer management skills - human rights approach to development and empowerment of social segments - The role of civil society organizations in supporting cultural rights - Rights-based development strategies).
- 3 workshops were held for (80) representatives of government institutions in cultural palaces, youth centers and scouts from the governorates of (Alexandria - Cairo - Beni Suef - Minya - Aswan). The workshops covered various topics such as (qualitative justice - stereotyping and mental images - teamwork skills - participation)).
- 16 workshops were held for (200) participants to build capacity on the concepts of conflict analysis, crisis forecasting, risk management, mediation, and negotiation, in addition to the skills of designing and implementing local initiatives that serve their communities to support the values of tolerance, peace, coexistence, and working on social cohesion, in the governorates of (Alexandria, Cairo, Minya and Asyut).

38. The Organization's Dialogue Ambassadors Program continued to prepare leaders from the ages of 18 to 25 to serve as ambassadors for dialogue within their local communities. In this context, the following was implemented:

- Preparation of a printed guide on the use of sports and art as creative mechanisms suitable for young people to promote the values of citizenship.
- A camp for (90) young people from 11 governorates to implement and test the guide that was prepared, while discussing the values it includes and how to apply them, monitoring problems and how to address them with soft power, and creating experimental models for initiatives and artistic outputs in visual, audio, and handmade forms.

39. The Organization's advocacy and lobbying program continued to embrace the issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and Countering hate speech. In this context, the following was implemented:

- An expanded conference was held titled "Together towards the Future: Participation and Action", with the participation of (400) people including religious leaders, academics, media professionals, and representatives of civil society organizations. It addressed various topics, such as the challenges facing reading culture nowadays, positive participation in the society and the role of the citizen. The participants emphasized the importance of paying attention to strengthening the Egyptian identity, and emphasizing that citizens' positive participation is part of the nation's paramount issues, , and a key to a strong and sustainable society.
- A workshop on "Preparing codes of conduct that integrate the values of diversity and cultural pluralism", with the participation of (30) people from representatives of (4 civil society organizations from Assiut and Aswan Governorates - Aswan University - General Authority for Cultural Palaces). Representatives of these institutions prepared codes of conduct for their institutions that support the values of cultural diversity.

40. The efforts of the Organization's Local Development Unit contributed to building more robust and resilient communities to reduce poverty, improve the quality of life to the less fortunate, and achieve sustainable, just and inclusive development. Efforts included development efforts supporting building social peace, consolidating the values of citizenship and social cohesion, and promoting the principles of coexistence between Muslims and Christians. In this context, comprehensive packages of developmental interventions have been directed to all segments of society, focusing on the less fortunate and those who are in vulnerable situations, without discrimination based on religion or gender. These efforts contribute to supporting positive relationship between Muslims and Christians, reducing gaps and differences between social classes, and promoting values and of coexistence. This was achieved through partnership with many state institutions, civil society organizations, local community, and religious leaders, as well as the private sector and many other institutions such as the national councils, many universities, research centers, and media.

41. The unit implemented the "Citizenship Initiative", which aims to enhance the values and practices of citizenship and respect for religious and cultural diversity within (7) communities El-Minya governorate to create an enabling environment that supports peaceful coexistence, and sustainable development. This environment would be created by implementing a package of developmental, cultural and economic interventions in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

42. His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Egypt emphasized the necessity of confronting the repeated; abuses that incite hatred, spread discord, and reflect the hateful manifestations of Islamophobia. Moreover, these repeated incidents harm the feelings of Muslims around the world, and contributing to widening the gap between different civilizations and cultures. These abuses spread hatred among different peoples and followers of religions. His Eminence called for issuing an international law that criminalizes insulting prophets, religions, sanctities, and religious symbols, in order to preserve public peace worldwide. This statements followed f the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran by a group of extremists in a number of European Countries.
43. His Eminence the Grand Mufti participated in the celebration held by the National Media Authority on the occasion of the conclusion of the training of a number of imams on media skills, where His Eminence emphasized the importance of increasing awareness among young people, by refuting destructive ideas and beliefs on one hand, and providing correct and constructive awareness in the face of non-constructive awareness on the other hand.
44. The Salam Center for Extremism Studies, affiliated with Dar Al-Ifta, organized a workshop titled "Hate Speech and its Impact on International Peace and Security". Participants pointed out that the widespread online hate speech can lead to increased prejudice, violence among individuals, and normalizing unacceptable behavior in general, which lead to a dangerous slope that threatens the world. Participants emphasized the need to activate efforts to dismantle and confront this speech, support the values of tolerance and human fraternity, and set clear and specific standards to confront extremist and hate speech that are applied to various electronic platforms, and the importance of creating and developing the legal system that addresses hate speech and increasing its punishment in various countries of the world.
45. The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs deployed (213) advocacy convoys within the framework of its role in spreading moderate narratives, and in light of establishing the principles of coexistence and confronting incorrect ideas. In this context, (9) joint convoys were sent in cooperation with Al-Azhar and Dar Al-Ifta to the Rafah and Sheikh Zuwayd regions. In the North Sinai Endowments Directorate; and (57) joint convoys in cooperation with Al-Azhar in the directorates of: (Cairo, North Sinai, Giza, El-Minya, Alexandria, South Sinai, Assiut, Sohag, Luxor, Red Sea, Qalyubia, Dakahlia, Sharqia, Qena, Kafr Sheikh, Beheira, Menoufia, Beni Suef, Matrouh). The Ministry deployed (118) weekly convoys in all regional directorates, and (16) convoys to remote areas in the directorates of (Red Sea - Matrouh - Beheira - New Valley - Aswan - Beheira), and (13) convoys of female preachers in the districts of (Fayoum, Dakahlia, Minya, Qalyubia, Cairo, Giza, Aswan, and Ismailia) in (17) mosques.
46. The Ministry of Endowments continued to implement various activities, which address some issues related to religious freedom, consolidating the principles of coexistence, and confronting false narratives. These activities included the following:
  - (446) cultural weeks in Greater Cairo and the regional directorates, which included; the universality of the prophet Muhammad's message, the implications of technology addiction for children, the ethics of dealing with cyberspace, the danger of online false information and means to confront them.
  - (4396) recitation sessions and scientific seminars throughout the country and among the topics that were covered were the following; raising awareness, national belonging, the jurisprudence of priorities and examples of its applications in our daily lives.

