

Towards Reconciliation in a Broken World:

**Jewish and Christian Contributions to Responsible
Citizenship**

Conference Program

(preliminary excerpt dated April 20, 2018)

**2018 International Conference of the
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS**

in cooperation with

**Hungarian Christian-Jewish Society
Hungarian Council of Christians and Jews**

**Budapest, Hungary
June 24 – 27, 2018**

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BUDAPEST

Towards Reconciliation in a Broken World: Jewish and Christian Contributions to Responsible Citizenship

June 24 – 27, 2018

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018:

- 13.30-15.00** **On-Site Registration of Conference Participants,
“Danubius Hotel Flamenco”, Budapest**
- 16.00-18.00** **Opening Event**
(Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)
- Keynotes:** Prof. Dr Judith Frishman
 Cardinal Péter Erdő [*inquired*]
- Greetings:** Greeting Addresses by Representatives of Religious and
 Civic Organizations and Institutions
- Moderator:** *N.N.*
- 18.00** **Reception**
- 19.00** **Dinner** (for conference participants)

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018:

07.00-07.30 Jewish Morning Prayer

07.00-07.30 Christian Morning Prayer

08.00-08.30 On-Site Registration of Day Guests, “Danubius Hotel Flamenco”, Budapest

08.30-11.00 Plenary Session

(Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)

08.30 **Meditative Moment**

09.00 **Reconciliation in Judaism and Christianity**

This session will seek to engage in dialogue views on reconciliation in Judaism and Christianity, respectively. Central to Jewish faith and yearning, reconciliation is also inextricably linked with repentance and peace. The session will inquire into these connections in detail. Furthermore, it will ask what the link between reconciliation and justice is. Although reconciliation certainly is a religious and spiritual value, biblical and halakhic aspects will not be under scrutiny only. As for Christianity, reconciliation is one of the key concepts in Christian faith and theology. Drawing from the emphases of Apostle Paul (2Cor 5:11-21) it is often argued theologically that reconciliation is one of the crucial ministries Christians are called to pursue in the 21st century. The session will inquire what these connotations mean in practice. Furthermore, it will be explored what implications does it have for interfaith relations?

Reconciliation will be construed as a comprehensive notion, encompassing many and various aspects. Therefore, the session will examine what historical, political, social, and ecological ramifications follow from the Jewish and Christian understanding of reconciliation.

Moderator: Rev. Dr Bo Sandahl

Speakers Dr Markus Himmelbauer
Rabbi Prof. Dr Ruth Langer
Dr Ilona Szent-Iványi

10.20 **Buzz Groups / Question and Answer**

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13:00 Plenary Session

(Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)

Towards Responsible Citizenship: On Leaving the "Victim-Mentality" Behind in the Context of Central Europe

It has been argued that the so-called victim-mentality is a frequent phenomenon in the context of central European, post-communist countries. This development is augmented by new forms of nationalist ideologies. Moreover, minorities are often left out of the search for a new sense of national identity and find themselves alienated once more, and in a sometimes precarious situation. Here, external, often historical factors are interpreted as the main, or even sole reason for one's unfortunate situation in the present. As a result, the mindset and behavior of a victim is adopted, which have debilitating consequences for the pursuit of one's future. This session will explore this phenomenon from historical, political, social, and theological perspectives. One of the aims will be looking for ways to overcome this mentality, on the way towards active and engaged citizenship.

Moderator: Dr Pavol Bargár

Speakers: Dr Mónika Kovács
Prof. Dr Stanislaw Krajewski
Prof. Dr Dorottya Nagy

12.30 **Buzz Groups / Question and Answer**

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Workshop Session A:

Workshop **A1** (Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)
Holocaust Research and Education [*working title*]

Moderator: Dr Willy Weisz

Presenters: Prof. Dr Alan Berger
N.N.

Workshop **A2** (Hungarian)

Title to be announced

Workshop **A3** (English)

Restoring a Broken World: Joint Bible Reading Based on our two Traditions – Exemplified by Exodus 19:3-6 and Psalm 1

Presenters: Prof. Dr Jutta Hausmann
Rabbi Shmuel Sztainhendler

Workshop **A4** (English)

The Power of Words – Does Martin Buber's Idea of Reconciliation and Humanity still Speak to Us Today?

(provided by the *Friends and Sponsors of the Martin-Buber-House*)

Presenters: Dr Eva Schulz Jander
Birgit Meurer

Workshop **A5** (English)

Rituals of Reconciliation: Case Studies of Reconciliation Processes and their outcomes in Colombia and Hungary

Presenters: Héctor A. Acero Ferrer
N.N.

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.30 Plenary Session

(Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)

How can I find God in the “Other”? Towards Responsible Religious Belonging

The ultimate question for people in the pre-modern period was, it is argued, “How can I find a saving God?” Instead, it seems that today this question has for an increasing number of people shifted to “How can I find God in the other?”

