

Conference Declaration, House of Lords, 8th November 2018

Delivered by The Revd Nadim Nassar, Awareness Foundation Executive Director, at the House of Lords.

“The Awareness Foundation hosted an international conference on 7th and 8th November 2018, where Christian and Muslim leaders from the West and The Near East discussed topics including the role of Christians in peace-building and healing communities, the immediate existential threats that face people in the Near East, relationships between Christians and Muslims in the Near East, what Western Christians can do for the region and its Christians and finally, the role of business and media in building peace.

“We were thankful that the Middle East Council of Churches and its General Secretary had a significant presence at our conference and that further cooperation and strategic planning together will be pursued.

“Our action plan, drawn up at the end of the conference by all of those participating, falls into five categories:

MEDIA

- Offering teaching programmes and short films within our PAX media programme for Christian media in the Near East.

WOMEN

- Developing programmes to empower women, socially, economically and spiritually in the Near East.

YOUTH and CHILDREN

- Developing a youth exchange programme within the Near East and between the Near East and the West
- Developing a plan to support the development of education of young people across the Near East including Ambassadors for Peace, and Little Heroes

EDUCATION and SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Working with clergy, organisations and decision-makers to raise their awareness of the situation and the role of Near Eastern Christians
- Encourage Near Eastern Christian voices to be heard at both a national and local church level in the West through the Travelling Fellowship programme, delegations and our PAX Media programme.

REBUILDING

- Encourage sustainable Human Capital Development through building partnerships with providers and providing information and educational resources.”