



DIN STRATEGY FOR INTER- RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION & BELIEF (FORB)

THE DA'WAH INSTITUTE (DIN)

OUR OBJECTIVES

- *Addressing the assumed “religious constraints and inhibitions” to intra-religious dialogue and harmonious inter-religious relations.*
- *Addressing the obstacles to harmony building resulting from misconceptions, stereotypes, and specific interpretations of religious texts and contexts.*
- *Bridge building and better understanding of “the other”.*
- *Promoting Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) for all.*

DIN MODEL FOR FoRB INTERVENTION

ADDRESSING INTRA-FAITH BRIDGE-BURNERS (BB) AND RIGHT DENIERS (RD)



ADDRESSING INTERFAITH BRIDGE-BURNERS (BB) AND RIGHT DENIERS (RD)



AGENDA SETTING FOR FoRB THROUGH ADVOCACY



JOINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Peaceful and Just Societies Where All Enjoy Freedom of Religion and Belief

BUILDING BRIDGES...where they are needed



BRIDGE BUILDING BASICS

- **Solid Foundation:** Like a bridge, it is important to have a solid foundation built on both sides of the divide before engaging in an inter-religious action, i.e. intrafaith before interfaith.
 - *Deradicalizing individuals with extremist tendencies*
 - *Managing Misconceptions*
- **Know Your Terrain:**
 - *Wrong diagnosis = Wrong Prescription (Religion, Ethnic/Cultural, Minority, Indigene/Settler etc.)*

BRIDGE BUILDING BASICS

- **Experienced Engineers:** Facilitators' Expertise on both sides
- **Relevant Materials:** Quality and Suitability of Training Content
- **Maintenance:** Follow-up – Research – New/Improved Content.

KEY PILLARS OF THE BRIDGE



KEY PILLARS OF THE BRIDGE

- Adequate **Intra-religious** engagement **before** **Inter-religious** engagement, whether for training or advocacy.
- **Intrafaith:** Critical Thinking Tools of Islamic Jurisprudence (*Shari'ah* Intelligence) **before** Alternative Narratives
 - “*Shari'ah Intelligence*” is an introduction to the basic principles and objectives of Islamic Jurisprudence which helps to handle religious interpretations regarding bridge-burning interfaith concepts thus making participants more egalitarian, pluralistic and accommodating.
- **Interfaith:** Intellectual (theology) **before** Emotional (differences and grievances)

DIN STRATEGIC STEPS AND OUTREACH MODE

SURVEYS AND ANALYSIS

Identification of Extremist/Bridge-Burning Arguments and Narratives

Classification into IDEOLOGICAL THEMES



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Alternative Narratives

Counter Offers (Civic Engagement, Social Reform & Alternatives to Violence)



RELIGIOUS INTELLECTUALS (GATEKEEPERS): Academics, Imams, Scholars, Religious Leaders And Youth Leaders & Community Influencers (YLCI)

Training (ToT)

Step-Down Trainings (SDT)

Literature

Audio Resources (MP3)



"RECRUITMENT FIELD" (Students, Youth, Masses)

