



SPANDA
FOUNDATION



TEA FOR PEACE

A programme of the Jubilo Project on

MARRIAGE

IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

A COMPARATIVE APPROACH



THE PROGRAMME PLAN

Tea for Peace is one of the operational programme of the *Jubilo* project consisting of a series of 'tea parties'. On a monthly basis, the Spanda Foundation organizes an evening event on a specific topic related to the interfaith dialogue to foster better understanding among the community of the three Abrahamic faiths.

The event starts with a film screening consisting of selected scenes and clips dealing with the topic of the evening concerning Jewish, Christian and Muslim individuals, communities and peoples. After the screening, *Tea for Peace's* guest speakers initiate a round table dialogue with the audience.

Films have a unique ability to engage, entertain and, at the same time, inform and educate. Thus, the chosen movie or scenes serve as a tool for a better understanding of the cultural, social and political background of people from different cultures and faiths, while also providing a starting point for the ensuing dialogue. The audience benefit from the event by gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of current problems. Furthermore, regular discussions on peace-related issues will bring people closer, and may lead to further interfaith and intercultural cooperation.

- ⇒ **PROBLEMS ADDRESSED** - By providing an open forum for discussing issues and sharing ideas in a safe environment, and by prompting a comparative vision on Abrahamic faiths, the *Tea for Peace* programme specifically addresses the problems of education for peace, interfaith education, tolerance, civil participation, civil and human rights, cultural diversity, cross-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, ethnic integration, conflict prevention, community building and development. This allows a qualified and thorough comprehension of the subject matter in all segments of the community and international audience. In its function as an educational and cultural agent, *Tea for Peace* is able to reach and enrich all segments of society. It underlines the contribution of different cultures to our common heritage and lifestyle; promoting the importance of exploring together how to develop active participation in our society through cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue with an open attitude to the world, respecting cultural diversity in a community based on shared common values.
- ⇒ **TARGET** - Professional and non-professional Dutch and international audience, individuals concerned about peaceful coexistence of people from different faiths and ethnicities, integration and community building. Approximately 75-100 visitors per event are expected.
- ⇒ **PROPOSED SCENARIO** - Each session will examine one topic from different aspects and points of view. The event will begin with the screening of a series of short extracts from films and documentaries. The best works dealing with religious, interfaith, intercultural, social and ethnical themes will be chosen. Afterwards, the guest speakers (leading religious representatives, experts on the issue, academics and the like) will discuss the questions related to the main subject of the event. Guidelines will be given to the audience beforehand to involve them actively in the discussion.

As part of the programme, a research study is carried out within the audience examining the level of tolerance, preconceived views and stereotypes affecting the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities and

whether these preconceptions have changed as a result of participating in the event. A quick assessment of the questionnaires closes the 'official' programme, after which the audience will have the opportunity to meet the guest speakers informally while having a cup of tea or other refreshments.

⇒ OCCURRENCE AND DURATION ~ Monthly basis; 3 hours ca.

⇒ ADMISSION ~ 5 euro.

⇒ LANGUAGE ~ English.

⇒ UPCOMING EVENTS ~ Sexuality; Food; War; Death.



THE GUEST SPEAKERS

SJAAK DE BOER Pastor (C.) of the Church of Our Saviour, The Hague. Fr Sjaak holds a doctorate in Religious Studies from Louvain University, Belgium, and has served for more than twenty years in Kenya, USA, Brazil, UK and Belgium. For the last eleven years he has been Parish Priest of The Church of Our Saviour in The Hague.

He is the organiser of the *European Pastors' Symposia on the Millennium Goals*, and since 1986 the Chairman of Auxilia, a foundation supporting world wide projects for the poor. He has published a number of essays and books, among which the recent *Liturgia Libertadora* and *Do I Hear A Yes*.

AWRAHAM SOETENDORP Rabbi Soetendorp was born in 1943 in Amsterdam and survived as a «hidden child». He presides over the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Rabbi Soetendorp is Earth Charter Commissioner and a Founding Board Member of Green Cross International and co-chair of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders. He is also a member of the International Advisory Committee of World Peace Summit, acts as an advisor to the American Jewish World Service, and is the founder and chair of the Hope Foundation for Children for Universal Education. Rabbi Soetendorp is a member of the Steering Committee of the World Council of Religious Leaders and participates as a key discussion partner of the World Economic Forum in his function as a religious leader.

Rabbi Soetendorp is a Member of the International Advisory Board of the *Jubilo* Project.

JOHANNES WITTEVEEN Dr Witteveen was born in 1921 in Zeist, the Netherlands. He holds a doctorate in Economics from the Netherlands School of Economics, Rotterdam. He was professor of Business Cycles and Economics at the Netherlands School of Economics in Rotterdam, and Rector Magnificus of the same institution. Mr Witteveen served twice as Minister of Finance to the Dutch Government and has been Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Chairman of the Group of Thirty (G30). He is a life-long member of the International Sufi Movement and is now its Vice-President. He has published a number of essays and books, among which *Universal Sufism*; *The heart of Sufism*; *Soefisme en economie*; *Sufism in action, Achievement, inspiration and integrity in a tough world*.

Dr Witteveen is a Board Member of Spanda Foundation.



Onbekend maakt onbemind.

Dutch proverb.





