



November 15-17
2024

#ASWR2024

ASWR
PROGRAM



CHURCHES FOR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE



**AND STILL WE RISE SUMMIT
JERICHO**

WHAT IS ASWR?

And Still We Rise is a women's empowerment program at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) that creates a safe space for women to build community, invite transformation, and take action.

Christians of all backgrounds from the Holy Land and the international community are invited to come together to participate in this important gathering, elevating the voices of women committed to pursuing peace within themselves and their communities.

SUMMIT THEMES

- 1- Spirituality (integrated)
- 2- Family
- 3- Trauma and Healing
- 4- Human Rights
- 5- Collective Liberation

DAY 1

Friday, November 15

Men and Women Praying side by Side for Society,
Peacebuilding, and the Church - Men and Women Attending
Main theme: Spirituality

11:00 AM Coffee Break, Mingling, Local Registration

12:00 PM Welcome (Introductions)

12:10 PM Greetings from the Palestinian Authority

12:30 PM Bishops' Blessing

12:45 PM Logistics and Housekeeping

1:00 PM ASWR Kick-Off

1:30 PM Embodied Worship

2:00 PM Fireside Chat #1

2:50 PM Closing Prayer

3:00 PM Hotel Check-In & Coffee Break

4:30 PM Worship

5:00 PM Fireside Chat #2

5:45 PM Thanking Invitees of Honor

6:00 PM Activity (Women-Only)

6:45 PM Lord's Prayer (Closing)

7:00 PM Dinner

DAY 2

Saturday, November 16

Peace in our Homes and Community
- Women Only -

Theme 1: Family

Theme 2: Trauma and Healing

10:00 AM Embodied Prayer

11:00 AM Engagement Session #1: Family

12:30 PM Coffee Break

1:00 PM Engagement Session #2: Trauma &
Resilience (Can We Talk)

2:30 PM Creative Space

3:00 PM Coffee Break

4:00 PM Self-Care

4:45 PM Free Discussion Time

5:30 PM Debrief & Worship

6:30 PM Dinner

DAY 3

Sunday, November 17

Active Transformation

- Women Only -

Theme 3: Collective Liberation

Theme 4: Human Rights and Action

9:00 AM Embodied Prayer & Reflection

9:30 AM Engagement Session #3: Human Rights & Action

11:00 AM Hotel Check Out

11:30 AM Selfcare Time

12:00 PM Can We Talk

1:00 PM Coffee Break

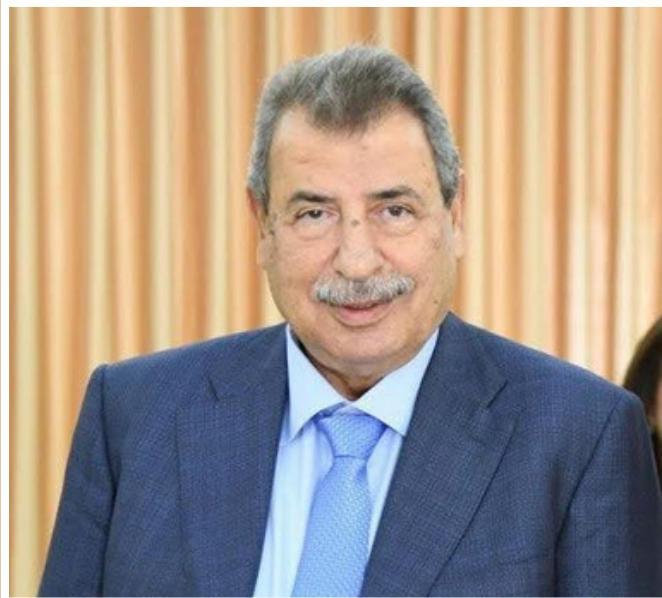
1:30 PM Engagement Session #4: Collective Liberation

3:00 PM Where do we go from here?

4:00 PM Closing Worship

4:45 PM Departures (Bus departs at 5:00)

HONORED INVITEES



Dr. Ramzi Khoury, Minister and Chairman of
The Palestinian National Fund

Ramzi Khoury, born in 1946, is the chairman of the Palestinian National Fund (PNF) which is responsible for funding the PLO's activities and constituent organizations. In his capacity as chairman of the PNF, Khoury is automatically a member of the PLO's Executive Committee.

