



Sister Anna Maria Sgaramella, a Comboni sister originally from Italy, has been living in the Middle East – specifically in Arabic countries – since 1998. Her journey has taken her to Dubai, Egypt, and she has been in Jerusalem for the second time since 2013.

Throughout her ministry, Sister Anna Maria has focused on educational and theological aspects. She has been deeply involved in creating intercultural educational pathways among local populations and migrants. Additionally, her theological background has enabled her to facilitate interfaith encounters among Muslims, Christians, and Jews, as well as ecumenical dialogues among Christians of various denominations. She has also dedicated herself to advocating for the rights of ethnic minorities and marginalized groups.

Since 2020, Sister Anna Maria has been teaching Theology at the Studium Theologicum Salesianum and the Studium Theologicum Jerosulimitanum (Franciscan Institute). Her areas of instruction include Pedagogy, Psychology, Theology of Religion and Missiology, Spiritual Theology, Islam, Judaism, Sacramental Theology, and Theology of Consecrated Life. Additionally, she is actively involved in youth ministry and missionary animation for Church leaders in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, contributing to the formation of the younger generation.

In the past, Sister Anna Maria has served as the Educational Coordinator for Sudanese Refugee Schools in Cairo, overseeing institutions such as St. Ch. Lwanga School and St. Joseph and Bakita School. She has also held positions as an Intercultural Coordinator for educational programs in Sudanese Schools and Comboni Family Schools in Egypt, as well as teaching roles at the Franciscan College in Bethlehem and St. Mary's Catholic School in Dubai.

Her past experiences and contributions reflect a dedicated commitment to education and service in diverse cultural and religious contexts.

Zoughbi Alzoughbi is the founder and director of the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, known as "[Wi'am](#)," which translates to "cordial relationships" in Arabic. Wi'am center specializes in mediation, training, and counseling aimed at resolving community disputes through nonviolence and transformation. Among its initiatives are a trauma-coping program for children, leadership training for women and youth, advocacy efforts, peer mediation, citizen diplomacy, and nonviolence education programs.

"The Israeli occupation has led to a significant deterioration in political, economic, environmental, and social structures," remarked Zoughbi, who established the center in 1994. "Nevertheless, amidst this decline, I find great joy in addressing the needs of the people."

Zoughbi is renowned as a speaker and nonviolence educator, advocating for justice and human rights. His work as a facilitator and trainer has taken him to various countries, including South Sudan, Costa Rica, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Tunisia, several African countries, Europe, Canada, and the United States. He has authored and edited numerous books, believing in multi-track diplomacy and dialogue to bridge cultural and religious divides.

Embodying the principles of nonviolence and restorative justice, Zoughbi has been active since the age of 13. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the 2010 Peacebuilding Award in the World Vision International Peace Prize competition for successfully blending traditional Palestinian mediation customs with innovative conflict analysis models to address the challenges faced by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Zoughbi is also set to receive the Carnall Peace Award on September 20th.

Additionally, Zoughbi was honored with an award from the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (IPPNW) in 1993. He has served as a city council member in Bethlehem and is actively involved in organizations such as the Mennonite Central Committee in Jerusalem, the World Council of Churches, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (of which he is president), the Middle East Facilitators Forum, the Arab Partnership for Conflict Prevention, and the Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

Shadin Nassar is a Palestinian Christian human rights advocate with a BA degree in International Law and human rights, and an MA degree in diplomacy and international law. Shadin has continuously worked with local and international NGOs on intersectional advocacy projects in different contexts promoting human rights, good governance, and social inclusion with a focus on women and youth participation in decision-making. Shadin grew up on a family farm, the Tent of Nations, now surrounded by five Israel settlements. The Tent of Nations is an educational and ecological farm employing sustainable development strategies and non-violence in the face of adversities.

Father Gabriel Romanelli reached Gaza following his missionary vocation. A native of Buenos Aires, he entered the novitiate of the Institute of the Incarnate Word at the age of 18. His superiors asked him to go to the Middle East as a seminarian.

After his priestly ordination and two years spent in Egypt to learn Arabic, his first destination was Jordan. Then Archbishop Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, asked him to go as formator to the patriarchal Seminary of Beit Jala, where he taught philosophical subjects in Arabic and French for 14 years. He arrived in Gaza in 2019 as the new parish priest of the Church of the Holy Family.

