



The International Symposium for Crisis and Conflict Management in Multicultural Countries

**14 March 2010
to 21 March 2010
Acco (Acre) Israel**



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**for Crisis and Conflict Management
in Multicultural Countries**

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Introduction

Dear Participants,

The International Symposium for Crisis and Conflict Management in Multicultural Countries will bring together a diverse group of participants from across the world for a weeklong program of lectures, panel discussions, social events and study visits that will explore the role of conflict management in the Israeli reality and offer real examples of this process.

The central theme of the conference is the integration of in-depth academic discourse around the topic, together with the possibility of observing concrete examples of multicultural conflict management in the field.

The speakers during the week will be experts and leading figures from politics, academia, and the private sector. Participants of The International Symposium for Crisis and Conflict Management in Multicultural Countries will include students, young professionals, senior academics and leading authorities from different countries in the world. In the evenings, participants will have the opportunity to network in unique social events touching on the conference's theme relative to Israeli and Mediterranean culture.

The promoter of the conference is the "Spark Pro" organization, specializing in initiating, constructing, developing and implementing social education projects for young people, towards exposing them to the world of content around issues in actuality of national and international importance.



The International Symposium for Crisis and Conflict Management in Multicultural Countries

Program

The International Symposium consists of a weeklong program of panel discussions and lectures to be held in the Western Galilee Academic College in Acre, as well as visits to various locations and organizations throughout Israel.

The first days of the symposium constitute the introductory stage with frontal lectures, panels and direct dialogue with leaders in academia. The second part is aimed at a more in-depth familiarization with multiculturalism in actuality, with visits to places relevant to the theme.

In the evenings Spark Pro will organize activities and events that will allow the participants to experience Israeli culture, network and socialize with other participants and the speakers, to discuss topics raised during the day.

Background

Israel is situated in the Mediterranean and defined as the Jewish, democratic State. In light of its geographical location, its historical background and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel finds itself repeatedly in the limelight of international media. Israel is a center for a wide range of rich cultures. Most of its residents are Jewish, but minorities include Muslims, Christians, Beduin, Circassians, and more. The very multiplicity of cultures and religions in the country arouses intergroup conflict, forcing citizens and government to adopt active roles in managing and resolving these conflicts since the establishment of the state.

The current symposium seeks to explore conflict management and multicultural dialogue. We will examine the issue of conflict, and investigate in depth several angles: the political, organizational, interpersonal and psychological.

This symposium offers an opportunity for intercultural and interfaith encounters and allows direct interaction with the leaders actively involved in conflict management.

The symposium will present a professional academic panel offering lectures on issues related to conflict management and living in a country with inherent coexistence. In addition, trips are offered to a number of sites that help integrate an understanding of the modes of living experienced by Israel's different populations. Sites include the Bahai Gardens of renown, in Haifa; Jerusalem and the Israeli Knesset [parliament]; the Circassian Museum; Wadi Ara; and other areas that enable a closer look at the lifestyles of their residents. Participants will also be exposed to less tourist-oriented sites which nonetheless constitute an important and inseparable part of the process of coexistence and multiculturalism.



The International Symposium for Crisis and Conflict Management in Multicultural Countries

Symposium participants will be exposed to theories and will examine tools which the state has applied over the long term. Leading professionals from the world of academia, politics and the third sector will present seminar topics and their various aspects, and discuss jointly with participants topics surfacing in the course of these events. It is important to note that each symposium speaker will represent the subject of conflict management from the perspective of her or his field: that is, by relating inter alia to the particular parameters and unique viewpoints relative to economics, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, or whatever that professional's field may be.

Among the symposium participants are leaders of social organizations and academics from all over the world who are interested in and/or who deal with this sphere directly or indirectly.

Network

Symposium participants will become part of an international network of individuals from across the world with different fields of interest and levels but who share a commitment to intercultural exchange.



Symposium Program

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun

Sunday, 14 March 2010

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, transport to hotel.
Welcome dinner.