- (1483) fatwa councils and fatwa seminars for Al-Azhar University professors, fatwa secretaries at Dar Al-Ifta, and distinguished imams, throughout the country, and among the topics that were discussed were the following; provisions and ethics of dealing with cyberspace, the status of the fatwa and its conditions, the negative implications of receiving a fatwa from an unauthorized person, and protection of public affairs and public interest.
- (702) fatwa councils for female preachers throughout the country.
- (27,225) methodological classes, including (25,000) methodological classes for imams in (1,000) mosques across the country, and (2,243) methodological classes for female preachers in (89) mosques across the country.
- The summer program for children in (23,000) mosques nationwide, with the total of (828,000) meetings in mosques, and (162,876) total educational programs.

47. The Ministry of Endowments held a number of training and educational programs for imams and female preachers in the field of religious freedom, which were as follows:

- The fourth session of the Islamic Broadcasting Union with (15) participants at the International Endowments Academy.
- The fifth session of the Islamic Broadcasting Union with (24) at the International Endowments Academy.
- Graduation of the seventh batch of integrated courses at the International Endowments Academy, numbering (52) imams and female preachers, bringing the number of integrated courses to (7) courses with (530) imams and female preachers.
- The joint session in cooperation with Al-Azhar and the Dar Al-Ifta for (30) imams, female preachers and fatwa secretaries from the Ministry of Endowments, Al-Azhar and Dar Al-Ifta.
- A course on preserving human heritage at the Library of Alexandria for (30) imams, female preachers, and fatwa secretaries from the Religious Endowments, Al-Azhar, and Dar Al-Ifta.
- A course for developing media skills for imams and female preachers in cooperation with the National Media Authority for (30) imams, female preachers, and fatwa secretaries from the Ministry of Endowments, Al-Azhar, and Dar Al-Ifta.
- A course to develop media skills for female preachers in cooperation with the National Media Authority for (30) female preachers and fatwa researchers from the Ministry of Endowments, Al-Azhar, and Dar Al-Ifta.
- Intellectual pioneers course for female preachers for (30) female preachers and fatwa researchers from the Ministry of Endowments, Al-Azhar, and Dar Al-Ifta.
- The advanced training course for the first batch of new imams (Sheikh Al-Shaarawi batch) at the College of Egyptian Reserve officers, numbering (248) contracted imams.
- (40) training courses on citizenship rights in the regional endowments directorates, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population, for (2,000) imams, male and female preachers, administrators, and workers, bringing the total number of these courses from the beginning of the activity to (200) courses for (11,538) imams, male and female preachers, administrators, and workers.

48. The Ministry of Endowments also cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education in implementing a course for (150) male and female

teachers that teach subject of religious education at schools. Moreover, they held (5884) meetings within the joint educational program between the two ministries. As both ministries also launched the fifth cultural research competition for educational leaders, teachers, administrators, parents, and students of different educational levels, for the academic year 2023/2024, with prizes worth (128) thousand pounds. The competition addressed the following topics: (Cultural dialogue is a bridge for communication among civilizations in light of the book "Cultural Dialogue between the East and West"), (good morals are the base of a successful person and a healthy society in the light of the book "Makarem Al Akhlaq" (High Morals)), (morals are the balance of a Muslim's life in the light of the book "Our Ethics"), (societal security is the base of sustainable development in the light of the book "Societal Security"),

49. The Ministry of Endowments also implemented the following activities in El-Minya governorate, within the framework of the executive plan to promote the values and practices of citizenship, and religious freedom:

- Conducting children's educational program activities in (141) mosques, where distinguished imams and female preachers taught children religious education,
- Implementing convoys in the governorate by delivering the Friday sermon and a class after prayer. These convoys are carried out by distinguished imams in EL-Minya, at a rate of (755) convoys per month.
- Delivering weekly methodological classes in (18 mosques) in number of, led by distinguished imams from the Ministry of Endowments.
- Delivering religious classes during the weekdays in number of villages, at a rate of (4224) classes per month.
- Implementing the fixed pulpit weekly in (6) mosques in the villages of interest, carried out by an imam from the Ministry of Endowments and a preacher (could it be Shiekh) from Al-Azhar. The topics that are addressed aim to instill the values of peaceful coexistence, confront extremist thought, and spread enlightened moderate way of thinking , including: (preserving one's country is at the core of the purposes of religions and protecting one' country and means to develop it).