THE JUBILO PROJECT

CONFLICT PREVENTION, ETHNIC INTEGRATION, PEACE BUILDING
THROUGH THE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE



CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
MDG 2 – TARGET 3, AND MDG 8 – TARGETS 16, 18.



NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

JUBILO is a comparative religion project with an anthropological approach aiming to prevent and resolve conflicts and to build peace through the interfaith dialogue, namely among Jewish, Christian and Muslim individuals, communities and peoples. It consists of a threefold structure: the documentary series *Abraham's Legacy*; the *Tea for Peace* series of round-table dialogues; and the multimedia thematic series *The Spirit Inspires my Way*. All these closely related but independent components could evolve further to cover other major or minor religious and philosophical traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism etc.

One of the Project's main purposes is to enlighten the current status of the Abrahamic faiths in a thorough, open, respectful and tolerant dialogue with each other, and with other cultures, faiths and realities. In the same breath, it aims to increase the visibility and consistency of all programmes and actions contributing to the promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue, ethnic integration, conflict prevention, globalisation of education for peace, peace building, global counter-insurgency, democratisation and community building.

The Project is the result of an urgent demand by our society, and has to do with peoples' real need for mutual understanding and dialogue within a peaceful coexistence. This is a problem that greatly concerns and is of interest to each and every member of any community. *Jubilo* has an international geographic implementation and is grounded in solid educational values with a highly innovative methodology. It offers a formative contribution to the solving of this compelling issue by raising awareness of the importance of exploring together, through intercultural dialogue, the tools that need to be implemented to develop an active improvement of relations among different cultural and social strata. It showcases the contribution of cultural diversity to our common cultural heritage and our shared values, thereby creating stronger community cohesion. Due to its operational structure through the media, *Jubilo* is able to reach and enrich all segments of society, including disadvantaged people and excluded social group, educating beyond schools and curricula on the vital values and sense of belonging to the human community of the global citizen. It underlines the contribution of different cultures to our common heritage and lifestyle. It raises awareness of the importance of exploring together the means to implement and develop an active participation in our society through intercultural and interfaith dialogue, with an open attitude to the world and respect for cultural diversity in a community based on common shared values.

Jubilo is an initiative that tests, influences and informs public policy. It is an example of good practice that can be replicated in many more years to come. The material produced is highly sustainable as its content, relying on the fundamental concern of human beings, will hardly become obsolete and effectively facilitate lasting results. In addition to being easily accessible, it is a scientifically significant and methodologically innovative oeuvre that prompts a comparative vision and allow a qualitative thorough comprehension of the subject matter to all segments of the international audience.

The *Jubilo* project was launched at the Peace Palace, The Hague, on September 2006 and is endorsed by the Council of 100 Leaders of the World Economic Forum (Davos 2006) and by the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008).



THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The scientific and cultural line of *Jubilo* is guaranteed by a Scientific and Cultural Advisory Board, currently being drawn up, composed of distinguished international exponents of the academic and cultural world. Current members of the Board are:

- ⇒ FEISAL ABDUL RAUF, Imam of Masjid al-Farah, New York; Founder and Chairman of The Cordoba Initiative, and of the ASMA Society, New York, USA.
- ⇒ AHMAD AĞGÜNDÜZ, Rector, Islamic University (IUR), Rotterdam; Professor of Islamic Law and Turkish Law History, (IUR), Netherlands.
- ⇒ MOHAMMED AZIZA, Professor of Sociology, Sorbonne University; former Director, Intercultural Studies, UNESCO, Paris; Director General, The Mediterranean Observatory, Rome, Italy.
- ⇒ WITE A. CARP, President, Sufi Movement in The Netherlands; President, World Conference for Religions for Peace (WCRP) in The Netherlands, The Hague.
- ⇒ KENNETH CRAGG, former Bishop of Oxford (A), Church of England, former professor of Philosophy, Oxford University, and Warden of St. Augustine College, Canterbury, Oxford, UK.
- ⇒ CARL W. ERNST, Director, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations; William R. Kenan Professor; Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, USA.
- ⇒ JOHN L. ESPOSITO, University Professor; Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies; Founding Director Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, DC., USA.
- ⇒ PINCHAS GILLER, Rabbi, Professor of Medieval Jewish Thought, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, University of Judaism, Los Angeles, USA.
- ⇒ MARTIN S. JAFFEE, Professor of Comparative Religion and Jewish Studies; Faculty of Comparative Religion, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, USA.
- ⇒ ANNA MASALA, University Professor of Turkish Studies, University «La Sapeinza», Rome, Italy.
- ⇒ MARTINUS P. MUSKENS, former Bishop of Breda (RC); President of the National Catholic Contact Council for Interfaith Dialogue (CID), Netherlands.
- ⇒ SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR, University Professor of Islamic Studies, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA.
- ⇒ GIUSEPPE SCATTOLIN, Professor of Islamic Mysticism, PISAI, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy; Professor of Comparative Religions, Theological Institute, Cairo, Egypt.
- ⇒ AWRAHAM SOETENDORP, Rabbi, in Congregation of The Hague and Utrecht, NL; President, European Region, World Union for Progressive Judaism; Founder and Chair of the Jewish Institute for Human Values, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- ⇒ WILLIAM F. VENDLEY, Secretary General, World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), New York, USA.

