

Safeguarding Holy Sites

Policy Consultation

Thursday 27th February 2014

777 UN Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York City



This consultation is taking place within the framework of an international, multi-faith initiative which has resulted in the creation of a Universal Code of Conduct on Holy Sites. The overarching goal of the meeting is to deepen the awareness and understanding of policymakers regarding the significant role that religion plays in world affairs, and the reciprocal role that policymakers can play in supporting interreligious interests and cooperation to promote peace. Its specific objective is that US and international policymakers have a greater understanding of the need for systematic cooperation among political, interreligious and other relevant bodies for the better protection of holy sites worldwide.

The Universal Code working group is promoting the advancement of a UN resolution on holy sites in the spirit of the Universal Code in the belief that political support for interreligious cooperation regarding the greater protection of holy sites is an essential component in preventing sacred places from becoming pawns in times of conflict.

This consultation will bring together US policymakers, UN mission representatives and other UN bodies, academics and NGO leaders for informal discussions and constructive dialogue on the subject.

Schedule

11:30am - 12:00pm	Registration and Brunch
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Introduction – Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, Religions for Peace Universal Code of Conduct on Holy Sites – an Overview Sharon Rosen, Co-Director, Search for Common Ground, Jerusalem
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Enhancing Peace and Security by Safeguarding Holy Sites – Trends and Possibilities Brian J. Grim Ph.D President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation Presentation and discussion
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Holy Sites - Making Memorials after Destruction in a Religiously Diverse World Rev. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, The Interfaith Center of New York Presentation and discussion
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Coffee Break
1:45pm - 2:45pm	Safeguarding Holy Sites – Reports on Universal Code pilots Bosnia Herzegovina: Emir Kovacevic, Senior Advisor, Inter-Religious Council in Bosnia Herzegovina Holy Land: Sharon Rosen, Co-Director, Search for Common Ground Jerusalem Indonesia: Stein Villumstad, Secretary General, European Religious Leaders, Religions for Peace
2:45pm - 3:45pm	The Road Ahead –The Role of Policy Makers: Practical Steps to Safeguard Sacred Places Participants' discussion
3:45pm - 4:00pm	Closing