50. Many Friday sermons addresses issues related to freedom of religions, including highlighting the importance of awareness, the true meaning of defending one's country, land and honor, the right to life based on religious principles and international conventions.

51. The Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs participated in the conference organized by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services titled "Towards Societal Peace... Religion and the Message of Peace", where he affirmed that the message of all heavenly religions is peace, tolerance and love. Moreover, The Minister emphasized that Egyptian civilization, culture and history, hold tolerance and peace morals within.

52. The Ministry held more than one seminar in cooperation with the National Media Authority, which addressed some topics related to religious freedom, including: (from the lessons of the Prophet's Hijra (migration)... building states and the factors of their stability, being good to one's country and the principles of faith, and the threat of false information and falsifying awareness). In addition, more than one seminar was held in cooperation with "Aqidati" (My Faith) magazine, which addressed some topics related to freedom of religious.

53. The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs of the Ministry of Endowments organized its thirty-fourth international conference titled: "Cyberspace and modern means of religious discourse... between rational use and deviation from the norm" where participants emphasized the necessity of launching a national project to develop

proper and rational digital content in the field of religious discourse with durable contemporary vision that takes into account modern developments, and combats the irrational use of cyberspace in the field of religious discourse. This is achieved by presenting accurate religious discourse that establishes the foundations of tolerance and the jurisprudence of coexistence, and refutes extremism with argument and proof.

54. The Ministry of Youth and Sports organized the Cultural Salon for Egyptian Youth and Family, in cooperation with Dar Al-Ifta and Al-Azhar Institutes, targeting (10,000) young people, youth, and families, with the aim of raising awareness on matters of religion, simplifying religious concepts, clarifying how to use online forums, supporting a culture of dialogue, and accepting the other, as well as respecting different religions, introducing human rights and the limits of freedoms, in addition to introducing how to deal with fatwas of unknown origin and clarifying the authority of Dar Al-Ifta and Jurisprudence as reference.
55. "Arwaq Al-Azhar Corridor" (Al-Azhar's Corridors) meetings were also organized in all youth centers in all governorates in cooperation with Al-Azhar, targeting (54,000) young men and women, with the aim of spreading the spirit of loyalty, belonging and peace among young people, spreading the proper understanding of tolerance notion of Islam in accordance with Al-Azhar's moderate approach and distancing one's self from misconceptions, Moreover they tackled the questions that might arise in the minds of young people in that regard.
56. The Ministry of Youth and Sports launched "Who Are We" initiative for ancient Egyptian civilization in a number of youth centers in all governorates, to promote values and freedoms, in cooperation with the Yaro Foundation for Egyptian Civilization, , targeting (5,000) young people. "A Country that Unites Us" initiative was also launched under the slogan "Love and Peace" in cooperation with Al-Azhar. The initiative is being implemented in its first edition in El -Minya by targeting (44) villages in the governorate with the aim of educating young people to counter rumors, convey correct concepts, and distance themselves from false and destructive ideas that harm the country. In addition, the initiative aims to spread the values of tolerance, cooperation and harmony among all sectors of society, through a series of lectures and awareness meetings with young people, members of youth centers and university students from the targeted villages in the governorate. The initiative also aims to raise awareness of (5,000) young men and women from the villages of the governorate to prepare them to be ambassadors for the initiative in El-Minya to transfer the positive messages they have learned to the villages where they live.
57. The Ministry also implemented the sixth edition of the National Initiative for Religious and Moral Awareness under the slogan "Our Values from Our Heritage", with the aim of instilling values and morals, correcting false religious concepts, and balancing beliefs, worship, morals, and interactions among young people aged from 12 to 18 years throughout the country. The Ministry also implemented "Awareness... Life" initiative, in cooperation with Al-Azhar Global Center for Electronic Fatwa, in the governorates of (Qena, Menoufia, Port Said, Assiut, Red Sea, and Dakahlia). The initiative included seminars and awareness-raising meetings in which members of Al-Azhar Global Center for Electronic Fatwa addressed a number of issues of proper awareness about certain ideas, such as patriotism and citizenship, supporting the system of moral values and raising correct family awareness, in addition to counter negative phenomena in society,, and countering destructive ideas. The third edition of the "Youth Vision" program was also launched in cooperation with Al-Azhar Observatory for Countering Extremism and the theological colleges affiliated with the Coptic Church, with the participation of students from Egyptian universities. The program aims to build the conscious of the Egyptian character to confront the negative phenomena that have occurred in the Egyptian society and are incompatible with

the Egyptian culture. The program includes implementing sessions and workshops with universities' students, to listen to the opinions and ideas of young people, and to engage in dialogue with lecturers and specialists on topics related to extremism and how to protect young people from falling into the trap of extremism and adopting extremist ideas.

