



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

Deputy chairman of the Department for External Church Relations meets with delegation from Iran.



DECR Communication service, 15.12.2025.

On 15th December 2025 at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate there was held a meeting between the deputy chairman of the DECR archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov) and the director of the centre for Interreligious Dialogue and Organizations for Culture and the Islamic Relations of Iran Doctor Ali Aqbar Ziyaeh. Also participating in the meeting were: the director of the Cultural Representation of Iran in Russia Masoud Ahmadvand and representative of the representation K. Idrisov. Father Iliya Kashitsyn, secretary for interreligious relations, participated on behalf of the DECR.

The participants discussed a range of issues of mutual interest, including the practical aspects of

holding a scheduled session of the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Dialogue between Orthodoxy and Islam.

The Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Dialogue between Orthodoxy and Islam was formed in 1997. It has held sessions in Teheran in 1997, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 and in Moscow in 1999, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 20123. The sessions examined, in particular, the issues of the role and the place of religion in the contemporary world, inter-civilizational, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, human rights, globalization, environmental protection, terrorism and extremism, the spiritual and moral crisis in society, the separate issues of Christian and Islamic theology and anthropology, the opportunities for academic cooperation, the place of religious minorities in the Middle East, and environmental problems and social ministry of religious communities during the pandemic.

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