



MUSLIM
JEWISH
CONFERENCE

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The 'Muslim Jewish Conference' (MJC) is a dialogue and leadership project that targets Muslim and Jewish leaders of tomorrow from sectors of economics, academics and politics in the beginnings of their careers. Students and young professionals from all over the world gather once a year at the 'MJC', working towards achieving a feat that many describe as impossible: stepping beyond the boundaries of non - communication, ignorance and stereotyping to build a new global political movement of young Muslim and Jewish leaders who are committed to accomplish a language of mutual respect.

First annual MJC 1-6 August 2010 – Vienna, Austria

The first 'MJC' was held in Vienna in 2010, under the official Patronage of the Austrian President, Heinz Fischer. Throughout five days, 65 participants from all over the world worked together in thematic committees and conclusively produced an official conference declaration, scientifically approaching three main social issues of our time: Combating Islamophobia and Anti-semitism, the role of education and the role of media in Muslim-Jewish relations.

Second annual MJC 3-8 July 2011 – Kiev, Ukraine

The theme of the 'MJC' 2011 has been a 'Call For Action': Concrete on-the-ground and online projects were created by the conference participants, with the aim of implementing them in their respective communities as well as through social media. The conference included a visit to the Holocaust memorial in Babi Yar, by the 70 Muslim and Jewish participants from more than 25 countries. It furthermore consisted of committees, focused on dialogue, guest speaker sessions, discussion panels and social events. The 'MJC' 2011 found itself under the patronage of Russell Simmons and Rabbi Marc Schneier and 9 concrete projects were created during the week and will be implemented throughout the year.

In the Future...

The 'MJC' will continue to remain an annual inter-cultural gathering, bringing together important representatives and young leadership from both communities. Moreover the 'MJC' aims at developing a 'Muslim Jewish Agency' (MJA) and thus becoming a respected competence center and main point of contact for Muslim-Jewish international cooperation, driven by the next generation. The 'MJA's' concrete objective is to organize several dialogue events throughout the year and being a respective counterpart for communities, institutions, academics and the media providing them with expertise on Muslim-Jewish relations, consulting other grass root and start up organizations and serving as networking platform for those interfaith institutions already active.



Entire Team MJC 2011

Ilja Sichrovsky	/ Founder & Secretary General / Austria
Ayşe Cındilkaya	/ Vice Secretary General / Germany
Daniel Gallner	/ Treasurer / Austria
Asad Farooq	/ Head of Chairs / Pakistan
Yvonne Feiger	/ Head of Workshops and Conference Schedule / Austria
Eric Johnson	/ Chair / USA
Valerie Prassl	/ Head of PR / Austria
Lara Weisz	/ Logistics / Germany
Anna Magnand	/ Head of Support / France
Daniel Pincus	/ Strategic Adviser / USA
Bacem Al-Jaziri	/ International Advisor Europe / Germany
Moussa Jamil	/ International Advisor Europe and Middle East / Austria
Ben Rosen	/ Chair / Canada
Magdalena Kloss	/ International Advisor United Nations / Austria
Jane Braden-Golay	/ Chair / Switzerland
Varghese Chakkumootil	/ Chair / India
Maryam Mohiuddin Ahmed	/ Chair / Pakistan
Dagmar Kusa	/ Chair / Slovakia
Gulraiz Khan	/ Chair / Pakistan
Mustafa Jalil Qureshi	/ International Advisor Pakistan / Pakistan
Laura Jungmann	/ Head Editor / Netherlands
Jacqueline Nowikovskiy	/ International Advisor Eastern Europe / Austria
Victoria Godik	/ Head of Team Ukraine / Ukraine
Alexey Krasnytski	/ Logistics Ukraine / Ukraine
AbdulKareem Niazi	/ International Advisor Middle East / Saudi Arabia
Andi Gergely	/ Head of Logistics / Hungary
Rida Al Masri	/ International Advisor Middle East / Lebanon
Daniel Shaked	/ Photographer / Austria

PATRONAGE & HONORARY COMMITTEE

PATRONAGE 2010:

- **Dr. Heinz Fischer**
President of Austria

PATRONAGE 2011:

- **Rabbi Marc Schneier**
Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, founder and president of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, and the founding Rabbi of The Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, New York and the New York Synagogue in Manhattan.
- **Russell Simmons**
Chairman of The Foundation For Ethnic Understanding

HONORARY COMMITTEE:

