THE VALUES THAT BIND US
POLICIES FOR SHARED VALUES:
BUILDING TOLERANT SOCIETIES
A Bussola Institute Forum focusing on the shared values that cut across different religious, political and social contexts. The forum is dedicated to looking at different approaches and policies across the world that helped build more open and tolerant societies and to addressing the increasing polarisation that may lead to radicalisation and violence.
## Agenda

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<td>10.00 – 10.30</td>
<td>Registration - tea/coffee</td>
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| 10:30 - 10:50   | **Welcome Remarks:** Mr. John Dennehy, Secretary General, Bussola Institute  
| (20 min)        | **Opening Remarks:** H.E. Dr. Mary McAleese, Former President of Ireland and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute  |
|                 | (5 mins)                                                            |
|                 | (15 mins)                                                           |

### Session 1: “The Challenge of Increasingly Polarised Societies”

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| 10:50-11:50     | **Keynote Speech:** “The Challenge of Increasingly Polarised Societies”  
| (1 hour)        | **Keynote Speaker:** H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, Government of the United Arab Emirates  |
|                 | (20 mins)                                                            |
|                 | Discussion with: H.E. Dr. Mary McAleese.                             |
| 11:50-13:00     | Lunch                                                                 |
| (1:10 hour)     |                                                                      |

### Session 2: “Combating Polarisation – Challenges and Opportunities”

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| 13:00-14:45     | **Presentations:**  
| (1 hr 45 mins)  | H.E. Mufti Dr. Aziz ef. Hasanović, President of Meshihat of Islamic Community in Croatia  
|                 | “Experience in Croatia”  
|                 | H.E. Dr. Hoda Al-Helaissi, Member of the Shoura Council, “Experience in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”  
|                 | (15 mins)                                                            |
|                 | Ms. Maureen Hetherington, “Experience in Northern Ireland”  
|                 | (15 mins)                                                            |
|                 | H.E. Major General Ahmad Khalfan Al Mansoori, General Secretary for the Mohammed Bin Rashid Award for Tolerance  
|                 | (15 mins)                                                            |
|                 | Moderated Discussion  
|                 | (45 mins)                                                            |
|                 | **Moderator:** Very Reverend Maria Jansson, Church of Ireland Dean of Waterford  
| 14:45-15:15     | Coffee                                                                |
| (30 mins)       |                                                                      |
Session 3: “Building More Tolerant Societies”

15:15-16:45 (1 hr 30 mins)

Panel Discussion:
H.E. Ms. Jadranka Kosor,
Former Prime Minister of Croatia and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute

H.E. Dr. Noora Al Shamlan,
Assistant Professor Criminal Law and Criminal Procedures and Vice President of “We are United for Peace”, Bahrain

Mr. Joël Rubinfeld,
President, Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism

Mr. Dirk Van Gerven, Lawyer

Moderated Discussion

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Anna Diamantopoulou,
Former Minister and EU Commissioner and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute

Next Steps: Policies for Tolerance and Preventing Violent Radicalisation

16:45-17:00 (15 mins)

Speaker: H.E. Français Fillon, Former Prime Minister of France and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute

Reception/Cultural Event

17:00

Musician: Ms. Jean Kelly, distinguished Harpist, playing a programme of music from different faith traditions and in conversation with Forum invitees and guests

Interval Discussion with H.E. Zaki Nuseibeh, “Cultural Diversity: The Differences that Bind Us”