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun

Monday, 15 March 2010

08:30-10:00 Breakfast
 09:00-09:30 Introductory Gathering
 09:30-10:00 Greetings
 10:00-11:00 1st Session: Peace Agreements – Political Perspectives
 11:30-13:00 2nd Session: Peace Agreements – Economic & Cultural Perspectives
 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
 14:00-15:30 3rd Session: Between Jordan and Palestine
 16:00-17:30 4th Session: North Africa & the Persian Gulf - Their Position in Peace Talks
 18:00-19:30 Special Session: 31 Years of Peace Accords between Israel and Egypt
 20:00 Dinner and Evening Event

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun

Tuesday, 16 March 2010

08:30-10:00 Breakfast
 10:00-11:15 Dr Ephraim Kahana - The Peaceful Missions of the Israeli Intelligence
 11:30-12:45 Michal Avidav-Israel - Conflict Awareness - a Thinking Approach for Sharpening your Senses During a Conflictual Situation
 12:45-13:45 Lunch
 14:00-15:15 Lea Keinan - The Win-Win Solution: Getting Past Conflict by Effective Dialogue, Communication and Negotiation
 15:30-18:00 Dr. Golan Fadida - The Arab-Israeli Conflict Through the Struggle on the Soil
 18:00-18:15 Break
 18:30-19:45 Dr. Ben Mollov - Israel as a Jewish and Multicultural Society and Advancing Inter-religious Dialogue with the Arab-World
 20:00 Dinner and Evening Event

Symposium Program

Sun Mon Tues **Wed** Thur Fri Sat Sun

Wednesday, 17 March 2010

8:30-10:00 Breakfast
10:00-17:30 Guided Tour of Wadi Ara
20:00 Dinner and Evening Event

Sun Mon Tues Wed **Thur** Fri Sat Sun

Thursday, 18 March 2010

8:30-10:00 Breakfast
10:00 Guided Tour of Jerusalem
20:00 Dinner and Evening Event

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur **Fri** Sat Sun

Friday, 19 March 2010

8:00-09:00 Breakfast
9:30-12:30 Visit to Ghetto Fighters Museum
Lunch
Guided Tour of Ancient Acco
20:00 Dinner and Visit to Acco Theatre Center

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri **Sat** Sun

Saturday, 20 March 2010

8:30-10:00 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 Visit to the Bahai Gardens
13:30-14:45 Lunch at the Circassian village, Kama; visit to the Circassian Heritage Museum
20:00 Dinner and Final Event

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat **Sun**

Sunday, 21 March 2010

Breakfast at the hotel; transportation to Ben Gurion International Airport

PARTICIPATION FEE

- The Participation Fee is €.**599** inclusive of all Lectures, Guided Tours Transportation, Accomodation and Breakfast.
- Additional details and final registration: until 19 February 2010, at info@sparkpro.org.il
- Our Website: www.sparkpro.org.il
- Further information on the hotel at: <http://eng.palmbeach.co.il>
- Number of places limited to 120.

Acco [Acre]

A Selection Of Our Symposium Locations

The city of Acco has a fascinating historical heritage, a rare combination of east and west, authentic sights from the past, and is a unique meeting place of beliefs and religions alongside the strands of different cultures. All these made Acco one of the most important cities of the ancient world. In 2001 UNESCO declared the Old City of Acco a World Heritage Site. Below is part of the text of the UNESCO decision to include the Old City of Acre on the World Heritage List:

Acre is a historically unusual city, in that it preserves the actual remains of the medieval Crusader buildings that were found under the fortified Moslem town established in the 18th and 19th centuries. The remains of the Crusader city of Acre, under today's street level and above, provide an extraordinary picture of the route and structure of the capital city of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Acre of today is an important example the walled of Ottoman city, with typical urban elements, such as a castle, mosques, the khan [inn] and hot water baths, constructed in part over Crusader edifices.

City walls, castles and fortresses, churches and mosques and other buildings fill the fabric of its territory, telling the history of many rulers who fought for it, governed it, built it and glorified it.

Acre's most prominent sites include Hellenistic - Roman relics, Ottoman and Crusader structures: the Mosque of Al-Azar; Order of St. complex; the Crusader underground tunnels and city; the Khan Al Omdan; the Turkish Baths (now the Municipal Museum), and the Bahai Temple and more. In Acco you can find the signs and marks of many peoples and religious movements: Canaanites, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, Mamluks, Turks and the British.

Beyond the beauty of the forest and Acco's dynamic history, there are several other unique points. The population is a mixed and complex weave of Jews, Muslims and Christians. Acco is a great example of alternative co-existence. During our you will be welcome to meet with the city's social organizations and leaders who handle conflict coexistence on a daily basis.

The visit to Acco provides a rare opportunity to learn from the past, feel the present and dream about the future of peace and understanding: it is a moving journey and unique experience.

The Acco Theater Center

The Acco Theater Center (ATC) blazes innovative paths in the realm of social theater, striving to forge strong alliances between Arab and Jewish artists, offering alternative paradigms and encouraging open and fruitful expression within our larger society. Twining the artistic and the social through active community programming and the creation of a unique theatrical language, ATC offers more than Theater: it offers an Example. What others see as a fantasy, is for us, reality.