- **Dr. Michael Häupl**, Mayor of the City of Vienna.
- **Dipl. Ing. Dr. Franz Fischler**, President of the Eco-Social Forum, former European Union's Commissioner and former Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in Austria. Expert on international food crisis and development and advocat of the Un Millennium Development Goals
- **Dr. Alois Mock**, former vice-chancellor and foreign minister of Austria, former President of the International Democratic Union (IDU), founder of the Central European Initiative (CEI).
- **Patricia Kahane**, President of the 'Karl Kahane Foundation'.
- **Eduard Dolinsky**, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee.
- **Dr. Zeynep Taluy-Grossruck**, former Director of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), Private Sector Development Branch.
- **Aleksandr Feldman**, Member of the Ukrainian parliament. He was named the national Philanthropist of the Year and his Aleksandr Feldman Charitable Foundation was recognized as the national Foundation of the Year. Along with the foundation he heads the International Center for Tolerance.
- **Susanne Scholl**, Austrian Journalist and writer, former Head of the ORF bureau in Moscow.
- **Timna Brauer**, Austrian singer-songwriter with Yemeni roots. She represented Austria at the Eurovision Song Contest 1986 and is the daughter of painter, writer and singer Arik Brauer.
- **Abbas Khider**, award winning iraqi-german writer (a.o. honorary certificate iraqi-International Cultic Studies Association (I.C.S.A.).
- **Rafi Elul**, advisor to the President of Israel for social and welfare matters, former consultant to the Prime Minister of Israel in social and welfare matters, former member of the Israeli Parliament for eight years, formerly one of the youngest mayors in Israeli history at age 24.
- **Mag. Dr. Jameleddine Ben Abdeljelil**, Assistant for Islamic Studies at the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Vienna, editorial board member of polylog 'magazine for intercultural philosophizing' and board member of the WiGiP (Viennese society for intercultural philosophy).
- **Ibrahim Issa**, Co-Director of Hope Flowers School, Bethlehem, where students receive a human-rights based education dedicated to peace, democracy, human rights, conflict-resolution and understanding alongside the formal national curriculum.
- **Prof. Eveline Goodman-Thau**, first orthodox woman rabbi and founder of the Hermann Cohen Academy in Buchen (Odenwald); as its director she organizes conferences and learner's seminars, especially for Jewish women.
- **André Heller**, Austrian artist, author, singer and actor.
- **Josef Hader**, Austrian comedian and actor.

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SUPPORTERS:

-
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 - **UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATIONS**
ISABELLE LEGARE & ANNA UROMBI & THOMAS UTHUP
 - **UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA**
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 - **AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY**
MAG. SABINE KROISSENBRUNNER
 - **INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INSTITUTE
FOR AFRICAN SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA**
ULRIKE AUER & ELKE CHRISTIANSEN
 - **AUSTRIAN EXCHANGE SERVICE (OEA)**
SONJA SAHIN
 - **BRUNO KREISKY FORUM**
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GUILLAUME BESSIERES
 - **ZENTRUM FÜR TRANSLATIONSWISSENSCHAFT UNIVERSITÄT WIEN**
GERHARD BUDIN
 - **THE FOUNDATION FOR ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING**
 - **THE UKRAINIAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**
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 - **JACQUELINE NOWIKOVSKY**
 - **SIMONE BIACH**
 - **ALEXANDER KRAWEHL**
 - **FRANCESCA HABSBURG**
 - **AMANDA RITZ**
-

INSTITUTIONS:

-
- **THE FOUNDATION FOR ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING (FFEU)**
WWW.FFEU.ORG
 - **UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATION (UNAOC)**
WWW.UNAOC.ORG
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WWW.GHFP.ORG
 - **INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ENTWICKLUNG DER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN**
IE.UNIVIE.AC.AT
 - **UKRAINIAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**
-

IMPRESSIONS



IMPRESSIONS



IMPRESSIONS





Adnan (Pakistan):

Summer school imparting civil values to low income youth in Pakistan

Committee on sustained dialogue

- Pilot project for 50+ children engaging also parents and teachers
- Focusing on critical thinking and liberal arts education aiming to broaden horizons of low income children
- Develop a model that will be replicable and sustainable

Sergei (Ukraine):

to dispel misconceptions in the tradition and religion.