Literature

Radio

Social Media

Website

School Curriculum

Television

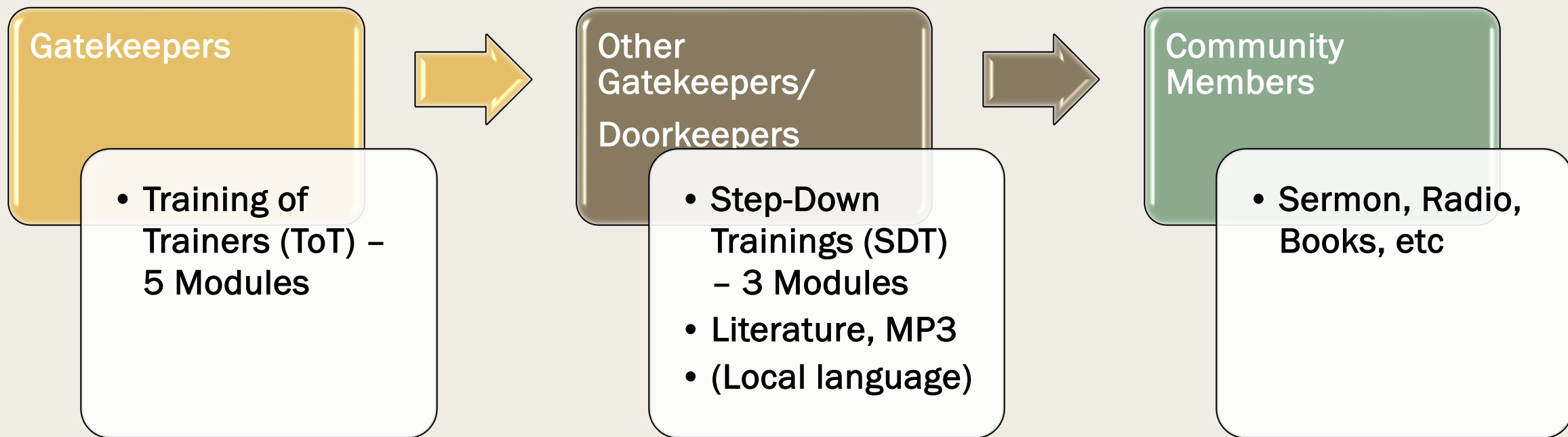
Libraries

Sermons

Talks



Peaceful and Just Societies Where All Enjoy Freedom of Religion and Belief



- Helps the gatekeepers to pre-empt criticism from their peers who could see them as being “compromised” and therefore discredit what they are doing
- Helps them to be recognized within the community as the go-to person for such issues
- Helps them to get more community buy-in through the ‘recruitment’ of more intellectuals
- Helps the doorkeepers retain their dignity within the community

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AGENDA SETTING FOR FoRB THROUGH ADVOCACY



JOINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Peaceful and Just Societies Where All Enjoy Freedom of Religion and Belief

Importance
of etiquettes
(Adab) –
non-
offensive or
defensive
approach

ADDRESSING INTRA-FAITH BRIDGE-BURNERS (BB) AND RIGHT DENIERS (RD)

**WITHIN RELIGIOUS “GATEKEEPERS” –
Imams, Activists, and Religious
Scholars**

**BUILDING FAITH – BASED
CRITICAL THINKING TOOLS**

**Demonstrate
application of each
10**

**REALITY CHECK THROUGH
SEERAH**

**COUNTER / ALTERNATIVE
NARRATIVES**

HOW?

WHY?

Not
“NEW”

Authoritative
& Factual

Simple &
Sticky

Present
Seerah Cases
of
Peacebuilding

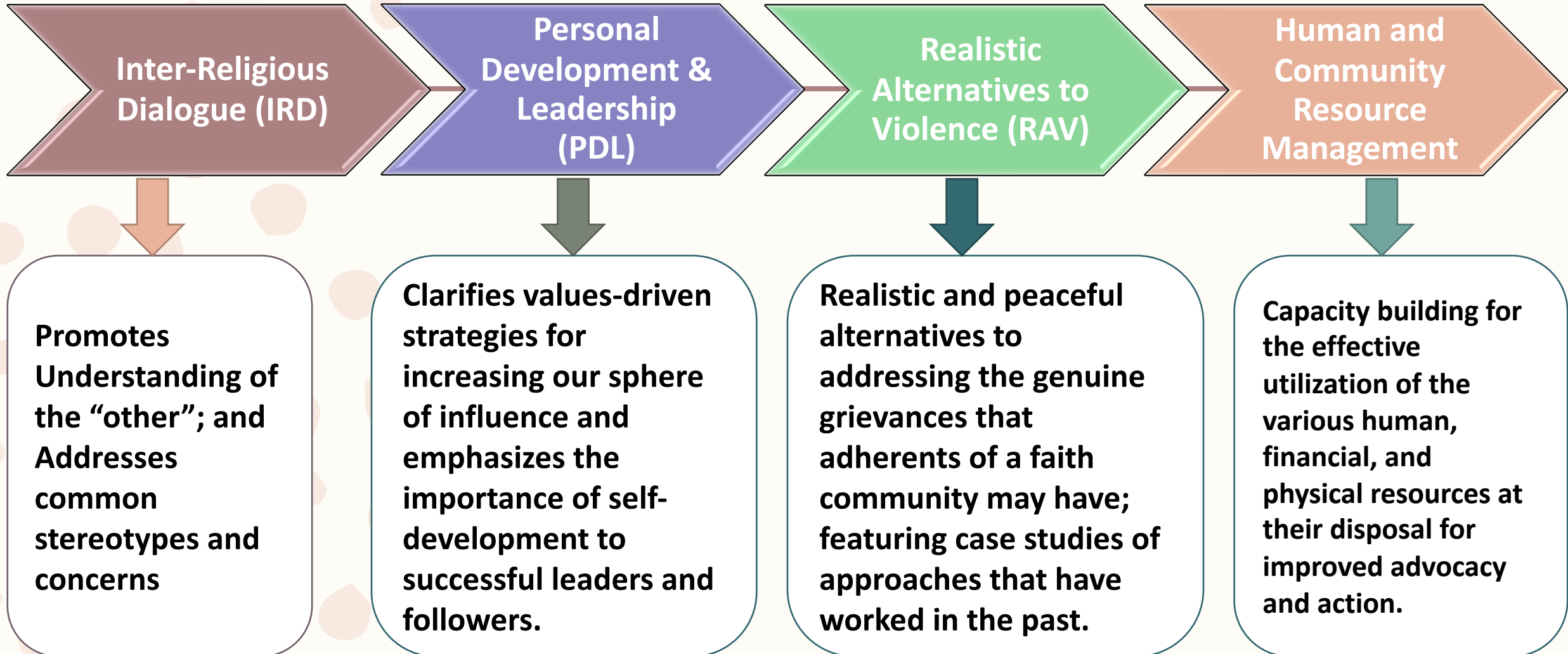
Countering
Counter Cases
through
Details

