

# HAIFA, ISRAEL 2009

21. Internationales Seminar für  
Interkulturelle Seelsorge und Beratung



**sipcc**  
society  
for *intercultural*  
pastoral care  
and counselling  
  
Gesellschaft  
für *interkulturelle*  
Seelsorge  
und Beratung e.V.

**Differences as Opportunity**

**Care and counselling in  
multi-cultural and multi-religious  
societies**

**The example of Haifa, Israel**

In co-  
operation  
with

**Haifa, Israel**

04 – 10  
September,  
09

**Study-trip  
through Israel**  
11 – 17  
September,  
09

21st International Seminar on Intercultural  
Pastoral Care and Counselling

## Haifa

One of the many jewels of Israel is the city of Haifa, a clean and green city that stretches from the shores of the Mediterranean up the slope of Mt. Carmel and is topped off by the high-rise University of Haifa. This is the site of Israel's major port, the place where both people and goods enter the country.

## History

Although it does not appear in the Bible, Haifa is mentioned in Talmudic literature as a well-established Jewish community. Across from the National Maritime Museum on Allenby Road are steps to Elijah's Cave. According to a Byzantine tradition, this is where Elijah the Prophet hid to escape the wrath of King Ahab. The site is revered by Christians and Muslims, as well as Jews. The first Sunday after Tisha B'Av, Oriental Jews recite Isaiah 40 and ask the prophet to bless their children, cure their illnesses and better their lives.

Relics found within the city limits date from the Stone Age to the Ottoman period. During the Middle Ages, the Jewish settlement in Haifa grew into a shipping center. In 1099, the city was conquered by the Crusaders, who slaughtered all the Jewish inhabitants. The Carmelite Order was established in 1156 over Elijah's Cave. In 1265, Haifa fell to the Mamlukes, and in 1750 was captured by the Bedouin, Dahar al-Omar, who destroyed, then rebuilt and fortified it. From 1775 until World War I, Haifa was under Turkish control with two interruptions — in 1799, it was conquered by Napoleon and, from 1831-1840, it was under Egyptian rule. In the case of Napoleon, when he retreated from Palestine, he left his wounded soldiers at the Carmelites' hospital at Stella Maris. As soon as the emperor was gone, the local Muslims murdered the Frenchmen he'd left behind.

Early in the 19th century, Jews from North Africa settled in Haifa. In 1868, German Templars established Haifa's German Colony and in 1879 European Jews settled in the city.

In 1905, a railroad was built from Constantinople to the Muslim shrines of Mecca and Medina in Arabia. The railway passed through Damascus and had a spur that connected with Haifa. That line is long dormant. Today, one of the few places Israelis travel by train is between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

In 1918, Haifa was taken from the Turks by the British. During the Mandate period, it was the scene of many dramatic confrontations between the British who sought to keep Jews from entering Palestine and the clandestine efforts of the Haganah to smuggle in immigrants and the survivors of the Holocaust. One of the ships used to run the British blockade, an old American tank-landing craft called the *Af-Al-Pi-Chen* is in the Clandestine Immigration and Maritime Museum.

The large Arab population had relatively good relations with the Jews, even during the British Mandate. After partition, however, a number of violent incidents created tensions, and the Arab decision to prevent the establishment of a Jewish state by force led to the evacuation of much of the Arab population in April 1948 when the Haganah took over the city.



### **Modern Haifa**

The city is divided into four main areas. At sea level, you'll find the bay and port, beaches, some residential neighborhoods and one of the main centers of Israeli industry. Major products produced in Haifa include cement, chemicals, electronic equipment, glass, steel and textiles. Haifa is also where Israeli oil is refined.

As you make your way up the hill, you'll enter Hadar Hacarmel, the commercial center of the city and the home of some of the older neighborhoods. This is the location of City Hall and the old campus of the Technion, sometimes referred to as the MIT of Israel. The Technion was founded in 1912, but didn't open for another 12 years because of the onset of World War I and an internal dispute over whether the school should teach in German, the native language of many of the scientists, or in newly revived Hebrew.

Higher still is the Mt. Carmel area, which has newer residential neighborhoods and is where you'll find most of the entertainment, cultural and tourist activities. A bit off the beaten path, beyond the commercial and residential section of the city is the University of Haifa.

