

*„Strong tolerance generates respect.“*



#### *Differences Here and Now*

*Monotheistic belief responds positively to God's devotion though it remains an enigma. The Believer knows that he depends on God's compassion, and from it his faith derives the strength required to treat one's fellowman with respect, respect for all people, not just those with whom we share a common religious tradition.*

#### *Belief in the one God releases energy*

*The positive energy of a common belief prevents religion from becoming a vehicle for destructive and aggressive forces. Rather, the positive effects of belief produce respect and tolerance.*

#### *A new way of dealing with differences*

*The first and most obvious reaction to difference is the attempt to remove it - if necessary by force. Whoever is convinced that his religion is the one true religion may be tempted to take this path with the result that his religion then becomes a source of discord and violence. The suggestion of an alternative path may be well-meaning but is possibly ineffective. An appeal to put all differences aside and concentrate on what both share in common may appeal to a noble-minded minority, but it will not suffice for the majority who take their religion very seriously. Pactum Africanum uses a third approach for generating strong tolerance and thereby creating mutual respect among the three Abrahamic religions. Being realists, we are nonetheless fully aware, that differences between the three religions will continue to exist. However, it is possible to reduce their sting; and this is where non-violence comes into play, not as an outcome but as the starting-point for all dialogue. And dialogue is what enables a peaceful accord to arise. Our Pact encourages respect and creates room for encounters between our respective natural selves.*

#### **PACTUM AFRICANUM**

The Alliance for the Promotion of the  
Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa

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# PACTUM AFRICANUM

The Alliance for the Promotion  
of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa

*We have incorporated  
into our logo  
Judaism's Star of David,  
Christianity's Cross and  
Islam's Crescent Moon.*

## Africa, the continent of hope

Africa, the continent of hope, needs peace, not weapons. People who are religious find it particularly painful when religion is misused to justify violence. Judaism, Christianity and Islam embrace peace; yet time and again armed conflicts arise. This is where we want to put forward the concept of unwavering tolerance. In Ethiopia, Jews Christians and Muslims have lived together as good neighbours for centuries. This proves that peaceful coexistence and cooperation is possible in Africa where people are infused with the truth of their own religion.

## Everything will depend on them and their unwavering tolerance!

Accepting diversity is the key to religious peace. Devotion to God, the true act of faith, links the believer with all other believers – and this is the point we are making. The believer leaves the divergences to God's wisdom and therein lies his strength. This is what we mean when we call for strong tolerance.

## Unwavering tolerance needs a form.

True believers will therefore be united by a solemn promise – correspondent to the African mentality – to enter into an Abrahamic pact. Accordingly, the

## PACTUM AFRICANUM,

literally a 'sworn' fellowship united by a vow that spans all religions, has been created.

Even if you are not sure about how religious or irreligious you are, there is every reason for you to support Pactum Africanum, the hope for peace for Africa. You can do that by looking up further information on [www.....](http://www.pactum-africanum.org) and by becoming a member in the foundation 'Pactum Africanum Union for the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa e.V.'

It goes without saying that, as a non-profit organisation, we will provide you with a receipt for your donation.

## Our aims:

- The fostering of religion
- advancement of the interreligious dialogue on all levels
- promotion of the sciences, particularly theology and ethics, that explore and support the framework conditions for the peaceful coexistence of Jews, Christians and Muslims
- establishment of 'Houses of Believers' for meetings between the three Abrahamic religions
- organisation of reciprocal hospitality and visits to religious institutions
- promotion of cross-fertilisation of information
- making use of, in particular, of new media resources.
- mediation and intervention in religious conflicts
- accreditation as 'NGO' by the 'African Union'
- Annual Award of the Abrahamic Peace Diamond.

## Our specific project:



A first 'House of Believers' (HoB) is being built in Ethiopia. In it, interested individuals will be able to discover what the other religion is all about. Objective information will help to rectify distorted views. This is where Pactum Africanum will help build basic trust and understanding through human encounter. The 'House of Believers' will provide a meeting place for

- disseminators from the different ethnic groups and religious communities
- education delegates, teachers from universities, colleges and schools
- young people interested in philosophical, religious and sociopolitical questions, at informative events and seminars