

**MEETING OF MUSLIM LEADERS
AND
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SYNAGOGUES**

June 8, 2016

Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, D. C.

An introductory meeting was held on June 8, 2016, in Washington, D. C. between leaders of the National Council of Synagogues and a group of Muslim leaders from various American organizations. Rabbi David Straus, Chair of the National Council of Synagogues, and Imam Abdullah Antepli co-chaired the meeting.

Panels of speakers introduced various topics of interest. The first set of presentations included Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg speaking about the history of Jews in the United States, Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal speaking about the various denominational groups of American Jews and Rabbi Harold Berman speaking about the demography of Jews in America.

Muslim presentations included Haroon Moghul giving an overview of Islam and Muslims in America, Parvez Ahmed discussing major Muslim organizations and Maggie Mitchell Siddiqi reviewing issues of religious leadership and mosques in America.

There were many questions, and there was much discussion. Everyone agreed that more time should have been made for discussion and that the schedule of presentations was too ambitious.

The second group of presentations included Rabbi Lewis Eron speaking about living as a minority in a majority culture, Rabbi David Sandmel speaking about anti-Semitism in America and Rabbi Noam Marans discussing the relationship of American Jews and Israel.

Muslim presentations included Wajahat Ali speaking about Islamophobia, its sources and funders, Rabi Chaudry and Alejandro Beutal speaking about the myths and realities of extremism and homegrown terrorism and Suhail Khan reviewing responses on American Muslims to the 2016 election campaign and previous election campaigns.

All agreed that it was a productive day and expressed the hope of meeting again soon, perhaps in Washington shortly after the 2016 presidential election.