Buffet Supper
Mr. John Dennehy

Secretary General, Bussola Institute

Mr John Dennehy was Secretary General of Ireland’s Ministry of Education and Skills from 1999 to 2007. Mr Dennehy initially qualified as a Primary Teacher and then went on to study for a BA in Education and an M.Sc in Educational Management. He also completed the Leadership for the 21st Century Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Harvard. Before his appointment as Secretary General, Mr Dennehy held many key, senior positions within the Ministry. He served as Assistant Secretary General with special responsibility for European and International Affairs, Assistant Chief Inspector of Schools, prior to which he was a teacher and a School Principal. Mr Dennehy led Ireland’s Education Presidency of the European Union in 2004. From 1999 to 2006, Mr Dennehy was Chairman of the Education Committee of the OECD (Paris). He served as Director of International Development Ireland’s (IDI) Educational Services Division from 2007 until 2012. During this period he worked as an education and public policy advisor with Ministers and Ministries in many countries across the Middle East. From 2012 until 2016 he worked with the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) as Senior Advisor to the Director General and Head of the Office of Planning and Strategic Affairs (OPSA).

H.E. Dr. Mary McAleese

Former President of Ireland and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute

H.E. Dr Mary McAleese served as the eighth President of Ireland for fourteen years, from 1997 to 2011. Mary McAleese graduated in Law from Queen’s University Belfast in 1973 and was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1974. In 1975, she was appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College Dublin and in 1987, she returned to her Alma Mater, Queen’s University, Belfast to become Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. In 1994, she became the first ever female Pro-Vice Chancellor of Queen’s University Belfast. Prior to becoming President of Ireland, she also worked as a political and current affairs broadcaster and expert commentator with Ireland’s National Radio and Television Networks. In 1997, she was nominated by Ireland’s largest political party to run as a candidate in the Presidential Election and was subsequently elected. At the end of her first seven-year term as President, she was re-elected, unopposed, as the Irish President, for a second term. Since her second Presidential term ended in 2011, former President McAleese has travelled extensively promoting peace and tolerance. She has participated in many significant international events and has served as Visiting Professor at Boston College, USA, Notre Dame University, USA and St Mary’s University, Twickenham, London. She is a member of the World Council of Women Leaders and has recently been awarded a Doctorate in Canon Law.
**H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh**

**Minister of State, Government of the United Arab Emirates**

Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh is an Emirati minister of state in the United Arab Emirates government. Prior to his current role, he served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation at the Foreign Ministry and as the Cultural Advisor at the UAE Presidential Court. He has been active in UAE government service since 1968. Born in Jerusalem, Nusseibeh graduated from Queens’ College, University of Cambridge with a master’s degree in economics. He began his career as a journalist in 1967 while also working for the newly established Government of Abu Dhabi Civil Service Department. He then became director of information first in Abu Dhabi and, after 1971, the UAE Ministry of Information and Tourism. In this capacity he edited the first English newspaper to be published by the Abu Dhabi Government and participated in establishing its first Arabic newspaper. He also worked as a broadcaster and program producer, and helped in developing Abu Dhabi’s broadcasting and media services. In 1975, Nusseibeh became the director of the press office for then UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and subsequently an advisor to Sheikh Zayed while continuing his role as the president’s personal interpreter. [a role he continues to serve in]. He was actively involved during that period in the preparation of official state visits and in the formulation of government briefs. Nusseibeh has served on several public and private bodies dealing with the development of cultural and educational strategies in Abu Dhabi. He was Deputy Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority from 2006 until the authority was incorporated into the new Abu Dhabi Authority for Tourism and Culture in 2012, at which time he became a member of the board on the new authority 2012-2018, which contributed to the development of some of Abu Dhabi’s major cultural and art initiatives. He is also a member on several Boards including the Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi that he helped establish in 2006, and the Board of Trustees for Abu Dhabi University.

