



MJC 2013

THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

ABOUT MJC

The Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC) is a grassroots dialogue and leadership organization that targets future Muslim and Jewish leaders from the academic and political sectors. The annual conference brings together students and young professionals from around the world and invites them to step beyond the boundaries of ignorance and stereotyping, in order to build a new global political movement of young Muslim and Jewish leaders, activists and experts who are committed to mutual respect. Conference participants work together to develop and implement projects focused on promoting interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue.

First Annual MJC August 1-6, 2010 Vienna, Austria

The first MJC was held in Vienna in 2010, under the official patronage of Austrian President Heinz Fischer. Over five days, 65 participants from around the world worked together in thematic committees and conclusively produced an official declaration addressing two main social issues: combating anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and the roles of education and media in Muslim-Jewish relations.

Second Annual MJC July 3-8, 2011 Kiev, Ukraine

The second MJC was a "call to action," where the 70 participants developed concrete projects to implement in their home communities. The conference also included visits to houses of worship of both the faiths and to the site of the Nazi massacre of Jews at Babi Yar. Over the course of the five-day conference, the committees addressed anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, sustainable dialogue, and historical narratives. MJC 2011 came under the official patronage of Russell Simmons and Rabbi Marc Schneier of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. Nine projects were created and are currently in different stages of implementation.

Third Annual MJC July 9-13, 2012 Bratislava, Slovakia

In 2012, the 100 participants divided into four committees and developed more than ten projects which are being implemented around the world. In addition to the working committees, a separate business venture track and an arts track encouraged Muslim and Jewish participants to collaborate on specific projects throughout the week. Site visits to the houses of worship of both faiths in Bratislava were complemented by meetings with politicians in Vienna.

MJC Official Channels

Website: mjconference.org | Youtube: youtube.com/mjconference |
Facebook: facebook.com/MJConference | Twitter: twitter.com/mjconf |

FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON RECOGNIZES MJC'S IMPACT



June 6, 2013

It is my honor to extend my welcome to the assembled participants of the 4th annual Muslim Jewish Conference.

It is particularly meaningful for me to address your gathering in Sarajevo, a city for which I feel tremendous personal affection - and a city that has seen both the best and the worst of Europe's struggle for tolerance and religious diversity. For centuries, Sarajevo's Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived as neighbors, serving as a model of pluralism and creative coexistence. In the years since the war, I have been inspired by the efforts of this city - of ordinary citizens, students, and young leaders like yourselves - to overcome decades of strife and to reclaim its interfaith inheritance through sustained political and religious dialogue.

But in the Balkans - as well as in countries as diverse as Pakistan and Brazil - there is still much to be done to bridge ethnic divides and build democratic societies based on mutual understanding. Now in its fourth year, this organization has responded to the call, having grown to include members from nearly forty countries from all over the world. Under the leadership of founder Ilja Sichrovsky, the commitment of your volunteers and the success of your grassroots movement has been an inspiration to all who endeavor for a politics of dignity and mutual respect.

I commend the dedication of all those responsible for the achievements of the Muslim Jewish Conference, and wish you Godspeed in all the important work that remains to be done in the week and the year ahead.

Bill Clinton

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

Patronage

Dr. Heinz Fischer

President of the Republic of Austria

Patron, 2010

Bakir Izetbegović

Bosniak President of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Patron, 2013

Rabbi Mark Schneier

*Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, Founder
and*

President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

Patron, 2011

Russell Simmons

Chairman of the Foundation of Ethnic Understanding

Patron, 2011

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Andrey Azoulay

Counselor to H.M. King Mohammed VI of Morocco

Mr. Azoulay is a member of both the Royal Academy of Morocco and of the Royal Academy of Spain for Economy and Finance. He serves as President of the Executive Committee of the Foundation for the Three Cultures and the Three Religions, based in Seville, Spain. He also is the Founder and the Chairman of Identity and Dialogue. Mr. Azoulay has been conferred the titles of Commander of the Wissam Al Arch (Kingdom of Morocco) and Commander of the Legion d'Honneur (France).

