

اللجنة الدائمة لتنظيم المؤتمرات
PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
ORGANIZING CONFERENCES



14th Doha Interfaith Conference

Religions and Hate Speech...
Scripture and Practice

(24 – 25) May 2022

Sheraton Hotel

Doha- State of Qatar





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Preface

Two dangers are facing our world today: the first is the unmistakable threat of terrorism; which people across the world have agreed upon to confront, and the second, which is not any lesser, is the escalation of hate speech, grounded in exclusion and discriminatory behaviors, that classify people by their religion, gender or color.

We need to admit that Religious Fanaticism is the main cause of conflicts facing our world today. Among other factors, they continue to erroneously understand the purpose of religion and God's supreme objectives of creation, and so they use this mis-conceptualization to support their authoritarian outlook embedded in nationalism and religious hatred. Such doings have generated extremist models that fuel hate speech and reject intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and consequently peaceful coexistence.

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has so often called on for, through its conferences, to adopt an effective strategy to counter this phenomenon through religious and moral values and legal means, as the stability we desire in the world depends on the extent individuals and institutions consolidate these beliefs of peace and tolerance.

We believe that the only way to combat hate speech is by eradicating its roots, and adopting the intellectual debate to recognise inherent appeals for sectarianism and racism and their rejection of others.

Hence, the 14th Doha International Conference for Interfaith Dialogue will discuss the theme **“Religions and Hate Speech...Scripture and Practice”**.



Causes:

Theme 1: Hate Speech: Causes, Drivers, and Risks

1. Radical Religious Discourse and the Spread of Hate-Speech

- The concept of hate speech.
- Misunderstandings of religion and the promotion of hate speech.
- Impact of the rise and proliferation of hate speech on achieving world peace.
- Extremist discourse of some clerics and political leaders.

2. Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression

- Abusing minorities and contempt for religions and religious figures.
- Misuse of freedom of expression.
- Freedom of expression in the light of repression and irresponsibility.

3. Targeted Media and Promotion of Hate Speech and Violence

- Increasing media campaigns targeting a religion, a sect or a group.
- The danger of employing media for political and ideological causes.
- Media mechanisms for monitoring and controlling hate speech.
- The double standards in media discourse both internally and externally.



4

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice

Practices:

Theme 2: Types and Forms of Hate Speech

1. Dangerous spread of hate speech images

- Hate speech on inciting violence and terrorism.
- Political exploitation of hate speech.
- The implications of the proliferation of hate speech on peaceful coexistence.

2. Hate Speech Practices and Effects

- Growing racism due to hate speech.
- The rise of hate speech against refugees and religious minorities.
- Hate speech against women.

3. Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

- Lack of controls and monitoring on social media.
- The contribution of social media to the rapid spread and circulation of extremism.
- Role of social media in igniting religious and sectarian strife.





Ways of Addressing and Confronting the Issue

Theme 3: Desired Actions for Combating Hate Speech

1. Combating hate speech through religious, media, and institutional leaders

- The responsibility of religious scholars in raising awareness among the public and for inculcating respect for others.
- The impact of media in reducing hate speech.
- Religious and moral values against hate speech.
- Creating a culture of peace, coexistence, and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

2. Constitute International Laws and Conventions to Criminalize Hate Speech

- Exercising freedom of expression under international humanitarian law.
- International conventions to confront hate speech.
- Legislative frameworks (religious and legal) against hate speech.

3. Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

- Empowering future generations through education to encounter hate speech.
- Confronting hate speech through culture and arts.
- Respecting diversity, accepting pluralism, and understanding of the others.





6

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice

The Fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue

**(Outstanding contributions to spreading the culture of moderate
discourse)**

**To be presented at the Fourteenth Doha Conference
on Interfaith Dialogue
(24-25 May 2022)**

We may be living today's turmoil and instability because of conflicts whose causes are in one way or another aimed to incite racism and religious sectarianism, which have become increasingly mainstream and diverse in its manifestations, the most widespread and influential being hate speech.

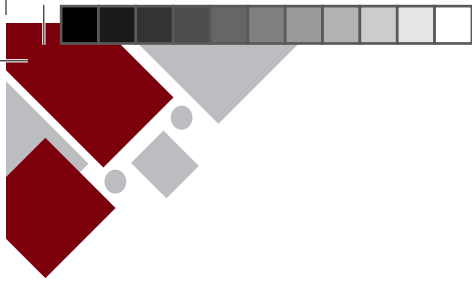
Undoubtedly, this makes us most in need to highlight and honor bright models that spearhead the dissemination of a culture of speech moderation and the refutation of hate speech through individuals and institutions. It is our effort to assign such an Award in hopes of it being a motivation to undertake the important task of perpetuating moderate discourse and to bring people and followers of different religions closer together. And to additionally also confront the incitement to hatred and intolerance, and to instead pave a way of deepening dialogue to confront discrimination, racism, extremism and terrorism.



To this end, the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue considered that the Fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue 2022 should be dedicated to this central issue under the title:

(Outstanding contributions to disseminate the culture of moderate discourse)

The Interfaith Doha international award will be presented during the opening of the 14th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference to be held 24 - 25 May 2022, to support endeavors of Individuals/Institutions/Organizations that play a major role in spreading a culture of moderate discourse and refuting hate speech, incitement to violence, discrimination, racism, extremism, terrorism while bringing people and followers of different religions together.





Participants





HE Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi

(Qatar)

Chairman of DICID

OPENING SESSION

CV:

- His Excellency, Dr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi is currently the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar. Prior to his appointment as the Undersecretary by the Emir of Qatar, His Highness, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Professor Ibrahim Al-Naimi was the founder and President of the Community College of Qatar from 2008 to May 2018. Under his leadership, the college developed more than 17 associate and bachelor degree programs and grew to become the fastest growing higher education institution in the State of Qatar.
- He is currently the Chairman of the “**Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue**” since its establishing in 2007.
- Prior to establishing and presiding over the Community College of Qatar, Professor Al-Naimi played a key role in the educational reforms in Qatar.





Under the “Education for a New Era” initiative, he led in the development of a number of well-known international K-12 schools including Michael E. DeBakey for Health Professions-Qatar, Sherborne School-Qatar and the International School of London-Qatar. Professor Al-Naimi also led the design and development of Stenden University in Qatar and served as the President for the university during its inaugural stages (2000 - 2006).

● Professor Al-Naimi is well-known around the country for his outstanding leadership in academic affairs and for his strong commitment to student success as well as program and community development. In 1994, Professor Al-Naimi was the first Qatari to be appointed as the President of Qatar University. Under his leadership and guidance, the university saw significant growth in student enrolment, faculty, staff and academic programs. Prior to that, Dr. Ibrahim held several leadership and academic positions including Dean of College of Science and Professor of Organometallic Chemistry at Qatar University as well as founder and President of Qatar Scientific Club since its inception in 1986.





12

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice



Prof. Ali Muhyadin Al Quradaghi

(Qatar)

**Secretary-General of the International
Union for Muslim Scholars**

OPENING SESSION

CV:

● Professor of Sharia and Islamic Economics, Expert in International Fiqh Academies, President and an executive member of the Fatwa and Shari'a Supervisory Board for a number of Islamic banks, insurance companies in the Persian Gulf, and the world.

● He completed his PhD in Shari'a and Law at the University of Al Azhar in the field of contracts and financial transactions in 1985 with an honors degree. He has published more than thirty books in the field of Islamic jurisprudence, law, Islamic studies, Islamic economy, development, financial transactions in Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic banking and Takaful insurance, i.e. Economic bag publish Dar al Bashaer al Islamiya 2010 which is in 12 folders.

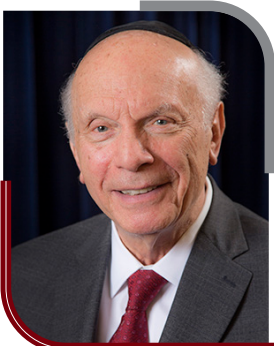




- And Takaful Islamic insurance jurisprudence study compared commercial insurance within practical applications, in five editions, the most recent revised and increased version is Dar al-Bashaer Islamic / Beirut 1434(2012)

- He also has around 100 academic papers to his name.





Rabbi Arthur Schneier

(USA)

Founder and President
Appeal of Conscience Foundation
Senior Rabbi, Park East Synagogue



OPENING SESSION

CV:

● He has served as U.S. Alternate Representative to the U.N. General Assembly, Chairman, U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. Rabbi Arthur Schneier was one of three religious leaders appointed by President Clinton to start the first dialogue on religious freedom with President Jiang Zemin and Chinese leaders. He was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the High-Level Group UN "Alliance of Civilizations", and serves as Ambassador of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations.

● Rabbi Arthur Schneier was one of the speakers at Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's first Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom conference in Washington, DC (July 2018).



● Founder, Seminar on Religion for the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute (1981). Secretary of State, Hilary Rodham Clinton presented the U.S. Dept. of State Award in recognition of “his commitment and partnership for over 30 years in helping foreign professionals better understand the complex issues surrounding religious life and the right to religious freedom in the countries in which they serve.”

● Rabbi Arthur Schneier received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Clinton for “his service as an international envoy for four administrations and as a Holocaust survivor, devoting a lifetime to overcoming forces of hatred and intolerance” and Department of State Special Recognition Award for “his ecumenical work in favor of mutual understanding, tolerance and peace.” The United States Senate honored him for his half of century of work on behalf of religious freedom and interreligious cooperation.

● Pope Francis conferred on Rabbi Arthur Schneier the rare papal knighthood of St. Sylvester for “his unceasing work to promote peace and mutual understanding.”

● Known as Rabbi/Diplomat, Rabbi Schneier was the initiator of the UN Resolution for the Protection of Religious Sites (2001) and on the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht in his keynote address to the Austrian Parliament stated, “People should not have to risk their lives when going to pray in churches, mosques, synagogues or temples.”





Msgr George Frendo

(Albania)

Archbishop of Tirana



OPENING SESSION

Title: Religions, Religious Tolerance and Religious Dialogue

CV:

- Mons. George Anthony Frendo was born in Malta in 1946. In 1962 he joined the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). He studied Philosophy and Theology in Malta and was ordained priest in 1969.
- In Malta he graduated as Lector in Theology. He continued his studies in Rome, where he graduated as Doctor of Canon Law. He was lecturer of Dogmatic Theology and Contemporary Atheism at the College of Saint Thomas Aquinas and at the Faculty of Theology. He was Provincial of the Dominicans, President of the Conference of Major Superiors, and Judge at the Interdiocesan Tribunal.



- In Albania he was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Tirana, President of the Conference of Major Superiors, Auxiliary Bishop of Tirana (in 2006), Archbishop of Tirana-Durrës (in 2016) and President of the Episcopal Conference of Albania (in 2018).

- He is the author of several books of doctrinal and spiritual nature, in Maltese, English and Albanian.

ABSTRACT:

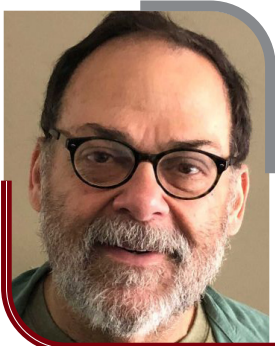
Since Plato and Aristotle, Western philosophy aligns religion with a concrete reality, “the Holy”, which we call God. But religion, faith, and ethical behavior are inter-related. One cannot ameliorate one’s relationship with God without simultaneously ameliorating one’s relationship with others.

No one could eradicate man’s spiritual yearning for God. And an authentic religion teaches us how to construct a world order more worthy for mankind to live in. Authentic religions are for good relationship, for justice and peace.

Can religions be sources of conflicts and intolerance? Yes, but only when religion is instrumentalised by politicians who give a religious physiognomy to the wars they wage, as if these are conflicts between different religions. No war can ever be waged in the name of God.

Religions are expressions of belief in and communion with God, creator of all mankind. And this lays the basis for true brotherhood and genuine peace. We must aim at a true prophetic partnership. In other words, we must make a common effort to discover the common prophetic role of our religions.





Rabbi Bob Kaplan

(US)

Director-The Center for Community Leadership,
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York



PLENARY SESSION I.

HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

**Title: Hate speech and the misinterpretation And the
misrepresentation of religious beliefs and concepts**

CV:

● Rabbi Bob Kaplan is currently the founding Director of The Center for Community Leadership, a division of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC), the central coordinating and resource body for 62 major Jewish organizations in the metropolitan New York area. Mr. Kaplan is involved in a variety of issues including conflict resolution, coalition building, interracial/inter-religious relationships, combating hate crimes, and community building. Amongst the leadership initiatives he has founded are; YouthBridge-NY, the We Are All Brooklyn, and Queens, We Are the Bronx, Community Connections, and Haitian Leaders Fellowships.

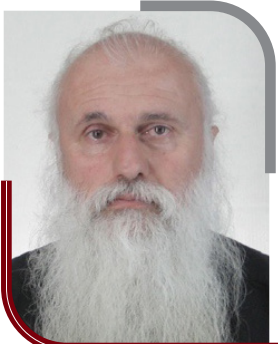


● He presented to President Clinton’s White House Conference on Race and was a member of the Plenary Committee for the United Nations Conference, Habitat II. He served as the coalition consultant to the Black/Jewish Congressional Coalition in Washington DC.

ABSTRACT:

Hate speech has long been at the core of the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religious beliefs and concepts in that it has been used to legitimize and wage “Holy War” against who are portrayed as enemies of the “faithful” society or the status quo around the globe. Along with this radical trend is the misappropriation of religious beliefs to dehumanize and vilify the “other” leading, all too often, to the extreme impact of this virulent form of hate, the horrors of the holocaust, genocide and mass deportations. This session will examine the role and pathway that “religiously” fostered hate speech has played in the rise of hate acts. This tragic trend includes the growth of the White Supremacist’s abuse of religious themes, symbols and texts to foster a group mentality that justify hate, violence and deadly terrorist attacks on other faith groups in the United States, the deportations and genocide of the Rohingya in Burma, the rise of anti-semitism in Europe, and a general rise in the abuse of faith in the rise of hate by radical groups in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and globally.





**The Most Revd
Prof. Dr Malkhaz Songulashvili
(Georgia)**

**Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi and Professor
in Comparative Theology at Ilia State
University in Georgia**



PLENARY SESSION I.

HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Title: Hate Speech Versus Abrahamic Scriptures and Sound

Theology

CV:

● Born in 1963. He taught history and religion at Tbilisi State University in 1988-2007. He completed his doctoral dissertation in the UK through the Oxford Center of Mission Studies in 2013. He worked as a Bible Translator for the Georgian Orthodox Church and the United Bible Societies for 31 years. He Served Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia as its leading Archbishop for 19 years (1994-2013). Since 2014 he has been an associate professor in comparative theology at Ilia State University, Georgia, and the Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi. For his peace and justice work among Christians, Muslims, Yezidis and Jews he has been honored with: The Lambeth Cross, 2006; Order





of St George, 2008; Order of Christ the Saviour, 2011; Honorary Citizenship of Tbilisi, 2013; Order of St Nicolas, 2013; Pro Fide Award, 2014; ShahbazBhatti Freedom Award 1915 and The Guardian of Tolerance Award, 2017.

ABSTRACT:

Words can insult and humiliate. They can also incite or threaten violent and criminal actions by individuals, groups of people and institutions. In other words, they can inflict both psychological and physical wounds. Discussions about hate speech has recently become rather prevalent. Understandably considerable attention has been paid to its political, legal and social dimensions. However, one aspect of hate speech which is a religious one, is still either hidden or treated rather superficially.

It is crystal clear that hate speech contradicts principles of religions in general and Abrahamic religions in particular. Everybody agrees that it must be opposed and eliminated, but without addressing its roots and sources it will be quite impossible to oppose it. Muslim, Christian and Jewish Scriptures suggest rich resources for opposing hate speech. Yet misinterpretation of the same Scriptures encourage aspirations to certain moral or spiritual supremacy which undermine the integrity of these respective religious traditions and their reason d'être – which is the struggle for peace and harmony on the planet.

The religiously motivated hate speech seems to be rooted in a wrong theology claiming possession of the truth in its purest possible emanation. Such a theology encourages of other human beings who do not belong to the same group. It indirectly incites arrogant attitudes towards the entire creation and eco-system.





Dr. Edward Kessler

(UK)

Founding Director of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 1: Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate Speech

**Title: How should society respond when some religious extremists,
often self-appointed leaders, spread hate and radicalism?**

CV:

● Dr Edward Kessler, MBE is Founder Director of the Woolf Institute and a leading thinker in interfaith relations, primarily, Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. In 2002, he was elected Fellow of St Edmunds College, in 2007. Dr Kessler was described by The Times Higher Education Supplement (London) as ‘probably the most prolific interfaith figure in British academia’ and in 2011 he was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for services to interfaith relations. He has written or edited 12 books, including the standard undergraduate textbook entitled, *An Introduction to Jewish-Christian Relations* (Cambridge, 2010). His most recent books are *Jews, Christians and Muslims* (SCM, 2013)



and Jesus (The History Press, 2016). He is about to start a new research project on Religious Fundamentalism (across five religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism). Kessler regularly appears in the media commenting on interfaith affairs and was Vice-Chair of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life (2013-15).

● As a Principal of the Cambridge Theological Federation, and an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Divinity, much of his academic work has been examining Scripture and exploring the significance for Jewish-Christian relations of sharing a sacred text. He has identified a common exegetical tradition, especially in the formative centuries. More recently his writings have focused on the encounter with Islam and contemporary relations between the three Abrahamic faiths. Kessler proposes approaches for managing difference, which he argues is vital in forming a positive identity as well as sustaining communities.

ABSTRACT:

This problem is not limited to any single religion or country, although I will focus on the UK experience where legislation concerning Racial and Religious Hatred that was passed by Parliament in 2006.

One approach in the UK has been to foster religious resilience within each faith community, particularly, among communities who may be susceptible to radicalisation and influenced by hate speech. It requires investment, financial and human, in cohesion programmes and in sustaining local initiatives. A complimentary second approach is to foster resilience outside the faith community. This requires religion and belief expertise in wider society and awareness of the tensions (and challenges) each faith community faces in terms of integration (socio-economic as well as religio-ethnic) and the maintenance of religious and ethnic identities. Finally, I will consider whether there are the lessons beyond the UK.





Dr. Fadi Daou

(Lebanon)

Co-founder and Senior Policy Advisor at Adyan



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 1: Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading

of Hate Speech

Title: understanding of religion

CV:

● Laureate of the MIT Elevate Prize 2020 for Global thinkers and change-makers, Fadi Daou (Lebanese and French citizen) has an academic, consultancy and social entrepreneur careers. He is a professor of geopolitics of religions. After having taught at and lead the High Institute of Religious Sciences at Saint-Joseph University (Beirut), he is currently a Senior researcher at Geneva University, and visitor professor to many academic institutions. He also is co-founder of and Senior Policy Advisor at Adyan Foundation, a leading organization in the MENA region for interreligious relations, diversity management and peacebuilding. He holds a PhD in theology and an MA in political philosophy from the University of Strasbourg



(France), accompanied by an extensive research and publication activity about theology of pluralism, citizenship, and geopolitics of religions. He consults governments and international organizations for policymaking in the fields of peace, cultural governance and social cohesion. With Dr Nayla Tabbara he co-authored the book entitled “Divine Hospitality” published in French, German, English and Arabic. More recently, he co-edited the ISPI Policy Report on “Human Fraternity and Inclusive Citizenship”

ABSTRACT:

Within the section “Misunderstandings of religion and the promotion of hate speech”, in the Panel on “Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate-Speech”, my paper will present the principles for a proper “understanding of religion” while safeguarding the freedom of thought and belief on the one hand, and preventing radicalization and hate speech on the other. Furthermore, the paper will discuss the role of interreligious dialogue in promoting these principles and hence making from preventing the spread of hate speech an interfaith agenda.



Dr. Stefan Jakob Wimmer

(Germany)

Chairman of Friends of Abraham Society



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 1: Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of

Hate Speech

Title: Can there be Hate Speech in Holy Scriptures?

CV:

● Prof. Dr. Stefan Jakob Wimmer is the Chairman of Friends of Abraham Society, Germany. He is also an Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of Munich, Faculty for Cultural Sciences and Catholic Theological Faculty

● He is the Co-founder of the Friends of Abraham Society for the History of Religions and Interfaith Dialogue. He is Member of several institutions engaged in interfaith dialogue, e.g. “Council of Religions of Munich”, “Munich Forum for Islam”, “Nymphenburg Talks”. He has been delivered numerous public lectures, seminars, media performances; academic and



popular scientific books, more than 100 articles. Editor of an academic series (“Egypt and Old Testament”) and journal (“Leaves of Abraham”).

ABSTRACT:

Religions such as Islam, Christianity, Judaism and others as well all face the challenge of so-called fundamentalists who distort the foundations of religion. Yet, very often these ill guided minds invoke their respective Holy Scriptures (the Qur’an or the Old and New Testaments of the Bible) and other religious sources (such as the Sunna, or sayings by Martin Luther or the Church Fathers, or the Jewish Talmud) to justify their ways of thinking and acting. How is it possible that the sources of our religions contain passages that can be abused in such a way?

Indeed it seems that on a superficial reading we do find confrontation, hatred against others, violence and a lot of warfare purportedly “in the name of God“. And yet we do believe God is speaking to us in these texts. We cannot change and we cannot eliminate phrases from the Holy Scriptures that may appear offensive, but we should not skip or silence them either. How then are we to deal with them?

These are difficult questions for honest believers. But we cannot sincerely confront extremists, as long as we do not candidly address them among ourselves, with courage and faith.





Dr. Abdalhadi Alijla

(Sweden)

Post Doctoral Fellow at Orient Institute-
Beirut (OIB)



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 1: Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of

Hate Speech

Title: Do Religious People Hate Others? Evidence from the Middle East

CV:

● Abdalhadi Alijla is a social and political scientist. He is a Max Weber Stiftung Post-doctoral Fellow at the Orient Institute in Beirut (OIB). He is the Co-Leader of Global Migration and Human Rights at Global Young Academy. He is an Associate Researcher, and the Regional Manager of Varieties of Democracy Institute (Gothenburg University) for Gulf countries. Since April 2018, he is an associate fellow at the Post-Conflict Research Center in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was the director of the Institute for Middle East Studies, Canada (IMESC) from 2014 until June 2018. Abdalhadi has a PhD in political studies from the State University of Milan and M.A. degree in Public Policy and Governance from Zeppelin University- Friedrichshafen, Germany. He



has been granted several awards and scholarships, including DAAD (2009), RLC Junior Scientist (2010), UNIMI (2012), ICCROM (2010), SaudAl-Babtin(2002) among others.

● In 2016, he was a fellow of Royal Society of Art and Science, UK. He worked for many NGOS.

● and INGOS in the Middle East and Europe such as Transparency International, GiZ, EUMaddad Fund for Syria Crisis, and UNV among others. He is a member of the scientific and consultative committee of Center for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut.

ABSTRACT: :

Hate speech has become an essential part of the growing racism against minorities in the West as well as other religious groups, threatening the social cohesion of societies and nations. Because hate speech has been linked to religions, especially in the West, and to sectarian divisions in other areas in the east, it is crucial to examine to which extent such claim is valid. This article tries to contribute to the growing literature on the relationship between religions and racism. Using quantitative data from 2018-2019 of the Arab Barometer of more than 20000 surveys, the paper tries to analyze if religious people have a prejudice against other religions, minority groups and sects. The article covers Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco and Kuwait. The paper starts with defining racism, prejudice, and hate speech, and then examine through statistical analysis the link between hate prejudice, religions people (through several indicators- aggregated) as indicators of racism which spread violence against others. Moreover, the paper will provide descriptive data on many indicators from these countries related to racism, trust, and religions as well as the effect of social media on prejudice.





Dr. Sabrina Lei

(Italy)

Director, Tawasul Centre for Dialogue
and Research, Rome



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 1: Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate Speech

Title: The Notion of Hate-Speech: A Philosophical and Historical
Approach in Relation to the Manifestation of the Phenomenon in
the Western History and Culture

CV:

- Dr Sabrina Lei, Director of Tawasul Europe Centre for Publishing, Research and Dialogue, Rome, is a noted Italian-European Muslim author, translator, cross-cultural expert and interfaith leader.
- During the past decade or so, Dr Sabrina has contributed enormously to a better, refined and balanced understanding of Islam and Muslims in Italy and Europe, as a writer, thinker and interfaith leader. Her contribution to bridging





the gap between the world of Islam, the West and Christianity has been widely acknowledged.

- Trained in Latin, Greek and ancient philosophy for over a decade, with her PhD from Pontifical Gregorian University in ancient Greek philosophy, Dr Sabrina has, so far, translated over 45 Muslim classics into Italian, besides producing her own five books, including a biography of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the recently released book : *Le comunita religioso non-musulmane nel mondo islamico : Un introduzione storica* (The non-Muslim Religious Community in the Muslim World : A Historical Introduction, March 2019).

ABSTRACT:

The phenomenon of Hate Speech, which seems to be quite wide spread at our time, has got deeper historical roots in Europe. And it is closely related to the formation of the notion of western religious and political unity at the historical level. At the philosophical level, instead, the phenomenon of Hate Speech is closely related to the formation of the notion of the Self and Alterity in general and in particular with reference to the relation with the other.

Hate Speech, in other words, should not be read exclusively in its current manifestations, but its should be studied both at the theoretical and historical levels. This paper will provide both the analyses, introducing also some historical examples in order to explain when, how and why the Hate Speech has circulated in relation to different religious communities at different stages of western history.



**Dr. Tito Marci****(Italy)****Professor at Sapienza University, Rome****THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS****Topic 2: Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression****Title: The Concept of Radicalism and Religious Recognition****CV:**

● Tito Marci is currently Full Professor of Sociology of Law, Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Political Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences, Sociology, Communication. He teaches Sociology and Sociology of Law at the same University. Visiting Fellow at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, JNU, New Delhi, India (2011). He held seminars at the University at Buffalo (USA), at the Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul (Turkey), at the Yeditepe University, Istanbul (Turkey), at the Hecetepe University, Ankara (Turkey), at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City (Mexico), at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, Dharamshala (India). He published several monographs and numerous essays on hospitality, rights of hospitality, citizenship, gift giving,





subjectivity, political participation, migrations, pluralism and multiethnic societies, social inclusion, civil and political society, art and law.

ABSTRACT:

The paper analyses the issue of radicalism in a contemporary context through a sociological perspective that involves a critique of the economic idea of exchange. On the basis of this critique, the paper will try to show how the concept of religious radicalism (or religious “fundamentalism”) takes its current meaning in relation to the cultural and political assets that have become predominant in western modern and global contemporary societies. Only by this critical perspective we can really reconsider an interfaith dialogue capable to respect diversity, accept pluralism, and understand the others.





Mr. Davis Mac-Iyalla

(UK)

Executive Director, Interfaith Diversity
Network of West Africa



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 2: Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression

Title: Freedom for All: Refugees, Women & HIV/AIDS

ABSTRACT:

The legacies of colonialism across Africa include patriarchy, religious oppression and anti-human rights laws. These historic legacies are reflected in prevailing societal attitudes and oppressive laws that place LGBTI people and their families, women and persons with HIV/AIDS in harm's way. Neocolonialism in the form of the export of hate and homophobia from the United States Religious Right results in new forms of oppression such as anti-homosexuality laws, propaganda laws, restrictions on women's health and reproductive rights, and the closing of civil society space.

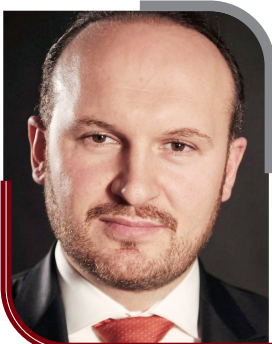
Patriarchy and religious oppression affect LGBTI people, women and people with HIV/AIDS by claiming and insisting upon a male-dominated orientation



to the definition of family. So, exploring ways to challenge patriarchy and religious oppression results in liberation for all -- for people refugees and their families, women and persons with HIV/AIDS. Simply put, patriarchy and religious oppression are the common enemy and challenging patriarchy and religious oppression is the common solution.

This presentation will offer examples and case studies of sexual minorities -affirming interfaith dialogue work and engagement with religious leaders and civil society in Africa. Moreover, this presentation will offer resources on effective ways to translate human rights into the interfaith context. Educational resources and effective ways to speak about hate speech, gender, health and human rights are the path to the understanding the intersectionality of struggles and the building of coalitions working across lines of difference. Together we will create a world that is free and equal.



