



The International Association of Liberal Religious Women – IALRW (1910) is active on three continents (Europe, Asia, North America), with women from more than six religions and is member of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

Power of Dialogue and Partnership

IALRW Conference June 11–15, 2025 in Kuching, Malaysia

The Waterfront Hotel

Dear IALRW member,
Dear IARF member,
Dear friend,

IALRW is pleased to announce the 2025 conference in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. Our members in Malaysia, the IALRW International Council, and I as IALRW-president would like to invite you to join us. Under the theme **‘Power of Dialogue and Partnership’** we aim to strengthen our interfaith connections, create and continue meaningful dialogue among women from diverse religious traditions. You are part of it or may become a part. We have invited distinguished speakers, including among others Prof. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman (Malaysia), Prof. Kathy R. Matsui from Seisen University’s Department of Global Citizenship Studies (Japan) and Dr. Thea Mohr, Co-leader of the Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue Committee of the Council of Europe. Main key focus areas include nuclear disarmament perspective, values of humanity and humanness, involvement of NGO’s at United Nations and at the Council of Europe. In addition, Celine Lim, Indigenous from Malaysia (Save Rivers Org.) will present about crucial intersection of Indigenous Peoples and climate change. Some more will join presenting in hybrid form.

The four-day conference program includes on the last day a visiting tour program in and around Kuching. The whole program combines academic presentations, interactive workshops, cultural experience and networking opportunities. Participants will engage in statement preparation workshops and panel discussions on European-Asian perspectives. The conference will also host an extensive interfaith dialogue session featuring representatives from mainly local faith-based communities of at least five religious backgrounds alongside indigenous spiritual leaders. We will also experience the rich cultural heritage of Kuching through guided tours.

‘Power of dialogue and partnership’ shall encourage all of us to set an example against many signs of our time to go further building up on what is reached and achieved. We celebrate 125 years of IALRW. That means also continuing in difficult times as IALRW has done it sometimes with a few women only. We appreciate this opportunity to be again in Malaysia, where we had our business meeting in 2017 in the Western part, and this time get to know the multicultural and multireligious Eastern part; to celebrate IALRW existence together with our former president Prof. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman and our Vice-president Loh Pai Ling. We will have good moments to exchange and to share.

Following our conference, the **19th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women** will take place from June 16-20, 2025 at the Waterfront Hotel. The Theme ‘Navigating Change: Buddhist Women in Transition’ offers an excellent opportunity for extended networking and learning, and the opportunity to participate in the opening ceremony of their conference. For more information, visit Sakyadhita’s website at <https://sakyadhita2025.kbs.org.my/>

Location

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, is a vibrant city that perfectly embodies Malaysia’s cultural diversity. Home of over 27 ethnic groups, the city offers a unique blend of modern amenities and rich cultural heritage. Known as the ‘Land of the Hornbills’, Kuching provides an ideal setting for meaningful dialogue and cultural exchange.

Registration and conference packages

The conference will be held at “The Waterfront Hotel” in a **hybrid format**, allowing both in-person and virtual participation. Detailed information about conference packages, accommodation options, registration fees, registration form and payment is available on our website:

Contact us on our website:

<https://www.ialrw.org/en/2025-ialrw-conference>

For inquiries about the conference, please contact Rev. Dr. Esther R. Suter, IALRW-President, at dr.estherrsuter@bluewin.ch or Loh Pai Ling, IALRW-Vice-President, at pailingloh@bmsm.org.my

I hope to have raised your interest to renew friendship, or get to know more of IALRW,

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Esther R. Suter
IALRW President

IARF Permanent Main Representative for Human Rights to UN
IARF Representative to the Council of Europe
resident of Swiss Interfaith Women