

Religion has a strong influence in the Eastern Mediterranean Region; it is a part of the daily life of individuals. All religions call upon people to look after their health and to avoid health hazards and risks.

Tackling tobacco use from a religious perspective is a key component of the Tobacco Free Initiative programme; it started in 1996 with the release of the first edition of *The right path to health: Health education through religion – Islamic ruling on smoking*. In 2000, the second edition of this publication was issued together with the *Christian view on smoking*. The Vatican issued laws and regulations prohibiting smoking in 2002..





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