



## Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf

KH. Yahya Cholil Staquf is a distinguished Muslim scholar and co-founder of the global Humanitarian Islam movement, which seeks to recontextualize (i.e., reform) obsolete and problematic tenets of Islamic orthodoxy that may be readily weaponized to foster religious hatred, supremacy and violence. Humanitarian Islam restores *rahmah* (universal love and compassion) to its rightful place as the primary message of Islam. As General Chairman of Indonesia's 90-million-member Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), Mr. Staquf is working systematically and institutionally to bring the civilizational wisdom and spiritual authority of *Islam Nusantara* (East Indies Islam) to the world stage, where a harsh, repressive and all-too-often violent understanding of Islam has predominated for decades.

Descended from a long and illustrious line of Javanese *ulama* (religious scholars), Mr. Staquf co-founded *Bayt ar-Rahmah* (Home of Divine Grace) in 2014 and the Center for Shared Civilizational Values in 2021. Together, these closely affiliated organizations seek to prevent the political weaponization of identity and foster the emergence of a truly just and harmonious world order, founded upon respect for the equal rights and dignity of every human being.

A former member of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's Presidential Advisory Council, Mr. Staquf is regularly consulted on a wide range of domestic and international affairs. From 2020 – 2021 he served on Policy Exchange's 16-member Indo-Pacific Commission — chaired by former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper — whose landmark report was praised by current and former Prime Ministers of Japan; Australia; and the United Kingdom for its compelling vision of “a sustainable rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific that is resilient but adaptable to the great power realities of the 21st century.” Mr. Staquf serves as Emissary for Indonesia's largest Islamic political party, PKB, to Centrist Democrat International and the European People's Party, the largest political networks in Europe and the world. International observers increasingly regard Mr. Staquf as a potential linchpin in efforts to forge a global, values-driven alliance dedicated to strengthening the rules-based international order at a time of rising geopolitical uncertainty and widespread human rights abuse.