



C. Holland Taylor

C. Holland Taylor serves as Special Advisor for International Affairs to the Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) — the world’s largest Muslim organization, with over 90 million followers. For the past two decades, Mr. Taylor “has engaged influential and genuinely reform-minded Muslims... to articulate and defend a progressive and tolerant understanding of Islam” (*Wall Street Journal*) and has run “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, NU’s 7-million-member young adults movement.

An expert on the Islamization of Java during the 15th and 16th centuries, Mr. Taylor has lived, studied, and worked in the Muslim world — from Iran to Indonesia — for many decades. He co-founded LibForAll (est. 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 restored 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. In 2022, Nahdlatul Ulama’s Central Board formally appointed CSCV as a primary vehicle for its international engagement, and as Permanent Secretariat to the G20 Religion Forum (R20).

Mr. Taylor has co-authored a number of historic documents with NU General Chairman Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf, including the 2016 *International Summit of Moderate Islamic Leaders (ISOMIL) Nahdlatul Ulama Declaration*; the 2016 *Global Unity Forum Declaration*; the 2017 *Gerakan Pemuda Ansor Declaration on Humanitarian Islam*; the 2018 *Nusantara Statement and Nusantara Manifesto*; multiple resolutions unanimously adopted by the world’s largest political network, Centrist Democrat International; and the 2023 *Nahdlatul Ulama Centennial Proclamation*.

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.