

The Academic Conference
of
The Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw
and The Embassy of Israel in Poland

Unavoidable conflict?
Religious, national and cultural identities in quest of models of coexistence

Warsaw, 19-20 May 2014 (Monday-Tuesday)

The Seat of the Academy
Miodowa Str. 21c, 00-246 Warsaw

Our world is characterized by fast diffusion of cultures, dialogue of religions and faiths, dynamic transformations of religious, cultural and national identities, leading to the openness in view of the dissimilarity. On the other hand, however, those phenomena evoke anxieties and fears, identity problems and withdrawal of particular communities what in turn generates various conflicts. Israel is a country characterized by a huge cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity, experiencing both serious conflicts, and successes in the social integration. Poland constitutes the part of the European Union, in which nations once brought into conflict are now uniting in a joint action. Poland's opening to the world leads at the same time to the greater diversity and to the increase of the role of the minorities in the society. In a society that ceased to be monolithic the human being participates most frequently in different majority and minority identities due to the freedom of personal choice. In what way – both on the social and individual level – different religious, national and cultural identities can and have to coexist? Must this situation cause tensions and social conflicts, both on the different levels of the social life and in the perceiving and understanding oneself, own life and own place in the society?

The abovementioned issues will be undertaken during the academic conference organized together by the Embassy of Israel and the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw. The papers and discussion during the conference will address issues of coexistence of cultures, religions and nations, problems connected with the diversity, including prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination, problems of the minorities and the transformations of the identities both of the different communities and individuals. Referring to the experiences of Israel, Poland and other countries the participants of the conference will be trying to propose such models of coexistence, which are based on tolerance and mutual respect. The lectures will be published in the peer-reviewed post-conference book.

The detailed program of the conference may be found at: www.chat.edu.pl