

From the desk of Rabbi David Rosen Director of the Department for Interreligious Affairs and Director of the Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding

October 19, 2005

Message from Chief Rabbi David Rosen, President, The International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations

It is my pleasure and honor to send this greeting to the the Amman Message in Action conference which I deeply regret that I am unable to attend in person.

This historic declaration is of enormous significance not only for our region but for our whole globe. Tragically the world has been given the impression by the misguided actions of alienated people that Religion today is part of the problem of violence and destruction on our planet. We as people of Faith have the greatest obligation of all to counteract this tragic misrepresentation of Religion. And in order for Religion not to be seen let alone in fact be, part of the problem, God forbid, IT MUST BE PART OF THE SOLUTION ! Religion MUST be a force for peace, reconciliation and mutual respect among people and especially among believers in the One God, Creator and Guide of the Universe.

The Amman Message joins the historic Alexandria Declaration of Religious Leaders of the three main Faiths of the Holy Land that was convened four years ago by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord George Carey and hosted by the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Sheikh Mohammed Sayyed El Tantawi. The Declaration condemned violence against ionnocents in the name of religion as the very desecration of Religion itself, called for peace and reconciliation and for the religious leaders to educate our respective communities to live in reverence for the lives and dignity of one another and our Traditions.

May this conference succeed in spreading the true and noble word of religion in our region and in our world, ensuring that religion is not, God forbid, part of the problem, but in fact the heart of the solution for the welfare and peaceful future of all.