

Presenter: Jeremy Jones, Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council

Title: **“Thinking locally, acting globally”**

Panel: Contemporary History

In recent times, there have been significant changes in the way antisemitism is spread, where it is manifested and the forms it takes. This is the result of a number of factors, with modern communications technology having had a major impact in a number of ways. An examination of the way various antisemitisms have mutated in a number of political, social, cultural and religious environments leads to the conclusion that previous templates for responses to antisemitism are no longer sufficient and may no longer be relevant.

This paper will look at contemporary manifestations of case studies in Australia, a multicultural liberal democracy with a well-established Jewish community, and Muslim-majority countries in South East Asia, in which Jews are ever-present in the societal imagination although rarely encountered in reality.

Based on the presenter’s personal experiences having used education, law and public debate as a means of combating antisemitism in Australia and in conducting lecture tours to Islamic institutions in South-East Asia, this paper will urge a reconsideration of strategies which over-emphasise local responses rather than coordinated, sophisticated international responses to what are increasingly international concerns.

There is a need to have a cohort of experts, with good knowledge of the lived religious and social experiences of contemporary Jews and Muslims, willing and able to engage at both leadership and grassroots levels with Muslims in a variety of situations, including in the academy and in religious institutions. Where possible, Muslim opinion leaders should be encouraged to become involved in organised dialogue with Jews, preferably in Israel.