H.B. Michel Sabbah, a Palestinian Catholic prelate, served as the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem from 1987 to 2008. Ordained in June 1955, he initially served as a parish priest before studying Arabic language and literature at the University of St. Joseph in Beirut. He later directed schools for the Latin Patriarchate until 1967, then taught Arabic and Islamic studies

in Djibouti until 1973. Sabbah pursued doctoral studies in Arabic philology at the Sorbonne before becoming President of Bethlehem University in 1980.

Appointed by Pope John Paul II, Sabbah became the first native Palestinian to hold the office of Latin Patriarch in centuries. He also served as the International President of Pax Christi International from 1999 to 2007, promoting peace. Sabbah resigned as Patriarch in 2008 upon reaching the retirement age of 75. He later served as the Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Sabbah has been active in advocating for peace and justice, including co-launching the Kairos Palestine Document against Israeli occupation in 2009.

Yuval Rahamim was 8 years old when he lost his father, on the second day of the Six Day War. For years he believed that when he'd grow up, he'd avenge his father's death, but it never came to pass. In time Yuval recognized that revenge won't soothe his soul, rather reconciliation and the end of the conflict and the bloodshed.

Yuval is Co-General Director of PCFF with Osama Abu-Ayash. He joined the Forum in 2010 and throughout the years took part and hosted many of the dialogue programs and meetings between Israeli and Palestinians. He also served as the Israeli chairman of the executive committee.

In recent years Yuval has also served as chairman of the [Israeli Peace NGO Forum](#).

Marian Pallister is a writer who has worked in areas of conflict and disaster around the world. She believes those experiences led her to work for peace and justice, volunteering with the Scottish Catholic Bishops Justice & Peace Commission & SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund). She was part of the team which initiated [Pax Christi Scotland](#) as a member of the Pax Christi International family, and is the organisation's chair.

Teresia Wamuyu Wachira was elected co-president of Pax Christi International in 2019. She is a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), commonly known as the Loreto Sisters. She did her M.A. in Applied Theology, Peace and Justice Studies, and her Ph.D. on experiences of violence in schools in Kenya. She has been a teacher and principal in Loreto schools in Kenya, specialising in the education of young women and training them for peacemaking and reconciliation work.

Wamuyu is currently a Lecturer and Programme Leader in Peace and Conflict Studies at St. Paul's University in Nairobi. Wamuyu is a member of the advisory committee for the IBVM-UN Desk, New York. She is coordinator of the Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Eastern Africa Province and a member of the Board for Abundant Life Centre, started with the aim to train and advocate against Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya.

Bishop Marc Stenger was elected co-president of Pax Christi International in 2019. He was the Bishop of Troyes, France since 1999 until his retirement at the end of 2020. He is a former member of the Commission for the Universal Mission of the Church and served on the Commission for Pastoral Workers in the French Church.

Bishop Stenger focuses on the promotion of a culture of nonviolence and peace, contributes actively to the debate and provides guidance on the path required to move from a culture of violence to a culture of peace. He has spoken out for the situation of Christians in Iraq, for the respect of the human rights situation in Colombia and other countries in Latin America, and is outspoken on issues related to the environmental crisis facing the planet.

Caesar D'Mello, having lived in India, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia, has worked to promote justice, peace and integrity of Creation. He helped re-establish the Federation of the Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC)'s Radio Veritas Asia in the context of the 70s and 80s. As Education Officer at the Australian CCJP he focused on Aboriginal injustice and peace education. He directed Christian World Service, the National Council of Churches in Australia's international aid and development agency. He was the Columban Mission Centre's Director of Programmes, and Director of the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism exposing tourism's negative impact in the Third World, while supporting 'Pilgrimage for Transformation' to the Holy Land. He has links with the WCC, Asia Pacific churches and groups, including ICAN and Religions for Peace. He is a member of Pax Christi Australia, the facilitation team of Pax Christi Asia Pacific, and the Pax Christi International Israel Palestine Working Group.

A Licentiate in Philosophy, a Bachelor's in Economics and Politics and a Master's in Communication help his work greatly. Given the state of contemporary geopolitics with a militarising Asia Pacific playing a key role, he is committed to Pax Christi's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. He believes special attention must be paid to youth, and to better collaboration, wherever possible, between the Catholic, ecumenical, interfaith worlds and civil society.