He is a member of Fatah.

Khoury was close to Yasser Arafat, serving as his chief of staff between 1994 and 2005. He was appointed by Mahmoud Abbas to head the PNF in 2005, replacing Nizar Abu Ghazala. But he was only formally appointed chairman by the Palestinian Central Council in February 2022.

Although not a member of the Palestinian government, he holds the rank of minister.

Dr. Khoulood Daibes is Executive Manager of the Bethlehem Development Foundation. She joined the Bethlehem Development Foundation as CEO in December 2021. She is an architect, former politician, diplomat, and a mother of three. Dr. Daibes has over 25 years of experience in the fields of cultural heritage, tourism, and public diplomacy. After completing her Ph.D. degree in architecture from the University of Hannover in Germany, she returned to Palestine in 1994 to work on various national restoration projects especially in the Bethlehem Area as director of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation. Prior to becoming the Ambassador of Palestine in Germany from 2013 until 2021, Dr. Daibes served as Minister of Tourism and Antiquities from 2007 until 2012 and as Minister of Women Affairs from 2007 to 2009. She is a member of the Presidential Committee of the restoration of the Church of Nativity and a board member of several local organizations.



Dr. Khoulood Daibes

HONORED INVITEES



Judge Scarlet Bishara
The Ecclesiastical Court of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Judge Bishara is the first female judge in the Ecclesiastical Court of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). She pursued her postgraduate education at the Beirut Arab University (BAU), where she earned a legal degree. She received training in the Sharia' Courts as well as Catholic and Orthodox Family ecclesiastical courts. She contributed significantly to the creation and installment of the reformed Personal Status Law of the ELCJHL, where she was assigned to be a judge at the Lutheran Court of First Instance since 2015.

Her current position is the legal advisor of the governor of Bethlehem and Bethlehem governorate.

Judge Scarlet is a valuable member of many committees in Palestine such as: the Women's Protection Team in Bethlehem, the National Referral System for Women Victims of Violence, and the Legal Aid Project for Abused Women in Ecclesiastical Courts. She is cofounder of Al-Hakimat Council with judge Somod Damiri from Sharia Court. The council is an initiative under the umbrella of the ELCJHL to promote civic rights and citizenship and to promote women's rights in the Palestinian society and for women to acquire decision making roles in their community).

Judge Scarlet is a women's rights activist who has published multiple studies analyzing women's rights from a legal perspective.

A public speaker who participated in numerous lectures, she represented the Ecclesiastical Court of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land at numerous international conferences on gender justice, including those held at the UN.

Rev. Sally Azar is 28 and was born in Jerusalem. She grew up bilingual; she got Arabic from her mother and German from her father. Sally has studied in a German school called Schmidt Girls College for 12 years and finished with an Abitur. She grew up as a pastor's child, so the church was her second home.

She has finished her Bachelor of Theology at the Near East School of Theology (N.E.S.T.) in Beirut, Lebanon 2018. She Studied in Germany for 2 years for a Masters in Intercultural Studies and finished in 2020. 2020-2022 she was in Berlin, in an internship in the church there. January 22, 2023 she was ordained as the first Palestinian woman pastor in Jerusalem in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. A council member in The Lutheran World Federation till 2023, now she is an adviser to the council since 2023. In 2020 elected she was a Board member in Act Alliance representing the youth. She has also been the World Day of Prayer chair of the committee in Palestine for the past 2 years.



Rev. Sally Azar
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan
and the Holy Land