This session is designed as an interfaith dialogical panel. In addition to the leading, title question, the panelists, and the audience together with them, will be asked to ponder and discuss questions such as:

Who is my “other”? Who is my friend/neighbor/sibling/enemy? And furthermore, when thinking about these questions, what role does the fact play that human identity is a complex one, consisting of numerous identity markers (religion, race, gender, class, age, education, culture, etc.)?

Moderator: Rabbi Prof. Dr Reuven Firestone

Speakers: Dr Klára Anwar
Dr Márta Cserhádi
Elena Dini
Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan
Prof. Dr Frederek Musall

18.20 **Buzz Groups / Question and Answer**

19.00-20.00 **Dinner**

20.00 **Evening Program: “Go to the Movies”**

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018:

07.00-07.30 Jewish Morning Prayer

07.00-07.30 Christian Morning Prayer

08.00-08.30 On-Site Registration of Day Guests, “Danubius Hotel Flamenco”, Budapest

08.30-10.30 Plenary Session

(Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)

08.30 Meditative Moment

09.00 **Religious Fundamentalism and Political Extremism**

Recently, both religious fundamentalism and political extremism have been getting much attention in the media. Does this phenomenon actually mirror reality, or is it merely a political move aimed at increasing the general feeling of anxiety in society?

Similarly, one can ask what, if any, are the common denominators connecting the two phenomena? Is there anything religious fundamentalists have in common with political extremists? Furthermore, one can ask how religion is (mis)used by (extreme) politics and vice versa.

This session will explore these and other related questions from the perspectives of various academic disciplines (political science, religious studies, history, sociology etc.) as well as geographic factors (Hungary, central Europe, international contexts).

Moderator: Liliane Apotheker

Speaker: Rev. Dr Michael Trainor

Respondents: Prof. Dr Alan Berger
Dr Rita Perintfalvi

10.00 **Buzz Groups / Question and Answer**

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Workshop Session B:

Workshop **B1** (Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)
Jewish-Christian Relations in Hungary [working title]

Moderator: Dean Ferenc Simon

Presenters: Dr Imre Tokics
Andras Heisler

Workshop **B2** (Hungarian)

Title to be announced

Workshop **B3** (English)

The Jewish Annotated New Testament [working title]

Presenters: Rabbi David Sandmel
Frantisek Abel

Workshop **B4** (English)

Fundamentalism and Reconciliation

(organized by ICCJ's theology committee)

Presenters: Dr Pavol Bargár
Rev. Dr Michael Trainor
Dr Deborah Weissman

Workshop **B5** (English)

Title to be announced

(organized by ICCJ's International Abrahamic Forum)

Presenters: Members of the IAF Steering Committee

13.00-14.30 Lunch

13.45-14.30 Annual General Meeting of the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Martin Buber House (for members and interested parties)

15.00-18.00 Field Trips to Local Sites

18.00 Free Evening

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018:

- 07.00-07.30** Jewish Morning Prayer
07.00-07.30 Christian Morning Prayer
07.30-08.00 On-Site-Registration of Day Guests, “Danubius Hotel Flamenco”, Budapest
08.00 Bus Transfer to Kecskemét
10.00-10.30 Address of Welcome by the Mayor of Kecskemét
10:30-11.00 Coffee Break
11.00-12.30 An “Intergenerational” Plenary Session
(Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)
Moderator: Rabbi Dr Tamás Róna
13.00-14.30 Lunch
14.30-16.00 Workshop Session C:

Workshop **C1** (Auditorium, Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)
Title to be announced

Workshop **C2** (Hungarian)
Title to be announced

Workshop **C3** (English)
Antijudaism in Orthodox Liturgies and Sermons [*working title*]

Presenters: Romanian Research Group

Workshop **C4** (English)
A Time for Recommitment: The Twelve Points of Berlin

Workshop C5 (English)

“Sneak Preview”: ICCJ 2019 Conference in Lund, Sweden [*working title*]

Presenters: Rev. Dr Bo Sandahl
Prof. Dr Abi Pitum

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.30 Closing Session

(Simultaneous Translation English/Hungarian)

“Shalom aleichem! Pax nobi! As-salamu alaykum! Béke legyem veled! Peace be with you!”

The closing session will bring together religious leaders, activists, and academicians to discuss the issues of peace and reconciliation. What can we do as people of faith or none to work towards mutual understanding, reconciliation, and peace in our specific contexts, often tainted by national, religious, ethnic, and social conflicts?

