



Relief-Recovery-Rehabilitation

# **Interfaith League Against Poverty-US**

## **Newsletter January to April 2025**



## **A Brief Profile of Interfaith League Against Poverty-US**

I-LAP-US, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is a 501 (c) 3, nonprofit organization and the U.S. office of I-LAP Pakistan. It is dedicated to promoting religious freedom, understanding of interfaith collaboration, and encouraging peaceful coexistence. We are committed to creating a world where diversity is embraced and celebrated.

Our efforts focus on uniting people across all faiths and backgrounds, breaking down the barriers of color, caste, religion, and ethnicity. By fostering dialogue and mutual respect, we aim to build bridges of trust and collaboration, ensuring a shared commitment to peaceful and harmonious world.

Through interfaith dialogues, community engagement, and collaborative efforts, we strive to inspire individuals and groups to work together for a brighter and more inclusive future. We believe that understanding and respect for different perspectives are the foundation of a harmonious society.

We are a highly experienced team specializing in disaster response, with extensive expertise in relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. A core principle guiding all I-LAP initiatives is the promotion of interfaith unity. We are committed to serving affected communities without discrimination, recognizing that disasters impact people of all faiths and backgrounds. Our approach ensures inclusive assistance, addressing the needs of everyone during times of crisis. Through these compassionate efforts, we also share the message and love of Christ with the beneficiaries in meaningful and subtle ways.

I-LAP-US provides a welcoming and respectful environment where individuals can engage in honest, thoughtful conversations about religion without fear or judgment. The space is designed to promote understanding by confronting false beliefs and stereotypes that often fuel prejudice and division. Within this framework of confidentiality and trust, participants are encouraged to share their perspectives, ask meaningful questions, and grow both intellectually and spiritually.

Interfaith dialogue goes beyond casual conversation; it provides a meaningful opportunity for individuals to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and actions. It invites self-examination,



encourages critical thinking, and motivates deeper exploration of sacred texts and teachings. By fostering an atmosphere grounded in openness, respect, and privacy, we aim to dismantle barriers,

I-LAP-US is also committed to collaborating with diverse churches around the world to enhance the leadership capacities of their pastors and church leaders. Through training and support, we ensure they are well-equipped to serve their congregations and contribute meaningfully to church planting efforts.

Join us in our mission to make the world a better place—one where every person can live with dignity, freedom, and mutual understanding. Together, we can create an environment where the richness of diversity strengthens the bonds of humanity, paving the way for lasting peace and unity.

## **Highlights of First Quarter 2025!**

### **I-LAP-US Approved 501(c)(3) Status**

In February 2025, I-LAP-US was officially approved as a public charity, exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). With this designation, I-LAP-US is qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, and gifts.

### **I-LAP-US Head Office**

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” — Psalm 127:1 (ESV)

We are grateful to the Almighty for providing the resources to establish a spacious head office located at 41 Hallsdale Drive, Louisville, KY 40220. The facility is equipped to host training workshops and conferences with a capacity of 30 to 35 participants. It also offers ample workspace for 6 to 8 staff members and volunteers to work collaboratively.



## Commission All Nations

I-LAP-US has established a digital channel by the name of Commission All Nations (CAN.TV).

CAN-TV is an apologetics channel dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) entrusted by Jesus Christ to all believers. Rooted in this divine mandate, CAN-TV seeks to extend the message of hope, redemption, and salvation to every individual, embracing the rich diversity of humanity while emphasizing the universal need for Christ's saving grace.

The channel actively engages with diverse faith groups, addressing religious misconceptions, promoting religious freedom, understanding of interfaith collaboration, peaceful coexistence and supporting the principles of the Abrahamic Accords. Through thought-provoking discussions, educational content, and spiritual guidance, CAN-TV promotes mutual understanding and works toward clearing fallacies and misapprehensions among people of different beliefs.

CAN-TV also underscores the critical responsibility of every Christian to share the Gospel with those who have yet to find the path to salvation. Tragically, many modern-day churches have lost sight of this foundational mission, often limiting their outreach to activities within their own walls. CAN-TV seeks to reignite the passion for evangelism by equipping believers with the knowledge and tools necessary to carry out the Great Commission, inspiring them to actively engage with the world and bring others into the light of Christ. This platform serves as a beacon of hope and truth, empowering Christians to rise above complacency and take meaningful steps toward fulfilling their God-given purpose of spreading the Gospel to all nations.

