



MUSLIM JEWISH CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
June 04, 2013

Largest Muslim-Jewish gathering to convene in Sarajevo

100 young leaders from 39 countries will talk interfaith issues at the Muslim Jewish Conference, under the patronage of the Bosniak President

VIENNA, AUSTRIA. Over a hundred young leaders from 39 countries will convene in Sarajevo this July in one of the largest, most diverse gatherings of Muslim and Jewish students anywhere in the world.

The interfaith dialogue is organized by the Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC), a Vienna-based grass roots organization officially endorsed by the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). The Sarajevo gathering, scheduled from June 30 – July 5, 2013 is held under the patronage of Bosniak President Bakir Izetbegović.

The hundred young men and women from over 39 countries are representative of a desire amongst the new generation of Muslims and Jews to overcome decades of mutual distrust and build a brighter future for both communities, according to the organizers. Participants come from countries as diverse as Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Israel, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Brazil, as well as North America and Europe.

The Fourth Annual Muslim-Jewish Conference is being held with the support of the Muslim and Jewish communities in Sarajevo, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Karl Kahane Foundation, amongst others. The first conference was held in Vienna, in 2010, under the official patronage of the President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer. Subsequent conferences were held in Kiev (2011) and Bratislava (2012).

The agenda for MJC 2013 is designed around six themes, including conflict transformation; anti-Semitism and Islamophobia through cinema; hate speech and its influence on public opinion; introduction to Judaism and Islam; gender and religion; and education and the effects of historical narratives. The diverse range of discussion caters to a wide audience, and allows for a productive intermingling of the passionate amateurs, and dedicated experts.

“Gatherings around the world lack our simple approach: having a platform for this generation, created by this very generation. A platform where the leaders of tomorrow can talk on their own terms and form innovative networks of cooperation, beyond the borders of nations, culture and religion, in a safe space, without any agenda,” said Ilja Sichrovsky, founder and Secretary General of MJC.

Over the course of five days, participants will share personal experiences regarding misconceptions, stereotypes and hatred along with critically examining historical narratives. At the end, they will not only issue a call for greater interfaith linkages, but also design and implement projects that take the positive energy from Sarajevo, back to their home countries. The recently instituted Project Department at MJC supports initiatives developed by conference participants, and ensures that these projects are successfully and sustainably implemented.

For more information, press only:

Gulraiz Khan
00 92 333 318 3354
press@mjconference.org

For more information on MJC:

www.mjconference.org