

The Global Hope Coalition recently presented Dr. Waleed El-Ansary, the Helal, Hisham and Laila Edris El-Swedey University Chair in Islamic Studies at Xavier University, with one of its 2019 “Global Hope Heroes” awards for his work on the UNESCO-based book project entitled *Know the Religion of Thy Neighbor*. The book, to which Dr. El-Ansary contributed the section on Islam, presents the founding themes of the three monotheistic religions, and is designed to be the main pedagogical tool in a program that seeks to familiarize theological students, rabbis, priests or imams, as well as the general public, with the other two monotheist religions. The other principal contributors are Chief Rabbi Alexis Blum, Grand Rabbi Emeritus of Neuilly in France, and Monseigneur Claude Dagens, Bishop of Angoulême.

The French edition of the book has already been published and been very well received. Renaud Girard, international columnist of *Le Figaro*, described it as “an essential book” saying, “If I were Minister of Education, I would make this required reading in all philosophy programs.” The English translation is complete and forthcoming. The Vatican is translating the book into Italian; the Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates is translating it into Arabic; and translations into Hebrew and Turkish are also underway. According to the Global Hope Coalition, the award is designed to create a global platform of support for “everyday heroes... doing critical work in areas such as gender equality, human rights, education, social inclusion, and economic reform.”

For more information on the award and the international dignitaries involved in the event, [please click here](#)