- Making a list of the most common misconceptions in Islam and Judaism
- Building a website where this information would be accessible: Wikipedia style
- Tackling the roots of the misconceptions

Ruth (France):

Limmud: the journey of learning

- Limmud = Conference model that can work in interfaith and in Muslim and Jewish communities alike Annual conference
- Open educational and cultural exchanges; a platform for exchange
- Community learning
- A local platform for an international community

Eric (USA), Hussein (Pakistan):

MJC Blog

- Articles, trip and seminar descriptions, videos
- Eye witness reports from participants located on the blog
- Recording of lectures and seminars at MJC
- Photos from common work

Kerstin (Germany), Maia (Usa), Ruaa (Germany):

Spreading the MJC values worldwide

- Developing MJC national chapters
- Grounding the MJC further through grassroots, connecting activists on the ground
- Providing a framework for local chapters, create tools for MJC chapters
- Finding partners, connections
- Supporting activities inbetween the annual conference and project implementation
- Mapping the relations between Muslim and Jewish communities in different countries: engaging future participants in research ahead of the conference

**Osama (Pakistan), Andrea (Switzerland):
how to reach out to the people who don't want to listen**

- Translate and share stories of people who stood up for each other
- Showing the empathic knowledge of the story of both communities during genocide; stories of Muslims, hiding Jews during the Shoa and stories of Jews protecting Muslims in the Balkan wars > if we can't reach people with facts, we can impact them emotionally
- Using the already existing archives, translating existing testimonies
To deradicalize people by exposure to the Holocaust and Genocide

**Osama (Pakistan), Orli (Israel):
JAM (Jewish and Muslim) Group Therapy**

- Presentation of a youtube channel
- 2 minute interviews, in which participants tell a story where they or people they love where exposed to hatred, Anti-semitism or Islamophobia
- Blog feature
- Youtube channel: JAM therapy group

**Mahjabeen (Pakistan) Symi (Usa):
Global Muslim Jewish Friendship Forum**

- Facebook group
- Platform for sharing interfaith issues, events, articles, strenghten grassroots driven and sustainable dialogue

**Ruth (France), Samia (France):
Sustained Dialogue Committee**

- „Project Construire Ensemble“: build together
- Lay the foundations for better understanding between Muslim and Jewish communities in France and in Israel through sustained dialogue
- Long term dialogue revolving around identities complemented by experiential learning through common cultural programs, the sharing of symbolic events and holidays
- Organizing joint travels through Israel and Palestine; bringing in stakeholders from Israel and Palestine

**Ben (Canada), Yvonne (Austria), Arthur (Austria):
Committee: Stories of collective memories and comparative identities
MJC - Muslim Jewish Cookbook**

- Bringing both communities together by sharing the best recipes of both cultures and the more than 25 countries the MJC participants came from.
- Finding commonalities through similarities within the cultures of cooking.
- Through the publishing and selling of the book other MJC projects can be financed and implemented.



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(Photo © Daniel Shaked)

Second Annual Muslim Jewish Conference held in Kiev, Ukraine

Posted on [July 12, 2011](#)

Young Muslims and Jews gathered together for the second annual 'Muslim Jewish Conference' (MJC) 2011, held 3-8 July in Kiev, Ukraine. Students and young professionals from more than 25 countries came together to work towards achieving a feat that many describe as impossible: stepping beyond the boundaries of non-communication and stereotyping in order to build a new global political movement by young Muslim and Jewish people committed to developing a language of mutual respect.

The first MJC was held in Vienna in 2010, under the official Patronage of the Austrian President, Heinz Fischer. This year, under the patronage of Russell Simmons and Rabbi Marc Schneier, the message of this grassroots movement is being spread globally. As in 2010, the 2011 conference was endorsed by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

The theme of the MJC 2011 was a "Call for Action." In three committees, concrete projects were created by the conference participants, with the aim of implementing them on the ground in their respective communities.

Ukrainian politicians and ambassadors – including parliamentarian and philanthropist Aleksandr Feldman, who was named as one of the most influential Ukrainians – showed their strong support for the MJC by attending the conference's opening ceremony, which was hosted by the Ukrainian Jewish Committee at a hotel in the heart of Kiev.



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Muslim-Jewish parley seeks 'platform for dialogue'

Wednesday, July 6, 2011



[Click here to read the original article in The Jerusalem Post](#)

The Jerusalem Post

By Jeremy Sharon

The second annual Muslim- Jewish Conference kicked off in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday, with 70 students and young professionals coming from around the world to promote mutual understanding between global Jewish and Muslim communities.