**Mag. Ümit Vural****(Austria)****President of the Islamic Religious Authority****THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS****Topic 2: Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression****Title: Hate Speech and anti-Muslim racism in Austria: Causes,
Drivers and Risks****ABSTRACT:**

Hate speech is not free speech. Austria is traditionally a country where many different cultures meet and the population structure is strongly influenced by immigration. However, especially in the course of recent refugee movements, an increasing hatred towards refugees as well as Muslims and their institutions can be observed, often under the guise of a legitimate criticism of Islam and freedom of expression.

There is no doubt that freedom of expression is a fundamental democratic right, without which there can be no political debate, no free exercise of religion. Nevertheless, it too has its limits: it ends where other people are publicly





degraded, insulted and abused, whether for antimuslim, racist, homophobic, sexist, or anti-Semitic reasons. To speak out against hate speech is therefore to speak out against discrimination.

In Austrian criminal law, hate speech must be committed in a public space or be accessible to a broad public in order to be categorised as such. The number of documented cases continues to rise. This documentation is an important first step towards counteracting the phenomenon through awareness-raising measures, evaluation of existing laws and the establishment of support structures for victims in order to promote a respectful, democratic and peaceful coexistence.





Mr. Johannes DOUMA

(Netherlands)

Ambassador- Special Envoy for Religion and Belief



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 3: Targeted Media and Promoting Hate speech

Title : The Istanbul Process

CV:

● Ambassador Mr. Jos Douma (65) was appointed as the first ever Netherlands' Special Envoy for Religion and Belief in July 2019. Before he served as Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia and Armenia from September 2015. Previous postings include ambassadorships in Tehran and Ljubljana and being the deputy Head of Mission in Moscow. Ambassador Douma served briefly as a Chargé d'Affaires to the Holy See in 2010 and 2011.

● Mr. Douma's career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands started in 1980 and includes postings in Harare, Lagos, Bonn as well as in



the Ministry in The Hague, where, among other positions, he has worked as head of Matra program (Programme for Social Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe) and Head of Central Europe Division.

● Mr. Douma is historian by education. He is married to Mrs. Aleid Bolhuis and has four children.

ABSTRACT:

The IP is a multilateral process, grounded in Resolution 16/18, but in practice only supported by a limited number of countries. The process calls for collective action to proactively combat intolerance and hate speech. Since 2011, when four countries together with the OIC took the initiative, five meetings have been held in different parts of the world. The sixth edition took place in Singapore (2016). This very inspiring gathering illustrated practical initiatives and results in the South-East Asia region, as well as in Singapore specifically. Alas, the process largely stalled, with the old paradigm of mutual exclusion of free speech and protection of religions remaining an ongoing reality hitherto.

The meeting in The Hague focused on grassroots initiatives again, inspiring participating states and organizations to bring the message ‘No Tolerance for Intolerance’ home. This spring, the Netherlands will report on the 7th meeting to members and observers of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.





Ms. Zainab AlSuwajj

(USA)

**Executive Director -the American Islamic
Congress (AIC)**



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 3: Targeted Media and Promoting Hate speech

Title: The Impact of Hate Speech in America and the Muslim world after 911/ until now

CV:

- Zainab Al-Suwajj is a co-founder of the American Islamic Congress (AIC) and has been its Executive Director since its inception in 2001. In the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks, Zainab left her teaching position at Yale to launch AIC with the mission of building interfaith and interethnic understanding, Combating Hate speech and to grantee Human and Civil Rights for all.
- Over the past decade and a half, Zainab's leadership has expanded AIC into an international organization with six bureaus worldwide, including the U.S., Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Tunisia. Under her direction, AIC have trained Women leaders in the Middle East and advocate for women's rights. Also,



have trained hundreds of young Middle Eastern activists in the methods of non-violent to protect their rights and how to keep their community safe from the danger of Violence Extremism through social media and on how to become social entrepreneurs. Zainab is an international speaker for the US Department of State on combating violence Extremism, Hate Speech and how to empower Faith communities. In Iraq, she launched a program that disrupts and mediates tribal and sectarian violence as it happens, saving countless lives in both Basra and Baghdad.

ABSTRACT:

It is such a timely and important issue. As the Director of the American Islamic Congress proudly saying AIC is the first organization in the USA to address the issue of Hate Speech and how hate speech could leads to hate crimes.As Citizens of the world, we all should be on the alert for two kinds of Hate Speech. The first is directed against us and, the second is spoken by us. Therefore, I would like to share with you our successful experience in this matter and what the best practices are to combat this issue through a citizen's guide we have created on Hate speech.





Dr. Abdul Majid Khan

(India)

Professor - Department of Islamic Studies-
Aligarh Muslim University



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 3: Targeted Media and Promoting Hate speech

Title: Hate Speeches and Religion in Contemporary Global Flux:

Issues and the Way Out

CV:

● Dr. Abdul Majid Khan, teaches at the Department of Islamic Studies of the Aligarh Muslim University. He is a member of several national and international academic bodies. He has contributed to numerous prestigious conferences on historical, philosophical and theological themes. On the other hand he does extensive fieldwork, meeting and interviewing the leaders and workers of Muslim states, associations and institutions of learning, the world over, and remains abreast of the latest writings on the Muslim world. A number of his research articles on Culture, Mysticism, Human Rights, Environment, Globalization and Consumerism have been published in various reputed journals. He has worked on contours of 'Qur'ānic Exegesis'. His books Muhammad Asad: An Intellectual Giant of Contemporary World and Muhammad Asad Explains Al- Quran to the Modern Man speak of his scholarship in the field of contemporary explanations of Al-Qur'ān. He is being invited by academicians internationally as an International Panelist to discuss the most important issues facing the human life. Some of them are, Integrating Migrant Rights with Host Rights and Migrant Duties (Special Public lecture in Doha, Qatar), Education for Sustainability (International Panel Discussant, Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand), Ethics and Morality for Sustainable Development: A Comparison



of Western and Islamic Perspectives (International Panel Discussant, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh) etc. He is Co- Director of Delhi Council of Philosophical Research, an apex body for enriching the intellectual foundations of academic and educational excellence. He is a member of Academic Advisory Board of Institute of Integrated Knowledge (IIK), Bloomfield, United States Of America. As is evident from his studies and contributions, he holds the rare distinction of commenting on contemporary issues and developments but from the vantage of an intimate understanding of profound considerations of history, philosophy and theology. He is growingly able to see and show the continuous working of the Islamic spirit in comprehending, shaping and improving the Muslim civilization and Human Culture at large.

ABSTRACT:

Contemporary world is beset with catastrophic movements, often using religious labels, mobilizing masses against fellow human beings, often resulting in devastation to human habitations, invasions, destructions of men and material. Fear, deprivations, loss of dignity, defenselessness has become as if the destiny of many people. Religion per se integrates man with God, the fount of human brotherhood, fellow feelings, justice and mercy. However, religion has been a strong force for human mobilizations too. Contemporary world, dominated by the modernist and post modernist ideas and supremacy of the western man has been insistent on maintaining its supremacy at “whatever cost” the world has to pay for it. Lately the secular western world seems to be hobnobbing with unauthentic religious offshoots to further its agenda of domination at the cost of destruction of others. Unknown groups, led by unknown leaders, supported by unknown forces, emerge on global plane and play destructive role. The global powers need to come up clean after accusations of their involvement in creating, sustaining and sometimes destroying these groups. Generally religious discourses with hate speeches and powerful media work as catalysts for this destructive agenda. Otherwise true religious teachings create a congenial atmosphere for creating a harmonious world, which strives for justice and equality for all and fosters the values of brotherhood and mercy among mankind. However, the non-traditionalist, ‘reformist’ movements emerging in the modern period which give lesser centrality to the transcendental dimensions of religion due to the unwitting effect of modern western positivism show lesser traditional universalism and fellow-feeling with other religions as the universal dimensions are related to the transcendental dimension. So, not only the agent provocateurs need to be exposed and rooted out but the crypto materialist paradigm of the modern ‘reformists’ (in contra-distinction to pre-modern ‘reformists’) that both parallels and supports (often unintentionally) the planted extremists, needs to be replaced with a genuine transcendental paradigm where spirituality, ethics and values govern the material objects of man, societies and countries and man stops exploiting religion and religious symbols rather gets ennobled by religion and fosters nobility among humans across the globe.





Mr. Glen Vivian Gerard Chatelier

(India)

Director, Office of International Affairs,
Assumption University of Thailand – Hua
Mak Campus



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 3: Targeted Media and Promoting Hate speech

Title: Emotional Development of the Student in the Internet and Social Media Era: “How Self-Identity Affects Life, Affective Maturity and Mental Health”? A Psycho-Spiritual Perspective

CV:

● Serving as Director of International Affairs at Assumptio University of Thailand since 2004, Mr. Glen Chatelier has lived in Thailand and taught at Assumption University for 31 years. His Holiness Pope Francis re-appointed him as Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Culture for a second term, 2019-2024. Mr. Chatelier holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A, 1988 and the American College, Madurai Kamaraja University, Madurai, India 1986. The highlight of his publications include a book of his poems, covering the years 1996-2017 on the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, titled “SADUDEE MAHARACHA” which was released on November 8, 2017.



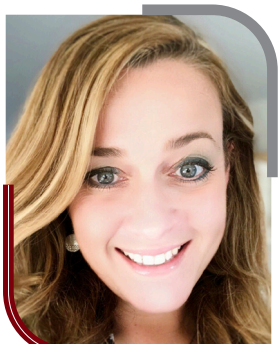
● Contact details: The Office of International Affairs, St. Louis Hall, Assumption University of Thailand, Hua mak campus, Hua mak, Bangkok 10240, Thailand.

● Email: gchatelier@au.edu

ABSTRACT:

This reflective paper drawing on the case of the presenter's former student will explore through a psycho-spiritual lens the implications of the Christian message and educative approaches in understanding the student's emotional development in the age of Internet-led hate speech and cyber bullying by examining psychological issues in self-identity affecting life, affective maturity and mental health. By confronting the customary approaches in Christian Institutions to educate learners for future careers, the paper argues that in effect, Christian education modelling its teaching on Christ the Shepherd, should target education for better living in the midst of challenges that the Internet-led hate speech and digital age poses for young people. The paper ends on the call for paradigm shifts in Christian education.





Ms. Chantal Suissa-Runne

(Netherlands)

Social entrepreneur and the director of Younite



THEME 1: HATE SPEECH: CAUSES, DRIVERS AND RISKS

Topic 3: Targeted Media and Promoting Hate speech

Title: How hate speech in media and politics creates unsafe societies.

CV:

● Chantal Suissa-Runne (1980) is the director of YOUNite coaching, training consulting (www.chantalsuissa.com). Diversity, inclusion, conflict resolution and interfaith dialogue are her main topics. As a Jewish professional she works extensively with the Arab Muslim community in her country. She also works as associate partner for RoutsLaeven providing Harvard Method Training on cooperation and negotiation (www.routslaeven.com). She serves as senior advisor to Nieuw Wij and used to be their Program Manager and former Chief Editor. Nieuw Wij (New We) is the largest interfaith & intercultural platform in the Netherlands (www.nieuwwij.nl). She also independently serves as a consultant, project leader, trainer, public speaker and moderator in various fields like dialogue, conflict resolution, social resilience, interfaith



projects, intercultural communication, youth & student empowerment and the prevention of radicalisation. Both at national and international level.

● In February 2017 the Jewish-Muslim Leadership project for young professionals (25 – 37) by the name of Mo & Moos won a prestigious award, that is being granted only once in every 5 years. Participants work together towards an inclusive society and provide lectures, workshops and debates on topics like the Freedom of Speech.

● Chantal participated as an advisor in consulting sessions for the vice Prime Minister (Social Affairs & Employment) on discrimination in general and Antisemitism and Islamophobia in particular.

ABSTRACT:

The past two decennia we have seen a rise of hate speech in conventional and social media. In The Netherlands for the longest time and still, hate speech was directed at Jews, later on at various migrant groups, refugees and people of colour. Lately we notice that islamophobia is on the rise and Muslims are often perceived as the ultimate “other”. This is being fuelled by both conventional media and social media and populist political parties. Within this framework there is an interesting and troubling mechanism at play. Jews and Muslims as two minorities are being positioned as perceived enemies whilst this is not the case. To put it bluntly Jews are being blamed for COVID by populist conspiracy thinkers and Muslims for every single security threat. Also media, social media and politicians abuse the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and wars to tear us apart. All of this hate speech has led to increased violence towards Jewish and Muslim institutions. To put an end to this we created Yalla! a Dutch foundation for Jews and Muslims to fight antisemitism and islamophobia and address politicians and media together as friends and allies.





Dr. Vesna Škare Ožbolt

(Croatia)

Former Minister of Justice



PLENARY SESSION II

TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Title: Hate Speech as a War Crime

CV:

● From 1990 to 1999, she was an advisor to the President of the Republic of Croatia. During the War in Croatia was one of the key negotiators for reaching a cease-fire in the war-affected areas, working on the implementation of several peace agreements between Croatian and rebel Serb representatives. She was actively engaged with non-governmental organizations on the normalization of the relationship between the parties in conflict.

● From 1998-2000 she was President of the National Committee for Reconciliation in the War affected Territory of the Republic of Croatia, coordinated activities between UNTAES officers, delegations of Croatian refugees, representatives of international organizations (UNHCR, OSCE, IOM, etc.), International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)



● From 2000 to 2016, she was a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia and Minister of Justice of the Republic of Croatia. As Minister of Justice, she introduced new institutes in the Croatian justice system to raise the level of efficiency and transparency, such as a trial within a reasonable period (3 to 5 yrs), introduced spokesperson of the courts; founded Judicial Academy and obligatory training of judges and public prosecutors, introduced judicial inspectors to control the court administration, launching the reform of land registry and digitization (conversion) of data, drafted anticorruption strategy with the political corruption as number one priority, reorganizing of the network of municipal and county courts.

ABSTRACT:

In the period from 1991 to 1995, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, people were confronted with numerous public forms of expression and transmission of hatred and incitement to crime. The media had also used to incite hatred and violence and to promote war propaganda. In addition to the media, hate speech spread by politicians. The paper will cover some cases where a verdict on hate speech has reached the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. During wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, certain politicians encouraged the persecution, deportation, and forcible transfer of the population, which all qualifies as a crime against humanity. Every opportunity used to directly provoke the war against “historical enemies,” which meant against Bosniaks and Croats. The paper will cover all cases of hate speech in which a verdict reached the international criminal court. The paper will point out how EU law regulates hate speech. The paper will also highlight the need to distinguish prohibited “hate speech” from the permissible forms of war propaganda. Ways to identify the difference between hate speech and war propaganda, the forbidden and permissible forms, will be presented. Any form of propaganda that involves justifying the ethnic or religious supremacy of one group over another is inevitably forbidden and punitive.