Dr. Mustafa Cerić

Former Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina

A leading Islamic authority in Europe, Dr. Cerić became Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1993 and formally retired from the office in 2013. He is outspoken on interfaith initiatives in the Muslim world and is considered one of the most influential Muslim leaders of current times. Dr. Cerić is a recipient of the UNESCO Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize; the International Council of Christians and Jews Annual Sternberg Award; the Theodor-Heuss-Stiftung Award; the Association of Muslim Social Scientists UK Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Eugen Biser Foundation Award. In 2008, he joined the advisory council of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation at the invitation of Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair.

Jacob Finci

Former Bosnian and Herzegovinian Ambassador to Switzerland

A member of the century-old Sephardic community, Ambassador Finci is a Bosnian lawyer, diplomat and preeminent human rights activist. He is a founder and past president of the Jewish cultural, educational and humanitarian society, La Benevolencija. Under Ambassador Finci's leadership during the Bosnian War, La Benevolencija was one of the most successful NGOs to assist all citizens on a non-sectarian basis and was the only Bosnian humanitarian organization to work as an implementing partner for the UNHCR. Ambassador Finci has served as President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia Herzegovina; Director of the Soros Foundation - Open Society Fund for Bosnia Herzegovina; Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Bosnia Herzegovina; and Chair of the Constitutional Commission of Federal Parliament. He is the only Bosnian representative to the Advisory Council of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. He is a recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Chevalier Legion of Honor, and the Primo Levi Prize.

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

BOARD OF ADVISORS



Sally A. Painter

Chief Operating Officer, Blue Star Strategies, LLC

Ms. Painter, a former senior advisor in the Clinton Administration, is Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Blue Star Strategies, LLC, a major consulting firm providing advice to global corporations, sovereign governments, NGOs, public policy organizations and public sector institutions. Ms. Painter has an extensive track record working with Central Europe on security and policy issues, including representing many of these countries on their NATO and EU bids, as well as an historic Visa Equity Coalition of seven countries where legislation was passed in the U.S. Congress which allowed their citizens to enter the US visa-free. Ms. Painter serves on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Committee on NATO, The Truman National Security Project, the Global Fairness Initiative, Partners for Democratic Change, and is a founding member of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue. She received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Hungary and The Minister of Defense's Award for Distinction from the Republic of Latvia.

Rabbi David Rosen

Former Chief Rabbi of Ireland

Rabbi Rosen is the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and a past Chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (a broad-based coalition of Jewish organizations representing world Jewry to other religions). He received a papal Knighthood in 2005 for his contribution to Jewish-Catholic reconciliation and in 2010 he was made a Commander of the British Empire by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II for his work promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation. Rabbi Rosen serves as the International Director of Interreligious Affairs of AJC and its Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding. He is the Co-President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace and Honorary President of the International Council of Christians and Jews. He serves as the Executive of the World Council of Religious Leaders and on the Elijah Institute's Board of World Religious Leaders.

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative to Chairman of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office for Combating Anti-Semitism.

Jeremiah Baronberg, Business Development Manager, Government Affairs at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Washington, D.C.; former service with US Helsinki Commission in the United States Congress.

Mag. Dr. Jameleddine Ben Abdeljelil, Assistant for Islamic Studies at the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Vienna; Editorial Board Member of the Magazine for Intercultural Philosophizing; Board Member of the WiGiP (Viennese society for intercultural philosophy).

Timna Brauer, Austrian singer-songwriter with Yemeni roots.

Eduard Dolinsky, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee.

Rafi Elul, Advisor to the President of Israel for social and welfare matters and former consultant to the Prime Minister of Israel in social and welfare matters.

Aleksandr Feldman, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament and Head of the International Center for Tolerance.

Dr. Franz Fischler, President of the Eco-Social Forum; former European Union Commissioner; former Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in Austria.

Prof. Eveline Goodman-Thau, first Orthodox female Rabbi and Founder of the Hermann Cohen Academy in Buchen (Odenwald), Austria.

Josef Hader, Austrian comedian and actor.

