



The Interreligious Coordinating Council In Israel

מועצה בין דתית מתאמת בישראל (ע"ד)

مجلس التنسيق بين الاديان في اسرائيل

Religions for Peace 

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, EDUCATION AND ACTION

The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), established in January 1991, is Israel's best-known and most-respected interreligious organization. It comprises more than 60 Christian, Muslim, and Jewish institutions, including Jewish-Arab coexistence organizations, museums, universities, and other inter-religious organizations. ICCI also serves as the Israeli chapter of Religions for Peace and as one of the Israeli members of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ). ICCI's potential impact is greater than that of any one institution, given its status as a coalition of organizations with many hundreds of members in each organization and its success in recruiting influential religious and cultural leaders and opinion-makers to participate in systematic and substantive special programs.



ICCI's mission is to harness the teachings and values of the three monotheistic religions into sources of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, based on the understanding that religions should not be part of the problem, but rather can be part of the solution. ICCI's work focuses primarily on religious leaders, women and young adults, youth and educators, in the belief that these groups can serve as catalysts to spread the message of peace to their communities. ICCI deeply believes that, when people of faith join together in mutual understanding and respect to achieve the common goal of living together in harmony, their efforts will help reduce the violence and increase the chances that people in the region will learn to live in peace.

ICCI promotes interreligious dialogue and understanding through a variety of programs, including some bold new initiatives.



KEDEM – PROGRAMS FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The Galilee Religious Leaders Forum, comprised of Christian, Muslim, Druze, and Jewish religious leaders in the Galilee, organizes special study days and visits to each other's communities in the area, including educational outreach in schools in the Jewish and Arab sectors. This program is part of ICCI's ongoing collaboration with the Division of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior. Other programs for religious leaders are currently in the developmental stages.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

ICCI has initiated a new action program for graduates of the ICCI's Women's Dialogue Groups. After "Envisioning the Future of Jerusalem," the women shared ideas about how to promote a Jerusalem as a safe, open, accepting and welcoming city. The women are now working to develop two project ideas – one a drama workshop focusing on the theme of boundaries, and one an activist program designed to counter discrimination in the city.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Youth Leadership Development: Face to Face / Faith to Faith: Each year for the past 8 years, ICCI has recruited a group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim youth to participate in a year-long dialogue and leadership program. The program includes attending a two-week summer intensive experience in the U.S., as part of a full, comprehensive year of dialogue and action projects in Jerusalem. This program is done in partnership with the Auburn Theological Seminary of New York and local groups in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and the U.S.A..



Palestinians and Israelis for Interreligious Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence, ICCI's new Alumni Community for graduates of our youth and young adult programs, commenced its activities in 2011. The program aims to provide ICCI alumni with a long-term framework for engaging together in dialogue and social activism. The program is supported by the **Jerusalem Foundation**, **Bryn-Mawr Presbyterian Church**, the **Pontifical Mission for Palestine**, **Auburn Theological Seminary** and **Religions for Peace**.

Two new programs are currently underdevelopment: **Face to Face / Faith Galilee**, a pilot extension of our successful program in Jerusalem, and **Kickstart Peace**, a unique interreligious youth program with **Abu Ghosh Community Center** and **Kiryat Yearim Boarding school** that combines sports and intercultural enrichment activities.

THE CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH ISRAEL

ICCI is proud to host the **Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel**, which provides visiting groups which are interreligious in their composition or in their areas of interest with a serious, systematic and sensitively balanced educational experience in Israel. Two types of programs are available:

- ◆ Full 10-12 days seminars for visiting interreligious groups from universities abroad or from community groups
- ◆ One-off programs with participants of ICCI programs (youth, young adults, women, religious leaders) or with members of our leadership, professional and voluntary, or with members of the community (imams, ministers, rabbis)



The Center's innovative programs encourage personal discovery through first-hand experience. Site visits, text-study, lectures, meetings with local religious leaders and visits to local organizations (including many ICCI affiliates) serve as stimuli for far-ranging theological, historical and contemporary discussions amongst the participants and enable them to:

- ◆ Explore their own Christian, Muslim or Jewish roots and gain a deeper understanding of key religious, cultural, spiritual and educational issues in Israeli and Palestinian society
- ◆ Confront serious questions about faith, people and nationality in the context of complex regional problems
- ◆ Deepen their own values through encounters with other people and cultures
- ◆ Delve into timeless texts in the places where they were composed
- ◆ Examine minority-majority relations in a region where Muslims and Christians are minority populations and Jews a majority.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **The Jonah Group**, a group of local Palestinian Christians and Jewish clergy and educators who engage in dialogue with each other on contemporary issues in the conflict in Jerusalem and the region.
- ◆ **Lectures, panel discussions, and site visits** for visiting groups to Israel
- ◆ **Special events (seminars and symposiums)**, e.g., on Teaching Islam to Jews and Judaism to Muslims in Israel
- ◆ **Courses** on topics such as "Muslims Teach about Islam" and "Christianity and Christians"
- ◆ **Training workshops** with international experts, e.g., Paul Hutchinson of Corrymeela, Northern Ireland

ICCI STAFF

Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish, Director (pictured)

Dr. Sarah Bernstein, Associate Director

Ilana Shochat, Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs

Rakheli Hever, Communications and Development Coordinator

Ophir Yarden, Director of the Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel

Dr. Fatmeh Kassem & Dr. Sarah Bernstein, women's coordinators/facilitators

Miki Joelson & Maisa Zoabi, Face-to-Face/Faith-to-Faith Youth Dialogue and Leadership program coordinators/facilitators

Yaala Mazor, Face to Face / Faith to Faith Galilee coordinator/facilitator

Aharon Levi & Hani Salman, Kickstart Peace coordinators/facilitators

Hani Salman, Translator



ICCI – The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel

43 Emek Refaim, POB 8771, Jerusalem 91086. Tel: 972-2-563-4148.

Email: communications@icci.org.il. Website: <http://icci.org.il>. Blog: <http://icciblog.wordpress.com>

You can also find us on Facebook under "ICCI: The Interreligious Coordinating Council of Israel".