



Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf

[KH. Yahya Cholil Staquf](#) serves as General Chairman of the world's largest Muslim organization, Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama, which has over 100 million followers and 28,000 Islamic boarding schools.

Descended from a long and illustrious line of Javanese *ulama* (Islamic scholars), Mr. Staquf is himself a distinguished theologian and co-founder of the global [Humanitarian Islam](#) movement, which seeks to recontextualize obsolete and problematic tenets of religious orthodoxy that enjoin religious hatred, supremacy and violence, by restoring *rahmah* (universal love and compassion) to its rightful place as a primary message of Islam.

Mr. Staquf is co-founder, board member, and senior executive of the US-based organizations [Bayt ar-Rahmah](#) and the [Center for Shared Civilizational Values](#), both of which are closely affiliated with Nahdlatul Ulama. Mr. Staquf is also Founder and Chairman of the [G20 Religion Forum \(R20\)](#), which Nahdlatul Ulama established in conjunction with Indonesia's Chairmanship of the G20. In Mr. Staquf's words, the R20 "seeks to ensure that religion functions as a genuine and dynamic source of solutions, rather than problems, in the 21st century."

In February 2024, Mr. Staquf and Nahdlatul Ulama were recognized by the Vatican, Egypt's al-Azhar University, and the Government of Abu Dhabi, which conferred the [Zayed Award for Human Fraternity](#) upon "the largest Islamic organization in the world, Nahdlatul Ulama, [which] plays a major role in spearheading global peace and diplomatic efforts."

Mr. Staquf is consistently ranked among the 20 most influential Muslims alive today by [The Muslim 500](#), the world's premier index of Muslim power and influence, which is published by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre in Amman, Jordan.