



INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE
FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

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A partnership
with AI creators
and builders

The Faith-AI Covenant

I. Introduction

Artificial intelligence is moving closer to the centre of how human beings form meaning — how we define conscience, seek guidance, and understand our place in the world. This is not a future possibility. It is already happening.

The Faith–AI Covenant begins from a simple recognition: that the people best equipped to navigate this moment are not only those who built these systems — but those who have spent millennia understanding the meaning of life. Faith traditions represent billions of people across every culture and continent.

Their leaders understand how communities receive and interpret moral guidance. They carry accumulated wisdom about dignity, authority, responsibility, and the protection of the vulnerable — wisdom that no technical framework alone can replicate. The Faith–AI Covenant aims to bring these two communities into genuine, sustained dialogue. Not as critics and defenders or as regulators and regulated. But as partners who share a common values framework and responsibility for what is being built — and for whom.

We believe AI innovation can enhance human flourishing — and that ensuring intelligence at scale serves humanity rather than quietly working against it is one of the defining responsibilities of our time. That it strengthens the fabric of communities rather than fraying it. That it protects children rather than exposing them to harm or abuse. As builders of AI, you are working at a speed and scale that outpaces any single discipline, any single tradition, any single community. The very best of you understand that the questions your work raises — about conscience, about dignity, about what it means to be human — are not engineering questions. They are ancient questions that require genuine humility and consultation with the people who have been answering them for thousands of years.

This covenant is how we begin to answer them together.



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II. AI as a Point of Moral Contact



This shift carries three critical implications for the AI sector:

The emergence of Large Language Models (LLMs) has shifted AI from a specialized tool to a primary mediator of human thought. AI systems are increasingly being used for homework, the explanation of sacred texts, resolving moral and ethical dilemmas, and seeking personal advice. This represents a fundamental shift in search behavior.

For many users, especially adolescents and young adults, generative interfaces are replacing traditional search engines as the first point of inquiry. For a teenager encountering the works of Augustine, Maimonides, Aquinas, or Al-Ghazali for the first time, that encounter is now often mediated by an AI rather than a teacher, a member of the clergy, or the primary text itself. AI-mediated belief introduces something fundamentally new: systems that operate at scale, adapt to individual psychology, and can simulate authority while influencing the freedom to form independent thought.

We must recognize this immense moral authority and engage in dialogue to ensure its wielded responsibly.

Authority

Simulation:

LLMs can present answers with high fluency and confidence. In religious contexts, tone and certainty carry theological weight.

Interpretive

Compression:

Sacred traditions are often internally plural and context-dependent. Summarisation risks flattening complexity

Developmental

Vulnerability:

Children and adolescents are more likely to use AI heavily and are simultaneously at formative stages of identity development.

III. Faith Institutions: Custodians of Meaning

While regulatory frameworks are familiar terrain for the AI sector, the role of faith institutions is often less understood. Faith traditions are not merely belief systems; they function as the essential "moral infrastructure" of society. These institutions serve as:

Custodians of Interpretive Traditions

Managing the frameworks that govern how sacred texts are understood.

Stewards of Communal Trust

Holding the deep-seated trust of the billions of people they serve.

Moral Educators across generations of Communal Trust

Passing down ethical reasoning and identity across generations.

Social Stabilizers in times of crisis

Providing continuity and guidance, particularly during times of crisis.

Within these traditions, sacred texts are embedded in frameworks that govern context, authority, permissible readings, and historical lineage. When AI systems summarize or interpret scripture without acknowledging this theological grounding or the existence of interpretive plurality, the result is not a neutral error. Instead, it may:

Custodians of Interpretive Traditions

- **Distort core beliefs or introduce grievance narratives.**
- **Undermine trusted authority structures by generating synthetic authority.**

Collaborating with faith leaders is not about restricting access to information; it is about establishing "interpretive integrity." This approach recognizes that theological questions require contextual grounding and that confidence levels matter deeply in moral domains.

IV. Role of AI Leaders in the Covenant

AI leaders occupy a unique position in this civilizational moment.

Architects of Cognitive Infrastructure

Designing how systems mediate knowledge and form judgments.

Translators of Technical Capability into Social Reality

Determining how technical capabilities translate into social realities across different global contexts.

Stewards of Design Choices

Making critical decisions about tone, citation, and persona that influence perceived authority.

Partners in Defining Red Lines

Partnering with moral authorities to identify boundaries that market forces alone cannot determine.



V. Areas For Structured Collaboration



The Covenant does not present demands. It proposes areas where collaboration can enhance legitimacy, trust, and resilience.

A. Interpretive Transparency

Refining citation practices and signaling doctrinal plurality when systems summarize sacred texts, as well as avoiding fabrication of theological authority.

B. Non-Deceptive Religious Authority

Ensuring transparency about AI identity in spiritual conversations and avoiding the unmarked impersonation of religious figures.

C. Child-Safe Moral Interfaces

Calibrating responses to existential questions from minors to prevent manipulation or dependency

D. Linguistic and Cultural Integrity

Addressing the underrepresentation of low-resource languages and diverse theological perspectives. Mitigating Western theological dominance in global systems, and meaningfully engaging Global South perspectives.

E. Ongoing Dialogue Mechanisms

Establishing advisory channels, feedback mechanisms and crisis escalation pathways with faith institutions

VI. Preparing for the Regional Roundtables

The upcoming roundtables are collaborative spaces. To participate effectively, AI leaders are invited to reflect on the following:



A. Audit Points of Moral Contact

Identify where your systems currently mediate moral, ethical, or religious inquiry (e.g., summarizing sacred texts, answering existential questions).

B. Review Internal Guardrails

Evaluate your existing internal safety protocols, guardrails, and disclosure practices specifically regarding religious sensitivity and spiritual authority.

C. Acknowledge Systemic Gaps

Be prepared to discuss known limitations in your models' theological, cultural, or linguistic coverage, particularly in regions where your data may be less representative.

D. Identify Research Frontiers

Highlight current areas of uncertainty or open research.

E. Address Operational Realities

Reflect on the specific trade-offs shaped by competitive timelines and how these pressures impact the depth of safety testing.

F. Human-Centric Explanations

When discussing technical features, be prepared to translate jargon into human-centric terms. This helps faith leaders provide the practical, community-based insights you need to improve system resilience.

About the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities

The IAFSC was established to empower faith leaders to work for the safety and security of our communities, tackling issues such as child sexual abuse, extremism, displacement and trafficking. We aim to facilitate the building of bridges between key stakeholders including faith communities, NGOs and experts in various domains. We are conscious of the importance of empowering faith leaders, both at the institutional and grass-root levels, with knowledge, and to mobilize them to play a more active role in community safety.



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To learn more about us, visit our website (www.iafsc.org)
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