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Save the Date: The 4th Jaffa "Call to Action" Convention



December 18th 2008

Registration is now open!

For a hebrew version [click here](#)

On the Agenda:

The day-long discussions will take place on Thursday, December 18, at the Arab Jewish Center in Jaffa, 109 Kedem St., Jaffa, between 9:30- 18:00

Among the topics that will be discussed:

The status of Arab culture in Israel

The culture of Arab society and its place in Israel's fabric of shared life- a discussion

Talking Artists - personal perspectives

Call to Action - Establishing an official day to salute Arabic language and culture in Israel

Among the Jaffa Convention participants:

Salman Natour
Co-editor of DuEt

Dr. Mohammad Amara
Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Haim Maor
Ben Gurion University

Dr. Liora Gvion,
Kibbutzim College &

Education for Coexistence

The Jaffa Convention hosts the members of the public committee established by the Ministry of Education to formulate policy on the subject.

Calls to Action !

Discussions with Government officials and progress reports on the previous year's Calls to Action :

1 - Establishing a government association to preserve neglected Muslim holy sites

2 - A change in budgeting Social services for Arab Citizens - Changing requirements for Matching funds

3 - A practical effort to improve treatment of Arab citizens at Ben-Gurion airport and Border Crossings

4 - The emerging Constitution and the Arabs in Israel

5 - Emergency Preparedness of Arab communities in Northern Israel

6 - Mixed cities - Government recognition of the position of mixed cities and their special status

7 - The Arabic Language Academy - a year of activities

8 - "Brown signposts" - Tourist designation for Arab Sites and tourism development of Arab Locales

The Jaffa Convention and the 2009 Knesset elections :

- Is there a political "right" and "left" in Jewish perspectives with regard to Israel's Arab minority?
 - What is the gender perspective on the conflict resolution?
- A political discussion following the new series "Blue Identity Card"

Parallel to the day-long discussions - an exhibition of books' films' arts and crafts

Musical interludes - "Voice of Peace" choir of the Arab Jewish Center in Jaffa.

[For registration and further details](#)

Please contact Sharon at the offices of the Citizens' Accord Forum:

Hebrew University,

Naim Araidi
poet

Ebtissam Marana
Film director

Said Abu Shakra
Art Gallery director
Umm elFahm

Adib Jahshan
Director of the Alsaraya
theatre jaffa

Mohammad Darawshe
Co-Director of Abraham
Fund Initiatives

Dr. Mohammad Issawi
President of the
AlQassemi Academy,
Baqa el- Gharbiyye

Prof. Gaby Solomon
Research Center for
Peace Education,
University of Haifa

MK Prof. Yuli Tamir
Minister of Education

Dr. Hala Espanioli,
Deputy Director of the
Academic Arab College
Of Education

Benyamin Ben-Eliezer
Minister of National
Infrastructure & Chair
of Ministers' committee
for Israel's non-Jewish
communities

Tel: +972 2 6731118

Fax: +972 2 6731119

yachad1@netvision.net.il

The Jaffa Convention website: www.jaffaconvention.org.il

Other CAF Activities...

Ofek Nashi Conflict Transformation Training Course



The first workshop session in CAF's Ofek program in conflict transformation was held on November 18-19, 2008 in Nazareth (at the Nazareth Plaza Hotel).

The aim of the 18-month program is to train a pilot group of

businesswomen and professionals in a comprehensive understanding of conflict transformation to enhance their capacities in dealing with the broad challenges they encounter. The program integrates experience from international case studies with local knowledge and experience in accordance with the needs and capabilities identified by the staff of the Ofek Nashi women's empowerment project.

The 30 Arab women participants include businesswomen, business consultants, directors and coordinators of social change organizations. Each participant is an active agent for social change, and the group as a whole was heterogeneous in terms of ages, backgrounds, career focus, religious orientation and geographic origin. The session was moderated by Marwan Darwish, senior advisor of the international consulting group, Responding to Conflict (based in Birmingham, England). Fahira Halloun guided the session.

The aim of the session was to develop tools and capacities to effectively cope with conflicts and provide basic training for advisors. The workshop focusing on team-building, examining and clarifying key concepts such as conflict and violence; investigating the status and place of the Arab woman in society in the context of challenges and change. The women studied and implemented the first tools for analyzing conflicts with RTC's educational tool kit. Patterns of violence, a "map" of conflict and its stages were investigated. Each stage of study was accompanied by a review of the knowledge gained, thus

MK Rabbi Michael Melchior
(Meimad)

MK Sheikh Ibrahim Sarsur
(UAA, The Islamic Movement)

Nahum Itzkowitz
Director of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services

Shimshon Katz,
Director of Ben-Gurion Airport Passenger Service Division

Ibrahim Abu-Shindi
Co-director, the Citizens' Accord Forum

MK Menachem Ben-Sasson
(Kadima) Chair of the Constitution and Law Committee

MK Ami Ayalon
Minister, Appointee of the Prime Minister's Office

MK Nadid Hilu
Labour), Chair of the Knesset Lobby to Advance Mixed Cities

Prof. Mahmud Ghanayem
Chair of the Arabic Language Academy

Aiman Seif
Director of Authority for the Economic Development of the Arab, Druze & Circassian Sectors

establishing the foundation for the next phases of the 18-month program. Conflicts analyzed by the group included family conflicts, issues of inheritance, land disputes between families, business conflicts and conflicts between residents and local land authorities. The participants gave high ratings to all aspects of the workshop, the contents, guidance by facilitators and the physical setting.

The Tolerance and Shared Society Month in Israel launched for the second year



CAF's annual conference, the keynote event of Tolerance Month in Israel, gave voice to the perspectives of three distinct groups: government officials (the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Education),

educators and activists, and philanthropic supporters of tolerance endeavors.

Senior government representatives emphasized the commitment of decision makers to constructively address gaps and discrimination to improve the shared life of Israel's citizenry.

Udi Praver, of the Prime Minister's Office said that many of the barriers were bureaucratic, and that a dialogue between activists and government officers could go a long way in the implementation of political decisions. However, a prominent Arab educator felt that government efforts were not equal to the task.

Participants also cited that the growing professionalism of tolerance educators and activists is making an important contribution to raising awareness of the values of tolerance and its potential for improving the quality of life for all citizens of Israel. Yet, at the same time, it was acknowledged that the ongoing Israeli-Arab conflict continues to cast its long shadow on tolerance endeavors.

The current initiatives of the Citizens' Accord Forum

Udi Cohen

Co-director, the Citizens' Accord Forum

Haim Yavin

Journalist

MK Issac Herzog, Minister of Welfare and Social Services

MK Amira Dotan

Kadima

MK Zahava Gal-On, Meretz

MK Shelly Yacimovich

Labour

MK Dov Khenin

Hadash

MK Eitan Cabel

Labour

MK Haim (Jumes) Oron

Meretz

MK Mohammad Barakeh

Hadash

MK Yoel Hasson

Kadima

MK Lia Shemtov

Yisrael Beitenu

MK Ruby Rivlin

Likud

Issam Makhoul

Fomer MK

Hadash

Ambassador James

Cunningham

US Ambassador



Click [here](#) for an online edition of CAF's current initiatives booklet. Also in the booklet, the lead article from the recent edition of Du-Et, surveying the wielding forces of Arab society in Israel.

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