IDEOLOGICAL THEMES

1. Interfaith Relations (Al-Wala wa al Bara)
2. *Jihad*, Terrorism and Insurgency
3. Islamic State, *Khilafa* & Politics
4. Education (*‘Boko’*)

1. Specialization & Scholar’s limits.
2. Certainty – Qati & Zanni.
3. Secondary sources of shariah – ijtihaad schools & methodology
4. Prophetic intent & context
5. Maxim of permissibility
6. The 5 maxims
7. Maqasid.
8. Abrogation & interfaith relations
9. When scholars differ – what next.
10. Seerah reality check

ADDRESSING INTER-FAITH BRIDGE-BURNERS (BB) AND RIGHT DENIERS (RD)



**AGENDA SETTING FOR FoRB
THROUGH ADVOCACY**

- **Advocacy Visits - politicians, policy makers, traditional rulers and other community gatekeepers**
- **Advocacy Talks - Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions**
- **Public Forums (PF)/Opinion Leaders Seminars (OLS)**
- **Media Engagement**

**JOINT COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND
HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

- **Tree Planting**
- **Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects**
- **Clothing for the destitute**
- **Soup Kitchen Project for IDP and other vulnerable persons**
- **Medical Caravan**
- **Facility support for orphanages and homes for the elderly, etc.**

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

■ Visibility

- *Intervention should be viewed as internal reform, not externally motivated. Hence, there should be zero to minimum visibility of international donor organization for maximum ownership by the community*

■ Sensitivity in M&E

- *People should not feel they are being monitored or evaluated; so they do not feel instrumentalized.*

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

■ Pedagogy

- *An array of pedagogical tools is utilized, such as panel presentation, lecture, group discussion, reading assignments, audio materials, texts, workbook, drills, film show, excursion, edutainment & games, etc.*

■ Inclusivity

- *Nothing for/about us without us : Bring all partners on board right from the planning stage, and avoid proposals from one side ‘for’ the other side.*

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Neutrality**

- *Try as much as possible to maintain a balance with regards to number and quality of participants and facilitators, event moderation, speaking time, etc.*

- **Sharpening the Saw (Actors/Facilitators/Implementers).**

- **Do No Harm (DNH) Principle.**

OUTCOMES

- *Better respect for diversity and pluralism*
- *Better intra-faith relationships: Sunni-Shia*
- *Better inter-faith relations: Iftars, Christmas dinners, exchange of messages, visits, confirming rumours, etc.*
 - Christian organization giving an Imam a Peace Award
 - Imam sheltering Christian woman's children



- For enquiries, collaboration, or suggestions, please reach out to:

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THANK YOU