

Pope Francis: Document on Human Fraternity

The Holy Father has requested, via the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishops' Conference, that the attached document, signed jointly by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, be disseminated as widely as possible. The Pope and the Grand Imam want the Document to become the object of study and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of education and formation. The hope is that such an effort might contribute towards inspiring new generations to promote peace and the common good and, in particular, to defend the rights of the oppressed. (The attachment includes a copy of the Nuncio's letter.)

The document itself can most easily be accessed on the Vatican website, at the following link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2019/outside/documents/papa-francesco_20190204_documento-fratellanza-umana.html

The current title of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar was officially established in 1961, but has a longer history dating back to the 14th century. It is a prominent title and office within Sunni Islam in Egypt (sometimes also known as the Grand Sheikh). He is considered by some Muslims to be the highest authority in Sunni Islamic thought and Islamic jurisprudence and holds a great influence on followers of the theological Ash'ari and Maturidi traditions worldwide. The Grand Imam Heads the Al-Azhar Mosque, and by extension Al-Azhar University.