



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Archbishop Nicolas Thévenin
Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt
Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See
Cairo, Egypt

Tilburg, August 2, 2020

Subject: Recommendation Drs. Cornelis Hulsman

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure and urgency that I recommend Drs. Cornelis Hulsman and his important work for Arab-West Report (1997), the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT, 2005), and the planned Research Center for Contemporary Muslim-Christian Relations (2021-2023), as detailed in the attachments.

Together with some colleagues, I met Drs. Cornelis Hulsman and his students during a wonderful stay and pilgrimage in Egypt last year, visiting churches and monasteries throughout the country, as well as discussing present-day challenges of the Church in modern society. His in-depth knowledge and profound commitment enriched and inspired us enormously. And my own research interests in religious thought and culture obtained a new and vibrant impetus.

On a personal note, I would like to stress that Drs. Cornelis Hulsman has devoted his entire life to the Church in the Muslim world, so much so that I have urged him to devote some fraction of his retirement to his memoirs, which I would imagine will inspire readers to follow his example of a life of service to the Church and the people of God, for truly many are called but few are chosen who, by the grace of God, forego the comforts of the modern world to serve their fellow men.

Thus, I wholeheartedly support Drs. Cornelis Hulsman's important work and I hope that you will be able to grant him and his successor, Dr. Matthew Anderson, the necessary support to continue it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Verburgt", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Jacco Verburgt
Research Fellow Tilburg University
Tilburg School of Catholic Theology
PO Box 80101
3508 TC Utrecht
The Netherlands