58. The Minister of Social Solidarity launched the "Wa'ai (Awareness) Observatory for Community Development", which aims to create a national database that monitors the social trends and behaviors of families, by applying a questionnaire form to families benefiting from the conditional cash support program "Takaful and Karama", whose number reached 5.3 million families, with an average of 22 million individuals. This aims to monitor the social, economic and behavioral conditions in terms of knowledge, trends and practices within those targeted families. These conditions are measured through a large number of indicators that are monitored at a base point, then determining the current level of indicators, then re-measuring successive times at different later stages of time after the interventions, awareness campaigns and community dialogues implemented by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Then, measurement shall be conducted regarding the extent of improvement and development in those indicators in order to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions or change them if necessary to reach the optimal levels of these indicators during a specific period of time. The Observatory develops indicators to measure families' attitudes toward accepting religious diversity, community integration, and social and political participation, with the aim of developing the Ministry's interventions and programs related to the subject. In the same context, the Ministry began implementing an integrated training program for social pioneers in all governorates on all observatory topics, which include 14 topics, and one of these topics is in regard to promoting the values of citizenship and respect for religious and social diversity. The first phase of the training program is currently being implemented, targeting (3,500) leaders in 15 governorates, with the aim of delivering awareness raising messages to families in need of care during home visits, and to the public in meetings and public awareness campaigns.
59. The initiative to integrate Islamic and Christian social and religious messages in the field of social awareness and development, which was launched by the Ministry of Social Solidarity in March 2022 with the participation of all Islamic and Christian religious institutions, aims to form Islamic and Christian religious cadres capable of communicating and influencing the public with integrated scientific and social awareness messages; to address challenges and negative social phenomena and confront extremist and deviant thought in all its religious and social forms. Within the initiative's framework, the following activities were implemented:
- A training course titled "Developing Awareness for Decent Life and Development" in which young Islamic and Christian religious scholars and female Islamic jurisprudence researchers from (10) governorates participated, representing all Islamic and Christian institutions in Egypt.
  - Formulating community awareness messages (social, scientific, religious, Islamic and Christian) in an integrated manner to respond to negative societal ideas and trends, and to promote positive values for sustainable development and respect diversity.
  - Enhancing the capabilities of (250) Islamic and Christian religious scholars and female Islamic jurisprudence researchers in the field of communication and dialogue with different societal groups with integrated social, religious and development "awareness" messages.
  - Deepening understanding and common relations between Islamic and Christian clerics, and discovering common Islamic and Christian religious

values that support family protection and human development in all fields and reject negative and extremist societal ideas and practices.

- Preparing (34) short videos for Islamic and Christian religious scholars on “awareness” topics, and dialogues between religious scholars and community leaders about the public’s social questions, then publishing them on social media.
- Preparing “Selections from Dar Al-Iftaa’s Fatwas to Support Community Awareness” book which includes all fatwas related to “awareness” topics.

60. Within the framework of the program to promote the values and practices of citizenship in 44 villages in ElMinya governorate, the Ministry of Social Solidarity implemented the following:

- Empowering and supporting (39,555) families in need of care from all social and religious backgrounds through means of social protection and development. Social protection and development activities varied and included material assistance to less fortunate families and orphans, enhancing the housing standard for 15 homes (water connections and roofs), environmental activities (afforestation), health awareness campaigns and medical aid (20 events), school aid for students, and economic empowerment and projects for women (30 events). These interventions are carried out through the departments affiliated with the Directorate of Social Solidarity in all the centers of El-Minya governorate, in cooperation and partnership with all government departments in the ministries of (Religious Endowments, Youth and Sports, Education and Technical Education, and Health and Population), partner and grassroots civil society organizations (100 grassroots organizations), community committees, and youth volunteers from all Social and religious backgrounds.
- Raising awareness and building knowledge among (3,354) citizens from all social and religious backgrounds about the values of citizenship and respect diversity, by integrating them into different social, developmental and cultural joint work spaces, and building knowledge and changing trends in the topics of the “Awareness for Community Development” program; through public seminars and conducting meetings for raising awareness, which contribute to breaking negative stereotypes.
- Preparing three short films to raise awareness of the values of citizenship and national belonging and rejecting all forms of extremism through the civil society organizations collaborating with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (Life Makers Foundation - Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services - Good News Association). The films address the following topics: Respecting the values of diversity and difference against all forms of extremism, eliminating the phenomena of bullying, and developing the sense of national belonging through preparing a film about the heroes of the October 1973 War in some of the villages of El-Minya participating in the program.

61. The Ministry of Social Solidarity increased the number of social pioneers from (2,000) to 15,000 social pioneers, and focused on targeting villages, especially the villages that are part of the Presidential initiative “Decent Life”, as each pioneer is responsible for (200) families, with a total of 3 million families. The pioneers raise families’ awareness with the aim of promoting positive values and countering wrong practices and beliefs. Families are also referred through the pioneers to the services necessary for them, which are provided by the Ministry, non-governmental organizations, or other State institutions.

62. The Ministry conducted two national research studies on the phenomenon of extremism in all its religious and social forms. The first is titled “Examining the

Cost of Extremism and Terrorism in Egypt over Three Decades”, and the second is titled “The Impact of Government and Civil Interventions in the Program to Promote Citizenship Values and Practices in Villages in El-Minya Governorate”. These two studies resulted in practical strategies to confront the phenomenon of extremism at all social, cultural and economic levels. The results of the first research show that extremism and terrorism are multi-dimensional issues (economic, social, cultural and political) and that physical terrorism begins with intellectual violence and extremism, then expands into all aspects of the State and society. Poverty in its various dimensions and social marginalization provide an incubating environment that encourages extremism and terrorism, but they alone do not produce extremism and terrorism. There are crucial forces that play a role in including individuals who suffer from poverty and any kind of marginalization into extremist and terrorist groups, and exploiting the negative psychological and family circumstances of some people to integrate them into terrorist groups. Despite the huge economic cost of physical terrorism on the State’s resources and economic growth, the political and social cost was more severe and had a deeper impact in disrupting the development of the State, and in threatening societal cohesion and national integration, with an invaluable cost.

