



Monthly Highlights January-March 2018

International Interreligious Affairs

January

Vienna, Austria

22nd: As a member of the Board of Directors of KAICIID, I have been able to help facilitate the establishment of the first ever Muslim-Jewish clergy leadership Council in Europe to address common concerns of religious freedom and rights as well as combatting extremism and misrepresentation. This was the preparatory meeting for the convening of a general assembly in October in Amsterdam.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=599984577011459&id=100009997654809



23rd: While in Vienna I addressed the prestigious Vienna Rotary Club on the subject of interfaith relations and on KAICIID.

Arad, Israel

31st: I was honored to speak at the Tu bShvat memorial event and tree planting in memory of Ron Kukia who was murdered there in November. Local politicians, Bedouin and Jewish leaders as well as Ron's parents also spoke affirming their commitment to co-existence. The event was initiated and conducted by the "Women Waging Peace" movement.



February

London, UK

2nd: Consultations at Lambeth Palace with staff of the Archbishop of Canterbury

4th: Birmingham. Bahai Sahib Mohinder Singh the leader of the Sikh community in Birmingham UK is the initiator of the Charter of Forgiveness, on whose board I serve. I was one of the speakers at this second conference on Forgiveness and Reconciliation hosted at the Guru Nanak Nishkam Centre in Birmingham. <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DVMrhM2WkAAaDuW.jpg>

Washington, DC

5th-7th: I was a panelist at the "Alliance of Virtue" conference convened by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, the Gulf based founder of the "Forum for Peace in Arab Lands". Two years ago, the historic Marrakesh Declaration for the rights of religious minorities in Muslim majority countries was issued based on the historic Charter of Mecca. Over 350 Muslim scholars and leaders from over sixty countries across the Muslim and Arab world signed onto the declaration affirming the protection and human rights of religious minorities in particular in Muslim societies. Some 50 Christian, Jewish, Kurdish, and Yazidi leaders and representatives also participated as Observers. I was privileged to be one of the five Jews present. Building on the Marrakesh Declaration and engaging scholars from the Jewish and Christian worlds to contribute from their own religious sources for principled collaboration, the Forum for Peace launched a number of initiatives including the 'American Peace Caravan' that has brought together 150 American religious leaders from the Abrahamic family—Jews, Christians and Muslims. That effort has led to this conference in which I was privileged to participate, which issued a call for a global Alliance of Virtue among the believers of all faiths committed to the common good in its "Washington Declaration".

<http://regionalinterfaith.org.au/?p=2095>

<https://religionnews.com/2018/02/07/evangelicals-join-interfaith-leaders-in-washington-to-promote-religious-tolerance/>





While in D.C. I spoke at the AJC's Washington office to a leadership group about AJC's global interfaith work.

Vienna, Austria

26th -28th: KAICIID held its second High Level Meeting of religious leaders (Muslim, Christian, Kurd and Yazidi) from across the Muslim world but in particular from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf entitled "Religions United in Combatting Violence".

<https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/global-kaiciid-conference-concludes-hundreds-religious-leaders-jointly-affirm>





March

Jerusalem, Israel

12th: The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land held an international conference on the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si* and the theme of “Integral Ecology” at which I was the Jewish speaker. The keynote presentation was given by Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for the promotion of Integral Human Development. The conference was held on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ papacy (and the eighth hundred anniversary of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.) http://www.custodia.org/default.asp?id=779&id_n=46266
<http://www.terrasanctablog.org/2018/03/13/laudato-si-lenciclica-del-papa-spiegata-dal-cardinale-peter-turkson-e-rappresentanti-del-giudaismo-e-dellislam/>

20th – 22nd: The Anglican-Jewish Commission's 9th meeting was hosted at AJC's Bet Moses. The following is from the official communique:-

"The ninth meeting of the Anglican-Jewish Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and office of the Archbishop of Canterbury was hosted at the offices of the American Jewish Committee in Jerusalem

The meeting opened with the reading of a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury expressing his support and encouragement for the important ongoing relationship that the Commission represents and his appreciation of the joint recommitment to the Commission made with the Chief Rabbis of Israel at their meeting in Jerusalem in May 2017. At the opening session Rabbi David Rosen, the International Director of Inter Religious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee welcomed the members of the Commission to Jerusalem and gave an overview of the work of the AJC globally and specifically in Jerusalem. The Most Revd Suheil Dawani, Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East, also shared reflections and offered his support for this important work. The Most Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, chaired the meeting. The theme of the Commission's meeting was 'minorities and refugees-Immigration and Integration' and presentations and responses were given by both traditions. The opening meal at the Mamilla Hotel for members of the Commission hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel was also attended by Ephraim Mirvis, the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth and the Deputy British Ambassador to Israel, Mr Tony Kay OBE. The commission discussed various matters of concern including a briefing and discussion about the situation of Christians in the middle east and in particular in Israel led by Mrs. Sharon Regev of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Archbishop Suheil Dawani was represented at that particular meeting by the Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St George's Cathedral. "