The event is sponsored by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding based in New York and the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, among others, with participants coming from Austria, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Israel, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

"Most young Jews and Muslims never really meet because of the situation, and only learn about each other from their respective communities and through the media," Muslim- Jewish Conference Secretary- General Ilja Sichrovsky told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday.

"The conference is designed to be a platform for dialogue between Muslims and Jews to talk to each other instead of about each other," Sichrovsky said.

Ayse Cindilkaya, vice secretary- general of the organization, said the political conflict can "overshadow" relations between the two communities but that they are not focusing on conflicts.

"We are trying to start from new but we are sensitive to the conflicts," Cindilkaya said.

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The Muslim-Jewish Conference is coming to Kiev

Seventy young Muslim and Jewish leaders from 25 countries will come together to demonstrate that a new generation can overcome decades of mutual fear and demonization to build a brighter future for both communities.

By **Shlomo Shamir**

Tags: [Jews and Muslims](#) [Jewish World](#) [Jews and Arabs \(co-existence\)](#)

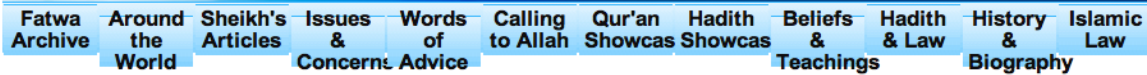
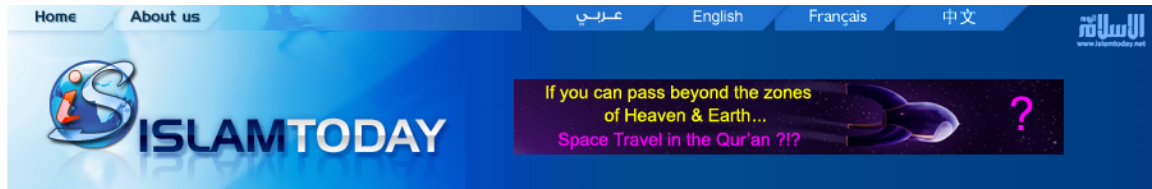
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The largest-ever gathering of Muslim and Jewish students and young professionals will kick off in Kiev next week.

Seventy young Muslim and Jewish leaders from 25 countries will come together to demonstrate that a new generation can overcome decades of mutual fear and demonization to build a brighter future for both communities.

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World's Largest-Ever Gathering of Muslim & Jewish Youth Leaders to Convene in Kiev

IslamToday / Agencies
Fri, 07/01/2011



01 July 2011

The largest-ever gathering of Muslim and Jewish students and young professionals will take place in Ukraine's capitol of Kiev (pictured) from 3-8 July.

It is being organized by the Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC), a Vienna-based organization officially endorsed by the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

Seventy young Muslim and Jewish leaders from 25 countries want to demonstrate that a new generation of Muslims and Jews can overcome decades of mutual fear and demonization and build a brighter future for both communities, according to the organizers.

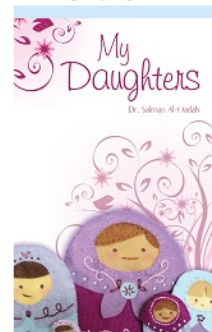
Participants come from countries as diverse as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Lebanon, Israel, Nigeria, Austria, Germany, Poland, France, Canada and the United States.

The Second Annual Muslim-Jewish Conference is taking place with the support of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FEEU) and the Ukrainian Jewish Committee.

The smaller first annual Muslim Jewish Conference took place last year at the University of Vienna from 1 to 6 August 2010, under the official patronage of the President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer.

The larger Kiev conference follows on a series of Europe Day events that took place across the continent in May, under the aegis of FEEU and the World Jewish Congress, and in which prominent Muslims and Jews in nine European countries vowed to stand together against the rise of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

According to Rabbi Marc Schneier, who serves as vice-president of the World Jewish Congress: "The Kiev conference, coming on the heels of our successful efforts to build a Muslim-Jewish alliance in Europe, offers the opportunity to bring together some of the most outstanding Muslim and Jewish leaders in their 20s and 30s for five days of sustained dialogue. These young adults, future leaders and opinion shapers in their respective countries, are seeking to accomplish what many of their elders erroneously assume to be an impossible dream; stepping beyond non-



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Interfaith conf. to bring Jews, Muslims together in Ukraine

By GIL SHEFLER
06/29/2011 13:10

Young Jewish and **Muslim** adults from 25 countries including Israel, Pakistan and Nigeria will convene in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev July 3rd for an interfaith seminar aimed at fighting anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. "The Conference 2010 clarified that that the next generation of Muslims and Jews in the world is eager for dialogue and constructive **contact**," said Ilja Sichrovsky, founder and secretary general of the Muslim Jewish Conference.