Dr. Nedžad Grabus

(Slovenia)

President of Meshikh , Islamic Community in
Slovenia, Mufti of Ljubljana



PLENARY SESSION II

TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Title: Violence and hatred are destroying the essence of religion

CV

● Dr. Nedžad Grabus holds the position of Mufti of the Islamic Community in Slovenia. He is a professor of theology at the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also teaches at the Faculty of Theology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He was the editor of the first interreligious program in Sarajevo that dealt with topics of general importance and covered both Islamic and Christian issues. He participated in and lectured at various religious conferences all over the world, from Vatican, Oslo, Copenhagen and Cairo to Medina, Vienna, Istanbul and numerous others In Slovenia. He is a member of the Institute for Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue as well as the member of Editorial Board



of the technical publication Unity and Dialogue. He continues to publish texts of interreligious nature and dialogue in the English, German, Slovenian and Bosnian languages. He personally organized and lectured at the international scientific symposium “Gaining Mutual Respect through Dialogue”. He is the author of a book titled “Coexistence is our Way”. He is a vice president of Religions for Peace.

ABSTRACT:

In the modern world full of changes and challenges every day, we are trying to find an answer to the question of how to preserve social cohesion and stability with respect for religious diversity. This question is especially related to the situation of religious minorities in areas where the other religion is in majority. In respect of legal and regulatory standards, raising awareness of the importance of every being on Earth, is necessary to develop a narrative that will enable us that the other and different are not being perceived the enemy but as a close person to us, because we believe that the diversity of human skin color, language and religion is will of God and His creation. The Almighty God says: “And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are sings for those of knowledge.”(Al-Rum, 22)

Developing awareness of responsibility in the interpretation of religion has become imperative. Faith as the search for transcendent truth, the meaning of life, the development of ethical values that enrich our life is essential meaning of all religions. Simplification of religion and reduction to formal manifestation, closure in conservatism, understanding religious truths through historical reconstruction of events, which are marked by conflicts and constant misunderstandings, leads to the roughest political and ideological manipulation of religion.





Mr. Claudio Epelman

(Argentine)

Executive Director of the Latin American Jewish
Congress



PLENARY SESSION II

TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Title: Children of Abraham united against hate speech Claudio Epelman

CV:

- Claudio Epelman is the Executive Director of the Latin American Jewish Congress, regional branch of the World Jewish Congress, and Commissioner for interreligious dialogue & Representative to the Holy See of the World Jewish Congress. Epelman had a personal relation with the then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, when the Cardinal occupied the position of archbishop of Buenos Aires.

- Epelman is a member of the Advisori forum of KAICIID, a member of the Executive Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders, and a member of the International Advisory Board of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID).



- He is very committed to inter-faith initiatives both promoting Jewish and Muslim dialogue and building bridges with the Catholic community. Epelman also represents the Jewish Communities of Latin America at meetings with heads of state, and at international forums like the UN, OAS, OSCE, World Economic Forum.

- Understanding the importance that the Internet and social media have in our days, Epelman promoted the creation of tools that monitor and denounce online anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination, which can be found on the Web.

ABSTRACT:

Today's world presents us with a phenomenon that, although it is not new, has worsened in recent times: terrorism. That search for control by violent acts with the purpose of instilling fear. Terrorism, therefore, seeks to coerce and pressure governments or society to impose their claims. This extremist vision clashes with the values of all religions, of Human Rights and of Peace as the guiding principle of the Abrahamic religions. It hits against what we understand must be, over any other, the tool to resolve all disputes: Dialogue. We must be aware of the stereotypes that this cause, as is the case in recent times of Islamophobia. A study by Web Observatory analyzed comments in Spanish newspapers during the latest terrorist attacks: 42% of comments are anti-Islamic. This number rises up to 65% in the first hours after the attack when the authorship is still unknown. This betrays the terrible level of anti-Islamic prejudice. Distorting the message of any religion to justify crimes goes against all religions. And the peace message of religion must be adopted by all religious leaders.



Dr. Husna Parvin Ahmad

(UK)

Chief Executive at Global One 2015



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Dangerous spread of hate speech images

Title: The Rohingya Exodus: The Realities of Hate Crime and the role of the International Community.

CV:

● Dr Husna Ahmad OBE is the CEO of Global One 2015 which is a faith based International NGO focussed on women. She is an author and thought leader who has presented many papers internationally focusing particularly on faith and the environment. With a PhD in International Environmental Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, [SOAS] London University, Dr Ahmad is the former Group CEO of Faith Regen Foundation which is a multi-faith UK charity. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year's Honours list in 2010 for her services to disadvantaged people.

● She is currently a Board member of BOND, Faith In Water, and Palmers Green Mosque (the MCEC).

● She has been elected a Co-Chair of the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Religion and Development's Faithbased International Advisory Council. She is the Coordinator for the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation [ANCSSC] working in collaboration with the UNOSSC. Dr Ahmad sits on the Steering Committee of The World Bank's Moral Imperative Initiative. She is the Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum. She is an honorary fellow of the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public understanding of Religion, Birmingham University.

ABSTRACT:

In 2017 extreme violence and persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State have caused more than 900,000 Rohingya people, a large group of Muslim minorities, to flee their homes in search of safety. Leaving nearly all their possessions behind, the majority of the Rohingya people have fled across the border into Bangladesh. At that time the Rakhine state of Myanmar there had been reports of helicopters firing on civilians, extrajudicial executions of women and children, and the burning of entire villages. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called the situation a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing," and the crisis has caused the mass exodus of the Rohingya people across the border into Bangladesh. The rapid influx of refugees into districts which already face significant levels of poverty and environmental fragility has put immense strain on infrastructure, the local economy, and contributed to a rise in tensions in the region. Approximately 56% of those that have fled are women and girls (UN Women). The prospect of inter-communal or extremist violence, whether between Rohingya and host communities, or along the complex religious and ethnic lines which further divide both groups, could have catastrophic implications, including for women and children caught in the middle. Various national and international agencies/organizations including the ministries and departments of GOB, UN agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs have provided humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community as well as to the host communities. Global One 2015 is one such INGOs which provides support to the Rohingya refugees.



Rabbi Jonas Javier Shalom

(Argentine)

Senior Rabbi – Community Re-foundation



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Dangerous spread of hate speech images

Title: Non-verbal hate speech

CV:

● Rabbi Ioni Shalom is the senior Rabbi of Bet Hilel community, one of the most popular synagogues in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a leader of interfaith dialogue since young at the Latin American Jewish Congress he was in charge of two groups of priest from different countries in a week long Seminar to Israel. He represented the LAJC at Religions for Peace, at the International Muslim Jewish Conference and in many other interfaith seminars, actions and organizations. Rabbi Ioni Shalom also organize initiatives for government officials and is a representative for Argentinian activities with several religions.

● He has been in charge of the Latin American Jewish Congress (2008 / Actuality) JDCorps (Interfaith Dialogue), and World Jewish Congress JDCorps in the field of the nterfaith Dialogue. He has worked as the Senior Rabbi, in



the Integration Project of the school, synagogue and youth movement. He was a Coordinator Committee member for the Latin America and Caribbean Network AIP- Asociación Israelita de las Pampas for a short period.

ABSTRACT:

Is it possible to fall into hate speech without even a single word?

It is true: two dangers are facing our world today, the threat of terrorism and the risk of the escalating hatred discourse. But I believe there is another danger which is more complex: silence. It can be an accomplice of hate actions but it also can be a blind mask to hide hate and politically incorrect preconceptions. There are many kinds of non-verbal hate speeches. They can be seen in attitudes toward someone, ways of looking, sighs... Silence is dangerous. It brings fear, mistrust and ultimately hate.

It is true: people use to think that Religious Fanaticism is the main cause of the conflicts. But if we size the religious fanatic population in the world they are minority. I don't believe hate in fanatics is the main problem but hate in common and regular people who don't consider themselves as fanatics is a major problem.

When we talk about understanding God's purposes we are surely not reading the sacred text with sacred eyes. There is a story which is relevant for the three major religions: Cain and Abel. My purpose is to explain a new reading for that story where silence is the key to understand the first sibling murder and how that happens today. With these new sacred eyes I want to share our experience from the Latin American Jewish Congress to convert silence in joined actions through voices in a chord. From Shabbat and Passover dinners with Muslims and Christians friends, soccer matches and joined trips to joined actions as humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, government reunions and support in pain. Silence and speech as constructive God's tools..





Dr. James Gomez

(Singapore)

Regional Director - Asia Centre



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Dangerous spread of hate speech images

Title: Hate Speech Laws Disadvantage Minorities

CV:

● Dr. James Gomez is Regional Director at Asia Centre. He provides strategic oversight for the development and regionalization of the Centre. Dr. Gomez currently oversees its operations in both Thailand and Malaysia and is leading the partnerships for the Centre's many activities in other parts of the region. He represents the Centre in media and public speaking engagements and builds relationships with key stakeholders around the world. Dr. Gomez brings to Asia Centre over 25 years of international and regional experiences in leadership roles at universities, think-tanks, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations.



ABSTRACT:

In Southeast Asia, the rise in the use of social media has led to a spike in hate speech resulting in religious intolerance by majority communities. In recent years, the governments of the region have introduced ‘harmony laws’ aimed to address online radicalisation and hate speech that exploits racial and religious fault lines. However, these laws place severe restrictions on the rights to conversion and proselytisation, interfaith marriage, and the use of religious signifiers, among others. The laws often render minority groups as second-class citizens by infringing on their religious freedoms and articulation of grievances while privileging the dominant group. While hate speech is one of the most challenging issues of our time, government actions are often misplaced: neither are these laws effective in managing the social harmony of a country nor are they there to protect them from discrimination. Rather, these laws prioritise government control over political space.



Imam Yahya Hendi

(USA)

Clergy beyond Borders, Georgetown University



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Dangerous spread of hate speech images

Title: Increase of Islamophobia: Political and religious hate of Islam

Causes and solutions

- Imam Yahya Hendi is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, the first American University to hire a full-time Muslim chaplain in 1999.
- Imam Hendi is a Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellow of the Center for Dispute Resolution of the University of Maryland School of Law and the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.
- Imam Hendi is the founder and the President of Clergy Beyond Borders, and the founder. Imam Hendi became the first US Imam to serve as a chaplain at the Navy Hospital, and the first Imam to offer a commencement speech at a community College in the USA in 2019. He also serves as a member of the Islamic Jurisprudence Council of North America. He has served as an adjunct faculty member for Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Science and Osher's Lifelong Learning Institute of John Hopkins University, Fordham University and Hartford Seminary. Imam Hendi also teaches a very popular course at Georgetown University called: Inter-religious Encounter.



● Mr. Hendi's undergraduate education was in Islamic Studies, and his graduate education was in comparative religions with interest in Christianity, Judaism, comparative religions and inter-religious dialogue and relations.

ABSTRACT:

Definition of Islamophobia: Islamophobia is a buzzword used to refer to an irrational fear or prejudice towards Muslims and the religion of Islam as it condemns Islam and its history as extremist, and regards Islam as a problem for the world. Its manifestations include prejudice, stereotyping, hostility, discriminatory treatment, denigration of the most sacred symbols of Islam and also non-recognition of Islam and Muslims by the law of the land.

Forms and manifestations of Islamophobia:

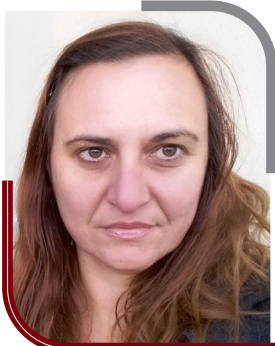
Tracing the voices and sources of funding of the anti-Islamic rhetoric that has stimulated a fear of Muslims.

1. Prior to 9/11, the effects of stereotyping against Muslims were apparent (i.e. 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, Iran US relations and other East west relations)
2. In Britain, Muslims are characterized "as a 'problem community' in much of the media and through statements made by Government and police officials.
3. In the U.S., several key polls have indicated that not only does Islamophobia exist but it also continues to rise on a yearly basis.
4. Distorted press coverage "narrates Arab and Muslim Americans in ways that enable racial policing of Arab and Muslim Americans as marginal, suspect citizens.
5. Contemporary manifestation of Islamophobia is also related to largescale Muslim immigration to Western countries.

There has been a fear that Muslim immigration would result in the Islamisation of Europe, transforming Europe into "Eurabia". It has given rise, according to Justin Vaisse, to four inaccurate premises:

Solutions: One would suggest the following solutions for the growing problem of Islamophobia:

1. A greater range of positive images of Islam in the media.
2. A more balanced and responsible use of Muslim spokespersons.
3. Muslim in the West should make use of all available democratic channels to promote inter-faith understanding in the hope that it would end the demonization of their faith.
4. The western world should take necessary steps to "protect Muslims as a vulnerable group" from all sorts of discrimination, hostility and violence and to prosecute and punish perpetrators of such acts. They should take "necessary measures against publications of inflammatory, insulting and provocative materials in the media or postings of such in websites."



Dr. Selma Muhič Dizdarevič

(Czech Republic)

Charles University, Faculty of Humanities, Department
of Civil Society Studies



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 2: Hate Speech Practices and Effects

Title: Islamophobia and Freedom of Religion in Central Europe –

with Special Regard to Civil Society Organizations

CV:

● Selma Muhič Dizdarevič holds a PhD in public and social policy. She chaired the Department of Civil Society Studies at the Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Humanities. Her main research interests include civil society organizations dealing with immigration, asylum and integration policies in the Czech Republic and the EU, social exclusion, and questions of civil society minority rights and gender. She cooperates actively with non-profit organizations both nationally and internationally. She was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley, California, USA. Her master's degree is in political philosophy, her doctoral degree in sociology. She is currently a board member of the International Network against Cyber Hate, within this capacity, she focuses on online hate speech.



ABSTRACT:

This article explains the Islamophobia phenomenon in the Visegrád Four (V4) countries. It provides a description of the significant incidents as well as political changes related to public perception of Muslims. Special attention is given to the analysis of how the political atmosphere in the respective countries reflects upon various issues in public space, most notably of freedom of religion and resistance to Islamophobia by civil society organizations (CSO). The article is based on reports on Islamophobia in V4 countries in 2017, that is, in countries that share similar recent historical experiences and the accession year to the European Union. Despite the similarities found in the reports and countries, which can be summarized as the fact of the rise of Islamophobia with a low number of Muslims residing in the respective countries; populist abuse of Islamophobic discourse for political purposes; and attacks on CSOs, the article also stresses the specific conditions in each country.



