



**Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies**  
**2nd Annual Symposium**  
**Religion and Diplomacy in the Middle East**



**7 May 2024**

**Agenda**

**13:00 - 20:00**

**13:00 | Reception**

**13:30 | Opening Remarks**

**Dr. Uriel Simonsohn**, Head of the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies (HLRS)

**13:45 | Keynote**

**Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon**, UK Minister of State for the Middle East,  
North Africa, South Asia, Commonwealth and United Nations

**14:30 | Panel 1 - Religion and Peace: Working at Grassroots Level**

**Moderator: Mr. Shlomi Eldar**, Journalist (Ch. 13), Filmmaker and Author

**Mr. Henrique Cymerman**, Reichman University and journalist

**Prof. Katherine Marshall**, Georgetown University

**Archbishop Youssef Abedallah Matta**, Archbishop of Akka

**Kadi Dr. Iyad Zahalka**, Director of Shari'a Courts, Israel Ministry of Justice

**15:30 | Break**

**16:00 | The Collaboration of Scholars and Practitioners**

Conversation between **Dr. Chris Seiple**, HLRS

and **Prof. Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili**, University of Pittsburgh

**16:30 | Working behind the Scenes**

**Moderator: Dr. Maayan Raveh**, HLRS

**Rabbi Michael Melchior**, Mosaica, Middle East Religious Peace Initiative

**Seikh, Dr. Eyad Amer**, Mosaica and Adam Center

**17:30 | Break**

**18:15 | Panel 2 - Religious Answers to Religious Radicalism**

**Moderator: Mr. Shlomi Eldar**, Journalist (Ch. 13), Filmmaker and Author

**Ms. Huda Abuarqoub**, Advisor -1325 UNSCR Women, Peace, and Security

**Congressman Geoffrey Davis**, Member of Congress, ret.

**Dr. Tomer Persico**, Shalom Hartman Institute

**Prof. James Walters**, London School of Economics

**19:30 | Rabbi David Rosen Honorary Session**

**President of the State of Israel Isaac Herzog**

**Rev. Johnnie Moore**, HLRS

**Prof. Mouna Maroun**, University of Haifa

**Dr. Uriel Simonsohn**, HLRS

**Rabbi David Rosen**, International President, Religions for Peace