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22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008

To whom it may concern,

**Re: The Interreligious Coordinating Council of Israel - Centre for Interreligious Encounter**

For almost twenty years, CCJ has been privileged to work closely with ICCI's Centre for Interreligious Encounter with Israel. During that time, our partnership has enabled hundreds of church leaders, young adults, students, seminarians and members of the general British public to engage with the region – its people, its land and its problems.

ICCI has, through its educators, maintained a thoroughly professional and, we believe, unique approach, providing opportunities to meet special and dedicated individuals working in related fields, as well as enabling truly spiritual insights and experiences which cannot easily be found elsewhere. ICCI knows intimately both its subject and its unusual audience (British Christians in their diversity, together with their dialogue partners from the Anglo-Jewish community). Standards of hospitality, accommodation and travel, as well as scholarly input, have all been of the highest degree, notwithstanding their excellent value for money. Senior academics, members of government, community workers in special circumstances and religious leaders have all been pleased to work with ICCI in such programmes.

The work of ICCI's Centre for Interreligious Encounter, in partnership with CCJ, has born considerable fruit in terms of Jewish Christian relations in the UK. A high number of participants in their programmes have gone on to positions of influence, including the current Archbishop of York, the Most Revd John Sentamu, leading spokesmen on Jewish matters in several Christian denominations, the first female chaplain in the Royal Navy, workers in Christian charities based in the region and Canon Andrew White, formerly the Archbishop of Canterbury's advisor in the Middle East, now based in Baghdad. Training for CCJ's own staff has also been an important element over the years.

In conclusion, CCJ highly recommends ICCI's Centre for Interreligious Encounter; it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find anyone who could provide such a high standard in this specialised field.

Yours sincerely



David Gifford

Chief Executive

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