Rabbi Kelita Cohen

(Brazil)

Psychologist, Instituto Ibero-americano de
Formação Rabínica Reformista



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 2: Hate Speech Practices and Effects

Title: Revisiting Sacred Scripture: A Strategy for Facing Hate Speech against Women

CV:

● Kelita Cohen is a psychologist who lives in Brasilia, Brazil, with her husband Shlomo and their two children, Yehuda (6) and Raphael (3). She is currently ending her PhD studies in Human Development Process at the University of Brasilia. Professionally, Kelita also works as a sworn translator of Spanish since 2012, after being approved in a public contest. Recently she joined the communications committee of the WUPJ-LA. She is committed to her community and is involved in transforming it constantly. For this reason, in recent years she has been trained in community leadership courses as a fellow of several organizations (CONIB, Brazil; Nahum Goldman Fellowship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture). Her two





principal community projects have been to serve as the only woman in charge of the Editorial Committee's secretariat of ACIB, with which in the last three years has published twice a month the Middle East Charter; and the creation last year of the Jewish Studies Group from the feminine perspective. Additionally, Kelita began to pursue rabbinical studies at the Instituto Iberoamericano de Formación Rabínico Reformista. She is an enthusiastic learner who advocates for an egalitarian, pluralistic and Zionist Jewish collectivity.

ABSTRACT:

Discussions regarding who wrote the Bible (if God himself or men), or delegitimizing the text based on the argument it was written by groups who held the power (androcentrism) have not proven themselves efficient to face the hate speech perpetuated against certain human groups. It is instructive to note that language style and hate speeches have implications for cultural transmission. The study is designed to examine the language style of hate speeches and the degree to which they heighten situations in the context of gender and cultural transmission. Henceforth, the study posits that revisiting sacred scripture from the perspective of Cultural Psychology of Human Development may cast a new light about the Other and become an alternative to hate speech against women, reflected not only in the gender relations, but also in the social relations between groups of different religious backgrounds. Finally, a case study compares the Jewish, Christian and Islamic narratives about the story of three women – the matriarchs Sarah and Hagar, and a third one who is identified simply as “Lot’s wife”.

**Dr. Michael D. Driessen**

(Italy)

John Cabot University, Rome

**THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH****Topic 2: Hate Speech Practices and Effects**

Title: Hate Speech, Religion and the Public Sphere: Lessons in social capital from Christian Humanism and Humanitarian Islam

CV:

● Associate Professor of Political Science and International - Affairs 2016- present

John Cabot University Rome, Italy - Department Chair 2016-present - Faculty Senate President 2014-2016 -Assistant Professor 2012-2016

● Jean Monnet Fellow 2018-2019 - Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EUI) Fiesole, Italy

● Post-Doctoral Fellow 2011 – 2012 - Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) Doha, Qatar





- School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

- PhD, Political Science (Comparative Politics and International Relations) -
University of Notre Dame

- Master of Arts, International Relations and Economics
Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

- Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies: Philosophy, Fine Arts, Mathematics
- Bologna, Italy and Washington D.C.

- University of Portland

ABSTRACT:

This paper reflects on the public contribution that religions might play to help combat hate speech in contemporary societies. In doing so the paper focuses on the potential of the religious-state-society model championed by “Christian Humanism” in Europe and “Humanitarian Islam” in South East Asia and their capacity to generate non-exclusionary forms of social capital. Recent scholarship has argued that there is an inverse relationship between social trust and hate speech, and that increases in social polarization in Western societies have increased levels of political anger and intolerance of the other. Scholars have also argued that religious communities possess key public resources to regenerate social trust and combat hate speech. At the same time, however, strengthening religious communities can also lead to in-group/out-group dynamics which can serve exclusionary rhetoric as a basis for hate speech. The paper presents the political theory and experiences of Christian Humanism and Humanitarian Islam as a way out of this dilemma and argues that they represent substantive models of public religious engagement that are well-equipped to strengthen inclusive bonds of religious community and social solidarity.



Dr. Md. Iqbal Hossain

(Bangladesh)

**Professor, Department of Da`wah & Islamic Studies,
Islamic University, Kushtia**

THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 2: Hate Speech Practices and Effects

Title: The Hate Campaign and the Minority Community of

Bangladesh: Nature, Types, and Ways of Passage

CV:

● Dr. Md. Iqbal Hossain is Youth motivator, Interfaith speaker, moderator and an Islamic scholar in Muslim History in sub-continent, Journalism, History of Muslim Journalism in Bengal & in the Muslim world, Human Rights specially women rights in Islam and interfaith and Comparative theology fields. He has published eighteen books on journalism, interfaith, environment, Geo-Politics, Interfaith, history of Bengal and published more than forty articles in national & international academic journals. He is a legend columnist in national daily on contemporary issues. He had presented over twenty research papers in professional conferences in home and abroad such as the United Kingdom,



Northern Ireland, Italy, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Qatar and United States. Dr. Hossain has been teaching at the Islamic University since 1999, he is now working as professor in the Department of D`awah & Islamic Studies. Dr. Hossain involved several national and International Educational, Cultural and Interfaith organizations.

ABSTRACT:

Hate speech is one of the major problems in this humanistic world. Hate speech has existed in parallel since the first day of human movement on this earth. Social and political power sometimes is very close to hating speech or policy. However, the imposition of hatred or hate policy against other beliefs by being influenced by any religious belief makes human society the most intolerant and inhumane. According to a Pew Research Center, intolerance and hate crime are the rising issue in technology-dependent 21st-century. This evil inflicts deeper wounds as the days go. Needless to say, there is a political and economic motive behind spreading this hatred in the name of religion. With the old hate-mongering strategy, online hate speech has emerged as a stepping stone to death. Although Bangladesh is Muslim-dominated, different thoughts and religious beliefs live here. The people of Bangladesh have a tradition of peaceful coexistence, but they are not free from the influence of the present globalized world. Different extremist groups want to make society intolerant by spreading hatred in the name of religion. The present article discusses the pluralistic society, minority position and religious harmony of Bangladesh on the other hand religious extremism, hate speech, politicization of religion and ways to overcome.

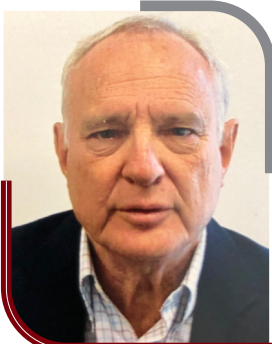




70

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice



Rabbi David Nathan Saperstein

(USA)

Adjunct professor at the Georgetown University,
School of Foreign Service and Center for Jewish
Civilization



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

Title: Talk on Social Media and Hate Speech

CV:

- For 40 years, Rabbi Saperstein directed the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, representing the Reform Jewish Movement, the largest segment of American Jewry, to the U.S. Congress and Administration.
- During the second term of the Obama administration, Rabbi Saperstein served as the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, carrying out his responsibilities as the country's chief diplomat on religious freedom issues. Since leaving government, he has served as the Director Emeritus of the RAC and as the Senior Advisor on Policy and Strategy to the Union for Reform Judaism. Also an attorney, he taught seminars on Church-State law and on Jewish Law for 35 years at Georgetown University Law





Center. In 2019-2020, Rabbi Saperstein served as the President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the international arm of the Reform Jewish Movement.

● He currently serves as an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Center for Jewish Civilization and as a Distinguished Fellow at the PM Glynn Center at the Australian Catholic University.

ABSTRACT:

Over the past 20 years, we have witnessed the enormous benefits -- and damage -- that the explosive growth of social media has wrought. Among that damage: the viral spread of hate speech often targeting minorities, including religious minorities. Such speech spreads religious suspicions, conspiracy theories, and hatred into every corner of the world.

Hate speech is not just words. It creates a cultural and political fertile field where hate acts, crimes, violence, and even genocide can flourish (think Rwanda, the Rohingya, the Uighurs, as well as the growth of Islamophobia and antisemitism in so many nations).

As political, academic, cultural, and technological leaders debate effective hate speech constraints on social media, a key role must be played by religious leaders, communities, and institutions in delegitimizing hate speech, teaching media literacy, and engaging in coalitions that represent the spirit of tolerance and pluralism so vitally needed today. At the same time, religious communities must embrace the principle of free speech and consider the impact when constraints of hate speech targeting religious groups take on the form of blasphemy laws.





Dr. Olsi Jazexhi

(Albania)

Professor at University of Durres



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

**Title: Facebook as a Major Platform on Promoting Hate Speech in
the Balkans and Beyond**

CV:

- Dr. Olsi Jazexhi is a Canadian-Albanian historian who is specialized in the history of Islam, nationalism and religious reformation in Southeastern Europe. He teaches history at University of Durres in Albania





ABSTRACT:

The development of social media platforms like the Facebook and other online Forums has contributed significantly to the increase of hate speech on the internet and in our every day life. This hate speech which often is motivated by extremist interpretations of religion and history has led to major extremist and terrorist events during the past years. In my paper I will analyze the case of Brenton Tarrant, the Australian terrorist who staged the massacre of Muslim worshipers in New Zealand on 15 March 2019 and some Islamophobic incidents which have occurred in Kosova and Albania in 2017 and 2018. I will analyze the effects that fake historical narratives which are propagated in many Facebook pages and social media have towards the expansion of hate in the Balkans and beyond.

The paper will analyze the impact that the hate speech which emanates from some Balkan social media platforms, had on the mind of Brenton Tarrant and other extremist groups in Southeastern Europe.



Mr. Pedro Rojo Pérez

(Spain)

President of the Fundacion Al-Fanar para
El Conocimiento Árabe



THEME 2: TYPES AND FORMS OF HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

Title: Observatory on Islamophobia in the Spanish Media

CV:

- Pedro Rojo Pérez is an Arabic translator and researcher on Arab issues. President and Founder of Al Fanar Foundation for Arab Knowledge which main aim is to bring the Arab reality closer to the Spanish speaking public, through the Arab press summaries published in the Foundation Newsletters and articles analyzing the social and political scenario in the Arab world. Al Fanar has created the biggest data base online (www.boletin.org) of Arab press translated to any language (170.000 articles).

- Since 2005 he is the coordinator of the ‘Arab World collection’ (Icaria Publishing House), since 2005. He is also a regular lecturer and columnist about different issues on the Arab World like “Iraq: revolución, yihadismo



o partición” (Newsletter Al Fanar sobre Iraq, 1/8/2014), “La pluralidad del cómic en Oriente Próximo” (Afkar/Ideas, Spring 2013), “Humour: A Change Agent in the Arab World” (IEMed. Mediterranean Yearbook 2014, Barcelona), “Translation as a source of knowledge for civil society” (Cairo, 13/10/2014), “La traducción del árabe en la Interculturalidad Mediterránea”, Universita’ Ca’ Foscari Venezia. He has lived in the Arab World (Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Jordan) for nearly 20 years. Actually he resides in Madrid, Spain.

ABSTRACT:

Created in 2017, the Observatory aims to raise awareness among the general public and media circles on islamophobia and the danger it poses to social cohesion, enhance media coverage on issues about Islam and Muslim communities, and incorporate ethical media coverage towards Islam into journalism programs and studies. To reach this, the Observatory empowered with tools and mechanisms to lobby and advocate against Islamophobia in media, and a network of media experts and civil society actors that will be able to multiply the objectives and results of the Observatory into their work fields through a peer education approach. The main deliverables produced by the project. Trimester analysis reports and yearly reports on the status of Islamophobia in target countries’ media One resources toolkit to guide journalists how to properly address issues concerning Islam and Muslim communities. Training workshops on how to enhance media coverage on Islam and Muslim communities. Awareness and advocacy campaigns launched by civil society groups and organizations.



76

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice



Dr. Burhan Koroglu

(Turkey)

**Head of the Department of Philosophy,
Ibn Khaldun University**



PLANERY SESSION III

DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Title: Religious Diversity from the Qur'anic Perspective

CV:

- He graduated from the Department of Philosophy in Istanbul University in 1985. He taught Islamic Philosophy and Muslim Thought courses in Marmara University, Middlebury College, USA, and University of Jordan. He was the Chairman of MEDAM (Civilization Studies Center) and lectured in Bahcesehir University. Currently he is associate professor of philosophy and the Director of Social Sciences institute in IbnKhaldun University.





ABSTRACT:

In the contemporary social and political world, the perpetuating conflicts between individuals of various religions traditions, faith groups and different denominations within the same religion, are becoming ever more apparent as one of the most significant problems facing societies under the influence of constant globalization, where the relations between man and his fellow man have intensified, and the fundamental differences between people have risen to the surface perhaps more so than has ever been before.

Although the clash of different cultures, traditions and its associated problem of the demonization of the other is not something new to civilization. The situation, however, has become a serious problem coiled with its own unique flavor and turn within contemporary societies. Particularly in part due to the development of media outlets and an increasing population, the shrinking of natural resources, the refugee crises and unstable political regimes.

The depth of this problem facing our societies today demands the construction of a system of moral, legal and psychological values designed to foster tolerance and unity within our communities. In order to realize this goal, we must work toward creating a concept of religious pluralism developed from within the theology of the existing religion traditions and at the same time adopting new approaches within the philosophical, moral and legislative domains, such that young people can take heed of this essential message and value we need to uphold in today's society.

When we turn to the Qur'an as a source of pluralistic philosophy, practice and thought we find the message that people are said to be one united ummah.

Mankind was one single nation, and Allah sent Messengers with glad tidings and warnings; and with them He sent the Book in truth, to judge between people in matters wherein they differed... (Surah al-Baqarah 213). Thus, this paper intends to analyze three different approaches that emerge out of the context of the above verse: The first concerns the essential unity of human beings before God. The second, to the different religious paths taught to mankind by God's many messengers. And the third focuses on the important role assigned to religion at the heart of resolving the conflict between communities of different faiths.





Rabbi Reuven Firestone

(USA)

Regenstein Professor in medieval Judaism and Islam
at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles



PLANERY SESSION III

DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Title: Combatting Hate Speech

CV:

- Reuven Firestone is Regenstein Professor in medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles and affiliate professor of religion at the University of Southern California. Author of eight books and over one hundred scholarly articles on Judaism, Islam, their relationship with one another and with Christianity, Professor Firestone lectures at universities in Europe, Asia and the Middle East as well as throughout North America. His books include Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam, Who are the Real Chosen People, Introduction to Islam for Jews, Introduction to Judaism for Muslims, and Holy War in Judaism. Active on the boards of numerous scholarly journals and boards and commissions treating interreligious relations and dialogue, Firestone is an ordained rabbi, received his Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Studies from New York University, served as Vice President





of the Association for Jewish Studies, and President of the International Qur'anic Studies Association.

