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Southeast Asia: Advancing  
Inter-Religious Dialogue &  
Freedom of Religion or Belief  
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The Network for  
Religious and  
Traditional  
Peacemakers



# ***SEA-AIR Project Peace Bridge***

With a grant from the European Union-funded SEA-AIR project, Interfaith Fellows Md Sariful Islam, Nadia Afreen, and Mithun Das Kabbo are building bridges between religious communities and the "Hijra" third-gender community in Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh recognized a third-gender category for Hijra in 2014, but this community too often still does not have freedom of religion. Many of them are usually not allowed to attend prayer in religious institutions, participate in religious activities and rituals, and face severe challenges when someone from their community dies and is not allowed access to public burial grounds. Many of them receive no funeral rituals after their death.

The three Interfaith Fellows created awareness-raising activities such as interreligious dialogues, peacebuilding workshops, and organized community engagements and visits to religious sites involving local religious leaders, youths, and CSOs members. An awareness social media campaign that will run throughout 2021 will help to break taboos and create positive perspectives of the community.



For more information on the project, contact the SEA-AIR Project Coordinator at [philip.gassertekua.fi](mailto:philip.gassertekua.fi).



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