



After three days of consultation and deliberation at the **European Conference on Jewish Muslim Dialogue**, (April 2007), conference participants agreed upon the following Declaration:

Declaration of Commitment to Jewish Muslim Co-operation

We, Muslims and Jews living together in a democratic Europe, are committed to foster positive intercultural, inter-religious and interethnic relations based upon mutual acceptance, respect and understanding.

We firmly believe that direct contact and co-operation between communities is an essential step to create enduring good relations.

We reject all forms of racism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, xenophobia and fanaticism and stand together in solidarity.

On-going co-operation between our communities is an important action to confront prejudice and hatred, both within our communities and from others towards our communities.

We embrace a vision of an inclusive, diverse Europe that respects the human rights of all, as specified in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Co-operation, dialogue and mutual integration are vital not only to our own well-being but also to the well-being of the whole of society in general.

We support the development of a European Platform for Jewish Muslim Co-operation that encourages and creates awareness for local, national and trans-national initiatives.

The European Platform for Jewish Muslim Co-operation is currently facilitated by CEJI – *A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe* guided by a joint Jewish Muslim Steering Group.

Belgium

Nadine Iarchy, International Council of Jewish Women www.icjw.org

Denmark

Linda Herzberg and Bashy Quraishy, Danish Jewish Muslim Co-operation Platform www.bashy.dk

France

Olivia Cattan, Paroles de Femmes www.parolesdefemmes.org
Fadila Mehal, Les Marianne de la Diversité www.lesmariannedeladiversite.org

Germany

Almut Bruckstein, Ha'atelier www.ha-atelier.de

Netherlands

Ronny Naftaniel, CIDI www.cidi.nl
Famile Arslan, Islam en Burgerschap www.islamenburgerschap.nl

United Kingdom

Richard Stone, Alif-Aleph UK www.aauk.org
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony

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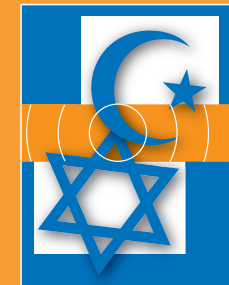
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EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR JEWISH MUSLIM CO-OPERATION



Promoting co-operation, dialogue and partnership between European Jewish and Muslim communities – locally, nationally and trans-nationally

The European Platform for Jewish Muslim Co-operation :

- ▶ Provides a platform to facilitate co-operation, dialogue and partnership between Jewish and Muslim communities at local, national and trans-national levels within Europe;
- ▶ Increases the visibility of and empowers existing Jewish Muslim initiatives;
- ▶ Initiates and promotes new opportunities for dialogue and co-operation between Jewish and Muslim communities.

'There is an increasing understanding that Jews and Muslims have a common history that dates back thousands of years. Now, more than ever, it is time to draw on and learn from our positive cultural experiences.' *Shereen Williams – Radio Salaam Shalom, Europe's first Muslim-Jewish radio station.*

Why?

- ▶ Jewish and Muslim people have a strong common religious and historical base, whilst living in a predominantly Christian society where all share equal rights and status.
- ▶ Judaism and Islam need not be on a 'collision course' and could complement the cultural and spiritual thinking of European societies, instead of confronting each other in the shadow of the Middle East conflict.
- ▶ Both Jews and Muslims have suffered discrimination in the forms of antisemitism and islamophobia. This shared experience could be used for mutual support of victims and to increase the pressure to prevent it.
- ▶ Supporting direct contact between communities is an essential step to create enduring good relations between these two cultures in Europe.

- ▶ Much good work is already going on at local level. These projects need to be celebrated and the good practice shared.

'This work comes at a crucial time in Jewish Muslim relations. Bringing together people working to bring religious harmony and tolerance within their own communities is an important step towards tackling animosity and misunderstanding between Jews and Muslims.' *Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony, UK*

A Brief History

Since 2005 CEJI – *A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe* has been working to foster and promote dialogue and understanding between Jewish and Muslim communities. Mapping reports of existing dialogue initiatives have been produced for five European countries demonstrating positive and growing contact between communities despite real challenges on the ground. In April 2007 the **European Jewish Muslim Dialogue Conference** was attended by seventy Jewish and Muslim delegates who identified the need to move beyond dialogue to co-operation. The **European Platform for Jewish Muslim Co-operation** is an outcome of this conference, with planned projects including joint religious diversity training and an annual award for successful initiatives.



'Jewish Muslim dialogue and co-operation initiatives are valuable not only for creating respect and understanding between communities but also as a source of inspiration for intercultural relations in general and a demonstration of solidarity in the fight against all forms of racism'. *Robin Sclafani – Director, CEJI*

Examples of Local Projects

Jewish-Maghreb Music Partnership (Belgium)

A Jewish-Muslim partnership organised a 'Jewish – Maghreb Ball' with Maghraïba Moroccan-Belgian and Yiddish Tanz bands providing music. Together, they play at multicultural events and visit schools.

Jewish Muslim Co-operation Platform (Denmark)

This platform is an outcome of the European Jewish Muslim Dialogue Conference. Planned projects include debates on Islam and Judaism, visits to places of worship, co-operation between Jewish and Muslim researchers and a project to address myths and facts behind commonly-held prejudices.

Friendship Tour (France)

Amitié Judéo-Musulmane de France (Jewish-Muslim Friendship France) and Rabbi Serfaty of Ris-Orangis brought together Jews, Muslims, teachers and youth on a 'Friendship Bus Tour' of over 40 French cities. The project raised awareness of both cultures and created bridges by emphasising commonalities.

Ha'atelier Academic Co-operation Platform (Germany)

Ha'atelier (Werkstatt für Philosophie und Kunst), an international institution for the renaissance of Jewish and Muslim cosmopolitan traditions in Europe, aims to make a curricular link between Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies and Humanities in Islamic, Middle Eastern and Western countries, thus creating a unique centre for intellectual and cultural exchange.

MAJO (MARokkaans-JOODs) Soccer Project (Netherlands)

Dialogue between Moroccan and Jewish communities in the Baarsjes neighbourhood, Amsterdam, resulted in this soccer project. Jewish and Moroccan youth from problem areas participate in soccer tournaments, and each is followed by a communal kosher/halal meal.

Writers for Peace (United Kingdom)

Writers for Peace explore issues and realities in the search for reconciliation in the Middle East, focusing on dialogue through creative writing. Meeting monthly, group members lead creative writing sessions and readings are held of participants' work.