**H.E. Mufti Dr. Aziz ef. Hasanović**

**President of Meshitah of Islamic Community in Croatia “Experience in Croatia”**

Dr Aziz ef. Hasanović is currently the Director of Center of Halal Quality Certification in Croatia and of the Mehisat of the Islamic Community in Croatia. He was the Head Imam of this community in Zagreb until 2005. He has taken part in several international conferences held in Amman, Teheran, Vienna or Istanbul. He also participates frequently in round table discussions on a variety of topics of religious, cultural, social, educational and humanitarian character in Croatia, Austria, Slovakia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Member of the Shoura Council, “Experience in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”

Hoda Al-Helaissi grew up and was educated in Rome, London and the US. She went to French schools and received a Bachelor’s Degree from Queen Mary College, University of London, UK and a Master’s Degree from CSU in the US. Her background is French and English language and literature. In 1990, she joined the College of Languages and Translation at King Saud University as Lecturer in both the French and English departments and was vice-chairperson from 1999 to 2012. She has been working with the Bureau of Experts’ Translation Division at the Council of Ministers from 1999 till the present time and was Member of the Scientific Council between 2012 and 2014. Since February 2011, she has been member of the board of directors of l’Alliance Française Arabie Saoudite. In January 2013, she was appointed Member of the Saudi Shura Council as one of the first 30 women to serve at the Shura Council for a 4 year-term and was re-appointed in December 2016, for a second term. Since joining the Shura Council, she has been member of the Foreign Affairs committee and between 2014 and 2017 was the committee’s deputy chairperson. Since October 2014, she has been member of the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union) and represents Arab Women. In 2009, she received the Palme Académique and in 2014, “Les Insignes d’officier dans l’ordre national du mérite” from the French Government. In 2011, she was awarded the Merit of Distinction Award for Excellence for Best Department Chairperson from King Saud University. In 2014, she was nominated “Personality of the Year” by the French Government and in February 2017, awarded the Rawabi Prize by the Saudi-British Association for helping improve Saudi-British relations. Throughout, she has been member of various academic and other committees and has presented both locally and internationally.

Ms. Maureen Hetherington

“Experience in Northern Ireland”

Maureen Hetherington has worked in community relations in Derry, Northern Ireland, for more than 25 years. She has spoken on peace-building in other areas of the world, including the Balkans, the Middle East, South Africa, Cyprus, USA, Canada and Norway. She has an M.A. in Humanities and has been working in the field of community relations in a full-time capacity for many years. She was responsible for the Community Relations Programme for Derry City Council for ten years. Mrs Hetherington is the coordinator of The Junction, a centre based at Bishop Street in Derry to support all those engaged in building community relations. She helped created the ‘Towards Understanding and Healing Project’ which enables people to ‘share their stories in safe spaces’. She has also been involved in the project to achieve ‘City of Sanctuary’ status for Derry/Londonderry. She has been instrumental in developing pathways to peace and reconciliation in her home city from her days as community relations officer of Derry City Council.
H.E. Major General Ahmad Khalfan Al Mansoori

General Secretary for the Mohammed Bin Rashid Award for Tolerance

H.E. Major General Ahmad Khalfan Al Mansoori works as the General Secretary for the Mohammed Bin Rashid Award for Tolerance. He was the General Secretary of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for World Peace (MRAWP).

He led various government institutions and establishments before joining the MRAWP prize. He extended his service to the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Islamic Culture and Heritage, Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department. He worked closely with the Dubai Police in the rank of Major General from where he was appointed to lead to various government organizations. He holds a bachelor degree in law.

Very Reverend Maria Jansson

Church of Ireland Dean of Waterford

Dean Maria Jansson is of Swedish and Irish background and has been involved for 25 years in religious education at school level, adult religious education, community leadership training, teacher training and in-service training. She has been a lecturer in religious education in a Dublin teacher training college, now part of Dublin City University and in the NUI Dublin. Dean Maria was ordained an Anglican priest 2001 and was installed as Dean of Waterford in 2011. She has worked in Irish local and national radio and served as director, chair or Trustee of a number of NGOs, the Wexford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre, educational sponsorship charities, community employment schemes and an independent living complex for aged people in Waterford. Dean Maria was involved in the establishment of “City of Sanctuary” in Waterford. She is also a contributor to theological journals, co-editor of educational programmes for parishes and is deeply committed to the urgent need for inter-faith education and dialogue.
H.E. Ms. Jadranka Kosor