63. As for the second research study, based on the recommendations of the Supreme Committee for Confronting Sectarianism, the Cabinet assigned the Ministry of Social Solidarity to conduct research in 44 villages in El-Minya governorate, with the aim of identifying the lessons learned from the program and drawing future strategies for the Government and civil society pertaining to promoting the values of citizenship, national belonging and rejection of all forms of social, religious and cultural extremism. The Ministry of Social Solidarity commissioned the National Center for Social and Criminological Research to conduct the evaluation research, and appointed a multidisciplinary research team (social - political - statistical - legal) from the Center’s professors. All field research in El-Minya governorate has been completed, and a draft of the final evaluation report has been prepared, which will be released during January 2024.
64. The National Center for Child Culture organized a workshop titled “Know Your Right”, which provides a simplified explanation to children about children’s rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates equality and non-discrimination based on religion, sex, etc. The Center also held a seminar titled “In Loving the Country” in cooperation with the Ministry Religious Endowments addressing many topics, including: the concept of citizenship apart from religious affiliation, freedom of dialogue, expression of opinion, acceptance of others, tolerance, children and building values, arts and effective communication, confidence and self-building, poetry and love of the country, and the importance of communication between parents and children to build the child’s personality. This was carried out with the participation of imams from the Ministry of Endowments, and creative writers. The Center also organized visits to historical sites, including the Mugamma’ al-Adyan (Interfaith Complex) in Old Cairo, through the “Awareness... Know Your History” program to develop archaeological awareness among children and enhance national belonging.
65. The Supreme Council of Culture held a seminar titled “Culture and the Uprising of Consciousness”, and also issued books titled “Egypt’s Identity... Dimensions and Transformations”.
66. The Ministry of Education and Technical Education continued its efforts in promoting religious freedom. The teaching technique of the developed educational curricula was completed, aiming to focus on developing the learner’s personality, creativity and innovation skills, while instilling the principles of critical thinking, especially among kindergarten children and primary school students studying the new educational system. The Ministry began work on developing the preparatory education stage within the new educational system Education 2.0,

after completing the development of the primary education stage, and implementing the new evaluation system based on measuring understanding and comprehension, instead of memorization; in a way that reflects positively on the student's personality. The human rights units in the educational administrations and directorates continued their work with the aim of promoting human rights in general and spreading the culture of non-discrimination between individuals, especially on the basis of gender and religion. The Ministry supported the activities of the friends group of the Egyptian Family House as school activity groups, to enhance participation between Muslim and Christian students in various artistic and social activities.

67. Before the beginning of the current academic year, the Ministry reviewed books for various academic subjects before issuing their printing orders to ensure their scientific integrity and that they are free of any expressions that incite violence or may be misunderstood from a religious or social standpoint. The annual review of the school curricula this year resulted in ensuring that they include what promotes religious freedom, regarding its issues, concepts, skills, and applications, directly or implicitly. It was also ensured that the school curricula are free of any tendencies that call for extremism and the exclusion of others on a religious basis, as well as that they are free from any indication that may harm the unity and cohesion of society, or harm the relationship between citizens, regardless of their beliefs and orientations.
68. The curriculum for the third year of secondary school included an entire chapter on "Islam and Acceptance of Others", which contains a detailed treatment of how Islam respects the cultures and beliefs of others and coexists well with them. The Arabic language book for the same class also includes a lesson titled "Jerusalem is an Arab Islamic City", in which it mentions the "Covenant of Omar" with which Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab guaranteed for the people of Aelia (Jerusalem) security for themselves and their properties, and for their churches and crosses, so that their churches shall not be inhabited, demolished, and guaranteed their right to freedom of religion, and that none of them are harmed. The teaching of the subject "Values and Respect for Others" was expanded to include grades from the first to the sixth of primary school, and a teacher's guide was prepared and uploaded to the Ministry's website, and published on the schools' websites to guide teachers on how to teach the subject in a way that achieves its goal.
69. The academic subjects, especially the Human Sciences (Islamic and Christian religious education/Arabic language/citizenship education/social studies/philosophy), focus on the concepts of: citizenship, human fraternity, tolerance, freedom of belief, acceptance of difference, celebration of diversity, joint action, and education for peace. It also includes the Holy Prophet's position on the Christians of Najran and his call for Muslims to respect their practice of their rituals, as well as the "Medina Document", known as the "Medina Constitution", which aimed to regulate the relationship between all sects and groups of the city, most notably the Muhajireen (immigrants), Ansar (people originally living there), Jewish factions, and others, and to guarantee the freedom of all sects to practice their rituals, and the freedom to build their churches and synagogues.
70. The Ministry is currently preparing frameworks and matrices for developing the preparatory stage curricula of the new educational system "Education 2.0", both for the Arabic language and religious education (Islamic and Christian). This represents a reflection of what the school curricula will look like. The Ministry aims to prepare a good, tolerant citizen who loves one's self and others, taking into account the diversity of the Egyptian society. In addition, the new curricula aim to instill the values of accepting others and coexistence, which support the cause of religious freedom, respecting the privacy of others, respecting their right to practice their religious rituals, using wisdom and good advice in dialogue with

others, and staying away from violence and extremism; while respecting the culture of difference, in accordance with national and international educational values and standards.

