FIRST WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
NATIONAL COMMUNITY DIRECTORS' FORUM
PRAGUE, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2014

TENTATIVE AGENDA

"ADDRESSING THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING WORLD JEWRY"

Note: Program will have a minimum number of outside speakers, favoring exchange and discussion between all participants.

SUNDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2014

WJC STRUCTURE, POLICIES & PRIORITIES

09:00 **Welcome & Introduction** by Robert Singer, WJC CEO & Executive Vice President
(10 mins)

Welcome by Tomáš Kraus, Executive Director, Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic
(10 mins)

Introduction of Participants
Participants briefly introduce themselves and their communities
(90 mins)

The World Jewish Congress: Structure, Policies & Priorities
Presentation by Robert Singer
(25 mins)

11:15 Break

11:30 **Overview of WJC Diplomatic Efforts**
Maram Stern, WJC Deputy CEO for Diplomacy
Efforts at the United Nations: Betty Ehrenberg, Executive Director, WJC North America & WJC-USA, & Tom Gal, WJC UN Geneva Representative
(30 mins)

Overview of WJC Program Department
Sonia Gomes de Mesquita, WJC Chief Program Officer
(15 mins)

Overview of WJC Desks Structure & Governance Bodies
John Malkinson, WJC Chief Operating Officer, Protocol, Governance, Communications
(15 mins)

12:30 **LUNCH & VISIT OF PRAGUE JEWISH QUARTER**

CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING WORLD JEWRY

14:30 Round Table Discussions on issues affecting Jewish communities and responses to these challenges on a local, national, regional and global level.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Introduction: Robin Shepherd, Director of International Affairs, The Henry Jackson Society.
(10 mins).

Jihadist Attacks

- Belgium: Elie Vulfs, Coordinating Committee of the Jewish Community of Belgium
(10 mins)

NeoNazi/Extremist Political Parties

- Greece: Elias Frezis, Director, Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
(10 mins)

- Hungary: Peter Kunos, Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary
(10 mins)

Discussion

15:30 **INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION OF ISRAEL/BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS**

Introduction by Sam Grundwerg, Director General, WJC-Israel.
(10 mins)

Australia: Peter Wertheim, Executive Director, Executive Council of Australian Jewry
(10 mins)

Canada: Martin Sampson, Director, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
(10 mins)

Scandinavia & Finland: Alan Melchior, CEO, Jewish Community of Denmark; Dan Kantor, Executive Director, Jewish Community of Helsinki (Finland); Elisabeth Malting, Director, Jewish Community of Norway
(15 mins)

South Africa: Wendy Kahn, National Director, South African Jewish Board of Deputies
(10 mins)

United Kingdom: Gillian Merrron, CEO, Board of Deputies of British Jews
(10 mins)

Discussion

16:45 Break

17:00 **HOLOCAUST LEGACY**
Introduction by Maram Stern
(10 mins)

Holocaust Memory/Education
- 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Nazi Concentration & Extermination Camps: Sonia Gomes de Mesquita
(20 mins)

Restitution
- Looted Art: Maram Stern
(10 mins)

- Terezin Declaration & European Shoah Legacy Institute: Tomáš Kraus
(10 mins)

Discussion

18:00 **FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES**

- Brit Milah/Shechita: Rabbi Moche Lewin, Executive Director, Conference of European Rabbis; Ruben Vis, Secretary General, Organization of the Jewish Communities of the Netherlands & Discussion
(30 mins)

18:30 Close of Session

19:00 Dinner with guest speakers Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic H.E. Rudolf Jindrák, Israeli Ambassador to the Czech Republic H.E. Gary Koren, and President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic & WJC Vice President Petr Papoušek; with other invited ambassadors.

CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING WORLD JEWRY - CONTINUED

08:30 **SECURITY OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

Special Session devoted to discussion on situation of Security of Jewish Communities. Moderated by Robert Singer.

