



## C. Holland Taylor

C. Holland Taylor “has engaged influential and genuinely reform-minded Muslims... to articulate and defend a progressive and tolerant understanding of Islam” (*Wall Street Journal*) and “runs the world’s most potent and innovative anti-extremist network” (*Washington Post* columnist Jennifer Rubin, writing in *Weekly Standard*). In 2015, *The New York Times* described a feature-length film Mr. Taylor directed as “a relentless, religious repudiation of the Islamic State and the opening salvo in a global campaign by the world’s largest Muslim group to challenge its ideology head-on.”

Mr. Taylor is Chairman & CEO of LibForAll Foundation; Deputy Chairman & COO of *Bayt ar-Rahmah* (Home of Divine Grace); and Deputy Chairman & CEO of the Center for Shared Civilizational Values (CSCV). He also serves as Emissary to the United Nations, Americas, and Europe for Gerakan Pemuda Ansor, the 5-million-member young adults movement of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), which itself has over 90 million followers and 21,000 *madrasahs*.

An expert on the Islamization of Java during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, Mr. Taylor has lived, studied and worked in the Muslim world — from Iran to Indonesia — over a period of more than five decades. He co-founded LibForAll (2003), Bayt ar-Rahmah (2014), the Humanitarian Islam movement (2017), and the Center for Shared Civilizational Values (2021) with spiritual leaders of Nahdlatul Ulama, including his close friends, former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (1940 – 2009); KH. A. Mustofa Bisri, former Chairman of the NU Supreme Council; and KH. Yahya Cholil Staquf, the NU’s current General Chairman. These closely affiliated organizations derive their inspiration from the heroic example of President Wahid’s 16th century Javanese ancestors, whose deft use of soft and hard power defeated Muslim extremists, and guaranteed freedom of religion for all Javanese, two centuries before the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom and the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights.

In March of 2017, Gerakan Pemuda Ansor and Bayt ar-Rahmah launched the global Humanitarian Islam movement, which seeks to reform obsolete tenets of Islamic orthodoxy that enjoin religious hatred, supremacy and violence, by restoring *rahmah* (universal love and compassion) to its rightful place as the primary message of Islam. Acting in his capacity as the COO of Bayt ar-Rahmah and GP Ansor’s Special Emissary, Mr. Taylor has co-authored a number of historic documents with NU General Chairman Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf, including the *International Summit of Moderate Islamic Leaders (ISOMIL) Nahdlatul Ulama Declaration* (2016); the *First Global Unity Forum Declaration* (2016); the *Gerakan Pemuda Ansor Declaration on Humanitarian Islam* (2017); the *Nusantara Statement and Nusantara Manifesto* (2018); and four resolutions unanimously adopted by the world’s largest political network, Centrist Democrat International (2019 and 2020).

Mr. Taylor’s unique combination of experience in the fields of international business, strategy and the forging of cross-cultural relationships has enabled the organizations he leads to become “a model of what a competent public diplomacy effort in the Muslim world should look like” (*Wall Street Journal*). This work follows a career as a successful entrepreneur and global telecom executive, during which Mr. Taylor was credited by numerous leading publications as one of the essential catalysts in the deregulation of the global telecommunications industry. Educated at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and Princeton University, Mr. Taylor is fluent in English, Indonesian/Malay and German.