



International Council of Christians and Jews
2021 Virtual Conference
When all this is over, how do we want the world to be different?

WORKSHOP

Monday, June 21, 03:00 p.m. UTC:

USING MEMORIES OF INTERRELIGIOUS COOPERATION TO ADDRESS CONFLICT, SOCIAL DISTANCE AND PUBLIC NEED

Lucia Faltin, George R. Wilkes

Under pressure, multicultural and multireligious societies may struggle to demonstrate their strengths and distinctive advantages. When crisis and conflict strike, social distance of the type we have experienced during the pandemic begins to be felt as a natural reality - and memories of the normality of interreligious cooperation and solidarity are often repressed. How can these memories be most effectively shared in our increasingly digital post-COVID normal? We designed this project to deal with cooperation after armed conflict and after genocide - we are now inviting partners to think about how we deal with conflict, social distance and public need after COVID. In light of new political tensions, under which conditions will the once-normal fact of mutual holiday visits, or inter-communal exchanges, become contested? In which conditions are new interreligious cooperations valued as a natural priority? Can an older spirit of multireligious coexistence or interdependence be revived? How can these memories be used to promote good civic behaviour, or resilience against hate mongering? This session seeks to address the interests of members of the ICCJ through the introduction of a project that seeks to gather memories of everyday interreligious cooperation as a resource for cultural and development cooperation. The objective is to use this memory bank as a source of cultural capital in conflict and post-conflict situations: in the countries in which Jewish populations once lived; in small towns in Europe, in the Middle East, across the Americas, Asia and Africa. How can cultural activities associated with these memories foster youth peacebuilding activities? What are the best means to demonstrate the strength that normal everyday interreligious cooperation once delivered, so that these memories are not simply pious or wistful, but also of value for social purposes? What arguments support the invention of a completely new cooperative spirit, regardless of the previous histories of local interreligious cooperation? We seek to uncover a variety of ways in which participants consider memories of Christian-Jewish cooperation and solidarity to be a resource for the work of Councils of Christians and Jews: not only relations at a formal, communal level, but also in everyday life. Does your national CCJ have 'memory' resources that can be used to build up a resource for public education, resources that engage with the wide range of social and civic interests that Christians, Jews and our other partners have often historically found ourselves addressing together?

Faltin, Lucia

Slovakia, Lucia Faltin MA, Chair of the Slovak CCJ, involved in Jewish-Christian relations since 1994 internationally as an activist and in academia, holds a degree in Contemporary European History and is pursuing her PhD at the University of Cambridge on humanism of Tomas Masaryk, currently also volunteer humanitarian worker and lives her dream by combining her passion for medicine, interfaith and international relations.

Wilkes, George

Great Britain, Dr George R. Wilkes, Senior Research Fellow at King's College London and Director of the Project on Religion and Ethics in the Making of War and Peace at the University of Edinburgh, lectured at the universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leuven, and Birmingham, and at the Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations in Cambridge, his publications have included local histories of Jewish-Christian dialogue, treatments of war and peace in Jewish and Christian thought, and studies of religion and peacemaking in Bosnia and Israel-Palestine.