Presentation
Chani Ben-David, Security Consultant.
(30 mins)

Q&A
(15 mins)

Does WJC have a Role in Jewish Communal Security Matters: Evaluation, Training, Political Aspects?

Open Discussion
(30 mins)

09:45 **THE IRANIAN THREAT**

Presentation by Betty Ehrenberg
(10 mins)

Update on AMIA Bombing: Daniel Pomerantz, Executive Director, Argentine Jewish Mutual Association & Victor Garelik, Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations.
(5 mins)

10:00 **INTER-FAITH RELATIONS**

Round-table discussion on the importance of developing relations with other religions, and the WJC's role in this domain, moderated by Maram Stern, with interventions from various participants and communities active in interfaith relations.

Relations with Christian Churches
- Catholic Church
- Protestant Churches & Neo-Evangelical Churches
- Eastern & Orthodox Churches

Relations with Muslim Communities
- Challenge of Muslim representation
- Community, non-theological, basis for relations
- Case studies (Bosnia Herzegovina, France, Central Asia)

Relations with Non Abrahamic Faiths
- Asian belief systems

Discussion

11:00 Break

11:15 **WJC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Discussion on synergies between WJC programs and community projects. Moderated by Sonia Gomes de Mesquita.

Introduction
(5 mins)

JDCorps & Jewish Professionals Network: Jonas Karpantschof, JDCorps European Coordinator & Jewish Professionals Network Director
(15 mins)

Israel Council on Foreign Relations: Sam Grundwerg
(5 mins)

WJC Institute for Promoting Yiddish Culture & Language: Institute Director (t.b.c.) (10 mins)

International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians: Sonia Gomes de Mesquita
(10 mins)

Discussion
(15 mins)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **SOCIAL MEDIA, PRESS & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Presentations on Media Relations both in the traditional press (Newspapers/TV) and on Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter etc.), moderated by John Malkinson

- Introduction
(5 mins)

- Presentation on Social Media: Mladen Petrov, WJC SNS Manager
(15 mins)

- Observatorio Web Project: Ariel Seidler, Executive Director, Observatorio Web
(10 mins)

- Anti-Semitism on Internet/Cyber-Hate Project: Robert Ejnes, Director, CRIF
(15 mins)

- Traditional Press: Michael Thaidigsmann, WJC Director for Media Relations
(15 mins)

Discussion on how to enhance cooperation between communities and with WJC.

THE GLOBAL JEWISH FAMILY: WORKING TOGETHER TO BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS & NEEDS OF WORLD JEWRY

15:00 How can WJC best serve the needs of its affiliated Jewish communities? How can communities better assist each other? Discussion on Sharing of Information, Networking, Exchange of Best Practices and 'Calls to Action'/Coordinated Global Campaigns. Moderated by Robert Singer.

WJC INITIATIVES

Homes-From-Home: New York, Jerusalem & Brussels Offices
(5 mins)

Calls to Action: John Malkinson
(5 mins)

WJC Missions: Robert Singer
(5 mins)

Open Discussion
(45 mins)

16:00 **SPECIFIC NEEDS OF SMALL & REMOTE COMMUNITIES**

Discussion of specific problems experienced by small and/or remote communities and those with limited resources, with interventions from selected communities.
(30 mins)

16:30 **GOVERNANCE OF JEWISH COMMUNAL ORGANIZATIONS – ANY OTHER IDEAS, ISSUES, OTHER CONCERNS: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION**

Discussion on community structures, development of Jewish professionals, and fundraising for community projects. Opportunity for participants to raise any other ideas, issues or concerns they, or their communities, may have in an open discussion.
(30 mins)

17:00 **CONCLUSIONS**

Summary and conclusions of two days of discussion, and action plan for going forward, led by Robert Singer.

17:30 Close of Meeting

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Meeting, Accommodation & Meals at:

The President Hotel Prague
Nám. Curieových 100
CZ - 1 Prague
Czech Republic
Tel. +420 234 614 111
http://www.hotelpresident.cz/en/

All meals are Kosher under orthodox rabbinate supervision.