You can walk around Haifa, and it's beautiful, but if you plan to move from area to area, consider public transportation, especially the cable car (Carmelit), since the hills can wear you out. If you prefer to walk, take the "path of the thousand stairs" that starts from the scenic lookout on Yefe Nof Street (Panorama) in Central Carmel and leads down the mountain past the Baha'i Shrine and the German Colony and ends downtown. On Mt. Carmel, don't miss Panorama Road and its spectacular view of the sea.

## **An Island of Tolerance**

Haifa is the third largest city in Israel, with a population of approximately 250,000, and perhaps its most progressive. It has always had a large Arab population and, today, Haifa is one of the few places in Israel where Jews and Arabs are in regular contact and make genuine efforts to promote coexistence. Beit Hagefen is one of the organizations that runs programs in the city for Jews and Arabs.

Other minorities have also found Haifa a comfortable place to live. In fact, it is the world headquarters for the Baha'i faith, whose spectacular golden-domed shrine of the Bab is one of the city's landmarks. The shrine, along with the fabulous gardens at the center, make the center a popular tourist attraction.

Haifa is a blue-collar town -- it is the place where the Histadrut was founded in 1920 -- that also has a reputation for having a more pluralist approach to Judaism. It is the only city in Israel where the buses run on Shabbat and where many businesses stay open. This has enhanced the city's image as a good party town. Moreover, the city is a cultural mecca with its own symphony orchestra, theaters, museums and a zoo.

## **Religions in Haifa**

Believers of five major religions live together in Haifa besides many smaller groups – and they manage to live peacefully together, not like in other cities in Israel. The *Jews* are the most numerous group, then there are *Christian* and *Moslems*. Haifa is a special place for the *Bahai* with the shrine of the Bab, the founder of the Bahai religion. There is another group which is calling themselves *Ahmadis*. They recognise themselves as Muslims, but many Muslims do not agree with that.





## Partners of the SIPCC for the Seminar in Haifa

### House of Grace

*"The image of God is found in each and every being. May all people have the strength and dignity to know and feel this."* Kamil Shehade (1954 - 2000)

**House of Grace** is a Church-based non-profit organisation located in Haifa, Israel. It was established by Kamil and Agnes Shehade twenty-five years ago as the first ever half-way house for released prisoners. It is located in a Church from 1862, which was abandoned in 1948 after the establishment of Israel. Kamil and Agnes renovated the Church and made it a home for them and their five children, and a home for the community around it.

"Our mission is to live the Gospel and follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ to help the people who are most needy in the community." Kamil Shehade

House of Grace continues its mission with prisoners, needy families, youth at risk and the homeless and will continue to have its doors always open to those who are in need and have no other place to turn to.

House of Grace  
P.O. Box 1055, Haifa Israel 33095  
Tel: +972(0)4-8666235, Fax: +972(0)4-8662116  
Email: pfisrael@netvision.net.il  
Website: www.House-Grace.org



## **Beit Hagefen - Arab-Jewish Center-Haifa, Israel**

**Beit Hagefen** Arab-Jewish Center was established in Haifa in 1963 for the purpose of bringing together Arabs and Jews and educating towards coexistence, neighborliness and tolerance by means of cultural and artistic activities, festivals, meetings and community activity.

**Beit Hagefen** is a non-profit organization, supported by the Haifa Municipality, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, donations and sponsorships. **Beit Hagefen** operates on the local, national and international level.

### **Beit Hagefen – Arab Jewish Center**

<http://www.beit-hagefen.com>

[bhagefen@netvision.net.il](mailto:bhagefen@netvision.net.il)

2 Hagefen St. Haifa 35662 Israel



## Learning Goals of the Seminar

*In Haifa members of various religions live peacefully together. There are major communities like Orthodox and Liberal Jews, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians, Muslims, Achmadis, the Bahá'í-religion and of course people who are a-religious and agnostic.*

*What is the reason that there are no open conflicts between these groups? Are there social reasons or religious reasons? Or is it the history of this city which makes the citizens more open for others than in other places in Israel? Can Haifa be an example or even a model for living together in multi-cultural and multi-religious societies?*

*The Seminar aims to give a first insight into the situation of the city and the people of Haifa. The main focus will be to learn more about the various religions which are present in this city and about their care for people. That will encourage the participants to reflect their own religious background and their attitude to cultural and religious sensibility and tolerance. This seminar will be a further step for SIPCC to develop further an hermeneutics of interreligious pastoral care and counselling and of social and political means of building "communities of the different" .*