Ambassador Nedzad S. Hadzimusic, Vice President for Government and International Relations at American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina; former Ambassador-Director of the Center for Security Cooperation; former Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Adnan Hasić, Bosnia-based media consultant; Chair of the New Democracy Initiative.

Dr. Michael Häupl, Mayor of the City of Vienna, Austria.

André Heller, Austrian artist, author, singer and actor.

Ibrahim Issa, Co-Director of Hope Flowers School, Bethlehem.

Patricia Kahane, President of the Karl Kahane Foundation.

Abbas Khider, award winning Iraqi-German writer.

Sebastian Kurz, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Austria

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Dr. Alois Mock, former Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria, former President of the International Democratic Union; founder of the Central European Initiative.

Wolfgang Petritsch, European Union's Special Envoy for Kosovo and the European Union's Chief Negotiator at the Kosovo peace talks; former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina between August 1999 and May 2002, with final authority on civilian implementation of the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement.

Susanne Scholl, Austrian journalist and writer; former Head of the ORF bureau in Moscow, Russia.

Dr. Zeynep Taluy-Grossruck, former Director of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), Private Sector Development Branch.

Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, City Councilor of Vienna, Austria; former Speaker of the Austrian Green Party.

OFFICIAL SUPPORT

The MJC is honored to have the support of the following esteemed individuals and organizations:

American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OEAD)
Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia
Bruno Kreisky Forum, Vienna, Austria
Cafe Leopold Hawelka, Vienna, Austria
City of Bratislava, Slovakia
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Guerrard-Hermes Foundation for Peace
Hommes de Parole Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland
Husein ef. Kavazović, Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Institute for African Sciences, University of Vienna, Austria
Institute of International Development, University of Vienna, Austria
Irving and Dorothy Rom Charitable Foundation
Jumpstart
Karl Kahane Foundation
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OECD)
Ost Club, Vienna, Austria
Sine Lege Film, Vienna, Austria
Stanley & Marion Bergman Family Charitable Fund
The Academy of Fine Arts and Design Bratislava, Slovakia
The Jewish community in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ukranian Jewish Committee
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
UNAOC - Do One Thing Campaign
University of Vienna, Austria

OUR TEAM

The MJC organizational team is led by a core team of volunteers spread over 16 countries.



- | | |
|---|--|
| Ilja Sichrovsky - Founder & Secretary General (Austria) | Syeda Basmah Shahid Zaidi – Chair (Pakistan) |
| Maia Blume – Chief of Staff, Logistics (USA) | Magdalena Kloss - Chair (Austria) |
| Moussa al Hassan Diaw - Chair (Austria) | Elliot Allen – MJC Film Crew (USA) |
| Dagmar Kusa - Chair (Slovakia) | Eszter Banéth – PR, Logistics (Hungary) |
| Varghese Chakkummootil - Chair (India) | Sami Elmansoury – Chair (USA) |
| Georgi Vogel Rosen - Director of Fundraising (USA) | Yoni Forsyth – Logistics (UK) |
| Ben Rosen – Director of Committees and Content (Canada) | Lamees Hafeez – Chair (UK) |
| Gulraiz Khan - Director of PR (Pakistan) | Adnan Hasić – Logistics (Bosnia & Herzegovina) |
| Maryam M. Ahmed – Committees and Content (Pakistan) | Zuzanna Jakubowska – Logistics (Poland) |
| Oliver Braunschweig - Chair (Switzerland) | Josh Kerdell – MJC Film Crew (USA) |
| Daniel Pincus – Co-Director of PR (USA) | Muhammad Ali Nair – Logistics (Morocco) |
| Jacob Foreman - Logistics (Poland) | Emma Pearlman – IT (USA) |
| Nura Siddgi – Director of Applications/Registration, Logistics (Austria) | Yoni Sichrovsky – MJC Film Crew (USA) |
| El Hadi Khelladi - Chair (Germany) | Jasmina Strobl – Projects Department (Germany) |
| Gabor Solt - Chair (Hungary) | Rafael Tyszblat – Chair (France) |
| David Abitbol - Chair, IT (Israel, Canada) | Andrea Varadi – Projects Department (Switzerland/USA) |
| Daniel Shaked - Photography (Austria) | Azim Farhadi – MJC Film Crew (Afghanistan) |
| | Kristina-Ruth Vasileva – Chair (Israel/Bulgaria) |
| | Sarah Veit – Director of Logistics (Austria) |

