



Public spaces, art and culture as driver for interreligious dialogue, intercultural interaction, and mediation

STUDY VISIT TO HAIFA, ISRAEL

Haifa, 23-24 October 2019

DRAFT AGENDA

Purpose of the meeting: Study visits represent the key learning pillar of the ICC programme. They contribute to the transfer of good practices and innovation among member cities and expose a range of policy-makers, practitioners and inclusion advocates to reflections and discussions with peers from across the world.

Haifa, home of Jewish new immigrants (coming mainly from the Former Soviet Union and Ethiopia), local Jewish (residents of Israel for more than 20 years), Arabs both of Muslim and Christian faith, as well as a new growing group of “non-Jewish non-Arabs immigrants” is considered the Israel’s most ethnically mixed city. All along recent history the city has also been the home of Protestant migrants from Germany, Jews from Romania, Bahá í and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, a reformist movement founded in India. The complexity of the picture is increased by the presence of Muslim Sunni, Christian Catholics and Orthodox, as well as Druze. Haifa is therefore a city with an active tradition of diversity, migration and ethnic co-existence which makes it a multi-ethnic and ‘shared’ Israeli city. The climate of deteriorating security and the political context in the region are challenges that the city strives to face to protect its unique nature.

The Study visit will present Haifa’s intercultural practices considering its wider historical and geographical setting, as well as history, geography and politics of the region. It will show how an open management of public space can promote participation, interreligious dialogue and intercultural interaction, as well as the potential that a shared vision of arts and culture can have with regards to living together peacefully in diversity.



**BUILDING BRIDGES,
BREAKING WALLS**

Registration of participants: 9:00-9:20 – Haifa City Hall

9:30-10:30 Opening session

- Welcoming remarks by Ms Ivana D'Alessandro, Head of the ICC Unit, Council of Europe, and Dr. Einat Kalisch Rotem, Mayor of Haifa (t.b.c.)
- Introduction to the programme and overview of Haifa intercultural approach

10h30-11:00 Haifa's specific context – history, geography and demographic paths (walking session)

- Dr. Valid Karcabi – Head of Preservation department

11:00-11:30 Walking tour to reach Takwin Labs

11h30-12:30 Visit of Takwin Labs Business Hub

- Arab / Jewish joint high tech venture

12h30-13:45 "Tasting Lunch" – oriental food at RULA restaurant

- Informal talk with Rula Dib, owner of the restaurant and social activist

14h15-16:30 Visit of Ein Hayam Neighborhood – a story of a Neighborhood

- Visit of Hayam mixed neighborhood, guided by the residents;
- Meeting with Kamil Sari, writer, author of a book portraying the neighborhood based on interviews with the inhabitants.

16:30-17:00 Visit of Elias the Profit cavern

- Venerated for centuries by Jews, Christians and Muslims the cave has a shared sanctuary where people from the three religions meet.

17:00 Ride to hotels

19:15 Dinner at "Fatush Bar Gallery", at the invitation of Haifa municipality

24th October 2019

- 9:00 Meeting point at Carmel Centre**
- 9:20-10:15 Lookout point on Haif – understanding the diversity of the city**
➤ How arts and culture heritage can bridge people
- 10h30 Coffe at Beit Hagefen, Arab Jewish cultural centre**
- 11:00-13:00 Art and education as tools for promoting pluralism and intercultural interaction**
➤ Presentation of several experiences
- 13h00-14:00 Lunch**
- 14h00-15:45 Visit of “Museum without walls”**
➤ An art trail in Waddi Nissnas – Haifa's Arab neighborhood. A project held in cooperation with the inhabitants of the neighborhood
- 15h45-16:00 Coffee break**
- 16h00-17:00 Intercultural participation**
➤ Presentation of two initiatives: “A city for all” and “Round tables for women policy making”
- 17h00-17:30 Wrap-up session and conclusions**