



HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

Saturday, October 18, 2014 Program

8:00 - 8:40am

Registration, Refreshments, and Open Exhibits

8:40 - 8:45am

Opening Prayer – Reverend Samford Brown, Pastor of Victory Deliverance Church

8:45 - 9:00am

Introduction to the Conference

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors; Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives, Monmouth University

Ms. Christine Hill, Vice President, HCEF Board of Directors; President & Founder of ServiceAlliances, Inc.

9:00 - 10:00am

Challenges Facing the Palestinian Christians

Christians are enduring hard times in the Holy Land, especially as their lives are negatively affected by the Israeli occupation and growing extremism. This session will discuss the dire conditions currently affecting the Palestinian Christians such as high unemployment, restricted mobility and access to goods and services, regional instability with Iraq and Syria, and will identify signs of hope for the future, such as Pope Francis' pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2014 and his meeting with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople.

Moderator: Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM Chair of the JPIC Directorate of Holy Name Province, Silver Spring, MD

Panelists:

H.E. Theodosios “Atallah” Hanna, Archbishop of Sebastia, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem; recipient of the 2014 HCEF Faith and Tolerance Award

Fr. Michael McDonagh, International Advisor to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Bethesda, Maryland, USA

6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518
Bethesda, MD 20815
Office 301 951 9400; Fax 301 951 9402

Bethlehem, Palestine

46 Alatan Street
Bethlehem, Palestine
PO Box 14152, Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem

hcef@hcef.org; www.hcef.org

10:00 - 11:00am

Arab & Middle Eastern Christians Under Fire
Christians in the Middle East live under duress with many being the victims of extremism, occupation, and civil war. A case in point is the Islamic State that controls or claims to control large areas of Iraq and Syria, imposing discriminatory rules and practices against anyone exhibiting differences and executing those who refuse to comply. The panelists will discuss the past and current status of Arab and Middle Eastern Christians, especially in Syria and Iraq. Additionally, they will suggest ways we can assist.

Moderator: Dr. Hanna Hanania, Member of the HCEF Board of Directors

Panelists:

Father Drew Christiansen, S.J. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Global Human Development, Georgetown University

Yvonne Haddad, Ph.D., Professor of the History of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding

Mark L. Wasef, Esq., Sedgwick LLP attorney, board member of the Egyptian American Community Foundation, member of the Coptic Lawyers Association

11:00 - 11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:15 - 11:45 am

Remarks by HCEF President/ CEO Sir Rateb Rabie, KCHS & Special Visual Presentation

11:45am - 12:45pm

Engaging the Palestinian Diaspora in Nation-Building

The role of Palestinians living in the diaspora is one of ever-increasing importance. The panelists will share their experiences abroad, the motivation for their return, and the impact of their lasting connection with Palestine. In addition, they will explain what Palestinians in the diaspora can achieve for their home country. This will be followed by a video exposé on the *Know Thy Heritage* Leadership Program, and a discussion of its influence on diaspora engagement.

Moderator: Sir Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS, President/CEO of HCEF

Panelists:

Mr. Hashim Hani Shawa, Chairman of the Board & General Manager, Bank of Palestine; recipient of the 2014 HCEF Corporate Social Responsibility Award

Mr. Farouk Shami, Inventor & Founder of Farouk Systems; recipient of the 2014 HCEF Diaspora Award

Mr. Rafiq Masri, Technology Entrepreneur and Founder of Network Management Inc.

12:45 - 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 - 2:45pm

Keynote Address: “Framing the Current Issues in Palestine”

Her Excellency Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization; recipient of the 2014 HCEF Path of Peace Award

2:45 - 3:45pm

Empowering Women in Palestinian Society

Women play a critical role in Palestinian politics, civil society, and many other sectors. They form the backbone of Palestinian culture and society. This panel will elaborate on the important contributions women are making to Palestine in each of these fields and more. The panelists will also explore the unique qualities and social circumstances that have positioned Palestinian women in leadership roles, and how the empowerment of women benefits all of Palestinian Society.

Moderator: Mrs. Claudette Habesch, Member, HCEF Advisory Board; Former Secretary General of CARITAS Jerusalem

Panelists:

Noura Erakat, Esq. Human Rights Attorney and Activist, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University

Dr. Najat Khelil Arafat, President of the Arab Women’s Council

Ms. Bethany Saad, Program Coordinator at John Snow, Inc (JSI)

3:45 - 5:00pm

Giving Palestinian-Israeli Peace a Chance

Recently renewed U.S. diplomatic effort to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict had reached an impasse before another conflict erupted between Israel and Gaza in July. It is clear that past approaches are ineffective. This session will examine what must happen on the ground in Israel and Palestine and what policies US constituents should be advocating for in order for peace negotiations to resume and succeed.

Moderator: Mr. Ray Hanania, President/CEO of Urban Strategies Group, award winning Palestinian American columnist, author and stand-up comedian

Panelists:

Mr. Samer Makhoul, Executive Director, One Voice Palestine

Mr. Khaled Elgindy, Fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution

Mr. Seth Morrison, Congressional Outreach Committee of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

5:00pm

Closing Prayer