

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 728 – No. 24/2022

80th Anniversary of the Wannsee Conference

The Contemporary Church and Antisemitism Today

(Bonn, 31.05.2022) Even though the holocaust had started already, on January 20, 1942 a group of very high ranking bureaucrats of a section through all governing bodies of Germany planed, how to finish off the extinction of the rest of the once 11 million Jews in Europe. As they met in a Nazi villa on the Wannsee in Berlin, the “Wannsee Conference” has become an equivalent to “holocaust” and is a very visible proof, that killing *all* the Jewish in Europe was planed with German efficiency, as a copy of the long original protocol serviced the Third Reich.



During the conference © Martin Warnecke/IIRF

A conference by State actors like the EU Commission and the German federal government together with Christians and Jews remembering the Wann-

see conference in the villa itself and at the seat of the Protestant Church in Germany in Berlin, brought together major actors combating antisemitism. The whole conference of seven hours is available on Youtube.

Beside the Secretary General of World Evangelical Alliance, Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher, who was accompanied by Dr. Arto Hämmäläinen from Finland, Chair of the Pentecostal Religious Liberties Commission, were Archbishop Welby from Canterbury, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow and President of the Conference of European Rabbis, MP Katrin Göring-Eckhardt, Vice President of the German Bundestag; Katharina von Schnurbein, EU Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life and Dr. Felix Klein, The Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism (see full list below).

The event led to a declaration read allowed in the Villa of the Wannsee Conference “Fight Antisemitism, Protect Jewish Life”.

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Program and speakers

9.15 “Jewish Christian relations – past, present and future.”

- Katharina von Kellenbach – Evangelische Kirche Deutschlands;
- Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt – Chief Rabbi of Moscow, President of the Conference of European Rabbis;
- Archbishop Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher – Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance;
- Justin Welby – Archbishop of Canterbury;

11.15

- Rev. Johnnie Moore – President, The Congress of Christian Leaders;
- Dr. Gregory Lafitte – Forum for Cultural Diplomacy;
- Rabbi Abraham Cooper – Associate dean and director of Global Social Action Agenda for the Simon Wiesenthal Center;
- Dr. Christian Staffa – Evangelische Kirche Deutschlands;

14.00 “What is antisemitism? Can it be defined and can it be defeated?”

- Katharina von Schnurbein – EU Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life;
- Dr. Felix Klein – The Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism

16.00 “What can we do different in 2022?” Presentation of “Churches Against Antisemitism”.

17.00 Closing remarks

- Menachem Rosensaft – General Counsel at World Jewish Congress, Founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Survivors

19.00 Special ceremony of the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference in the Französischer Dom in Berlin. Classical music by the Diplomatic String Quartet Berlin featuring music composed in concentration camps.

- Dr. Felix Klein – The Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism;
- Bishop Dr. Christian Stäblein – Evangelical Church Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia;
- MP Katrin Göring-Eckhardt – Vice President of the German Bundestag;
- Prayer: Archbishop Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher – Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance

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Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** During the conference © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 2:** Together with Pastor Philip Kiril Prince of Prussia und Simon Rufus Isaacs, 4. Marquess of Reading © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 3 and photo 4:** Dinner discussions © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 5:** Talking to Katharina von Schnurbein © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 6:** Speaking to Pastor Philip Kiril Prince of Prussia © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 7:** Pastor Philip Kiril Prince of Prussia © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- **Photo 8:** MP Katrin Göring-Eckhardt, Vice President of the German Bundestag © WEA/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 9:** At the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in the French Dome in Berlin with MP Katrin Göring-Eckhardt, Vice President of the German Bundestag © WEA/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 10:** Schirmmacher at the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in the French Dome in Berlin, first row in red the main speaker, MP Katrin Göring-Eckhardt, Vice President of the German Bundestag © WEA/Martin Warnecke
- The full conference on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VldUAcRwvmU>
- The program of the conference: <http://www.ec4i.org/wannsee2022>
- 'Fight Antisemitism, Protect Jewish Life: Declaration on the 80th Anniversary of the Wannsee Conference': <https://www.eaberlin.de/aktuelles/2022/antisemitismus-bekaempfen-juedisches-leben-schuetzen/wannsee-conference-declaration.pdf>
- The declaration in German: <https://www.eaberlin.de/aktuelles/2022/antisemitismus-bekaempfen-juedisches-leben-schuetzen/>
- Press release of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (January 20, 2022): <https://www.wiesenthal.com/about/news/never-again-for-the-jewish.html>

