



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, 11:00 a.m. UTC:

DIALOGUE – VISION OF THE FUTURE: THE JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Elisabeth Höftberger and Andrea Schmuck

Due to COVID-19 and its various implications, the importance of constructive dialogue between nations, various interest groups and civil society is particularly evident. However “dialogue” is a socially and scientifically controversial term. For quite a long time people who are engaged in Jewish-Christian Dialogue have reflected on different concepts of “dialogue” as well as the question of how it can be successfully fostered. The past months, which have been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, showed that Jewish-Christian Dialogue also has to face new challenges.

In our workshop we would like to use the current situation as an opportunity to develop a vision regarding the future of Jewish-Christian Dialogue. An ideal platform for this aim is the ICCJ Annual Conference, which has a rich tradition of Jewish-Christian understanding, since we can only provide answers to the question about the future of the dialogue when being actively engaged in it. Jewish-Christian dialogue can also become an essential driving force for shaping processes of social and political dialogue during and after the pandemic.

After introducing the objectives of the workshop there will be a time slot for creative work in small groups: we will deal with different concepts and forms of “dialogue” from a scientific-theoretical point of view, and ask for sustainable guiding principles which can serve as an orientation for Jewish-Christian Dialogue. We will raise awareness of how the pandemic is currently affecting Jewish-Christian spaces of encounter and explore problems that may arise in this context. Together we want to develop perspectives and visions for shaping the future of Jewish-Christian Dialogue during and after the pandemic. Finally, we would like to gain some insights into the potential contributions that may be expected from the dialogue with respect to the handling of the pandemic in society as a whole. In our workshop, participants will be encouraged to contribute valuable personal experiences, scientific findings and creative ideas.

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