



Religions Without Borders USA -Name Change and Recommitment Announcement

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The organization formerly known as Religions Without Borders (RWB) has officially changed its name to [Outposts of Chat Network, Inc. \(OCN\)](#). This change, effectively immediately, will facilitate the advancement of OCN's work of fostering interfaith and intergroup dialogue in communities throughout the world. The alteration of the organization's name is meant to clearly distinguish it from the medical care operation widely known as Doctor's Without Borders/ MSF. OCN will continue with the mission and critical agenda developed by RWB, but will now do so with added clarity and sense of purpose.

Moving forward OCN will develop a greater social media presence, exploiting opportunities for large scale, grassroots communication initiatives that can be orchestrated online. The online activities will supplement and extend the work that OCN has been doing in a variety of locations throughout the globe. Operations undertaken by RWB in Ethiopia, the United States, Former Yugoslavia, Uganda and Yemen will be expanded by OCN in the coming months. The organization's online communication hub will be anchored in its newly established website, which can be found on the web at [ocnonline.org](#)

The introduction of this new website is part of a rebranding effort that will distinguish OCN from similar organizations and that will set it on course for the development of new programming in the fields of interfaith dialogue, intergroup mediation and conflict resolution. OCN's newly broadened mandate will allow it address a variety of global challenges primarily—but not exclusively—related to social friction arising from differences in religious faith.

Although social crises have proliferated and significantly evolved in the fifteen years since RWB was established in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, the circumstances that lead to the establishment of the organization remain fundamentally unchanged. The leadership of the OCN is determined in its conviction that, where religious belief is involved, misinformation and miscommunication between parties and individuals can have dire and dangerous consequences. Any appraisal of contemporary world affairs bears out this analysis. In order to create positive change in a world so riven by conflicts arising from the misunderstanding of religious faiths, the OCN seeks to build lines of communication between individuals and groups who are interested in fostering peace, rather than discord. The OCN will continue with its local, grassroots initiatives meant to bring people together for face-to-face dialogues that can avert conflict; but the organization will also make strong efforts to utilize technologies like online conferencing, internet radio, and web publications to link geographically separated groups and individuals.

By implementing strategies that exploit social media opportunities, while also continuing grassroots initiatives in various communities throughout the world, the OCN charts a path into the future of conflict resolution. Bringing together inexpensive global communications technology and localized boots-on-the-ground efforts, the OCN plans to expand its operation in the near-term future. Whether

through documentaries produced for broadcast on the internet, or in workshops organized at the village, city and municipal level, it is likely that tens of thousands of people throughout the world will come into contact with OCN initiatives in the upcoming years.

Amminadab Munyaneza, the Executive Director of OCN, together with the members of its Executive Board, will be working to advance the goals of the new mandate of the Outposts of Chat Network. For more information about the organization's past and future projects please spend some time exploring the recently revamped website at ocnonline.org in the next few coming weeks

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