

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 • Fax: +49 4106 804807
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WEA and IJCIC hold historic first meeting in Jerusalem on Jewish-evangelical relations

(Bonn, 14.06.2022) The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), a global body serving more than 600 million evangelicals belonging to churches forming 143 national alliances, and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), representing 11 major Jewish organizations, bringing together Jews from across denominations and areas of focus in common cause, held an historic meeting in Jerusalem from April 27–29, 2022. Convened by Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Chair of IJCIC, and Archbishop Dr. Thomas Schirmmayer, Secretary General of the WEA, the gathering brought together two delegations that reflected the diversity of both communities.



WEA and IJCIC delegations at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Israel © Yoni Reif

The purpose of this first face-to-face meeting included several sessions of Christian and Jewish leaders sharing personal stories, reflections and perspectives followed by open discussions, with the aim to increase the mutual understanding between the two faith communities and identifying issues of common concern.

Among other topics, the conversations touched on Jewish-Evangelical relations; the resurgence of overt antisemitism and Holocaust denial; the prevalence of Muslimophobia; the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; worldwide hostility to vulnerable minorities including the persecution of Jews and Christians; and the erosion of religious freedom in many parts of the world. The choice of Jerusalem for the meetings was important because of the shared heritage of both Christians and Jews and the fraught history of relations between the two communities.

The delegates began their deliberations with a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, including a special ceremony during which a wreath was laid on behalf of the World Evangelical Alliance in the Hall of Remembrances by Archbishop

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Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, 25479 Ellerau
Tel.: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: info@bonn-profiles.net



A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg)
business.worlddea.org

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiopot – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
missiopot.org

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn)
theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn)
gebende-haende.de

Global Theology Department of the World Evangelical Alliance
worlddea.org/what-we-do/global-theology/

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn)
islam institute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, EU-Office Brüssel)
iirf.eu

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto)
journal.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, Delhi)
bucer.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

SOS World (Brussels)
sosworld.be/page-daccueil

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
world-evangelicals.org/tc/

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.)
vkwonline.com

WEA Global Issues Series (Bonn, Manila, New York)
global-issues-series.iirf.eu

WEA Sustainability Center
wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
yearbooks.iirf.eu

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Schirmmacher and Rev. Dr. Goodwill Shana, Chairman of the International Council of WEA.

The heads of the delegations, Sandmel and Schirmmacher, also took part in the official State ceremony for the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Yad Vashem with speeches by the President and the Prime Minister of Israel. There they also met Bärbel Bas, the President of the German parliament, Reuben Rivlin, the former President of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Prime Minister of Israel, David Baruch Lau, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, and his father and predecessor Yisrael Meir Lau, as well as several ministers of the government of Israel.

The combined delegations were also received the next day by Mr. Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel.

“The WEA and IJCIC explored ways in which, working together, our advocacy and interventions may be forces for good in the world. We are committed to addressing and opposing all forms of normalization of hatred, including antisemitism and attacks on religious communities. Areas of possible collaboration included: mutual education; environmental concerns; and promotion of peace,” Rabbi Sandmel and Dr. Schirmmacher commented together.

“This historic meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continue to communicate openly and regularly, to facilitate the joint efforts to affect change identified by the meeting, and to reconvene at regular intervals so that we can advance our respective and mutual responsibilities to our own communities and the world at large,” they added.

Delegation of the World Evangelical Alliance (in alphabetical order):

1. Matthias Boehning
2. Connie Duarte
3. Monika Faes
4. Timothy Goropevsek
5. David Guretzki
6. Frank Hinkelmann
7. David Kopp
8. John Langlois
9. Peirong Lin
10. Snehal Pinto
11. Samuel Richmond
12. Thomas Schirmmacher
13. Goodwill Shana
14. Ezekiel Tan
15. Harry Tees
16. Ekkehart Vetter

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WEA Sustainability Center
wea-sc.org

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17. Brian Winslade

Delegation of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations:

1. Shoshana Boyd Gelfand
2. Mark Dratch
3. Betty Ehrenberg
4. Tamar Elad Applebaum
5. Euguen Korn
6. Marcie Lenk
7. Noam Marans
8. Michael Marmur
9. Dalia Marx
10. Carole Nuriel
11. David Rosen
12. David Sandmel
13. Lawrence Schiffman
14. Alan Schneider
15. Oded Wiener

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo:** WEA and IJCIC delegations at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Israel © Yoni Reif

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