*A study-trip through Israel, especially to Galilee and Jerusalem will offer opportunities to learn more about the history and the present situation of the country.*

**The Seminar will be held in English.**

## Working Methods

**Devotions and worship service** give the Seminar a spiritual frame.

### **The Intercultural Forums**

*The Intercultural Forums give space for the life-stories of people. Citizens of Haifa and Israel will tell parts of their biographies to get an understanding of their situation. Participants too will be encouraged to talk about themselves (through the method of "reflecting teams"). A narrative approach is important in care and counselling and fosters relationship between people – even between people who are different or alien to each other.*

*In **lectures and discussions** speakers from Haifa will give insight into the different religions and their caring and work.*

***Workshops** will offer to deal in depth with a certain issue of the theme of the day. Asfter a short introcutioin of about 15 – 20 minutes the group will work on that issue in an experimental and participatory way.*

### **Reflection Groups**

*There will be different types of reflection groups in this Seminar:*

#### **A) Reflection of oneself in the present situation**

*This group gives the opportunity to explore oneself in the context of the group, of the Seminar, of Haifa and of Israel.*

*Facilitator: Eitan Tamir and N.N.*

#### **B) Reflection of the presentations of the day**

*This group aims to discuss the lectures and presentations and to go into an intellectual learning of the theme of the day.*

*Facilitator: N.N.*

#### **C) Reflection of the own caring and counselling work**

*This group will connect the theme of the day with the own care and counselling work of the participants. The aim is to become more sensitive in care and counselling practice for an intercultural and interreligious approach.*

*Facilitator: Helmut Weiss*

#### **D) Reflection of the own religious biography**

*Participants can tell and listen to the religious biographies. The purpose is to become open for each other and the faith of the others.*

*Facilitator: N.N.*

*Each group will have 10 members and will stay together during the whole Seminar. Participants chose their group and are obliged to participate in all sessions.*

### **Visits in the field**

*To learn more about the practice of care, counselling and social work of the different faith communities the Seminar will visit different Jewish, Islamic and Christian institutions and activities in Haifa.*

**Film** "Encounter Point" and **Meeting** with people of "The parents Circle"

**SIPCC – General Assembly 2009:** reports– publications – activities in the future

**Evaluation** – participants are requested to give a short written evaluation to the following questions:

*Which experiences in the Seminar have been valuable for me?*

*What did I learn?*

*Which working methods have been helpful for me?*



## **SIPCC-Executive and Planning Committee**

### **Thursday, 3 September, 2009**

*Arrival of members of Executive and Planning Committee*

**Beth-Shalom Hotel, 110 Hannassi Avenue, Haifa 31061**

### **Friday, 4 September, 2009**

09.00 – 13.00 h

**Executive Committee meeting**

14.00 – 16.00 h

**Executive, Planning and Local Committee**

**Last preparations for the Seminar (with the members of the local committee)**

## **Program of the Seminar**

### **FRIDAY, 04 September, 09**

Before 16.00 h

*Arrival of participants*

*Registration at the venue:*

**Beth-Shalom Hotel, 110 Hannassi Avenue, Haifa 31061**

17.00 h **Opening Ceremony and Welcome**

**Sabbath ceremony and Visit in Synagogue**

## **SATURDAY, 5 September, 09**

<p><b>Theme of the day:</b> <b>The Richness of Christianity</b></p>
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7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