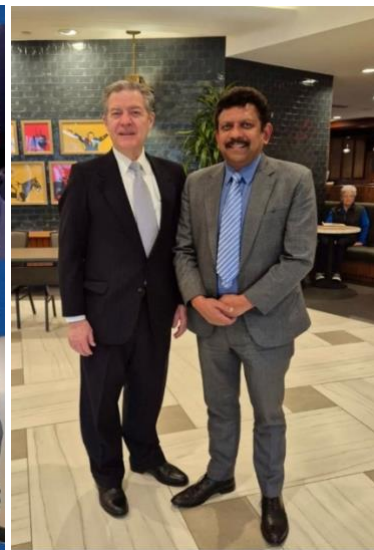


## Participation in International Religious Freedom Summit 2025

Sajid Sandhu, President of I-LAP-US, had the privilege of attending the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2025 held in Washington, D.C. The summit, organized by leading civil society organizations and supported by the U.S. Department of State, brought together global leaders, faith representatives, and advocates committed to promoting religious freedom.



Notably, the 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, and Vice President J.D. Vance graced the occasion by attending the IRF Breakfasts on two separate days, adding significance to the event. Sajid Sandhu utilized this platform to share the mission and work of I-LAP-US, highlighting its efforts in fostering religious



freedom, interfaith harmony, and peaceful coexistence. The summit also offered a valuable opportunity to establish new networks and collaborative relationships with international organizations and faith leaders, further strengthening I-LAP-US's commitment to the global cause of religious liberty.



## Formal Inauguration of I-LAP-US Office

The I-LAP-US office was formally inaugurated on March 28, 2025, in Louisville, Kentucky. The event was marked by the participation of individuals from diverse faith backgrounds who gathered to offer prayers and support for the ministry's mission.

### Mr. Sajid Sandhu-President I-LAP-US

*Mr. Sandhu is the President of Interfaith League Against Poverty (I-LAP) US, established in 2025, and the Founding Chairman of Interfaith League Against Poverty–Pakistan, which he initiated in 2004. He also serves as the Chairman of the National Baptist Church of Pakistan (NBCP), a native church network. In addition to his religious leadership, he is the Founding Chairman of the Pakistan Interfaith League (PIL), a socio-political movement, and HumSub TV, a rights-based web channel in Pakistan. He is also the founder of CAN TV (Commission All Nations), a US-based Christian media initiative. Sajid previously served as Advisor on Minority Affairs to the Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Mr. Imran Khan, who later became Prime Minister of Pakistan (2018–2022). Most recently, he earned a Master of Arts in Apologetics from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS).*

Mr. Sandhu, President I-LAP-US, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and shared the organization's vision and mission, which are firmly rooted in the promotion of religious liberty, peace, and interfaith harmony. He emphasized his strong belief in the power of interfaith dialogue, describing it as a vital pathway to lasting peace. "True understanding," he said, "can only be achieved when people of all faiths come together at one table to engage in open and respectful conversation." He stressed

that through such dialogue, misconceptions and stereotypes about one another's beliefs can be addressed and resolved. Sajid reminded the audience that regardless of our differences, we all share one Creator and have been made in His image—a truth that calls for mutual respect and unity. He encouraged continued collaboration and understanding as essential steps toward a more peaceful and inclusive society. He outlined the core objectives and briefed the guests on upcoming initiatives set to begin at the end of May 2025, emphasizing community engagement, training programs, and expanded outreach both locally and internationally.





In his concluding address, Mr. Sajid Sandhu extended sincere appreciation to the I-LAP team and dedicated volunteers whose commitment and efforts contributed significantly to the successful execution of the inaugural event. He offered special acknowledgment to Ms. Charissa for her gracious contribution in preparing and presenting the refreshments and delicacies, which added an elegant and hospitable touch to the occasion.