MJC 2013 – THE LARGEST MUSLIM JEWISH GATHERING CONVENED IN SARAJEVO

Sarajevo's long and rich history of religious and cultural coexistence made the city a natural fit for the fourth annual Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC). Spanning over six days, the interfaith dialogue invited more than a hundred young leaders from 39 countries, including Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Israel, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Brazil, as well as from multiple countries throughout North America and Europe.



MJC also had the distinct honor of receiving the patronage of the Bosniak President, Bakir Izetbegović this year, who met with the young leaders and discussed the role of interfaith collaboration in the progress of Bosnian society.

The conference is organized each year by the Vienna-based grassroots organization, Muslim Jewish Conference, which comprises a dynamic team of twenty-one young professionals hailing from 16 countries.

With the aim of providing a safe platform for the exchange of ideas between Muslims and Jews, the organizers worked with the attendees this year in six different committees, which explored 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 the role of historical narratives and education in shaping perceptions within societies. The wide-ranging discussions enabled the participants to start a meaningful dialogue during committee sessions and to empathize with opinions of different groups.

As the new generation of Muslims and Jews becomes increasingly active in socio-political spheres, they hope to overcome decades of mutual distrust, and are determined to work towards lasting peace between the two communities.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, the founder and Secretary General of MJC, Ilja Sichrovsky, stated, "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."

During the conference the participants shared personal experiences of misconceptions, stereotypes and discrimination and listened to people from other faiths facing similar experiences. MJC 2013 concluded with the participants issuing a call for greater interfaith linkages and presenting proposals for joint projects. These projects will not only develop lasting networks between MJC attendees, but will also create a ripple effect in communities globally.

The recently instituted Project Department at MJC will play an essential role in supporting such initiatives and will ensure that projects are successfully and sustainably implemented throughout the year. The fourth annual Muslim Jewish Conference was not only supported by the Muslim and Jewish communities in Sarajevo, but also by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Karl Kahane Foundation.



Bosniak President Addresses the Muslim Jewish Conference

Speaking to young leaders attending the MJC, President Izetbegović stressed upon the city's reputation as the "Jerusalem of Europe" due to its Muslim, Jewish and Christian heritage. Responding to audience questions, he encouraged participants to focus on the commonalities uniting their communities, rather than fixating on issues that divide them.

Speaking about Bosnia's history of religious coexistence and cooperation, President Izetbegović stated, "We are going to do everything possible to return to a multi-ethnic life, something that we see as natural." President Izetbegović encouraged interfaith cooperation around the world and called on Muslim majority countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia to host future meetings of the MJC. "The values of interfaith cooperation are universal and other countries should be eager to receive the Muslim Jewish Conference."

The MJC held its opening ceremony at the Gazi-Husrev Begova Library in Sarajevo. The participants and invited guests were addressed by representatives from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Ambassador Jacob Finci, the Head of the Bosnian Jewish community; Grand Mufti of Bosnia, Husein Kavazovic; Director of International Interreligious Affairs at the American Jewish Committee, Rabbi David Rosen; and the former Bosnian Grand Mufti, Mustafa Cerić.

100 Muslims and Jews Visit the Srebrenica Memorial

As part of the MJC delegation, more than one hundred Muslims and Jews visited the Srebrenica-Potočari Genocide Memorial and Cemetery, the site of the worst genocide in Europe since World War II.

A representative from the mayor's office officially welcomed the participants and Hasan Nuhanović, a Srebrenica genocide survivor, guided the group through the memorial and the former UN headquarters, which was under the command of a Dutch battalion during the Bosnian War. Nuhanović shared his personal testimony of the events of the July 1995 genocide. Learning about the history of the massacre was an emotional moment for both the Muslim and Jewish participants. At the end of the tour, all in attendance offered prayers for the lives lost – the Muslim prayer, Sura al-Fatiha, was recited, followed by the Jewish prayer of Mourner's Kaddish.