71. The Ministry held a number of events pertaining religious freedom, including the following:

- Friends of the Egyptian Family House Competition nationwide, to promote joint activities between Muslim and Christian students, aiming to consolidate the citizenship and non-discrimination.
- The fifth season of the two religious competitions (Islamic-Christian), which are conducted by the Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Endowments and the Egyptian Church, target teachers and students from the different educational levels: (primary - preparatory - general/technical secondary), as well as parents, educational leaders in educational directorates, and administrators throughout the country. This is carried out within the framework of the State's plan to build the healthy personality of the Egyptian citizen, enhance proper religious awareness and expose the falsehood of destructive ideas targeting Egypt's youth.
- (3041) awareness meetings for school students in various governorates, as some of the imams of the Ministry of Endowments visited some schools and delivered speeches about raising national awareness and building an effective national personality that enjoys the values of loyalty and national belonging to one's country, along with the importance of positive behavior and rationalism. Activities also included: Seminars for students on the following topics: the values of loyalty and national belonging, responding to the country's needs; all as a base for building a strong state and a cohesive society; in addition to respecting human rights, accepting others, and rejecting extremism as a base for consolidating effective citizenship in the New Republic.
- A training course for (150) Islamic religious education teachers at Al Nour Mosque in Cairo, as well as three training courses for (540) Christian religious education teachers at the Conference Center of the Virgin's House in Shorouk City, as part of the efforts undertaken by the Ministry to enable teachers to confront extremist ideas, correct concepts and instill positive values.
- A training course for primary school teachers (especially sixth grade teachers) and principals and deputies of primary schools on teaching a curriculum of values and respect for others with the aim of spreading positive values among students and school staff.

72. At the level of university education, a number of universities organized activities aimed at disseminating the values and principles advocated by religions, raising awareness of the controls of religious freedom and the values of tolerance and acceptance of others, and refuting extremist and false ideas about religion, as Zagazig University organized a Holy Quran competition and a competition to discover talents in religious singing among university students to develop and hone their skills, and to instill the love of the Holy Qur'an, its sanctification and glorification, and love of the Prophet. More than one seminar was held in this context, including "Islam is the religion of tolerance and moderation" to introduce university's students to the tolerance of Islam, and its validity for every place and time; "The Concept of Freedom in Islam" to introduce university's students to the concept of freedom in Islam and that it is a human necessity; "consolidating the tolerant Islamic principles and acceptance of others; The importance of the values of tolerance in Islam and the values of accepting others. Foundations and Standards" to teach the meaning of religious freedom and the foundations and

standards set by Islam; and “The Birth of Guidance and the Light of the Message” to teach the biography of Prophet Muhammad and to refer to the Sunnah of the Prophet and call for the caring, preserving, and abiding by it.

73. Tanta University participated in the University Youth Week held at Helwan University in the field of religious chanting, the Holy Quran, and the Forty Hadiths of Imam Nawawi, where university students presented religious research on the book “Al-Din Al-Moamala” (religion is in the treatment of others).
74. Menoufia University held a seminar titled “Challenges facing Egyptian families in the event of the existence of religious extremism among their members” which aimed to educate students about intellectual security, establish the rules of coexistence between Muslims and others, spread religious awakening, protect young people from falling into extremism, and counter extremism and intellectual deviation through family cohesion.
75. Sadat City University organized more than one seminar titled “Intellectual deviations in the Western media and how to confront them”, “Religion and contemporary youth issues”, “The modern Egyptian State...achievements and challenges”. The University also organized the events of International Day for Tolerance.
76. Suez Canal University, in cooperation with Al-Azhar Observatory, organized a seminar for a number of university students with the aim of educating them and protecting them against extremist ideas, correcting misconceptions, and refuting false narratives spread by terrorist organizations through their publications on the Internet and social media pages.
77. Benha University held an awareness raising seminar titled “Countering Intellectual Extremism”. The seminar addressed several topics, including intellectual, behavioral and moral extremism, its causes and manifestations, the significant reasons that lead to intellectual extremism, and how to counter it.
78. Sohag University organized the educational seminar titled “Moderation in Religious Discourse and Countering Incorrect Ideas”, which aimed to educate young people about the importance of moderation in religious discourse, and motivate them to think more rationally and logically, in addition to achieving intellectual and social balance and stability.
79. The National Council for Women continued to launch new phases of the door-knocking campaign titled “My Country is a Responsibility” throughout the country reaching a total to 11,703,856 citizens (eleven million seven hundred and three thousand eight hundred and fifty six), since its launch in May 2023 until October 2023. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the positive role of citizens in spreading proper information and refusing to hear or spread false rumors, as well as explaining the role of major national projects in improving the quality of life.
80. The Council also continued to implement the activities of the project “Addressing the Economic Drivers of Illegal Migration” in the governorates of (Luxor, Gharbia, Beheira, ElMinya, and Beheira). The project includes economic interventions such as vocational training courses, financial education, and entrepreneurship, to help female breadwinners improve the economic conditions of their families. In parallel, awareness-raising activities about the danger of illegal migration are being implemented targeting all family members, including women, men and children, from which (638) participants benefited through children’s storytelling circles. Awareness raising activities include discussions about the dangers and motives of illegal migration and instilling positive values and citizenship among participants.
81. The Library of Alexandria organized a seminar titled “Culture and the Building of the human: The Spirit of Tolerance, a lecture on Coptic influences in Islamic art until the fourteenth century AD, and a seminar titled “Religion is Life”. The 16<sup>th</sup> Samaa International Festival for Spiritual Music and Chanting was also organized.

