

## Joint Declaration on the Importance of Jewish-Christian Cooperation Today

The occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Emergency Conference on Anti-Semitism” held in Seelisberg in 1947 provides us with an opportunity to look back at the successful pioneering phase of Jewish-Christian cooperation in Switzerland. The attitudes of the Reformed Churches and the Roman Catholic Church toward Judaism have changed fundamentally, from a relationship of ambivalence and mistrust or even enmity to one of coexistence and brotherly and sisterly cooperation. Anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism have been reduced strongly in our country through a variety of religious, educational, social, and political initiatives.

In light of the current major changes within our increasingly pluralistic and complex society as a whole, we are confronted with the appearance of regressive and reactionary currents. The signers thus commit themselves now and in the future:

- to combat every form of discrimination based on ethnic background or beliefs;
- to work ceaselessly on the sensitive relationship between Jewish congregations and Christian churches;
- to seek out and promote mutual understanding and theological dialogue;
- and to draw on the best of one’s own religious traditions for an existence in peace and justice within Swiss society.

We call upon all members of our churches and religious societies to bear responsibility in this regard within their congregations and in the public arena, and to introduce their own initiatives to this end. We also call upon all public figures, whether they are active in political, economic, or social fields of endeavor, but also each and every member of society to actively work toward these goals. The Jews and Christians of our country are faced with the following challenges, which they can only tackle with combined forces:

- The lasting integration of an historical understanding of the Shoah into the consciousness of all members of society;
- An objective and constructive reaction to events in the Middle East, especially those in Israel/Palestine;
- The integration of the Muslims who live together with us in our society;
- The public and political presence of religious groups for the benefit of the entire populace;
- Effective assistance in the light of new social injustices;
- The advancement of concrete measures for the protection of our earth, which has been placed in our hands, and of God’s creation.

We would all like to encourage all members of society to join together in this work at all levels. We hope and trust that God, may his name be praised, allows these efforts to bear fruit.



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