ABSTRACT:

Combatting hate speech requires action at several levels. The first is to ensure that school textbooks are free of discriminatory or prejudicial portrayals of any communities. The only way to ensure that this occurs is for school curricula to be reviewed by members of possible impacted communities to ensure that prejudicial notions are not inadvertently included.

There are many other levels including governmental legislation prohibiting hate-speech directed against any minority community, whether within the religious community of the majority population or outside of it. Public debate should be encouraged. Hate speech must be forbidden.

Finally, at the last level, representatives of non-impacted communities must stand up and condemn any hate speech that is articulated by members of their own community. It is far more effective and meaningful for non-impacted communities to raise their voices against the sins of their own family than for those who are abused to raise their own voices.



**Rabbi David Fox Sandmel****(USA)****Director of Interreligious Engagement, ADL Tracker****PLANERY SESSION III****DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH****CV:**

● A rabbi, educator and scholar who has led interreligious efforts on behalf of the Reform Judaism movement and has spearheaded Catholic-Jewish dialogue in Chicago has been appointed the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Director of Interfaith Affairs.

● Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Ph.D., who most recently served as a Senior Advisor on Interreligious Affairs for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, will be responsible for the League's interfaith outreach efforts both nationally and in New York.

● "Rabbi Sandmel has a proven track-record of building positive interfaith relations between Jewish and other religious groups through programming, education and dialogue," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director.





“America is more religiously diverse than ever, and there is a real need to continue building bridges of mutual understanding and common values between and among faiths. We are delighted to have someone of Rabbi Sandmel’s deep experience and knowledge to lead our interreligious efforts nationally.”

● Rabbi Sandmel formally has joined ADL on a temporary basis as of February 3. He will move to full-time status starting in June once he has relocated from Chicago to New York City. His office will be based in the League’s National Headquarters in Manhattan.

ABSTRACT:

The ethics of speech are a significant focus in the Jewish tradition and in Jewish moral discourse, beginning with the divine injunction: “Do not go about spreading slander among your people” (Leviticus 19:16) In light of a long history of hate speech targeting Jews and especially its resurgence in the age of the internet and social media, Jewish organizations in the United States have been actively involved in fighting hate speech at all levels, including programs for school children, legislation at the local and national level, and engagement with the leading internet platforms. In his remarks, Rabbi Sandmel will first explore both Jewish tradition and the Jewish experience and then will offer some examples of successful strategies for addressing this scourge.





Dr. Mustafa Cerić

(Bosnia)

The Grand Mufti of Bosnia (1993-2012)



PLANERY SESSION III

DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

**Title: Religious and Moral Values and their Role in Confronting
Hate Speech**

CV:

- Dr. Mustafa Cerić completed the Gazi Husrevbeg Madrasa in Sarajevo. He earned his bachelor degree at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. He received his doctorate at the University of Chicago. He lectured at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He led the Islamic Community as the Grand Mufti of Bosnia (1993-2012) in war and peace; his leadership had a major impact on truth, justice,



peace and reconciliation in Bosnia; he won the UNESCO Peace Prize & the Theodor-Heuss-Stiftung Prize. He is the author of the Declaration of European Muslims; he led the Muslim delegation of the Common Word Initiative to the Vatican; he is the Honorary President of Religions for Peace; he is listed among the 50 most influential Muslims in the world; he is a member of the Royal Academy Al al-Bayt (Jordan) and a founder of the Bosniak Academy of Science and Art.





Dr. Johan Temmerman

(Belgium)

President of European Centre for Religious Studies
(EUCRES)



PLANERY SESSION III

DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Title: Sources of religious strategies for dismantling hate speech

CV:

- Dean of the faculty- Professor Religious Studies- President of European Centre for Religious Studies- (EUCRES)- Responsible for Interreligious Dialogue

- Diploma's:

1988 – Master in Philosophy

1994 – Master in Theology and Religious Studies

2001 – PhD in Theology and Religious Studies

- Research topics:

- Interreligious Dialogue - Religious Diversity - Radicalism and Secularity -
The relation between Science and Religion



- Book Publications:
- Prophecy and Modernity (2005)
- The Undercurrent of Religion and Atheism (2012)
- Martin Luther, 500 years Reformation (2017)
- Science and Religion (2019)
- Religious Radicalism (ed.) (2021)

ABSTRACT:

If we want to eradicate hate speech, we are obliged to first know the motives. In this contribution, I explore three motives: religious radicalism, political populism, and the fear of pluralism. I will demonstrate through the most recent research findings that the keys to dismantling hate speech lies in the hands of religious leaders and theologians. A warm call to overcome boundaries and blockages based on a deeply rooted religious identity concludes this essay.

Religious radicalism has many roots and arises from a confluence of circumstances. There are several driving forces that come together at a crucial moment in life to form an explosive cocktail. Most researchers agree that when tensions in personal life, the social environment and the global worldview come under pressure together, an individual can no longer see the end and therefore fabricates an apocalyptic interpretation of reality. Such a person is called a religious radical.

In addition, there is a remarkable parallel between religious radicalism and political populism. Both tendencies divide the world into two groups or camps, with the “pure people” on one side and the “corrupt elite” on the other. In the process, populist leaders play on traditional religious identity to juxtapose it with a cosmopolitan worldview.

The fear of pluralism, which in the globalized world threatens to erode religious traditions given the fact that pluralism is usually linked to relativism, drives people to hate speech. Religious leaders and theologians can offer a constructive response to this.



**Mr. Patrick Kearon**

(UK)

Presidency of the Seventy, Senior President

**THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR
COMBATING HATE SPEECH****Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and
institutional leaders****Title: Hate Speech and anti-Muslim racism in Austria: Causes,
Drivers and Risks****CV:**

- Elder Patrick Kearon was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 3, 2010.
- He has served as a member of the Presidency of the Seventy since 2017, following five years in Germany in the Europe Area Presidency. He was named Senior President of the Seventy in August 2020. He currently assists Elder David A. Bednar in supervising the Middle East/Africa North Area and Elder D. Todd Christofferson in supervising the Utah Area.
- Elder Kearon has lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United States in a range of industries and ran his own communications consultancy. His civic and community involvement has included service on the boards of charities, a school, an enterprise agency, and a college.



- After joining the Church on Christmas Eve of 1987, Elder Kearon served in numerous Church callings, including Young Men president, counselor in a bishopric, branch president, stake president, and Area Seventy.
- Patrick Kearon was born in Carlisle, Cumberland, England, on July 18, 1961. He married Jennifer Carole Hulme in January 1991. They are the parents of four children.

ABSTRACT:

Key Messages:

- Hate speech begets more hate speech and can lead to physical violence which begets more physical violence. This cycle is destructive and everlasting, unless the cycle is broken.
- The keys to breaking the cycle are found in the teachings of the great Abrahamic Religions
 - o The Quran teaches that human beings are a unique life form that was created by Allah in a special way, with unique gifts and abilities unlike any other: a soul and conscience, knowledge, and free will.
 - o The Old Testament Teaches that Human dignity originates from God and is of God because we are made in God's own image and likeness (Gen 1:26-27).
- The hate cycle cannot be truly broken by violence for even legislation. The cycle can be broken by responding to hate speech with dignity, respect and love. Responding to hate speech in this way essentially delegitimizes hatred and begets respect in return.
- Elder Kearon will share experiences from his personal life and from the History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints that illustrate these principles in action. Possible examples of how The Church responded to break the cycle include:
 - o Hate speech against members of the church (The Saints) in 1840's and 1850's led many U.S. citizens to hate the members of church and eventually drove them out of what was U.S. territory. The Saints settled in the Utah territory which became a state in 1896.
 - o The Broadway satirical musical, "The Book of Mormon (musical)", staged in 2011, and depicted church teachings and church members in some negative and inaccurate ways.



Dr. Ujházi Lóránd István

(Hungary)

Senior Research Fellow, National University
of Public Service



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

**Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and
institutional leaders**

**Title: The Hungarian Catholic Church's Role in Combatting Hate
Speech and Religiously Motivated Hatred**

CV:

● Lorand Ujhazi is a senior fellow in the National University of Public Service, Budapest (Hungary). He served as Visiting Lecturer in the Catholic University of Budapest, a Senior Lecturer in the Sapientia College of Theology of Religious Orders, Budapest. He served as a Ju Diocesan Tribunal of Esztergom-Budapest, Budapest, and in Diocesan Tribunal of Esztergom-Budapest. He has been the Editor of radio program called Faith and Science on Maria Radio of Hungary.





ABSTRACT:

In the years of Socialism, Hungary, similarly to other Soviet satellite countries, was isolated from new Theological perspectives of interfaith dialogue. After the transition to democracy Hungarian society has experienced many turbulent changes. This social and political transformation led to the development of new tensions between various social classes. In such a febrile atmosphere it is easy to incite people against those who belong to minorities, including religious ones.

In my presentation I analyse the statements, documents and initiatives of Hungarian Catholic Bishops and their Conference of Bishops designed

- to reduce misunderstanding and ignorance;
- to harmonize their local practices with the policy of the Holy See related to interfaith dialogue;
- to improve inter-religious cooperation;
- to setup charitable initiatives helping religious communities living in crisis zones;
- to cooperate with civil and political actors against hatred and hate speech;
- to organize academic events to deepen the knowledge about other religions.

I will focus on the most critical periods of previous decades and the events related to the current European migration crisis. As part of the latter issue, I will first demonstrate how Hungarian Catholics provided humanitarian assistance to refugees. Secondly, I will describe the activities of Hungarian prelates against the resurgent trends of hatred and hate speech in this period.



Rabbi Marc Schneier

(USA)

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and institutional leaders

Title: Combating hate speech through religious, and media
leaders, and institutions

CV:

- For the past 30 years, Rabbi Marc Schneier has been a leader in helping to improve the relationship of key ethnic groups and faith communities and is responsible for founding one of the most dynamic synagogues in the United States.
- In 1989, Rabbi Schneier founded the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding originally to rebuild the historic Black-Jewish alliance in the United States and for nearly the past 15 years, to build Muslim-Jewish relations globally.





ABSTRACT:

As religious leaders, our aim should not be simple recognition or tolerance, but mutual respect and acceptance of each other.

As children of Abraham, not only do we share a common faith but we share a common fate, and now it's our single destiny that will strengthen our bonds of concern, compassion and caring for each other.

So when it comes to combating hate speech and bigotry of any form we should make sure that 1) we as religious leaders are not spreading inflammatory rhetoric, views or stereotypes on the other that 2) we are ready to step up and stand up for the other under attack and 3) that we are fighting hate speech telling the truth about others and helping them to tell their own narrative and showing their compassionate nature. 4) Finally, a way to fight hate speech is to explain religious concept and to contextualize them.

Here are few examples which will be developed in Rabbi Schneier's speech.
On Public Transport: Support Free Speech, Not Hate Speech,
Ramadan and the True spirit of Islam.





Dr. Plamen Makariev

(Bulgaria)

Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

**Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and
institutional leaders**

**Title: The Legitimacy of Religiously Motivated Positions in a
Liberal Public Sphere**

CV:

● Teaching courses in Political Philosophy at the BA Program in Philosophy of Sofia University, as well as at the MA program “Middle Eastern Studies”. From 2003 to 2006 – a course in Philosophy of Religion at the Higher Islamic Institute in Sofia. In 2009 – one semester course on Political Communication at Hacettepe University in Ankara. He is a member of the Board of the Center for the Study of Religions at Sofia University; member of the Editorial Board of the Balkan Journal of Philosophy; Chairman of the Expert Council on Religion at the Ministry of E

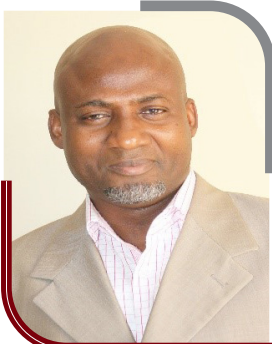


educationandScience. Author of *The Public Legitimacy of Minority Claims: A Central/Eastern European Perspective*, London and New York, Routledge, 2017, three other monographs and numerous articles in edited books and in international and Bulgarian journals.

ABSTRACT:

The positions on issues of public importance, which are advanced by a religious community, are unquestionably important for its public status. Would its image in the eyes of the mainstream public be positive or negative, would it enjoy respect and trust, or be regarded as a potentially subversive “force” – this depends a lot on the legitimacy of its positions from the perspective of public opinion. The problem which I address is that in a liberal, “Western-type” society the manner, in which religiously motivated public positions are justified, is often at odds with the generally accepted one. For example, a substantiation of a claim by referring to a statement in the Scripture has little chances to be recognized as valid by people who do not profess the same religion, or are entirely secular. I am dealing with this problem from the perspectives of John Rawls’s theory of public reason and the constructionist approach to cultural identity. I argue that a necessary condition for one’s capacity to legitimize religiously motivated claims in a liberal public sphere is the compatibility between that person’s or group’s religious identity and their civil one.





Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed

(Ghana)

Executive Director, Baraka Policy Institute,
University of Ghana



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and institutional leaders

**Title: A Muslim Perspective on the Primacy of Practical Religious
Tolerance Education in the Fight against the Menace of Hate Speech**

CV:

● Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed is the Executive Director of the Baraka Policy Institute (BPI), a research policy Think Tank in Accra, Ghana. Dr. Zagoon-Sayeed is an interdisciplinary professional. He is an academic, a writer & a researcher in fields of education, religion, youth development, international affairs and peacebuilding. He is a social development advocate and serves on many boards of non-governmental organizations in the areas of education and



social justice in Ghana. Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed has delivered papers at number of conferences in his areas of expertise locally and internationally. He obtained his PhD in Islam and Peacebuilding from University of Birmingham; and his current research interest includes:

ABSTRACT:

Hate speeches are becoming indelible obstacles to effective inter-faith relations that inure to peaceful co-existence. These hate speeches undermine the great global efforts towards peace building across the world such as that of this annual Doha interfaith conference.

However, one indispensable panacea which is needed to overcome religious supremacist ideology that has engulfed the world is strategic education on tolerance among religious communities. The word “tolerance” is commonly used to express the state of mutual recognition and the willingness to accept others who do not belong to one’s beliefs, race or ethnicity.