### **Chief Guest Rev. Sunday Bwanhots**

*Rev. Sunday Bwanhot is a missionary to America serving with SIM/ECWA. He is an Economist by profession and has worked as a Statistician with Kaduna State Government. He later pioneered and managed the Challenge Press of ECWA in Jos before God's call to pioneer the Prayer Ministry of ECWA in Jos, Nigeria. In 1993, God called him to Chicago as a missionary and he has been serving the diaspora community in Chicago for the past 30 years.*

**Rev. Sunday Bwanhot** was the honored Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony of I-LAP-US. He



expressed his heartfelt appreciation for being invited to such a meaningful occasion, describing it as a true blessing. In his remarks, he emphasized the urgent need in today's world to walk together in mutual respect, to understand the diversity of beliefs around us, and to present the truth in love and humility. "More than anything else, we need to walk together and understand the different beliefs we hold—while also presenting the truth by the end of the day," he shared. Rev. Bwanhots praised the vision and mission of I-LAP-US, particularly its focus on religious freedom and interfaith collaboration for peace at all levels in the society. He conveyed his encouragement and prayers for the success and continued growth of the organization's work.

### **Remarks by Mr. Trent Spoolstra**

*Mr. Spoolstra is Director of the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. Born in Indianapolis, He, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2013 with a Bachelors in Political Science and a Master's degree in International Relations and Affairs from Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service in 2020.*

Mr. Spoolstra expressed his appreciation for being part of the inauguration ceremony, stating, "I'm happy to be here, and it is truly a pleasure." He shared his





enthusiasm in witnessing I-LAP’s expansion into the United States and commended the organization for its impactful mission. He said that it was amazing to see how the organization has now moved to the U.S. “I am learning more and more about the important work you all are doing,” he said. He extended his best wishes to the team, encouraging them to continue their efforts with dedication and passion. “Best of luck with all your work,” he concluded.

**Ms. Elaine Gills Executive Board Member, I-LAP-US**

*Ms. Elaine Gills grew up in a small town in Kentucky in a hard-working farm family; graduated from Sullivan Business College and retired from an Executive Secretary position with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Florida.*

Ms. Gills expressed her sincere gratitude to the guests for their participation and unwavering support. She took the opportunity to further elaborate on the vision and mission of I-LAP-US, highlighting the organization’s steadfast commitment to promoting religious freedom, fostering interfaith collaboration, and supporting peaceful community development. Ms. Gills also



shared her personal experience of visiting Pakistan in July 2024, where she had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the impactful projects I-LAP has implemented. She shared that during her visit, she met with Pakistani Christians, engaging in meaningful conversations that deepened her understanding of their experiences and strengthened her resolve to support the ministry’s work.

**Mr. Les Bollinger - Executive Board Member I-LAP-US**

*Mr. Bollinger served as pastor of Beaver Baptist Church from 2004 to 2012. It was also his privilege to serve as an elder at Providence Community Church from 2015 to 2020. Until his retirement in 2023, Les worked in the field of healthcare finance as a decision support analyst. Les is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley (B.A.), George Washington University (M.B.A.), and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.).*

Mr. Bollinger shared his enthusiasm about being part of the organization’s mission. He noted, “One thing about I-LAP that may not be immediately evident from its current presence in the U.S. is just how large, active, and impactful the ministry is in





Pakistan.” He highlighted I-LAP’s significant work in education, disaster relief, and especially in promoting interfaith dialogue and religious freedom. “The way I-LAP engages with various authorities and organizations in Pakistan is truly impressive,” he said. Les expressed excitement about the upcoming virtual training program for pastors and laypersons, emphasizing its potential to empower Christian leaders. “I’m grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to do what I love most—teaching, equipping, and encouraging others in ministry,” he added. He affirmed his commitment to supporting I-LAP’s vision and said that he looks forward to seeing the continued impact of its work both in the U.S. and abroad.

A multimedia presentation was displayed for guests, highlighting I-LAP’s long-standing commitment to promoting peace, interfaith harmony, and social justice. The presentation showcased previous initiatives in Pakistan, including peacebuilding efforts, the celebration of international events and religious festivals from all faiths, and I-LAP’s pioneering role in organizing Interfaith Christmas Dinners since 2007. It also covered I-LAP’s extensive disaster response work during floods, earthquakes, droughts, and incidents of religious extremism. Additionally, it featured efforts in the field of education and empowerment of marginalized communities. The event served not only as a milestone for I-LAP-US but also as a testament to its enduring dedication to compassion, unity, and service across faiths and borders.

President I-LAP-US presented Rev. and Mrs. Sunday Bwanhots with tokens of appreciation.