Former Prime Minister of Croatia and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute

HE Jadranka Kosorserved as the 9th Prime Minister Croatia from 2009 to 2011. Jadranka Kosor began her career working as a journalist, following her graduation from the Faculty of Law of The University of Zagreb. During the Croatian War of Independence she hosted a radio show dealing with refugee problems and disabled war veterans. She also worked briefly as a correspondent for the BBC during this time. She joined the centre-right Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) in 1989 and quickly climbed up the party hierarchy. In 1995 she was elected party vice-president and was elected to serve in Parliament for the first time. From 2003 until 2009 she served as the Minister of Family, Veterans Affairs and Inter-generational Solidarity during which time she also served as Deputy Prime Minister. She became Prime Minister of Croatia in July 2009 and served until December 2011. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.

H.E. Dr. Noora Al Shamlan

Assistant Professor Criminal Law and Criminal Procedures and Vice President of “We are United for Peace”, Bahrain

Dr. Noora AlShamlan is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure and Vice-Chairman of AlBayarq AlBaydha Society “We Are All United for Peace.” She Earned her Doctor of Juridical Science from Indiana University Maurer School of Law in the US in 2012. She was the Director of the Quality Assurance and Academic Accreditation of the College of Law for five years. She is the first faculty member of the College of Law who has completed the PCAP in 2014 with an Action Research titled “How Group Work Could Help to Overcome Political Differences and Create a Healthy Environment for Learning.” She has Co-developed the Civic Education Curriculum of the Human Rights Legal Clinic, and she was in charge of coaching the UoB teams that participated in the moot courts regionally and internationally. She participated as a speaker and a participant in several national and international conferences such as the Externships 9: Coming of Age that was held in the University of Georgia School of Law. She has several articles published in the field of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. Besides, she is a member in several different societies and committees and is one of the elite experts to combat human trafficking crimes in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the approval of the UNOCD.
Mr. Joël Rubinfeld

**President, Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism**

Joel Rubinfeld was born in Brussels in 1968. He graduated in Communication and Marketing at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes Commerciales. In 2003, he was one of the co-founders of the Atlantis Institute, a liberal think tank based in Brussels, bringing together French-speaking European intellectuals from a variety of backgrounds. In 2007, he was elected to the presidency of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations of Belgium (CCOJB), the umbrella institution of the Jewish organizations of Belgium, and in 2009, was elected Vice-President of the European Jewish Congress. In 2012, he is one of the 5 elected Belgians among the 120 members of the European Jewish Parliament (EJP). In January 2014, he was one of the co-founders of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism (LBCA), a body under Belgian law whose object is the fight against anti-Semitism in all its forms. He is President of LBCA.

Mr. Dirk Van Gerven

**Lawyer**

Dirk Van Gerven has extensive experience in all areas of corporate and financial law. He regularly assists larger companies with reorganisations, acquisitions and other transactions and advises listed companies on a wide range of financial and corporate issues. Dirk received his law degree from the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) in 1985. He joined NautaDutilh as a partner in 1999 and was appointed managing partner of NautaDutilh’s Brussels office in 2018. Dirk is admitted to both the Brussels and New York bars. He has served as president of the Dutch-speaking chapter of the Brussels bar and is currently Vice-President of CEPANI (the Belgian arbitration institute). Since July 2003, Dirk has sat on the supervisory board of the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA), which he currently presides. He is a member of the American Bar Association as well as of the International Bar Association and the New York Bar Association. Dirk is on the editorial board of TRV, a leading Belgian corporate law review. He publishes frequently on selected topics in the fields of corporate and financial law. His numerous publications have resulted in invitations to address both national and international meetings. He is the author of several treatises, on Associations (2004), Foundations (2004), Legal entities (2007) and Companies (2016). He also wrote a book on gender equality in professional life.
H.E. Ms. Anna Diamantopoulou