In 2011, conference participants visited the massacre site of Babi Yar in Kiev, Ukraine and paid a similar tribute to Jews who had been killed there during the Holocaust.



COMMITTEES



1. Conflict Transformation

This committee offered an introduction to conflict transformation and equipped participants with elementary skills of the discipline, effective communication, leadership and facilitation of community projects and dialogue. Participants shared examples of best practices and effective action. The dangers of community engagement without sufficient preparation, which can sometimes be detrimental for the communities one wishes to help, were also discussed. The committee was designed for future activists, leaders, facilitators and organizers and for all participants seeking to engage in community development and collaborative projects. The members were offered an introductory training in basic skills and given an overview of fundamental theories and concepts of conflict transformation.

2. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia through Cinema

This committee explored, reviewed, and performed an in-depth analysis of films that contain Islamophobic and anti-Semitic content, which results in promoting stereotypes among audiences. By critically reviewing such material through the lens of both Jewish and Muslim perspectives, participants were able to empathize with each other and discuss how the incorrect depictions of certain groups may lead to misconceptions, stereotypes and hatred. This committee also focused on the more nuanced representations of Jews and Muslims in film. A space was created for people who were interested in movies. They critically analyzed the presence of biased material based on the obvious and subtle representations of Jews and Muslims in Hollywood, European and Middle-Eastern cinema.

3. Back to the Basics: Introduction to Judaism and Islam

In previous years, the MJC has worked with a wide range of participants – people with little interfaith experience and people who are already pioneers. As an organization, the MJC wishes to support newcomers to intercultural dialogue, and therefore has created a committee which caters to Jews and Muslims who wish to learn more about the other faith. In 2013, the participants started by getting acquainted with basic principles, tenets and practices of both religions. This committee fostered an open space whereby all questions were welcome and open discussion was encouraged. A framework was provided for understanding basic information about each faith, followed by a thoughtful and in-depth interfaith dialogue. The committee was most suitable for young leaders who were looking to experience interfaith dialogue in an atmosphere that fosters open dialogue, mutual trust and support.

COMMITTEES



4. Gender and Religion

The purpose of this committee was to understand the role of gender in Islam and Judaism; to find a means of empowerment and education; to dispel stereotypes and misconceptions about the way women are treated in religions; and to enhance the presence and voice of women in religion. The committee members developed projects that address the role of gender in religion, community and politics, seeking to promote equality and change ideas about the roles of men and women in society. Male participants were strongly encouraged to join and many men actively participated in discussions and projects.



5. Hate Speech and its Influence on Public Opinion Narratives Opinion

This committee sought to define modern understanding of hate speech and how it relates to the Muslim/Jewish context in relation to societal and political relations. The participants shared personal experiences, and discussed more examples from all over the world citing blogs and mass media. The participants tried to understand the growing phenomenon, and examined how modern technology and new media have impacted the definition of hate speech. In doing so, the committee worked on grasping how we, as concerned active citizens, can detect hate speech and seek to strategically and tactfully engage with it in the public and private arena, counter it and develop networks for positive action and dialogue on the subject.

6. Education and the Effects of Historical Narratives

This committee explored how historical narratives in education form and shape opinions about faiths and the people associated with them. It aimed at deconstructing these narratives and at identifying the problems that they cause. They inhibit a sustainable dialogue amongst different religious traditions and between the religious and the secular. Finally, the committee explored the possibility of using the educational space in communities to promote alternative historical narratives and the benefits of doing so. People interested in the politics of identity, education, international relations and interfaith dialogue found the committee particularly relevant to their respective fields.

PROJECTS AND CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

Rebuilding the Synagogue in Mostar

Following World War II, the Jewish Municipality in Mostar dedicated the building of its synagogue to the City of Mostar as a token of gratitude for saving its Jewish people during the Holocaust. After the recent war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the then Mayor of the City of Mostar launched an effort to rebuilt the Jewish Culture Centre with the Synagogue to return the favour to the Jewish Municipality in Mostar. In 2004, a cornerstone for the Synagogue was laid at a location close to the Old Bridge, a historical and architectural symbol of Mostar. MJC participants will join the efforts to build this Synagogue with the Jewish Culture Centre, thereby empowering inter-religious dialogue in Mostar as it had existed before the Second World War.