8.45 h      *Morning-Devotion*

9.00 – 10.30 h

**Lecture and discussion**  
**Christianity: Greek Catholic Church**  
**N.N.**

*Coffee / Tea*

11.00 -12.30 h

**Workshops**

13.00 h      *Lunch*

15.00 –16.30 h

**Intercultural Forum**

16.30 h      *Coffee / Tea*

17.00 - 18.30 h

**Reflection-groups**

18.30 h      *Dinner*

19.30 h      **Evening service at Church of House of Grace**

## **SUNDAY, 6 September, 09**

**Theme of the day:**  
**The Richness of Judaism /The Richness of Haifa**

7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

8.45 h      *Morning-Devotion*

9.00 – 10.30 h

**Judaism**  
**N.N.**

10.30 h      *Coffee - Tea*

11.00 – 12.30 h

**Judaism**  
**N.N.**

13.00      *Lunch*

15.00 – 16.00 h

**Demography in Haifa**  
*Arnon Soffer*

16.30 – 18.30

**Guided tour of Haifa by bus**  
*Uri Bloch*

19.00 h      *Dinner*

20.00 h      **Reflection-groups**

## **MONDAY, 7 September, 09**

**Theme of the day:**  
**The Richness of Islam/Working for Reconciliation**

7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

8.45 h      *Morning-Devotion*

9.00 – 10.30 h

**Lecture and discussion**  
*Islam: N.N.*

11.00 – 12.30 h

**The Work of "The Parents Circle"**

12.45 h      *Lunch*

15.00 – 16.30 h

**Intercultural Forum**  
**Film: "Encounter Point"**

16.30 h      *Coffee / Tea*

17.00- 18.30 h

**Reflection-groups**

18.30 h      *Dinner*

20.00 h      **SIPCC General Assembly** – reports -- plans



## **TUESDAY, 8 September, 09**

<p><b>Theme of the day:</b> <b>The Richness of Religious Social Services</b></p>
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7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

### **Visits in the field**

9.30 - 12.00 h

***The story and activities of Bet HaChessed – The house of grace***

12.30      *Visit of Jewish social service*

*Visit of a Muslim social service*

*Lunch*

16.00 – 17.30 h

***Intercultural Forum***

17.30 h      *Coffee / Tea*

18.00 -19.30 h

***Reflection-groups***

19.30 h      *Dinner*

## **WEDNESDAY, 9 September, 09**

<p><b>Theme of the day:</b> <b>The Richness of the Bahai</b></p>
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7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

8.30 h      *Morning – Devotion*

9.00 - 10.30 h  
***The Principles of the Bahai religion***

10.30 h     *Coffee / Tea*

11.00 - 12.30 h  
***Counselling of the Bahai***

12.45 h     *Lunch*

15.00 – 16.30 h  
***Intercultural Forum***

16.30 h     *Coffee / Tea*

17.00 -18.00 h  
***Reflection-groups***

**18.30      Departure for the social evening in Eyn Chud**

## **THURSDAY, 10 September, 09**

<p><b>Theme of the day:</b> <b>The Richness of the Achmadis and of the Seminar</b></p>
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7.00 h      *Morning walk with Eitan*

7.30 h      *Breakfast*

9.00 - 10.30 h

**Lecture and discussion (in the mosque of the Achmadis)**

*Achmadis: N.N.*

11.30 -13.00 h

**Panel with members of the Seminar:**

*Inspirations for co-operations between different religions  
in care and counselling*

13.00 h      *Lunch*

14.00 – 16.00 h

**Evaluation and Closing Ceremony**

**Ending of the Seminar and departure**

## **V E N U E**

<p>Beth-Shalom Hotel 110 Hannassi Avenue P.O. Box 6208 Haifa 31061 Israel</p>
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Internet: [www.beth-shalom.co.il](http://www.beth-shalom.co.il)

## **C O S T S**

***per person:***

**Seminar-fee:**

100,00 €

**accommodation and food**

*(breakfast, lunch and dinner):*

single room 450,00 €

two bed room 350,00 €

**Visits in the field and social evening**

50,00€

*Donations for sponsoring participants are welcome!*

*Please transfer the amount to*

*SIPCC*

*BIC GENODED1DKD*

*IBAN DE98 3506 0190 1012 0680 14*

*If you made no other arrangements with the organizers, registration is completed only after transfer of the whole amount of the costs.*



# REGISTRATION

**21<sup>st</sup> International Seminar on Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling**

***Differences as Opportunity***  
***Care and Counselling in multi-cultural and multi-religious societies -***  
***The example of Haifa, Israel***

- Please send me further information
- Hereby I register for the 21<sup>st</sup> International Seminar in Haifa, Israel (please print):

.....  
 Name First Name

.....  
 Street Zip-Code City Country

.....  
 Telephone Fax e-mail

.....  
 Occupation Working Field

.....  
 Date Signature

---

*Please send this form to:*

Rev. Helmut Weiss; SIPCC  
 Friederike-Flidner-Weg 72  
 D - 40489 Düsseldorf

Fax +49-211-47 90 526  
 e-mail: [helmut.weiss@sipcc.org](mailto:helmut.weiss@sipcc.org)

