

## HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal

A pluralist, believing in consensus and respect for the other, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, believes in societies in which all peoples can live, work and function in freedom and with dignity. This goal has been the moving force behind his interest and involvement in humanitarian and interfaith issues, with particular stress on the human dimension of conflicts. His Royal Highness has initiated, founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees. He co-chaired the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI), 1983 and is currently President and Patron of the Arab Thought Forum, President of the Club of Rome and President Emeritus of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. In April, 2002, His Royal Highness joined the Board of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI). In September 2003, His Royal Highness was elected Chairman of an Independent Eminent Experts group, appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban in 2001. His Royal Highness is a founding member of the Parliament of Cultures which was established in Istanbul in July 2002, the purpose of which is to promote understanding among cultures of the world and to enhance dialogue among their thinkers and intellectuals. On his call for humanitarian and cultural outreach, His Royal Highness is currently working with American Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on a programme called Partners in Humanity which was launched in July of last year. The aim of this programme will be to carry out a series of activities that serve to improve understanding and build positive relationships between the Muslim world and the United States. His Royal Highness is a member of the Board of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the Independent International Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy.

Prince El Hassan is the author of seven books: *A Study on Jerusalem* (1979) (English); *Palestinian Self-Determination* (1981) (English; Arabic); *Search for Peace* (1984) (English; Arabic); *Christianity in the Arab World* (1994) (English; Arabic; French; Greek; Spanish; Russian; German and Italian); *Essere Musulmano – Co-author* (2001) (Italian; French; Spanish and English (*To Be A Muslim*)); *Continuity, Innovation and Change: Selected Essays* (2001) and *In Memory of Faisal I: The Iraqi Question* (2003) (Arabic).