

JESUITS RESIDENCE

298, Port-Saïd street

Cleopatra

21618 Alexandrie – Egypt

Tel. : (203)521 48 77 & 521 50 93

Mobil: 2 012 274 204 16

رهبانية الآباء اليسوعيين

٢٩٨ شارع بور سعيد

كليوباترا

٢١٦١٨ الإسكندرية – مصر

ت: ٥٢١ ٥٠ ٩٣ & ٥٢١ ٤٨ ٧٧ (٢٠٣)

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Archbishop Nicolas Thévenin
Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt
Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See
Cairo, Egypt

Your Excellency,

We would highly appreciate if you can recommend the work of Cornelis Hulsman, director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT), to Missio-Aachen.

We first came to know Cornelis Hulsman when he was a student in Egypt in 1982. He studied development sociology and was deeply interested in the development projects of the church. We introduced him to the work of our center in Minia. Cornelis Hulsman returned to Egypt in 1994 and worked in 1995-1996 with Fr. Dr. Christiaan van Nispen tot Sevenaer s.j. on a report on Christian girls converting to Islam which, the report demonstrates, was to a large extent related to girls trying to escape poverty and often related domestic violence. The report also noted how misreporting contributed to church leaders being insufficiently aware of the motives of conversions. This formed the basis for the establishment of the Religious News Service from the Arab-World which later changed its name into Arab-West Report. Fr. Christiaan van Nispen introduced Cornelis Hulsman to Missio which resulted in Hulsman presenting the work of Arab-West Report in a 2004 Missio campaign for dialogue with Muslims called "Dare to meet the other." The Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation was formed in 2005 and Missio has been supporting this ever since. Fr. Van Nispen was actively involved as a board member until he was repatriated for health reasons to the Netherlands in 2010.

Hulsman's work resulted in a database of some 55.000 articles and reports that are highly relevant for a better understanding of Muslim-Christian relations. Around this database a student internship and training project developed. Some of these students have participated in our work at the Jesuit Cultural Center in Alexandria. His student activities also resulted in the formation of a learning center for refugee students in Egypt. This center is unique since it provides secondary school level refugee children with education that prepares them for the IGCSE British exam. No other learning center is doing so in Egypt.

The Jesuit Cultural Center has had the pleasure to receive 20 of his refugee students with one of their teachers in October 2019.

We believe his work is extremely valuable and deserves your support.

Yours in Christ,

Father Jan Bronsveld s.j

Superior of the Jesuit community in Alexandria

Jan Bronsveld



Alexandria,
August 17, 2020