82. The Library received several visitors aiming to learn about its efforts in promoting religious freedom, and among these visits: a delegation of the imams of the Ministry of Endowments, who are media and online advocacy officials in some directorates, numbering (50 individuals and 5 supervisors); Dr. Reverend Basilius Sobhi, priest of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Zeitoun, Cairo and teacher at the Clerical College, along with three companions, to the Coptic Studies Center in the library; a delegation of high school students from the Church of Christ in Sidi Bishr, on an educational tour, and their number is (20 students); a delegation of female students from Al-Azhar from various countries, who are registered for the Kuwaiti Zakat House scholarship, and their number is ( 50 students), in addition to 5 supervisors; Father Farid Kamal Gabriel, Director of the Franciscan School in Fayoum, along with 56 professors and students of the Coptic Studies Center in the Library; a high-level delegation of nuns consisting of the Superior General of the International Missionaries of Charity, and the Regional President of International Missionaries of Charity in the Middle East, the Director of St. Joseph School in Alexandria; a delegation from Ibn Khaldoun University in Algeria, consisting of Professor Obaid Dawoud, professor of medieval history at the university, Professor Dawoud Bou Ghafalah, professor of modern history at the university, and Professor Maasho Jilani, professor of sociology at the university; and Father Don Roberto Rossi, a priest from the Vatican, accompanied by: Father Antonios Ghattas, Deputy General of the Coptic Catholic Patriarchate in Alexandria, and Father Daniel, Priest of the Coptic Eparchy in Assiut.

### **Third: Egyptian Efforts in the International Arena in Promoting a Culture of Peace and Religious Freedoms:**

83. His Eminence, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, participated in the international meeting for peace held in Germany, where his Eminence emphasized that the peace of the world is closely linked to the peace of peoples, and that the logic that determines that the whole shall not be safe unless the part is safe.
84. The delegation of Al-Azhar and the World Association for Al-Azhar Graduates participated in a workshop titled “The Role of Al-Azhar Graduates in Refuting Extremist Ideology and Countering Terrorism”, which was organized by the Association’s branch in Libya, where the participants emphasized the importance of developing an action strategy through which the intellectual and pivotal issues in countering extremist ideas are identified.
85. Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism also participated in a number of events, most notably: the International Visitor Program organized by the US State Department titled “Combating Extremism”, and a meeting titled “The Role of Women in Building Community Peace”, which was organized by the Global Counterterrorism Forum, headed by Egypt and the European Union.
86. His Eminence Grand Mufti of the Republic of Egypt participated in a conference titled “Framing Freedoms According to Islamic Values and International Law” in Morocco, and “Building Bridges between East and West” Forum, which was held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. His Eminence stated at these events that one of the prominent challenges currently facing humanity is the issue of preserving the cultural identities and particularities that govern many societies, which do not reject progress or development, but seek to preserve identity, so that human society does not lose that cultural diversity that makes it more coexistent and balanced in addressing pluralism and difference; emphasizing the necessity of working to understand the origins and heritage roots from which various cultures emerge, which are assets that represent the heritage and history of nations, from which they cannot be separated. They represent integral parts of societies’ intellectual, social and behavioral

component, because true progress and development can only arise within societies that have their own historical and civilizational values, which they derive from their heritage roots that shape their consciousness. His Eminence emphasized that humanity needs to build cognitive and cultural bridges. These bridges are the ones that maximize human commons in order to achieve benefit and goodness for all of humanity, regardless of differences in race, color, religion, or way of thinking. These bridges are also to respect intellectual and ideological particularities, and support the values of security, peace, and coexistence. The Grand Mufti added that correcting the cognitive model, especially in aspect of public human relations, is the biggest factor in building these bridges between all of humanity. His Eminence emphasized that Islam laid down rules and foundations for coexistence with others in all circumstances, times and places, so that Muslims become in harmony and integration with the world in which they live, ensuring their interaction and communication with others, and that there is a need to focus on the commonalities between religions and for followers of different religions to consciously realize these commonalities and stick to them.

87. The Minister of Foreign Affairs jointly chaired with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which represents an important forum within the multilateral framework for exchanging experiences and best practices in the field of countering terrorism and extremism. During his speech, the Minister emphasized the need for concerted international efforts to confront contemporary terrorist risks and uproot them, as well as to devise new methods of confrontation that keep pace with the successive developments witnessed in the methods of operation of these organizations in parallel with drying up the sources of their funding, to prevent the harm of more innocent victims and stop the waves of displacement, and ensuring the enjoyment of human rights guaranteed by international conventions.
88. The International Dialogue Program of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services held the eighth international conference within the activities of the Arab-European dialogue titled "Religion and Civil Society" in partnership with the Swedish Sigtuna Foundation, in which 50 thinkers, academics, parliamentarians and civil society activists from 15 Arab and European countries participated, namely (Egypt - Saudi Arabia - Iraq - Germany - France - Jordan - Morocco - Russia - Greece - Austria - UAE - Tunisia - Poland - Sweden - Denmark). The conference included many activities that highlighted the role that Egypt plays in issues such as coexistence, pluralism and Islamic-Christian relations. Field visits were also held, including a visit to the Egyptian Ministry of Endowments, in addition to a meeting with the Minister of Endowments to highlight the national role of Islamic and Christian religious institutions and the relations between them.
89. The Organization, in cooperation with civil society organizations and American churches, also organized the "Egyptian-American Dialogue," where an Egyptian delegation that included a number of representatives of civil society organizations and religious institutions participated in this dialogue. The delegation held meetings with representatives of the United Nations, officials of the US State Department, members of the US Congress, a number of heads of American churches, Ambassador Rashad Hussein, US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and representatives of the United States Institute of Peace. The delegation presented the achievements that have occurred in the field of religious freedom during the past ten years, especially at the level of citizenship, nondiscrimination, and countering hate speech. The delegation also emphasized the importance of the role of religions in bringing viewpoints closer together instead of being a cause of rivalry, and that the dialogue of civilizations and religions is currently considered extremely important to confront the phenomenon of Islamophobia. The officials whom the Egyptian

delegation met praised the achievements achieved in Egypt regarding religious freedom.)

