

חממת חיפה לחקר דתות

دفيئة حيفا لدراسة الأديان

The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies





Goals

- Promoting social and civil changes through religious communities.
- Empowering religious communities.
- Strengthening interfaith relations.
- Promoting shared society.



Rationale

- The majority of the public in Israel and the Middle East is religious or traditional.
- Religious communities constitute significant civic spaces.
- Different religious traditions share common values.
- The academia serves as a quality hub for promoting interfaith cooperation.

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Natural Resources

- Haifa is one the most religiously-diverse cities in the world and a exemplar of shared society.
- The University of Haifa – the most multicultural academic institution in Israel.



Initiatives and Activities: Multi-faith committees in mixed cities

- 20 diverse religious leaders, both men and women, began meeting at University of Haifa starting December 2023.
- Objectives and Activities: Shared sacred texts, community info, and simulated conflict case studies to build trust.
- Outcome: Joint public declaration for peace, creation of Haifa's multi-religious committee.
- Expansion to Ramle: New initiative in Ramle with diverse religious leaders, starting meetings this fall.



Initiatives and Activities: MA studies for religious leaders in interfaith dialogue

- Ground-breaking MA program in religious studies and interfaith dialogue
- Select group of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze religious leaders
- "People-to-people" emphasis on direct communication and collaboration
- An inaugural cohort of 15 participants
- Graduates to lead outreach efforts in their communities, fostering understanding and collaboration



Initiatives and Activities: The HLRS annual symposium of religion and diplomacy in the Middle East

- Role of religious leaders in fostering peace amidst regional turmoil
- Keynote address delivered by British Minister Lord Tariq Ahmad
- Panel discussions included academics, activists, and religious figures
- Culminating session led by President of Israel, Isaac Herzog



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Initiatives and Activities: Research groups

- The Legal Forum
- Gender Equality in the Druze Community
- The Christian Heritage of the Holy Land
- Israeli Islamic Theology, Praxis, and Institutions
- Intertwined Worlds



Initiatives and Activities: NEXUS

Forum for exploring the intersection of religion and politics
in the Middle East:

<https://nexus.haifa.ac.il/>



Thank you for your attention!