HONORED INVITEES



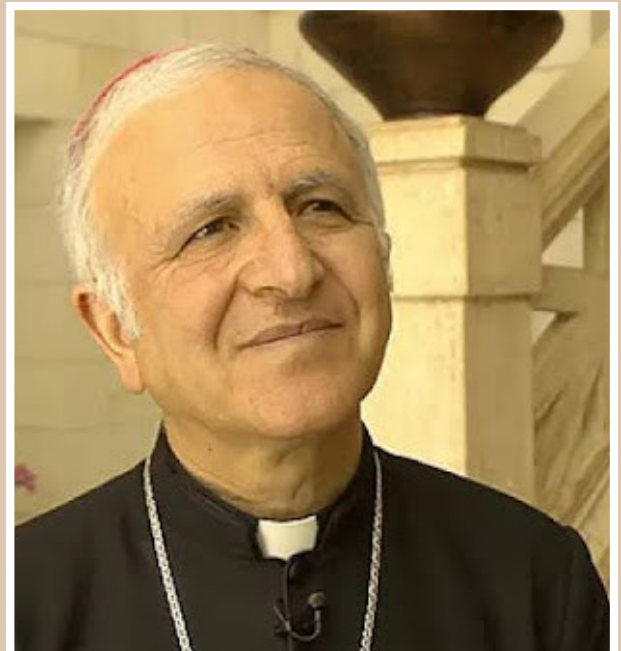
Rev. Fadi Diab
The Episcopal Church

Rev. Fadi Diab is a well-respected theologian in the Palestinian community and a prophetic voice for justice and peace. He also provides leadership and pastoral support to the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School (AEES), the Episcopal Technological & Vocational Training Center (ETVTC), and the Diocesan-sponsored Diabetes & Cardiovascular Clinic, which provides outpatient treatment to those suffering from diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. He is also the Rector of a sister parish to St. Andrew's, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Birzeit, which is constructing a retirement home and senior center. In August of 2022, St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah was forcibly entered and severely damaged by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) in an early-morning raid targeting the human rights group Al-Haq, whose offices were located in an adjacent building. This raid was condemned by the Diocese of Jerusalem and international organizations.

H.E. William Hanna Shomali is a Palestinian Catholic prelate who serves as an auxiliary bishop for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

He is the General Vicar and Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem. Born on May 15, 1950 in Beit Sahour, Bethlehem province; ordained Priest on June 24, 1972; appointed Titular Bishop of Lydda and Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine on April 7, 2010; and ordained Bishop on May 27, 2010 in Bethlehem.

On February 4, 2017 nominated as Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan.



H.E. Bishop William Shomali
Auxiliary Bishop for the
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

HONORED INVITEES



Archbishop Attallah Hanna
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
of Jerusalem

Born in 1965 in the Galilean village of Al Rameh, Theodosius (Attallah) Hanna attended local primary and secondary schools before entering the Clerical Patriarchate School in Jerusalem. In 1983 he matriculated at Thessalonica University in Greece in the Faculty of Theology. In 1991 he was ordained as a deacon and priest in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. He was appointed professor of Church History and Arab Civilization at the Arab Teachers College in Haifa. He is an active and an effective member of the international ecumenical movement both at local and the regional level who enhanced dialogue in bringing various churches together to work towards Christian unification. In addition, he actively participated in Christian-Muslim dialogue to help foster the spirit of cooperation and unity in Palestine. He participated in the work of the Christian-Islamic group in the Middle East Council of Churches; in this capacity he represented the Jerusalem Patriarchate for this council's Heritage Committee. He is a well-known author, and his articles have been periodically published in various newspapers as well as in local and international magazines. As a member of the Palestinian National Committee he helped create a better understanding about Palestine's status in international law. Through his emphasis on the true national and cultural traditions of Christianity to educate both visitors and residents alike, he has steadfastly carried out his mission to maintain Palestine's Christian heritage. On 1st of December 2005 he was unanimously elected by the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem as Archbishop of Sebaste. On 24th of December 2005 his investiture was celebrated in the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Rifat Kassis has long been active in the Palestinian struggle, has over 35 years of experience in human rights, mainly child rights, working in Middle East, Northern Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe. He founded the Palestinian section of the global child rights movement, Defense for Children International, co-founded its movement in the Arab World and was elected International President for two terms in Geneva.

Furthermore, he was selected to be the State of Palestine candidate for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

He co-founded the Alternative Tourism Group (ATG), Occupied Palestine and Global Heights Advocacy Initiative (OPGAI) and The National Coalition of Christian Organizations (NCCOP).

He served as Executive Director of EJYMCA and founded the YMCA/YWCA Olive Tree Campaign. He also ran the WCC /EAPPI program in Geneva and worked as the country director of the Lutheran World federation in Jordan.

He is one of the co-authors of Kairos Palestine document and its General Coordinator as well as its global coalition.

Currently he is running a consulting agency called GRIP Consulting.