Beit Lokhamei haGetta'ot – The Ghetto Fighters' Museum

"We came here to build homes filled with life"

The Ghetto Fighters' House – or, the Itzhak Katzenelson Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum, known as the "House" – is not only the first Holocaust museum to be established in the world but also the first of its kind to be founded by Holocaust survivors. Since its establishment in 1949, the museum tells the story of the Holocaust during World War II, emphasizing the bravery, spiritual triumph and the incredible ability of Holocaust survivors and the fighters of the revolt to rebuild their lives in a new country about which they had dreamed – the State of Israel.

The Ghetto Fighters' House spotlights the founders' vision. Putting grief and horror behind them, they chose the Western Galilee as their site for a flourishing kibbutz – the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz – and the museum located within the community.

Following this vision, the Ghetto Fighters' House provides its visitors, both from Israel and abroad, a unique experience, a testimony to Antek Zukerman's declaration on the first National Gathering for Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day held on Kibbutz Lokhamei haGhetta'ot: "We came here to build homes filled with life."

Alongside the museum is the Center for Humanistic Education, whose goal is to instill knowledge and understanding of the events that took place during the Holocaust through dialogue and joint learning. The center strives to create multicultural gatherings in which intensive discussions can take place concerning the human and universal meaning of the Holocaust both within and beyond Israeli society.

In 1995, the Yad Leyeled Children's Memorial Museum was established at the Ghetto Fighters' House in order to commemorate the memory of the Jewish children who perished during the Holocaust. The aim of the children's museum is to acquaint young visitors with the world of the children who lived during the Holocaust, providing an experiential venue through which they can explore the subject of the Holocaust in an age appropriate manner.



The Bahai Gardens

The Bahai Gardens in Haifa and Acco are among the most popular tourist sites in the Middle East. The amazing design combines spectacular geometric gardening patterns while maintaining a strict and loving approach to landscape values, nature and history.

Bahai is a religion based on the monotheism doctrine of Bab and Baha-Allah, both of whom, according to the Baha'i faith, received a direct revelation from God. Its independent nature is reflected in its outlook on community structure as based on its holy writings, religious laws and calendar.

The Bahai believe that the One God, Creator of the World, directed the human race throughout history and sent the world prophets and messengers such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, as well as Krishna, Buddha and Zarathustra, who established the great religions of the world. In most encyclopedias and according to Bahai sources, it was estimated the number of worldwide Bahai practitioners at the beginning of the 21st century numbered between 5 to 6 million. Since 1844, when the religion was formally established, it spread chiefly in the Persian and Ottoman empires until, in the 20th century, the small group of believers expanded both by natural means and through many in south-east Asia, Europe and North America, who converted.

Despite seeking to spread their religion throughout the world, during the Ottoman they took upon themselves not to conduct missionary efforts in Israel, and therefore do not accept new believers here. The magnificent Bahai gardens in the World Bahai Center in Haifa were expanded slowly until 2001, and now have become one of Israel's most renowned symbols. In 2008, the gardens, together with other holy Bahai sites in Haifa and the West Galilee, were acknowledge as sites of international heritage.

The gardens in Acco and Haifa, the bibliotheque, and other structures are maintained by salaries workers alongside Bahai volunteers who come to Israel for short periods in pilgrimage frameworks.



The Circassian Heritage Museum

A Selection Of Our Symposium Locations

The Circassian Museum in the village of Kama offers a rare glimpse of the unique and fascinating story of Adyghe Circassians.

For thousands of years Circassians controlled the mountains of North Caucasus, and were known for their survival traits of courage, love of weapons and freedom, reliability and integrity. Nonetheless, they finally found themselves living scattered throughout the world, including in Israel.

The Circassian Museum is situated in an old house built in the late 19th century and is located in the heart of the old neighborhood of Kfar Kama. The building was once the home of one of the oldest families in the village, and employing strictest rules of preservation, was adapted to the needs of the museum. All the Circassian items original, preserved and used to illustrate their life, such as the foyer, kitchen, special guest room, cistern, and so on. The museum artifacts are displayed in the backyard. Surrounded by a high wall, it was considered an integral part of Circassian life. The structure is built entirely in black basalt.

The display wing holds a rich range of rare items from the Caucasus Mountains, such as the special weapons of the Circassian knight, clothes and assorted equipment used for preparing for battle. Also shown are Circassian women's colorful clothes along with other textiles and ornaments such as special beaded ornaments and embroidery, as well as Circassian musical instruments, and more. Some of the most interesting exhibits from the past are the crib and baby-walker used to accustom the children independence from a very young age.