Tolerance is a universal value which is expected to bring about mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and the appreciation of differences in opinions. From the Islamic perspective, the value of tolerance is envisioned to engender respect for diversity, the recognition of other beliefs and culture, and the acceptance of facets of pluralism inherent in the human race.

This paper discusses the relevance of tolerance towards the fight against hate speeches in the context of religion; and proffers practical engagement which may engender tolerance education among faith communities.





Dr. Saifuddin Ahmad

(UK)

Former Chief Executive Officer of UK charities Al-Khair Foundation



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 1: Combating hate speech through religious, media and institutional leaders

Title: Combating Islamophobia and Hate Speech with The Medina Concept

CV:

● Saifuddin Ahmad is a Bangladesh-born British humanitarian. He was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of UK charities Al-Khair Foundation, Muslim Aid and Islamic Help and a number of other UK based not-for-profit organisations. Ahmad has worked over 35 years spanning from local and central government, as well as in the private and voluntary sectors. He has sat on numerous boards and committees including the Policy Action Team of the Social Exclusion Unit of the Cabinet Office; the National Young People's Learning Committee of the Learning and Skills Council; and the Regeneration Practitioners' Group of the Home Office.



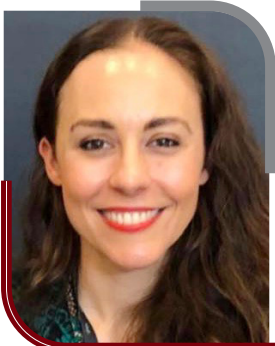
● Ahmad completed his Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with Honors in 1978, and a Masters in 1980. He completed his MBA in 1985, and in 2001 secured a corporate membership of Chartered Institute of Housing (MCIH) for distinguished achievements within the sector. In 2001 he founded the Faith Regen Foundation, the UK's first multi-faith regeneration agency that seeks to create employment and education opportunities for some of the UK's poorest communities. In 2006, he was appointed CEO of Muslim Aid where he led a programme of organisational development, which doubled the charity's income and established the organisation as a key global player in the development sector. In 2009, he founded MADE in Europe, a Muslim-led movement of young people campaigning for good causes, such as ethical farming and climate control. In 2013, he was appointed CEO of Islamic Help, an international development agency, to expand its operations. In April 2015, he was approached to take on the position of CEO of Al-Khair Foundation to spearhead and streamline its regional and international efforts. He now operates his own consultancy firm, McAndrew Leadership and Executive Coaching, to further the management practices he learnt from his mentor Brian McAndrew, a leading management guru in Britain.

ABSTRACT:

In recent history, the world has seen a sharp rise in Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim hate speech on both a national and international scale. This paper will first explore some of the root causes of hate speech as well as the danger it poses to society through recent examples of Islamophobia. It will also attempt to put forth key solutions inspired by the Islamic faith that assist in combating hate fuelled attitudes. Of particular note is the evaluation of historic Islamic Medina which provides interesting solutions to addressing hate speech today - The Medina Concept.

This theory suggests that in order to effectively counter religious hate speech, major bodies - particularly faith-based bodies - must collaborate together in building and managing all aspects of society. In the final section of the paper, a case study will be presented showing The Medina Concept in action.





Dr. Shannon Maree Torrens

(Australia)

Researcher at Sydney Law School,
University of Sydney



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 2: Constitute International Laws and Conventions to Criminalize Hate Speech

Title: Palestinians, Yazidis and Hate Speech: Potential Responses to Genocide at the ICC

CV:

● Shannon Maree Torrens is an international criminal and human rights lawyer and PhD Candidate (International Criminal Law) at the University of Sydney Law School. Her PhD passed examination in October 2019. She is admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia. Her doctoral thesis is on international criminal law and justice, focusing on the international criminal courts and tribunals. She has a BA (Media and Communications, Government and English) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) (Honours) also from the University of Sydney, with a specialisation in public international law, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and legal theory. Shannon has worked in international criminal law at the international criminal tribunals and courts



for Rwanda (ICTR), the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Sierra Leone (SCSL) and Cambodia (ECCC). In addition, she has worked as a legal advisor for the Marshall Islands Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York in the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal) and as an Editorial Advisor for the Cambodia Law and Policy Journal. She has also worked in the area of human rights at Redfern Legal Centre in Sydney, in addition to working with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and at the Australian Embassies to Italy and the Holy See (the Vatican). Shannon has lectured, published and presented papers in the areas of international criminal law and human rights internationally.

ABSTRACT:

This paper looks at how international criminal law responds to hate speech and discusses how these responses might be better pursued in the future using a study of hate speech targeted towards the Palestinians and Yazidis. Propaganda containing hate speech is a common occurrence in the commission of mass atrocities. During the Rwandan Genocide, Hutu hate speech on radio urged that Tutsi “cockroaches” should be “weeded out”. Following the genocide, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the “Media Case” handed down a landmark judgment, finding that these instances of hate speech and the media utilised by the accused contributed to a finding of genocide, incitement to commit genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity. This paper looks at how international criminal law has responded to hate speech since this landmark ruling in 2003. A special focus is given how the International Criminal Court could respond to hate speech going forward, focusing on the Palestinian and Yazidi situations. The paper concludes that there are significant impediments to the prosecution of hate speech at the ICC and suggests ways the Rome Statute and international criminal law more generally could be amended to better facilitate prosecution.



100



Ms. Ulrika Sundberg

(Sweden)

Special Envoy to OIC and for interreligious and intercultural dialogue of the Swedish Foreign Ministry



**THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING
HATE SPEECH**

**Topic 2: Constitute International Laws and Conventions to
Criminalize Hate Speech**

Title: International conventions to confront hate speech

CV:

● Ambassador Ulrika Sundberg is the Special Envoy to OIC and for interreligious and intercultural dialogue of the Swedish Foreign Ministry since 2019. Prior to taking up this post she was the Consul General of Sweden in Mumbai, India between 2016 – 2019. She has also served as Sweden’s Ambassador to Ireland, to Belgium and to Pakistan between 2009 - 2016. She was Ambassador and Senior political adviser to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe 2008-2009, as well as Head of the Swedish diplomatic mission in Khartoum/Juba, Sudan 2006 - 2008. Previous postings include Deputy Head of Mission at the Swedish Delegation to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva 2000-2006, working with UN-finances and reforms at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs 1996-1999 and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN and UNDP in New York 1992-1993. She worked as Consul and Legal Advisor at the Swedish Consulate General in New York 1993-1996, and as Second secretary in the Swedish Embassy in Lima/La





Paz, Peru/Bolivia 1990-1992. She holds a Master in Law (LL.M) from University of Stockholm. She is specialized in international law, international criminal law, human rights and conflict of laws and is the Vice President of the Siracusa Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights since 2015.

ABSTRACT:

Hate speech is on the rise worldwide, with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm based on xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of intolerance and discrimination. History has shown us that genocide and other atrocity crimes begin with words – there is a collective responsibility to address hate speech in the present day to prevent further violence in the future.

Over the past years, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has further underlined the pertinence of combatting hate speech as a wave spread across the world, further exacerbating intolerance and discrimination towards particular groups and destabilizing societies and political systems. Depending on the national context, different religious minorities, e.g., Jews, Muslims, or Christians, were used as scapegoats for the spread of the virus.

Addressing and countering hate speech is a multi-layered endeavour and requires a holistic approach, which includes tackling its root causes and drivers, preventing it from translating into violence and dealing with its wider societal consequences. To develop effective responses to hate speech, including through regulation and education, it is essential to better monitor and analyse the phenomenon by collecting and drawing on clear and reliable data. In the digital age, this also means better understanding the occurrence, virulence and reach of online hate speech.

The international human rights instruments stipulate that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, many nations nowadays have laws that restrict or ban some forms of social media expression, such as speech that provokes hatred and violence. Some free speech advocates prefer an open market idea where no expression is restricted thinking that the best answer to harmful speech is discussions that allow different ideas and views to challenge any free speech freely. Other scholars contend that regulating hate speech on social media is crucial for protecting minorities from the damages that such speech can inflict.

Hate speech poses tough questions that blurs the lines of free expression. The regulatory dilemma on hate speech on social media are in part related to how to address the problem: imposing restrictions on freedom of speech or regulating the social media platforms or promote self-regulation, considering the constantly evolving forms and manifestations of hate speech. This paper will highlight some of the key challenges in trying to regulate hate speech at the international level and point to possible avenues to address this serious and pressing challenge.





Dr. Viktor Yelensky

(Ukraine)

Head of the Center for the Study of Religion, National
Pedagogical University



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 2: Constitute International Laws and Conventions to Criminalize Hate Speech

Title: Combining Legalistic and Dialogic Approaches in Confronting Hate Speech against Religion

CV:

● Prof. Viktor Yelenskyi is a Head of Center for the Study of Religion at National Pedagogical University (Kyiv, Ukraine). Prof. Yelensky earned his MA (History) Diploma from Kyiv State University and Candidate of Science and Doctor of Science Diplomas from Institute of Philosophy of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He worked as a researcher at Institute of Sociology and Institute of Philosophy, edited Ukrainian Journal for Religious Studies *Lyudina i Svit*, headed Kyiv Bureau of Radio Liberty, taught at Ukrainian Catholic University and Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine. In 2014





he served as an Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ukraine. In 2014 Prof. Yelenskyi was elected to the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and during 2014-19 headed the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Religion and State Affairs and Religious Freedom. He drafted Governmental decree on Military Chaplaincy in Ukraine and several Bills which successfully went through Parliamentary voting. He authored great number of books, articles and essays on religious freedom, religion and politics, global religious trends and transformations.

ABSTRACT:

Because religion is matter and shapes our understanding about truth and falsehood, good and evil it raises sharp discussions over doctrinal, symbolical and sense issues. How we can reconcile our strong adherence to particular faith with unconditional recognition of the right of ‘others’ to held different views and convictions? Where are a ‘red lines’ between legitimate protection of my own faith and permissible criticism of doctrine and practice which might be seemed as a ‘false’ and hate speech which could not be tolerated? To what extent the restriction of hate speech can and may be agreed with the public commitment to freedom of expression?

Author argues that under the legal and political prospective those restrictions should be based on the impact it have on the feelings of faithful and public order. Paper scrutinizes some cases of European Courts for Human Rights which considered necessary to prevent all forms of expression which spread or justify hatred. At the same time author underlines that purely legalistic approach in confronting hate speech against religion is not strategically effective and should be complemented by other means the most productive among which is sincere interfaith dialogue.





Dr. Anne Wingenter

(USA)

**Asst. Prof of History and Women's Studies,
Loyola University, Chicago**



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

Title: Education for Resistance: Hate speech and the History Classroom

CV:

● Anne Wingenter is an assistant professor of History and Women's Studies at Loyola University, Chicago's John Felice Rome Center. Her research interests include: gender and women's history; fascist movements; ordinary writing; and the politics of history/memory. Her most recent publications include "Finding Subjectivities in Fascist Italy: Mothers of the Fallen and the relation between symbolic and experienced political participation," in *Between loyalty and resistance: Subaltern political subjectivities and practices*. Routledge: forthcoming (2020); "Benito Mussolini in Italian High School Textbooks" *Globalisation and Historiography of National Leaders*:



Symbolic Representations in School Textbooks. Springer: 2017; “From Soldier’s Guides to Student Handbooks: Rome as Classroom during the Early Cold War,” in A Tale of Two Cities: Florence and Rome from the Grand Tour to Study Abroad. Edisai: 2017; and “Politics of Grief: War Widows and Mothers in Interwar Italy,” *Veuves, veufs et veuvages en Europe à l’époque contemporaine*. [forthcoming] She is currently working on a project that looks at the city of Rome in the transition between “Hot” and Cold War.

ABSTRACT:

Contemporary debates regarding hate speech regularly posit an irreconcilable contrast between the value/right of free speech and attempts to recognize and combat hate speech. Today’s young people are frequently ill equipped to navigate the barrage of media that assails them every day and often resort to easy, categorical, but intellectually problematic positions that lie along one of two extremes: either advocating for the policing of all objectionable or hurtful speech, or insisting that the very concept of hate speech is an attack on freedom of expression and thus does not bear consideration. My paper looks at how teachers – and historians in particular – can foster a more nuanced debate that includes consideration of power and draws lessons from the past about both the importance of protected speech and the potential consequences of hate speech. An examination of the underlying values at stake in each instance can help students recognize, analyze and resist hate speech especially when it impedes or denies the freedom of expression of marginalized and vulnerable groups.





Dr. Encarna Gutiérrez

(Spain)

Secretaria General, Fundación de Cultura Islámica



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE

SPEECH

Topic 3: Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

Title: Culture and Heritage Restoration in the Fight against Islamophobia

CV:

● Dr. Encarna Gutierrez is a Doctor in Psychology, Universidad Complutense, Madrid and a Specialist in Clinic Psychology. She is the Founder and director of the Female Analysis Centre in Madrid. Since 1982, she is a member of the Islamic Culture Foundation (FUNCI) Board of Director. Current Secretary General of the foundation and of the program “Med-O-Med Cultural landscapes in the Mediterranean and the Middle East”. She has served as the Secretary General of the Transcultural Psychology Institute, associated to UNESCO and the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. She has also been Secretary General and Professor at the Seminar for a Culture of Peace , UNESCO, as well as of the UNESCO programmes “Dialogue among Civilizations” and





“Sustainable Human Development”, UNESCO-IPT-UCM. Researcher since 1992 in the scientific committee of the exhibition “The souk: economic life and traditional arts in al-Andalus and Morocco” and other exhibitions by FUNCI such as: “Aromas of al-Andalus”, “Gardens of al-Andalus”, “Science in al-Andalus”, “Islam: A shared heritage”, and “Qalam, words of art”.

ABSTRACT:

This intervention addresses the fight against Islamophobia carried out by the Islamic Culture Foundation (FUNCI), which constitutes the backbone of its activity. For more than 30 years, FUNCI has worked in the promotion of dialogue and the removal of barriers between cultures. For this purpose, it adopts a transversal approach that relies on education as the main tool for the spreading of knowledge and the fight against racism and hate speech, as well as for the identification of the structural reasons that contribute to its promotion. This educational approach is reflected in both academic activities, and the Foundation’s field work, through projects such as “Twistislamophobia, because differences add”, which aims at counter-arguing hate speech and Islamophobia, but also the Center for the Study of Islamic Madrid, a recent project that aims at recovering Madrid’s Islamic heritage, as the only European capital of Islamic origin, which, for centuries, had an important Muslim presence. In addition to its historical value, this project of cultural and heritage restoration promotes a new understanding of a shared and common history and culture, that aims at tearing down previous conceptions about the Spanish heritage and at understanding Islam as a key element of the country’s identity, instead of as a foreign influence imported at the end of the 20th century. To acknowledge the intercultural nature of Madrid can be an essential element for the historical recognition and embracing of the city’s population, especially of those whose families’ come from Islamic societies. Thus, these projects provide basic tools for the fight against racism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate speech and discrimination.