He published two books "Palestine: A Bleeding Wound in the World's Conscience" and "Kairos for Palestine". In addition, he has contributed to 16 different books in different languages.



Rifat Kassis
Co-Author of Kairos Palestine

HONORED INVITEES



Dr. Varsen Aghabekian is the Palestinian Authority's state minister for foreign affairs and expatriates. She previously served as commissioner general of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights. Aghabekian is of Armenian heritage and has a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh

H.E. Dr. Varsen Aghabekian
The Palestinian Authority Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Expatriates



LOCAL ASWR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Rulla Sarras
ASWR Leadership Team

Rulla Sarras is a PhD candidate at the Business science faculty at Manouba University – Tunis 2021-present, specializing in Entrepreneurship and Business Development with focus on rural women in the West Bank. She has a PhD degree in Strategic Planning and Crisis Management, Leeds International College, United Kingdom. Ms. Sarras has extensive experience in multi-sector programs, institutional operations and management of both development and humanitarian responses. She has been providing technical support and/or assistance with combined provisions of livelihood support/start-up small enterprises, integrated rural accessibility of basic services, capacity building of women and youth to access markets/economic opportunities, vocational and technical skills, under bilateral and or multi-donor funding.

Ms. Sarras held various managerial positions in prominent national and international institutions among which, Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), NGO Development Center (NDC), the World Bank, USAID projects and currently Director of Funding and Development at Rural Women Development Society (RWDS).

Ms. Sarras is a community development activist where she contributed to supporting the establishment of various organizations and building innovative and responsive programs and models.

Shireen Awwad Hilal is a Palestinian Christian working for peace. She is Director of the Community Outreach at Bethlehem Bible College and has a passion to work with different local organization towards peace building and also creating a better future for the Palestinians in the Land rather than leave the country to seek a future outside Palestine.

As part of her work she desires to see women leaders in the area who are educated and trained toward leadership, reconciliation, nonviolence, rights, gender Equality and other issues that are essential in daily life, especially in Palestine. Most importantly she sees the Lord's guidance in all her work or initiatives.

Shireen holds a BA English degree in Literature minor in Translation from Bethlehem University In 1999. An MA degree in Educational Administration from Texas A & M University, USA in 2002 and an MBA from Tel Aviv University 2014. She and her very supportive husband "Ibrahim "and has 4 children – Miron 15, Marcele 14, Maria 10, and Rayan 6.



Shireen Awwad Hilal

LOCAL ASWR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Eilda Zaghmout

Born and raised in Amman/ Jordan to a Palestinian refugee family from Beit Jala, moved to live in Palestine in 1999. She pursued her BA degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Bethlehem University. Eilda worked in the business and non-profit sectors for 10 years before she got certified as a 200-hour Yoga Teacher in Power Yoga with the Olive Tree Yoga Foundation in 2013. She is a 95-hour certified Kids Yoga teacher with the Baptiste Institute- USA and completed both her Level 1 Baptiste Training in the USA in 2016 and Level 2 in 2018. Eilda is also trained in Yoga for kids with Cancer and also Yoga for Trauma. Eilda Co-Founded Beit Ashams for Self Development in Beit Jala; a community center and the First Specialized Yoga Studio in Palestine in 2015. In 2019, Eilda also became the "Head of Meditation" at TAWAZON, the first Meditation & Mindfulness App in Arabic. And in the same year, she became the Wellness trainer at Al Jabal Business Incubator. She is a mother of 2 boys, Jude and Jilan. She aspires to take the people in a journey of Self Discovery through Yoga to see their new way of being in making the change in this Holy Land.

Nisreen Mansour is an experienced project management professional with a strong track record in managing and coordinating development projects in Palestine. Currently, she serves as the Project Manager for the AFAQ Project. With over a decade of experience at Bethlehem University, she has successfully managed and coordinated multi donor-funded projects. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Professional Diploma in Project Management. Since 2018, she has also been providing services as a Master of Ceremonies and Event Moderator, organizing quiz nights, team-building, and entertainment activities.



Nisreen Mansour

LOCAL ASWR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Maria Wålsten

Maria Wålsten is the Regional Representative for Act Church of Sweden based in Jerusalem. She is a teacher by profession (Religions and Psychology). She has lived in Jerusalem two times, first as director of the Swedish Christian Study Centre, and now as representative for Act Church of Sweden.