## Celebration of Easter at I-LAP-US Office

President of I-LAP-US, Mr. Sajid Sandhu, along with dedicated volunteers and their families, joyfully celebrated Easter at the I-LAP-US office. The occasion was filled with warmth, laughter, and a spirit of unity. Families came together to share a generous meal, bringing homemade dishes



that reflected love, hospitality, and fellowship. During the celebration, Mr. Sandhu addressed the gathering with a heartfelt message on the significance of Easter. He emphasized that Easter is not merely a historical remembrance, but the foundation of the Christian faith—celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who conquered death and brought the promise of eternal life to all who believe. He reminded everyone that Easter is a time of renewal, hope, and victory. It is a call to rise above despair, to forgive, and to live in the power of Christ’s resurrection. Mr. Sandhu further reflected that in a world filled with suffering and uncertainty, Easter offers the assurance that God is sovereign and His love prevails. He encouraged everyone to live as witnesses of the Risen Lord by sharing the message of grace, peace, and reconciliation within their communities.

The gathering concluded with a moment of prayer, thanksgiving, and joyful fellowship, affirming the unity and mission of I-LAP-US.

**“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.”**

— *Matthew 28:6 (NIV)*





## Proposed Interventions for the first year-I-LAP-US

From May 2025 to May 2026, I-LAP-US will launch key initiatives to fulfill the Great Commission by equipping believers and promoting peaceful coexistence. Monthly Interfaith Roundtable Dialogues and Intellectual Hours will encourage mutual respect and deeper understanding. Weekly virtual trainings will strengthen church leaders in Pakistan, while focused missionary preparation will support outreach in Nigeria, Pakistan, and the UAE.

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue   | Monthly       |
| 2. Intellectual Hour  | Monthly       |
| 3. Virtual Training for Pastors and Laypersons in Pakistan                                      | Weekly        |
| 4. Preparatory Training for Missionaries in Three Target Mission Fields<br>Nigeria-Pakistan-UAE | Twice a month |

### 1. Interfaith Roundtable Dialogues: Intellectual Engagement on Life’s Greatest Questions

I-LAP-US will host monthly Interfaith Roundtable Dialogues at its Louisville, KY office, bringing together faith leaders, clerics, and representatives from diverse religious beliefs. These gatherings aim to cultivate mutual respect, promote peacebuilding, and encourage collaborative solutions to shared societal concerns. Grounded in the principles of biblical love, truth, and justice, the roundtable will serve as a vital platform to champion religious freedom and peaceful coexistence.

This platform will also serve as a strategic avenue for advocacy, enabling meaningful engagement with relevant government officials and policymakers on behalf of persecuted religious minorities around the world. Through informed dialogue and well-documented cases, it will support lobbying efforts aimed at promoting religious freedom, protecting vulnerable communities, and influencing policy decisions that uphold human rights and dignity for all faith groups.



## **2. Intellectual Hour: A Platform for Wisdom, Dialogue, and Holistic Growth**

Intellectual Hour, held monthly, offers a unique and spiritually grounded platform for individuals to engage with seasoned professionals, and subject matter experts from a variety of disciplines. In a world marked by complexities and uncertainties, this initiative provides timely insights and practical wisdom to help participants navigate the multifaceted challenges of life.

Guided by Proverbs 1:5 (NIV) “Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance”, Intellectual Hour cultivates a space where attentive listening, critical thinking, and faith-informed guidance are central.

The purpose of Intellectual Hour is to foster intellectual clarity, informed discussion, and thoughtful reflection by inviting expert voices to address a wide range of topics that affect daily life, from government policy and economic shifts to societal trends and technological advancements.

Inspired also by James 1:5 (NIV) “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you,” this intervention nurtures a faith-centered pursuit of knowledge. It creates a safe and inclusive space where difficult or sensitive topics—especially those rarely addressed in traditional settings—can be explored through scripture, scholarship, and lived experience.

## **3. Preparatory Training for Missionaries Assigned to Three Target Mission Fields/Countries**

Launch a one-year strategic missionary training program tailored for those preparing to serve in culturally sensitive countries such as Nigeria, Pakistan, and UAE. The training will holistically prepare missionaries for deployment to diverse cultural and religious contexts. The focus will be on equipping them with not only Biblical and theological grounding but also the socio-cultural, practical, and interpersonal tools necessary for meaningful, long-term impact.



