Call for Papers: ‘Care After Conflict- Religion, Rebuilding and Renewal?’

In the centenary year of the Treaty of Versailles, which arguably sowed the seeds of the Second World War in Europe, and following almost two decades of conflicts triggered by 9/11, this conference will reflect on the role of religion in rebuilding, reshaping and sustaining post-conflict societies. Whether in the aftermath of civil wars, armed insurgencies, or interstate conflicts, religious imperatives and religious agencies have often played a key role in humanitarian assistance, physical reconstruction, cultural and political reorientation, memorialisation, and reconciliation. They have also provided long-term assistance —material, psychological and spiritual— for the victims and veterans of conflict. In some cases, post-conflict situations have proved to be crucibles of far-reaching religious change and renewal. On the other hand, however, religious convictions, identities and agencies have also served to compound the difficulties and tensions of post-conflict situations, becoming symbols of defeat, oppression and alienation. They have also served to foster grievances that have contributed to further outbreaks of conflict.

As an established forum for academics and military professionals, this year’s Amport Conference focuses on the mixed legacy of religious involvement in post-conflict situations, in all its global variety and complexity.

Students of all religious traditions and contributors from all relevant disciplines are invited to submit proposals for thirty-minute papers, which will include ten minutes of questions and discussion. While the Amport Conference focuses on the modern era, it welcomes comparative perspectives from other periods. It is intended that the proceedings of the conference will be published as an edited collection of essays.

The conference will be hosted by the staff of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC) and will be co-ordinated by Canon Professor Michael Snape (Michael Ramsey Professor of Anglican Studies, Durham University), Dr Emma Hanna (Senior Research Fellow, School of History, University of Kent), and Dr Alastair Lockhart (Affiliated Lecturer, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge and Academic Co-Director, Centre for the Critical Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements, Bedford, UK). Four-hundred word abstracts should be copied, along with a one-page CV, to michael.snape@durham.ac.uk, E.L.Hanna@kent.ac.uk, and asl21@cam.ac.uk by Friday 31 May 2019.

The International Network for the Study of War and Religion in the Modern World was established in 2009 to promote greater communication and collaboration among scholars working in the field of war and religion from the eighteenth century to the present. AFCC, Amport House, is a constituent College of the Defence Academy, delivering and fostering research, education and training, and is the home of Faith across Defence.