

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Jewish-Muslim Relations in Europe: Past, Present & Future Perspectives
20th-22nd October 2017, Cordoba, Spain

Dear colleagues, dear friends

today we are wrapping up our 9th international conference on “Jewish-Muslim Relations in Europe” in beautiful Cordoba. Indeed we had many interesting contributions.

With Micheal Epstein's contribution we were able to find the common roots of Jewish-Muslim mystics and the source of spirituality the two religions share.

Followed by a very interesting addition by Franz Winter. He pointed out the position of the “Gospel of Barnabas” in Islamic-Jewish debates. We were also guided into the first historic trails of interreligious discourses in Europe by Azelarabe Lahkim Bennani.

Ms María Ángelles Gallego Garcia showed us that the linguistic development of Jews and Muslims does not differentiate too much and that they learned a lot from each other. Similarly, did María Emma Montanos Ferrín from A Coruña and Yolanda Quesada Morillas from Berlin contribute by pointing out that interreligious relationships indeed had their difficult times but nonetheless were still able to set a course for future discussions.

Mr Bodenheimer led us back to current Europe and shared his experience of integration policy from a Jewish perspective. Clearly, we learned that we should not lose sight of our religious minorities when it comes to structuring the future and history taught us what can happen, if we do. Mr Karcic shared his experience from the Balkan region and reminded us of the joint responsibility of Jews and Muslims for our future.

Mr Gerhard Langer showed us the pluricultural context of Jewish Theology and therefore claims that there cannot be homogenous Jewish culture or theology.

Jonathan Magonet highlighted the responsibilities of all monotheistic religions, and constituted with an impressive success, why we need all of the three monotheistic religions. Friedrich Schweizer shared his views on the importance of Islamic-Jewish relations from a Christian perspective. He also reminded us of our history here in Europe with regards to Religious Education, which, for the future, has to be created more deliberately.

Sobhi Rayan explained the Islamic diversity and elaborated on Jewish-Islamic relations and challenges in Israel.

The model of a pluralistic society from a feministic perspective was shared by Jerusha T. Lamprey. She showed us the theological possibilities of a pluralistic society.

The persona of Prophet Abraham was Carol Bakhos topic, followed by the interesting contribution of Mr Karagedik who shared his views on how Muslims can interact with the position of Jews in Hadith Literature.

The contributions of Ms Demosthenous, Mr Keskinilic and Mr El Hairan showed current examples on Jewish-Muslim relations in Europe.

We learned that these religious relations should not be constantly equalized to the Israeli and Palestinian debate. The relationship of these religions have a totally different tradition here in Europe, as we have seen here in Cordoba.

In the European community the Muslim-Jewish relationship plays a central role. If the Jewish citizens of France want to leave Europe because of the attacks against them, Europe loses not only its citizens from a small community, but also a part of its future. When Muslims feel discriminated against, because of their presence in Europe, and anti-Islamic rhetoric is repeatedly spread, it is high time that we promote the fact that Europe wants and needs to protect its diversity.

The organizer and participants of this conference agreed that peace amongst the religions of Europe is of uttermost importance for Europe's future. And this is a reason, if not the most important one, why all religions are challenged for their own contributions for a social and peaceful Europe. Europe has to be the place for social justice and solidarity and only with the contribution of everyone involved, can growing racism and nationalism be minimized.

With this very experience and hope, we the participants of this conference thank the University of Vienna, Cordoba and A Coruña for this very remarkable conference in this historic city of Cordoba.

Next year, the annually happening conference, will be held in October 2018, in Zagreb, Croatia.

