



# MUSLIM JEWISH CONFERENCE

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Muslim-Jewish Conference Convenes in Sarajevo**

*Over 100 young leaders from 39 countries convene to engage in interfaith dialogue at the Muslim Jewish Conference under the patronage of the Bosniak President*

**SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA.** The Muslim-Jewish Conference (MJC) assembled more than one hundred students and young professionals in Bosnia and Herzegovina to engage in intercultural and interreligious dialogue for its annual week-long meeting. Participants and leaders from thirty-nine countries over five continents, including the Arabian Peninsula, South East Asia, Israel and Africa, the Americas and Europe arrived in Sarajevo on June 30. Bosniak President Bakir Izetbegović will address the Conference on 2 July 2013.

MJC aims to overcome generations of misunderstanding to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for both communities by fostering productive discussion and incubating projects that bring the impact of the conference back to participants' native communities.

Conference attendees work in one of the following six committees: 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.

During the conference, attendees form partnerships to conceive and develop projects that promote MJC's goals. The MJC provides support to the projects ensure successful and sustainable implementation.

"The Muslim Jewish Conference is a forum for emerging leaders to engage on their own terms and form networks of cooperation that extend beyond the borders of nations, culture and religion, in a safe space without an agenda," said Ilja Sichrovsky, founder and Secretary General of MJC.

In three years, the MJC has attracted more than three hundred young leaders from fifty countries to lead and participate in four annual conferences in Vienna, Kiev, Bratislava and now Sarajevo.

This year's conference is supported by: the Muslim and Jewish Communities of Sarajevo, American University in Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Karl Kahane Foundation and the Stanley and Marion Bergman Charitable Fund.

MJC is a Vienna-based, grassroots organization endorsed by the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and former United States President Bill Clinton.

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