Moderator: Prof. Dr József Szécsi

Speakers: Judy Banki
Dr Péter Feldmajer
Prof. Dr Jutta Hausmann
Rev. Dr Volker Haarmann

17.50 Buzz Groups / Question and Answer

19.00-22.00 Closing Dinner

**22.00 Bus Transfer to the “Danubius Hotel Flamenco”,
Budapest**

PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

Abel, Frantisek

Slovakia, Frantisek Abel

Anwar, Klára

Hungary, Dr Klára Anwar

Apotheker, Liliane

France, Liliane Apotheker, First Vice-President of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ)

Banki, Judy

USA, Judy Banki

Bargár, Pavol

Czech Republic, Dr Pavol Bargár, researcher at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague, Board member of the CCJ in the Czech Republic, Second Vice-President of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ)

Berger, Alan

USA, Prof. Dr Alan Berger, Raddock Family Eminent Scholar of Holocaust Studies, and Director of the Center for the study of Values and Violence After Auschwitz at Florida Atlantic University

Cserhádi, Márta

Hungary, Dr Márta Cserhádi

Cunningham, Philip A.

USA, Dr Philip A. Cunningham, Professor of Theology and Director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at the Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia (SJU), ICCJ Immediate Past President

Dini, Elena

Italy, Elena Dini, graduated in Near and Middle East Studies, Interfaith Dialogue, and Interreligious Studies, student of Catholic Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

Erdő, Péter

Hungary, Cardinal Péter Erdő

Feldmayer, Péter

Hungary, Dr Péter Feldmayer

Firestone, Reuven

USA, Rabbi Prof. Dr Reuven Firestone is the Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, and Steering Committee Chair of the IAF

Frishman, Judith

Netherlands, Prof. Dr Judith Frishman

Haarmann, Volker

Germany, Rev. Dr Volker Haarmann, Pastor for Jewish-Christian relations, Protestant Church of the Rhineland, Duesseldorf

Hadsell, Heidi

USA, Dr Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics, President of Hartford Seminary, member of the steering committee of ICCJ's International Abrahamic Forum (IAF)

Hassan, Mohammad Hannan

Singapore, Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan, Director Capacity Building and Interfaith Engagement, Vice Dean Muis Academy, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Hausmann, Jutta

Hungary/Germany, Prof. em. Dr Jutta Hausmann, Lutheran Theological University Budapest

Heisler, András

Hungary, András Heisler

Himmelbauer, Markus

Austria, Dr Markus Himmelbauer

Kovács, Mónika

Hungary, Mónika Kovács

Krajewski, Stanislaw

Poland, Prof. Dr Stanislaw Krajewski

Langer, Ruth

USA, Rabbi Prof. Dr Ruth Langer, Professor of Jewish Studies, Associate Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College, Chair of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations (CCJR)

Meurer, Birgit

Germany, Birgit Meurer, ICCJ staff, historian and archeologist, in charge of regional adult education and outreach programs for the Martin Buber House, Heppenheim

Musall, Frederek

Germany, Prof. Dr Frederek Musall, Professor for Jewish Philosophy and Intellectual History at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg, working for the Central Council of Jews in Germany and the Central Board of Jewish Welfare in Germany (ZWSt) in the field of adult education and interreligious dialogue, member of the steering committee of ICCJ's International Abrahamic Forum (IAF)

Nagy, Dorottya

Germany, Prof. Dr Dorottya Nagy

Perintfalvi, Rita

Hungary, Dr Rita Perintfalvi

Pitum, Abi

Germany, Prof. h.c. Dr Abi Pitum, Treasurer of the ICCJ, Board member of the German Council of Christians and Jews (Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit – DKR).

Róna, Tamás

Hungary, Rabbi Dr Tamás Róna, leader rabbi of Center Hungarian Region, lecturer in the University of the Rabbinical Seminary, Budapest

Sandahl, Bo

Sweden, Dean Dr Bo Sandahl, Dean of Lund, ICCJ President

Sandmel, David

USA, Rabbi Dr David Sandmel, Director of Interreligious Engagement for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

Schulz-Jander, Eva

Germany, Dr Eva Schulz-Jander, President of the Friends and Sponsors of the Martin-Buber-House

Simon, Ferenc

Austria, Dean Ferenc Simon

Szécsi, József

Hungary, Prof. Dr József Szécsi

Szteinhendler, Shmuel

Chile, Rabbi Shmuel Szteinhendler, President of the Confraternidad Judeo Cristiana de Chile and member of the ICCJ Executive Board

Szent-Iványi, Ilona

Hungary, Ilona Szent-Iványi

Tokics, Imre

Hungary, Dr Imre Tokics

Trainor, Michael

Australia, Rev. Dr Michael Trainor, senior lecturer at the Australian Catholic University, President of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews (ACCJ) and member of the ICCJ Executive Board

Weissman, Deborah

Israel, Dr Deborah Weissman, ICCJ consultant

Weisz, Willy

Austria, Dr Willy Weisz, (Jewish) Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, the Austrian ICCJ member, member of the ICCJ Executive Board