Dr. Susana Mangana

(Spain)

Directora de Cátedra Permanente de Islam Instituto de
Sociedad y Religión, Universidad Católica del Uruguay



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

Title: Engaging in combating hate speech at University level.

**“What does Islam mean to you?” Visions of Islam in Uruguay:
stories, data and challenges for a harmonic coexistence.**

CV:

● Susana Mangana is a Spanish national based in Uruguay, South America. She holds a PhD from Universidad Autonoma in Madrid, Spain. She is a professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Catholic University where she is the Head of the Permanent Chair on Islamic Studies. She also lectures at the State University in Uruguay. She is a well known columnist in Latin America media. She hosts regular columns on Middle Eastern issues at CNN in Spanish, Uruguayan State Channel and Sarandi Radio.



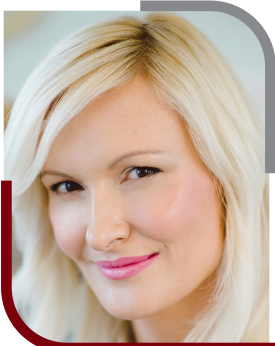
- She represents Uruguayan academia at international conferences and she regularly publishes articles in international academic journals as well as in Latin American press outlets.
- She published the book: Hussein of Jordan; the essential King? (2014). She regularly engages in interfaith activities exposing commonalities of the major religions. She is currently conducting a project focused on interfaith dialogue at border cities between Uruguay and Brazil, especially at the triple frontier between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

ABSTRACT:

The consolidation of globalization entails significant changes in the way nations and peoples interrelate. Although there have always been migrations and it is a human right to migrate, in the current conjuncture of heightened nationalism and hate speech, especially in developed countries that tend to be the target of economic migrants and refugees, it is imperative that educational institutions, all without exception, innovate and adapt their curricula to address the phenomenon of diversity; ethnic as well as religious and linguistic.

From early childhood to adulthood, educational programmes must incorporate formal teaching and soft skills so that learners, who are ultimately the citizens of tomorrow, learn to accept and even enjoy difference and far from seeing it as a threat, can nourish themselves from pluralism and opt for a harmonious and peaceful coexistence with people who think, feel and pray differently to one.

This work will account for an interesting experience worked inside and outside the classroom with students of the Faculty of Health Sciences in the course titled: “An approach to Arab and Muslim culture”. We seriously believe that this is a valid initiative that can be replicated in other contexts.



Dr. Amra Sabic-El-Rayess

(Bosnia)

Columbia University (Teachers' College)



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE

SPEECH

Topic 3: Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

Title: Building Resilience to Hate through Innovative Classroom

Interventions

CV:

- Amra Sabic-El-Rayess is a professor and author who grew up in Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina. After surviving genocide, she emigrated to the US in 1996. By December 1999, she earned a BA in Economics from Brown University. Later, she obtained two Masters degrees and a PhD from Columbia University. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Practice at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her scholarship focuses on mechanisms that drive societies towards social disintegration and the role of education in rebuilding decimated countries.
- Dr. Sabic-El-Rayess is an interdisciplinary scholar who has researched, published, and taught globally on education's links to social transformations,



radicalization, corruption, elite formation, violence, and anti-Muslim racism. In 2021, she was a keynote speaker at the National Council of Urban Education Associations' conference presenting on how educators can prevent student radicalization. In 2019, she delivered the inaugural Charo Uceda Lecture at TC on "How to Empower and 'Un-Other' Yourself?" Her Al Jazeera and EdWeek op-eds examine the stark parallels between the white supremacy movement in the US and anti-Muslim hate that led to the Bosnian Genocide. Dr. Sabic-El-Rayess' work aims to amplify protective factors against radicalization, biased speech, and biased behaviors in schools and workplaces. In early 2021, she piloted a professional training program for U.S. educators to overcome intolerance and counter extremism. More recently, she won a \$750,000 innovation grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program to launch a multi-module professional training program for educators to help prevent and interrupt radicalization in U.S. schools. She has worked as the expert on behalf of the U.S. State Department, foreign governments, and other global organizations.

ABSTRACT:

The model of radicalization that I developed is based on my Educational Displacement Theory, a phenomenon that illustrates the process by which a student is displaced from the formal schooling environment. When a student experiences Educational Displacement, they seek out alternative spaces and mentors to replace schools and educators. Emerging from the pandemic, such alternative spaces have existed in unmonitored and expanding forums online where a student's interactions and exposure to manipulative content has affected their educational journey. Educational Displacement involves displacement from the school environment that is not always physical yet translates into the feeling of invisibility when a student's voice and story remain unrecognized in the physical or virtual classroom.





Mr. Nihad Awad

(USA)

Executive Director and co-founder of the Council on
American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)



THEME 3: DESIRED ACTIONS FOR COMBATING HATE SPEECH

Topic 3: Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

Title: The role of civil society in countering hate and bigotry.

CAIR's successful initiatives

CV:

- Nihad Awad is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.
- In 1994, Mr. Awad co-founded CAIR in Washington, D.C., which has grown to more than 30 offices nationwide
- In 1997, Mr. Awad served on the Civil Rights Advisory Panel to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security
- In 2001 he was part of a select group of American Muslim leaders invited by President Bush to join him at a press conference condemning the 9/11 attacks and acts of anti-Muslim intolerance that followed
- In 2006 he led a delegation to Iraq seek the release of American journalist Jill Carroll, who was later released unharmed



- Mr. Awad has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress on issues concerning the Muslim community
- He is widely recognized as one of the world's most influential Muslim leaders, being cited annually in the Arabian Business "Power 100" and "The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims" list
- He has received numerous awards and recognitions, such as the 2015 New Civil Rights Leader from the Los Angeles Times, and Harvard's "Call of Service" Award
- In 2022 he was named one of Washington's Most Influential People in Civil Rights and Criminal Justice by The Washingtonian

ABSTRACT:

What kind of role can academia and civil society organizations play in making a positive impact on Muslim minorities worldwide? How can institutions use the tools of research and communications to deconstruct myths about Islam and Muslims? What role can Muslims communities and organizations play in shaping their future and combating Islamophobia? These are central questions that attempt to offer remedies to the lasting effects of anti-Muslim hate. American Muslims have developed effective mechanisms to combat the growing level of hate and bigotry in the United States. Islamophobia continues to spread and permeate our societies across the world. With threats of genocide in India, internment camps in China, and crackdowns on Islamic institutions in France, anti-Muslim policies continue to subject and marginalize Muslim communities, resulting in an increase in hate crimes. The need for entities to monitor and document Islamophobia across the globe remains an urgent priority. This discussion will emphasize the importance of civil society groups, American Muslims, and the importance of taking anti-Muslim hatred seriously.



Professor Dr. Ivo Josipovic

(Croatia)

President of Croatia 2010-2015



CLOSING SESSION

Examples of Successful Initiatives to Counter Hate

Speech from around the World

Title: Hate Speech: The Case of the Balkan Region

CV:

- His Excellency, Prof. Ivo Josipović President of the Republic of Croatia (2010 to 2015) (Zagreb, 1957) served as the President of Croatia from 2010 to 2015. As a politician, he promoted reconciliation in the S.E. Europe, human rights and fight against corruption.
- Before presidential mandate, he has been a university professor (international Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure), member of Parliament and composer. He has published several books and 90 scientific papers dealing with international criminal law, criminal procedure and human rights. As a composer, Josipovic wrote some 60 compositions for orchestra and soloists, which have been performed and recorded by prominent artists. Josipovic received honorary



doctorate from Immanuel Kant University (Kaliningrad) and Istanbul University. He has received prestigious domestic and international awards for his work in the field of human rights, ecumenicalism and art. Among many recognitions and decorations, he received the European Medal of Tolerance from the European Union, the Premio Galileo 2000 Award, Grand Prix of the European Broadcasting Union, three Porin Awards for discography.

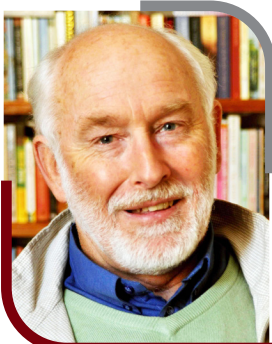
ABSTRACT:

In the preparation of wars at the territory of Former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, hate speech had an important role. It was primarily directed against individuals and groups of different ethnic or religious affiliation. In parallel, within the framework of transition from the one-party socialist/communist system to a multi-party system of the western type, hate speech was used against political opponents.

During the wars in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia, hate speech was practiced by aggressive individuals and organized groups, often encouraged by states. The media had an important role in spreading it. After the wars, since the 2000s, following the introduction of the Internet as a new medium, hate speech has changed its face. The Internet and anonymous haters have introduced systematic and brutal hate speech. In addition, sports competitions have become an important platform for spreading hate speech promoted by fans, also by sportsmen themselves.

During the process of democratization, hate speech was recognized as dangerous behavior with potentially severe consequences for individuals, religious and ethnic groups and society in general. Therefore, hate speech was recognized in criminal laws as a specific type of crime. NGOs and some media also have an important role in fighting against it.





Mr. Stephen Patrick Morton

(South Africa)

Senior Journalist at Voice of the Cape Radio Station



CLOSING SESSION

Examples of Successful Initiatives to Counter Hate

Speech from around the World

**Title: South Africa: Three Centuries of Colonialism and Apartheid –
From hate speech to religious tolerance, creating social harmony via
the anti-colonial, anti-apartheid movement and the 1997 Constitution**

CV:

- SHAFIQ MORTON is a Cape Town-based photo-journalist, author and presenter. He presents the Drivetime current affairs show at Voice of the Cape radio station and an Islamic finance slot on ITV. He has interviewed thousands of guests from over 100 countries.
- He has covered South African stories such as the anti-apartheid campaign, the release of Nelson Mandela and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has been on assignment in Palestine, Libya, Somalia, Pakistan, Saudi





Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Namibia and Niger. In 2008 he won a National Vodacom Award. In 2014 his radio show was nominated for the MTN awards and in 2016 for the Liberty Life Awards. From 2009-12 he was considered amongst the 500 most influential Muslims in the world. He is the author of four books, Notebooks from Makkah and Madinah; Surfing behind the Wall, My Palestinian Journey; Imtiaz Sooliman and the Gift of the Givers, A Mercy to All and From the Spice Islands to Cape Town: the Life and Times of Tuan Guru.

ABSTRACT:

When the Portuguese seafarers rounded the Cape of Good Hope from the 15th century onwards, their exploration was underlined by Papal edicts and the Fidalguia, which saw the local inhabitants as inferior heathen.

The Dutch landed in 1652 to create a way-station between Batavia and Amsterdam, and instituted the Statutes of India, which forbade the practice of all faiths, except the Calvinistic Dutch Reformed one. The English finally took over the Cape at the beginning of the 19th century, and freedom of religion was granted in 1804. However, this freedom was tainted by racial and class discrimination, especially against Muslims. In 1948, the Afrikaner Nationalist government took power and instituted apartheid, which whilst claiming to be “Christian”, deemed faiths other than the Dutch Reformed one to be questionable.

In this paper, we discuss how aspects of faith became the discourse of colonialism and apartheid, and how its inherent xenophobia was successfully resisted by faith communities on the ground.





Rabbi Gustavo Luis Kraselnik

(Argentine)

The spiritual leader of the KolShearith Israel Congregation
(The Voice of the Remnant of Israel) of Panama



CLOSING SESSION

Examples of Successful Initiatives to Counter Hate

Speech from around the World

Title: Fighting hate speech through interfaith collaboration:

The Panamanian experience

CV:

● Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnik is the spiritual leader of the Congregation KolShearith Israel in Panama since 2002, and is the Executive Director of the Panamanian Jewish Congress. He is also the co-chairman of the Interfaith Committee of Panama. Gustavo was ordained Rabbi by the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina), in 1996 and served as Rabbi of the Jewish Community of El Salvador from 1996 until 2002. He graduated in Business Administration from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). He is the representative of the Latin American Jewish Congress in Central America for the interfaith dialogue. Gustavo has been Professor





of Rabbinical Literature at the University Jose Simeon Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador, and Professor of Jewish Studies at the Catholic University Santa Maria La Antigua (USMA) in Panama.

ABSTRACT:

Panama is a small country with a cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Our society is like a beautiful mosaic composed of different people and groups living in harmony.

This situation has been reaffirmed in the last decades by the effort of the religious leaders working together to promote a culture of peace and respect for diversity.

This paper tries to show the key role that played (and play) the members of the Interfaith Committee of Panama to give to our society - through their words and especially through their actions - a message of deep commitment to the ideal of coexistence, respect and peace in our country, with no place for any manifestation of intolerance or hate.





120

Religions and Hate Speech...

Scripture and Practice



Rev. Gregor Hohberg

(Germany)

**Foundation House of One - House of Prayer
and Learning, Berlin**



CLOSING SESSION

Examples of Successful Initiatives to Counter Hate

Speech from around the World

**Title: Hate limit- by respectful cooperation between religions
using the example of the multi-religion house: House of One in
Berlin, Germany**

CV:

● Reverend Gregor Hohberg (born 1968 in Berlin) is a German reverend and initiator and founder of the House of One project in Berlin, Germany. From 1990 - 1996 he studied Theology and Art History at Humboldt University Berlin and Philosophy and History at Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich. Gregor Hohberg graduated in Theology. From 2001 -2002 he worked on the development and implementation of a future use concept for the rebuilding





of the Garrison church and the development of a city church concept in Potsdam. Since 2002 he is reverend of the protestant parish St. Petri-St. Marien in Berlin.

- In 2011 Gregor Hohberg became a member of the executive board of the association „Bet- und Lehrhaus Petriplatz Berlin e.V. / House of One. The association was replaced in 2016 by the Foundation House of One - House of Prayer and Learning Berlin of which Gregor Hohberg is a member of the executive committee.

ABSTRACT:

In the first part of my presentation, I would like to talk about hate and hate speech. I focus on general psychological and theological aspects. In the second part, I will describe ways religions have to ward off hatred. Finally, I report on how attempts are made to implement and live these opportunities in the everyday life of a Berlin religious project.