The Circassian Heritage Center is a must for visitors to the Lower Galilee in particular. Visiting the Museum provides a rare opportunity to hear how a culture thousands of years old is preserved, and experience the lifestyle of the Circassians in Israel and abroad.



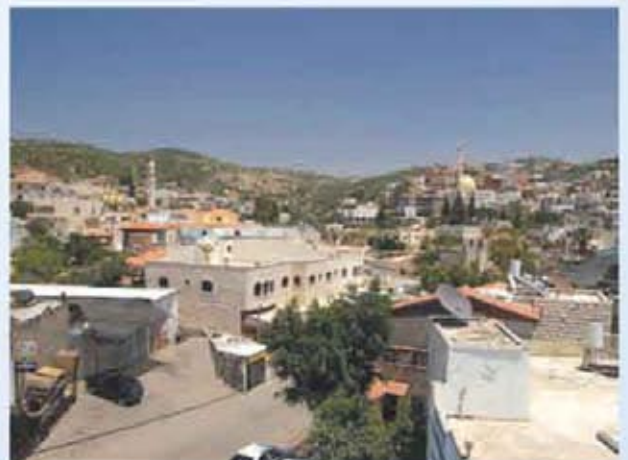
Wadi Ara [Nahal Ir'on]

A Selection Of Our Symposium Locations

Wadi Ara or Nahal Iron refers to an area within Israel that is mostly populated by Arabs. It is located northwest of the Green Line and is mostly within Israel's Haifa District. Originally captured by Arab League forces (Iraqi) in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, it was ceded to Israel in an apparent exchange for territory south of Hebron in the 1949 Israel-Jordan armistice. In March 1949 as the Iraqi forces withdrew from Palestine and handed over their positions to the smaller Jordanian legion, 3 Israeli brigades moved into positions in Operation Shin-Tav-Shin. Following the operation, Israel renegotiated the cease fire line in the Wadi Ara area of the Northern West Bank in an agreement reached on 23 March 1949 and incorporated into the General Armistice Agreement. It has been estimated that 15 villages were ceded to Israel.

Since then, there has been an increase in groups enjoying the walking through the paths and settlements in this area. In 1996 the art gallery was established at the initiative of a local resident and artists, bringing current quality art exhibitions to the area and displaying original Arabic and Palestinian works. Lacking other such venues in the Arab population in Israel, this gallery has become an important counterpoint for fascinating intercultural encounters, workshops, symposia and more, drawing attendance from local and international participants.

The gallery is run by the Alsaber Association, whose members include cultural figures from the area. Here we can see how tourist activities lead to further developments in local business, social and community interactions. The area offers a view of the unique nature of the valley where different cultural groups live alongside each other, already cooperating in shared ventures which will surely integrate Arab and Jewish cooperation even further in the future.



The Knesset [Parliament]

A Selection Of Our Symposium Locations

The Knesset is the legislative arm of the State of Israel. In the Transitional Law it is defined as a legislator and in the Basic Law as the House of Representatives.

As Israel is a parliamentary democracy, citizens vote their representatives into the Knesset, who in turn choose the government, which needs to be sworn in. The electoral system is national-proportional and voters choose from a number of political parties. In balancing between authorities, the executive government draws its power and authority from the Knesset, which monitors it constantly. The judiciary authority, including the court system, operates according to laws enacted by the Knesset, and is authorized to interpret them. Sometimes, the judiciary system casts judgmental criticism on Knesset laws.

The main functions of the Knesset are to set norms in the country through laws and supervise government activities through various means at its disposal, including approval of secondary legislation, proposals of no confidence, queries, discussions, and more. Plenary discussions are held by various Knesset committees, divided by topic. The Knesset's work is enacted through a range of rules, policies, or "standard practice" procedures. To perform their duties, members of parliament are assisted by departments or functionaries active in the Knesset, such as the Research and Information Center, the Attorney General, and the Commission for Future Generations.

The Knesset is situated in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.



Jerusalem

A Selection Of Our Symposium Locations

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is a city of importance to the three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Each has its holy sites scattered throughout the city. They are both places of pilgrimage and sources of a great many conflicts and disputes over the years.

In our tour of Jerusalem, we will visit holy sites of each of the religions, historical sites, and sovereign sites of the State of Israel. The visit will provide a tangible picture of interfaith conflict and ways of coping with it.





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