**Former Minister and EU Commissioner and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute**

H.E. Anna Diamantopoulou was European Commissioner for Employment Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities from 2004–1999. A civil engineer by training, Diamantopoulou’s political career began in 1984, when she was appointed as a Prefect of Kastoria. Two years later (1986), she was appointed as Secretary General for Adult Education and later for Youth. She was appointed President of the Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Handicraft (EOMMEX) in 1993 and left that position to become Secretary General for Industry. Anna Diamantopoulou’s parliamentary career began in 1996 when she was elected to represent the district of Korani. She was appointed as Deputy Minister for Development in charge of privatisation and industrial restructuring, a position she left in 1999 following her appointment as European Commissioner. In 2009 she returned to national politics and was re-elected as a Member of Parliament. She served as Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs from 2012-2009. She also served for a brief period in 2012 as Minister for Development, Competitiveness and Shipping. She is President of the DIKTI, the network for Reform in Greece and Europe and she continues to be very active in European Affairs.

H.E Francois Fillon

**Former Prime Minister of France and Member of the Honorary Advisory Board, Bussola Institute**

H.E. François Fillon served as Prime Minister of France from 2007 to 2012. François Fillon studied at the University of Maine in Le Mans where he received a Masters Degree in Public Law in 1997. He subsequently received a Masters of Advanced Studies in Public Law from Paris Descartes University. He become a member of the National Assembly for Sarthe in 1981 and served a Mayor of Sable-sur-Sarthe for 18 years. He worked his way up through the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) party and held a number of key ministerial roles, including: Minister of Higher Education and Research; Minister of Information Technologies and Posts; Minister responsible for Posts, Telecommunications and Space; Minister of Social Affairs, and Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research. When Nicolas Sarkozy become President of France in 2007, he appointed Mr Fillon as Prime Minister, charging him with the task of forming a new cabinet. Mr Fillon continued in that role until May 2012. Since his retirement from politics, Mr Fillon has participated in many significant events, conferences and seminars internationally. He has had several speaking engagements at a wide variety of universities, notably at the London School of Economics, speaking mainly on politics and education.
Distinguished Harpist, playing a programme of music from different faith traditions and in conversation with Forum invitees and guests

Jean Kelly hails from an Irish family of several generations of professional musicians. Jean has been based in London since 1996, when she won a scholarship to study concert harp at the Royal College of Music. A versatile and pioneering musician, Jean has an eclectic career spanning classical, contemporary and world music. Jean specializes in classical, folk, medieval and wire strung harps. She has played harp on several film scores including 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'We need to talk about Kevin', scored for solo harp by Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead.
The Bussola Institute is an independent and not-for-profit, non-governmental organization based in Brussels, underpinned by the philosophy of fostering and enhancing relations between countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU), particularly in relation to political, social, economic, security and cultural issues.

As a research institute and a think-and-do tank, Bussola Institute has very exciting and far-reaching plans for the future, as we endeavour to bring together the complementary skills, expertise and experience of an international team of outstanding researchers and scholars, who will undertake and disseminate collaborative, cutting-edge research that will foster innovation and creativity. This collaborative research will be strengthened and enhanced through developing strong, strategic partnerships with a wide community of counterpart institutes and academic institutions from across the world.

At the Bussola Institute we firmly believe in the importance of combining theory with practice and providing a real service to the community. The state-of-the-art findings and incisive insights of the Bussola Institute research team will be presented at our regular workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural activities and events to promote public debate, influence change and advance new thinking.

Under the direction and guidance of an extremely distinguished Honorary Advisory Board, comprised of world-class thinkers who have occupied some of the highest positions internationally, all engaged in the work of the Bussola Institute strive to improve our understanding of the issues affecting the GCC and the EU, with the aim of contributing positively to the ongoing debate and sharing of knowledge, to the benefit of all sections of society.