Further press releases

- Anglican: <https://anglican.ink/2022/01/27/welby-joins-faith-leaders-in-denouncing-the-rise-of-anti-semitism-at-the-80th-anniversary-of-wannsee-conference-in-berlin/>
- The Jerusalem Post (January 24, 2022): <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-694017>
- Jewish News (January 26, 2022): <https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/justin-welby-condemns-profound-evil-of-antisemitism-at-wannsee-anniversary-meeting/>
- The Jewish Chronicle (January 27, 2022): <https://www.thejc.com/news/news/archbishop-denounces-jew-hate-6ZuVQ7mRc6ssVfMehmyM89>

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- Jewish-Christian Relations (February 1, 2022): <https://www.jcrelations.net/article/vice-president-of-the-german-parliament-it-is-the-duty-of-christians-to-make-the-concern-of-their-jewish-compatriots-their-common-concern.html>
- European Coalition for Israel (January 17, 2022): <https://www.ec4i.org/senior-faith-leaders-to-speak-out-against-current-rise-of-antisemitism-at-80th-anniversary-of-wannsee-conference-in-berlin/>
- European Coalition for Israel (January 25, 2022): <https://www.ec4i.org/vice-president-of-the-german-parliament-it-is-the-duty-of-christians-to-make-the-concern-of-their-jewish-compatriots-their-common-concern/>
- Thomas Schirmmacher (February 2, 2022): <https://www.thomasschirmmacher.net/blog/welby-joins-faith-leaders-in-denouncing-the-rise-of-anti-semitism-at-the-80th-anniversary-of-wannsee-conference-in-berlin/>
- Thomas Schirmmacher (February 5, 2022): <https://www.thomasschirmmacher.info/podcast/thomas-pauls-week-no-6/>

Spanish

- Jewish-Christian Relations (March 1, 2022): <https://www.jcrelations.net/es/article/el-vicepresidente-del-parlamento-aleman-es-el-deber-de-los-cristianos-hacer-de-la-preocupacion-de-sus-compatriotas-judios-su-preocupacion-comun.html>

Swedish

- Världen idag (February 3, 2022): <https://www.varldenidag.se/israelkommentar/kristen-tro-ger-ingen-immunitet-mot-antisemitism/repvax!@EUaEhJc5wbYMc5@Y6Zuw/>

German

- Evangelische Akademie (January 21, 2022): <https://www.eaberlin.de/aktuelles/2022/antisemitismus-bekaempfen-juedisches-leben-schuetzen/>
- Akref (January 24, 2022): <https://akref.ead.de/akref-nachrichten/2022/januar/24012022-europa-antisemitismus-bekaempfen-und-juedisches-leben-schuetzen/>
- Thomas Schirmmacher (January 27, 2022): <https://www.thomasschirmmacher.info/blog/antisemitismus-bekaempfen-juedisches-leben-schuetzen/>
- Ev. Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg (January 12, 2022): <https://www.erinnerungskultur-ekbo.de/news-detail/nachricht/gedenken-zum-80-jahrestag-der-wannseekonferenz-am-20-januar-2022.html>
- Ev. Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg (January 19, 2022): https://www.ekbo.de/fileadmin/ekbo/mandant/ekbo.de/1._WIR/06._Bischof/Gr

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- Domradio (January 20, 2022): <https://www.domradio.de/artikel/80-jahre-wannsee-konferenz>

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