



*A programme of the Jubilo Project*

# SEXUALITY

IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM  
A COMPARATIVE APPROACH

## THE PROGRAMME PLAN

**T***ea for Peace* is one of the operational programmes of the *Jubilo* project of the Spanda Foundation. It consists of a series of periodical evening events on a specific topic related to the interfaith dialogue to foster better understanding amongst the community of the three Abrahamic faiths.

The event starts with a film screening consisting of selected scenes and clips on the topic of the evening and concerning Jewish, Christian and Muslim individuals, communities and peoples. After the screening, *Tea for Peace's* guest speakers initiate an open 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 scenes serve as a tool for a better understanding of the cultural, social and political background of people from different cultures and faiths, whilst also providing a starting point for the ensuing dialogue. The audience benefit from the event by gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of different topics along the human life cycle. 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 of the Abrahamic faiths, the Tea for Peace programme specifically addresses the problems of education for peace, cross-cultural and interfaith education and dialogue, tolerance, ethnic integration, conflict prevention and transformation, community building and development. This allows an all-embracing coverage and understanding of the same topic from three different perspectives throughout the programme event, bringing to light differences and similarities between the cultures in a dialectical manner. In its function as an educational and cultural agent, Tea for Peace is able to reach and enrich all segments of society by promoting an open attitude to the world and, by respecting cultural diversity in a community based on shared common values, it underlines the contribution of different cultures to our common heritage and lifestyle.

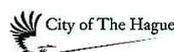
¶ **TARGET** - Professional and non-professional Dutch and international audience; individuals concerned about peaceful coexistence of people from different faiths and ethnicities, integration and community building. Approximately 130-150 visitors per event are expected.

¶ **PROPOSED SCENARIO** - Each session examines one topic from different aspects and points of view. The session begins with the screening of a series of short extracts from films and documentaries. Afterwards, the guest speakers (leading religious representatives, experts on the topic, academics and the like) discuss and share views with the audience on questions related to the main subject of the event. Guidelines are 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 all attendees will have the opportunity to meet the guest speakers informally whilst sharing a cup.

¶ **DURATION** - 3 hours ca.    ¶ **LANGUAGE** - English.    ¶ **PREVIOUS EVENTS** - Fundamentalism, Marriage.

¶ **UPCOMING EVENTS** - Food, War, Death.



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## THE GUEST SPEAKERS

- 🕌 **ABDULWAHID VAN BOMMEL** - Imam van Bommel was born in 1944 in Amsterdam. After academic studies in philosophy and literature, he has devoted his life to the precepts of Islam. From 1971 to 1975 he has chaired the Islamic Centre of Netherlands and from 1978 to 1992 he has been editor of the Muslim quarterly *Qiblah*. From 1998 to 2006 he has served as Muslim chaplain at the Medical Centre Haaglanden in The Hague. Amongst his publications, *Islam en de rechten van vrouwen* (Islam and the rights of women), *Valt er nog wat te lachen met die Moslims* (Are Muslims to laugh with). He has written over forty essays on Islamic studies in English, among which “Media Ethics of Muslims in the Age of Cross-cultural communication” and “Medical Ethics from the Muslim Perspective”.
- 🕌 **SIPKE VAN DER LAND** - Reverend Sipke van der Land was born in 1937 in Kollum, Friesland. He is a minister in the Protestant Church Netherlands (PKN) the united church of Hervormde, Gereformeerde and Lutheran Churches. He has studied theology and Dutch literature, and has published more than forty books on religious subjects and literature. He has travelled extensively and worked in Suriname, Latin America and Africa for the development of Christian radio and television programmes. In the Netherlands, he has presented many documentaries and devotional tv-programmes (NCRV).
- 🕌 **JAN PRONK** - Professor Pronk was born in 1940 in Scheveningen. He has garnered repute as one of the most influential persons in Development Cooperation in the Netherlands, both through his distinguished career as a politician and a prominent United Nations Official. Mr Pronk served for several terms as Minister of Development Cooperation and as Minister of Housing and Environment to the Dutch government. Among his many contributions to the civil society, he was Professor of Theory and Practice of Policy Making at University of Amsterdam, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of UN for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Chairman of the Board of the International Institute for Environment and Development, Chairman of the Federation of Refugee Organisations in the Netherlands and Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Sudan, Khartoum, where he led the UN peace keeping operation. He is currently Professor in Theory and Practice of International Development at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, President of the Society for International Development (SID), and Chairman of the Interchurch Peace Council in the Netherlands (Interkerkelijk Vredesberaad, IKV). Mr Pronk has published extensively on subjects related to Development and has been the recipient of several national and international awards and honours. He is a Board member of Spanda Foundation.
- 🕌 **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 as a religious leader. Rabbi Soetendorp is a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Jubilo* Project.
- 🕌 **JOEL STAFFELEU** - Joel Steffeleu is a practicing sexologist and clinical psychologist. He has more than thirty years of practice in the fields of sexological counselling, psychotherapy and sex education and is currently practicing in The Hague both at the HagaZiekenhuis and privately with patients of different age, intelligence and cultural background. For the last fourteen years he has trained in the art of sexological counselling will be general physicians at the University Medical Centres of Utrecht and Leiden. He has been lecturing and giving workshops in the Netherlands and abroad on subjects related to sexuality and has published, in Dutch, *Perpetrators of Incest* and *Sexual Abuse* as well as several articles on male sexual dysfunction and the manipulative strategies of sex callers.



## 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

**J**UBILO is a comparative religion project with an anthropological approach that aims to prevent and resolve conflicts, and to build peace through the interfaith dialogue, namely among Jewish, Christian and Muslim individuals and communities. 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 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, peace building, global counter-insurgency, democratisation and community building.

The Project is the result of an urgent demand by our society, and deals with the need for mutual understanding and dialogue between people within a peaceful coexistence. This is a problem that is of great concern and 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 groups, by 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 allows 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 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 AKGÜNDÜZ** - 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.