"We are determined to keep **providing** a true chance for them to talk to each other instead of about each other," Sichrovsky said.

The 2nd annual Muslim Jewish Conference is **organized** by members of the Jewish community of Austria and mostly funded by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and the Ukraine Jewish Committee.

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Building Muslim-Jewish Ties In Vienna, And Beyond

Tuesday, July 5, 2011
Steve Lipman

A Jewish native of Vienna, 28-year-old Ilja Sichrovsky is at the vanguard of a movement to improve relations between Jews and Muslims. As founder and secretary of the Muslim Jewish Conference (mjconference.org), he recently brought several dozen young members of both communities together at the University of Vienna for six days of dialogue and leadership-training activities.

Sichrovsky is the son of Peter Sichrovsky, an Austrian journalist and author who wrote groundbreaking books in the 1980s about young Jews in Austria, and about the children of Holocaust survivors and of Nazis. He later was elected to the European Parliament, as a member of the rightwing Freedom Party.

The Jewish Week spoke with Ilja Sichrovsky recently at the Manhattan office of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, which supports his work.

Q: We're familiar with the growing Muslim influence — often threatening Jewish interests — in such European countries as England, France and Germany. What sort of Islamic community does Austria have, and how are its relations with the country's small Jewish community?

A: The Muslim community in Austria is around 400,000 official members. There are many who consider themselves Muslim but have not officially registered to be part of the Muslim community, so it is hard to come up with an exact number. The relationship with the Jewish community is a peaceful one, which of course includes sometimes-emotional debates about the Middle East.

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Jewish and Muslim youth leaders from 25 countries to meet in Ukraine

30 June 2011

The largest-ever gathering of Muslim and Jewish students and young professionals will kick off in Kiev next week. Seventy young Jewish and Muslim leaders from 25 countries want to demonstrate that a new generation of Muslims and Jews can overcome decades of mutual fear and demonization and build a brighter future for both communities, according to the organizers. The second annual Muslim-Jewish Conference will be the first such meeting in a country of the former Soviet Union. The event is taking place with the support of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU) and the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, with the president and chairman of FFEU, Rabbi Marc Schneier and Russell Simmons, serving as patrons of the event. Participants come from countries as diverse as Pakistan, India, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Nigeria, Austria, Germany, Poland, France, Canada and the United States.

The Kiev conference follows on a series of Europe Day events that took place across the continent in May, under the aegis of FFEU and the World Jewish Congress, and in which prominent Muslims and Jews in nine European countries vowed to stand together against the rise of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

According to Schneier, who serves as vice-president of the World Jewish Congress: "The Kiev conference, coming on the heels of our successful efforts to build a Muslim-Jewish alliance in Europe, offers the opportunity to bring together some of the most outstanding Muslim and Jewish leaders in their 20s and 30s for five days of sustained dialogue. These young adults, future leaders and opinion shapers in their respective countries, are seeking to accomplish what many of their elders erroneously assume to be an impossible dream; stepping beyond non-communication and estrangement and to connect with each other. This conference is heartening evidence of the remarkable progress FFEU is making, together with our partner, the Muslim-Jewish Conference, in building a global movement of young Muslims and Jews committed to communication, reconciliation and cooperation."

Ilja Sichrovsky (pictured), a 29-year-old native of Vienna who serves as secretary general of the Muslim-Jewish Conference, remarked: "The young Muslims and Jews, who are traveling to Kiev from around the world to connect with each other, are committed to surmounting the barricades between our respective communities and building ties of friendship and trust. Together, we are living proof that, despite the conventional wisdom, it is not impossible to overcome borders and psychological barriers to connect with each other. We have only to reach out and begin working together for a better

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DAN DIKER
 Secretary General,
 World Jewish Congress

Knesset Forum on International Relations, Jerusalem, 14 July 2011

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Opinion Poll

What can the United Nations do to improve the situation of women in countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia?

Publicly name and shame the countries that disrespect basic women's rights.

Engage in silent diplomacy with the governments of these countries.

Help human rights groups active in these countries to improve the situation of women on the ground.

Nothing. It's a national matter and has a lot to do with local culture and traditions.

Other

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