Muslim Jewish CouchSurfing

Through MJC a worldwide community of young Muslims and Jews who trust each other and have built friendships, have emerged. The MJCS will be an internet hospitality exchange platform that allows MJC participants and alumni to travel and to find MJCers with whom they can stay, discover their city, their way of life, traditions, participate in holidays and deepen ties and friendship.



Movie - "Reaching the Unreachable"

MJC participants have produced a film targeted toward a Muslim and Jewish audience that has not yet had the chance to engage in a fruitful discussion with the other. The film deconstructs the perception that Jews and Muslims are enemies and a threat to each other, by showing how Jews and Muslims stood up for each other in some of the darkest moments in history. They saved lives of people belonging to the other identity group – even at the risk of their own lives at times. This was particularly true during the Holocaust, when Muslims saved Jews from Nazi persecution and also during the Bosnian war, when Jews saved Muslims as Serbs attacked the country.

PROJECTS AND CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

International Rapid Response Alliance (IRRA)

With rapid globalization, disparate communities come into closer contact with each other. While that presents immense opportunities for learning, it also increases the potential for friction and intolerance. Unfortunately, recent events suggest that the latter is not just a fear but a worrisome reality. Reports of hate crimes, both in Europe and around the world, are on the rise. The goal of the IRRA is to create an alliance of faith-based or faith-linked organizations that unequivocally and unapologetically condemn hate crimes, wherever they target people's faiths, on a joint platform.

Muslim Jewish Cookbook

The Muslim Jewish Cookbook will present traditional recipes, traditions and holidays from various Muslim and Jewish communities from all around the world.

Muslim Jewish Calendar

This calendar will include photographs of positive Muslim-Jewish collaboration, as well as short descriptions of Muslim-Jewish holidays.

Facebook campaign with positive facts about Muslims and Jews

Starting in 2011, MJC has overseen an ongoing social media campaign depicting photographs of Muslims and Jews standing together with a sign conveying a short, funny message about what the individualized photograph have in common. We continued this campaign at the fourth annual MJC in Sarajevo, finding many new eager models among our MJC participants.

Book presenting positive historical and contemporary facts

MJC participants are working together on a book that will present real stories, both historical and contemporary, about positive interaction, coexistence and cooperation between Muslims and Jews.

Inter-religious toolbox

MJC participants are collaborating to create a database of existing successful tools that have proven useful for initiating local community dialogue and events. This resource will serve as a guide for aspirational community leaders.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES - MJC 2013

Afghanistan	India
Albania	Israel
Argentina	Italy
Austria	Kazakhstan
Azerbaijan	Morocco
Belgium	Netherlands
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pakistan
Brazil	Poland
Bulgaria	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Serbia
Croatia	Slovakia
Czech Republic	South Africa
Denmark	Switzerland
Egypt	Turkey
France	UK
Germany	USA
Hungary	Yemen

CONCLUSION

Bosnia's diverse cultural and religious heritage provided an ideal backdrop for the fourth annual Muslim Jewish Conference for the participants. The organizing team, spread over 16 countries, was successful in providing a safe space for young Muslims and Jews to talk to each other, instead of talking about each other.

An honest and open discussion was promoted within committee sessions, and participants were encouraged to not be hindered by political correctness. More importantly, engagement and camaraderie between participants will continue beyond the conference, as the young leaders collaborate on joint projects to bring about meaningful changes within their respective societies. The MJC is a grassroots organization and follows a strict policy of independence from established institutions in both the Muslim and Jewish world, which makes the organization's efforts far more appealing to the younger generation. Through its annual conferences, the MJC has created an unprecedented community of young Muslim and Jewish leaders, who are willing to look past prejudice and stereotypes, and are determined to work towards a peaceful future.