#### **Fourth: Legislative and Judicial Developments:**

90. The Ministry of Justice completed the draft of the new personal status law for Muslims and Christians, and for the first time in Egypt there is a personal status law for Christians, which includes the differences of all sects without conflict, as the opinions of all Christian sects were taken into consideration and their needs were met in developing the law, thanks to the cooperation of the Pope and the religious leaders of the various Christian denominations with the Ministry of Justice to issue a law agreed upon by all. The draft law consists of approximately 143 articles divided into chapters regarding engagement, the pillars and conditions of marriage, impediments to marriage, procedures for contracting marriage, invalidation of the contract, the rights and duties of the spouses, expenses, parental authority, custody, and proving the lineage of children and inheritance. The various Christian sects agreed on specific and common constants in the draft law, but in cases of disagreement, the differences of each sect were mentioned independently to adhere to its rules and preserve its particularities. The draft personal status law for Muslims was also completed in a sophisticated and modern way that addresses problems related to visitation, marital residence, guardianship, and alimony, through a specialized committee consisting of a judge and members specialized in family rulings who were able to develop objective and advanced provisions consistent with the principles of religion, and through a consulting group from the specializations of psychiatry, sociology, finance, and clergy who relies on science as long as religion does not have a fixed and explicit provision in this regard, provided that there is a societal dialogue about these provisions, with the possibility of amending, adding, or deleting an article, to be agreed upon by the overwhelming majority of all citizens, without discrimination on the basis of faith, enjoying similar legal status.

#### **Fifth: Communication with Egyptians Abroad:**

91. The Minister of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs participated in the World Conference of Cyprus Diaspora, where Her Excellency praised the fraternal, popular and cultural ties and many commonalities throughout history between Egypt and Cyprus, and that the tripartite cooperation between Egypt, Cyprus and Greece with the Presidential initiative "Reviving Roots" was the result of the good relations between the three peoples. On the sidelines of the visit, she met with the papal representative of Cyprus, and the meeting discussed the church's efforts to support and assist Egyptian workers, facilitate their lives in Cyprus, and stand with them to facilitate any challenges in permanent and continuous cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy in Cyprus to overcome any obstacles.
92. The Minister of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs met with Pope Theodoros II, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, within the framework of reviving the popular celebration of foreign communities that were living in Egypt and strengthening Egyptian-Armenian relations through the Presidential initiative "Reviving Roots". Her Excellency affirmed that the Egyptian State is committed to meet the descendants of the communities that lived in Egypt; the country that embraced them as part of its identity and distinct component, and provided them with all services, just like Egyptian citizens.
93. An open dialogue was organized by the Egyptian community in Brazil and Mexico with the Minister of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs within the initiative (An Hour with the Minister). This comes within the framework of the

Ministry's commitment to continuously communicate with Egyptian communities abroad to learn about their needs, suggestions and demands, aiming to preserve the Egyptian identity.

94. The Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs organized a conference to commemorate International Arabic Language Day, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO, where the Minister Emigration affirmed that, out of belief in the importance of the role of the Arabic language in shaping the conscience of future generations, and out of the Egyptian State's commitment to deepen loyalty and national belonging among the children of Egyptians abroad, the Ministry of Emigration launched the Presidential initiative "Speak in Arabic", under the auspices of the President. It aims to confront the war of erasing the identity of Egyptians abroad from the second, third, fourth and fifth generations. The initiative also aims to consolidate the national belonging within Egyptians abroad, in addition to promoting the values of peaceful coexistence, citizenship and acceptance of others.
  95. The Ministry also participated in the initiative launched by Al-Azhar's Islamic Research Academy to reduce the phenomenon of illegal migration, titled "Man Ahiaha" (Whoever saves a life), within the framework of the Ministry's commitment to coordinate with all parties within the activities of the Presidential initiative "Survival Boats". The initiative aims to educate young people about the dangers of illegal migration, in the governorates and villages originating from which this phenomenon originates, through 3,000 male and female preachers present throughout the country within universities and government institutions, to reach the segments targeted by this initiative, and to employ important online platforms of Al-Azhar to spread awareness of the dangers of illegal migration.
  96. The Coptic Orthodox Church launched the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the "Youth of Europe" conference under the title "The Mission of the Youth of Europe", at the Monastery of Virgin Mary and Saint Maurice in Höxter in Germany, with the participation of nearly 400 Coptic youth, 15 ecclesiastical bishops, and more than 100 priests from Churches of Europe. The conference aimed to connect European youth with their Egyptian roots and with the mother church in Egypt. It also highlighted youth awareness of the challenges of life in Europe and the necessity of adhering to religious values and morals in Western societies.
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