## **Proposed Interventions for the first year-I-LAP-PAKISTAN**

### **1- Virtual Training for Pastors and Laypersons in Pakistan**

Empowering Grassroots Church Leaders through Accessible Theological Education

“So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

— Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

“Virtual Training for Pastors and Laymen” is a pioneering initiative aimed to empower pastors and lay leaders of small, indigenous churches in Pakistan in evangelism, discipleship, ethics, essential theological knowledge, practical ministry skills and leadership tools. Recognizing the educational limitations many of these leaders’ face, this initiative leverages virtual platforms to provide accessible, high-quality training across geographical boundaries. The program offers a comprehensive and biblically grounded curriculum designed to strengthen participants’ understanding of scripture, enhance their pastoral capabilities, and empower them to foster spiritual and community development within their local congregations.

#### **Needs:**

- **Smart TV** for virtual training: the training will be held over Zoom with trainer based in the USA
- **Split AC** for providing a comfortable learning environment in harsh climatic conditions
- **Van** for transporting local pastors and lay leaders to the training center.

### **2- Empowering Christians Through Small Enterprise Development (Microfinancing)**

Inspiration: Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV) “You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

Christian male and female groups will be organized to foster collaboration, shared learning, and collective responsibility. Everyone who qualifies for microfinancing either to establish a new business or expand the existing businesses. This microfinancing facility will be tailored to the specific needs of the individual member, whether for purchasing equipment, securing supplies, or launching new business. The loan will provide the initial financial boost needed to kickstart economic activities. **The upper limit of each loan will \$ 550 and will be given at 18 % interest rate for three years.**

### 3. Youth Empowerment Through Skill Development

At present, 64% of Pakistan's population is under 30 years of age, and this percentage is expected to rapidly rise in the coming years. A large number of these youth come from economically challenged families and face severe hardships due to a lack of proper education, career guidance, and skill-building opportunities. The absence of structured support often results in unemployment, drug addiction, depression, and petty crimes.

In response to this urgent need, I-LAP-US envisions establishing a Skill Center for underserved communities that provides practical and marketable training for both boys and girls. The Skill Center will offer counseling, mentorship, and hands-on training, empowering youth to become self-reliant, productive citizens, and earning members of their families.

I-LAP will initially launch the following two skill-based programs at the I-LAP Skill Center:

#### 3.1. Digital Skills Training (Graphic Design & Video Editing)

This course aims to equip participants with marketable digital skills to enhance employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.

<b>Immediate Needs: Digital Skills Training (Graphic Design &amp; Video Editing)</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost in USD</b>
<b>1</b>	Desktop Computers (with suitable specifications)	10	3,500
<b>2</b>	Licensed Graphic Design and Video Editing Software	1	250
<b>3</b>	Salaries for Qualified Instructors/per year	1	3,600
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>7,350</b>



### 3.2. Videography & Photography Program

This program will train individuals in professional videography and photography for events, media, and freelance opportunities.

<b>Immediate Needs: Videography &amp; Photography Program</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost in USD</b>
<b>1</b>	DSLR Camera	1	3,75
<b>2</b>	Tripod	2	150
<b>3</b>	Studio lighting equipment	2	157
<b>4</b>	Video editing accessories	2	360
<b>5</b>	Salaries for Qualified Instructors/per year	1	3,600
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>4,642</b>

With your support, these programs can transform lives by offering creative, income-generating skills to underserved youth and adults.



## **I-LAP-US Calls for Your Support: Make a Difference Today**

As a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, I-LAP-US is committed to equipping pastors, empowering youth, and supporting local churches in Pakistan. Our mission is rooted in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and a deep desire to bring transformation through the Gospel and practical skills that restore dignity and hope.

### **You can contribute in the following ways:**

- **Become a Prayer Partner**  
Support us spiritually by regularly praying for our initiatives, our team, and those we serve.
- **Contribute Financially**  
Extend a helping hand by donating to support our programs and outreach. Your generosity enables us to impact lives meaningfully:
  - Train pastors and laypersons in countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith
  - Launch skill development courses for youth for making them useful citizens
  - Encourage persecuted believers
- **Volunteer Your Skills**  
Offer your time and talent to further the cause. Whether through administration, teaching, media, or event support, your involvement makes a lasting difference.

### **Banking Detail:**

Bank:	Stock Yard Bank
Account Title:	Interfaith League Against Poverty
Account No:	430086369
Domestic Routing:	083000564
International Routing:	STYTUS41



### **For more information please contact:**

[ssandhu@ilapus.org](mailto:ssandhu@ilapus.org)