INTERNATIONAL ASWR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Rev. Liz Walker, International ASWR Leadership Team and Facilitator

A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, and an ordained Presbyterian minister, Liz Walker has long been actively involved in a healing ministry. Liz Walker is the founding director of The Can We Talk Network, a nationwide collective of spiritually inspired, community based, clinically supported programs addressing America's epidemic of post-traumatic stress and grief through the healing power of sharing personal stories. Can We Talk has been replicated in 15 different communities around the country. As the first Black woman to anchor the Boston-area evening news, Liz Walker found herself in an industry that defined the neighborhood of Roxbury largely by violence.

In New England, Liz Walker is still best known as one of the region's most popular television news anchors, a position she held for 21 of her 28-year television news career. She is the recipient of numerous honorary academic degrees, community honors and professional awards, including two Emmys, symbolizing the highest recognition from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as well as an Edward R. Murrow award for journalistic excellence.

Advocate, Educator and Strategic Planner, her first career began in education, K-12, staff development and higher education, followed by 18 years on staff at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois. She has traveled to over 38 countries exploring or working. As an educator, Susan has worked in the area of peacemaking and conflict resolution and as a strategic planner with several peacemaking organizations and nonprofits. She has a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Sustainable Faith which continues to deepen her relationship with God and others. Listening to life stories and hosting folks from around the world gives her great joy.



Susan Shadid

INTERNATIONAL ASWR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Sandra Van Opstal

Sandra Maria Van Opstal is a second-generation Latina pastor, activist, author, and a powerful leading voice on the intersection of faith and justice. She is the Executive Director of Chasing Justice and author of *The Next Worship*, as well as a contributor to the New York Times bestselling book *A Rhythm of Prayer*.

Angela M. Brown is the Exec. Dir. of Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships at The Perfecting Church in Sewell, NJ. Angela is also co-founder of Perfecting Ministries in Sewell, where she serves as executive director of Loving Our Cities, a 501c3 community development corporation with a mission to enhance the quality of life in distressed communities—locally and abroad—through transformative advocacy and restorative engagement. A recognized community leader, speaker and author, she leverages nearly 20 years of experience in public relations, int'l affairs, issues management and advocacy to amplify the voices of women, champion causes of the marginalized and oppressed and foster reconciliation where we live, work, serve and worship. In addition, Angela is an ordained minister who holds a certificate in nonprofit management from La Salle University, attended Hampton University and graduated from Rowan in 1998 with a B.A. in communication and a certificate in African American Studies.



Angela Brown

FACILITATORS



Dalia Qumsieh
Facilitator

Dalia Qumsieh is a human rights lawyer, specializing in legal human rights advocacy (Palestinian bar, 2013), and the Founder and Director of the Balasan Initiative for Human Rights - Palestine. She is a graduate of Birzeit University School of Law (LL.B), Ramallah-Palestine (2009). She obtained her graduate degree in International Law (2009), and International Administration (2010), from the Law School of the University of Paris 1- Pantheon – Sorbonne, Paris, France. Prior to establishing BIHR, she worked in various Palestinian human rights organizations as senior legal advocacy consultant.

Dana Baker (B. A., B. Arch., M. Div.) is a member of the Can We Talk leadership team. Dana also joined the Boston Collaborative in November of 2020 in order to launch the Boston Trauma Healing Collaborative. She also serves on the Greater Things for Greater Boston directional team and on the Board of Directors of Evangelicals4Justice. Dana has over 30 years of experience in urban and multicultural ministry in greater Boston. She served on the staff of Grace Chapel for 18 ½ years until March of 2019, when she left to begin consulting with the Cory Johnson Program for Post-Traumatic Healing. Prior to joining the staff at Grace Chapel, Dana practiced architecture for 20 years before feeling called to vocational ministry.



Dana Baker
Can We Talk Facilitator

FACILITATORS



Lamma Mansour

Lamma Mansour is a DPhil student in Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, supervised by Prof. Jane Barlow and a recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship. Her research focuses on higher education policy, with a focus on interventions aiming to support students from marginalized communities in higher education institutions. Lamma has recently completed an MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy evaluation with distinction in the department. Prior to this, she received her BSc in Psychology on the academic excellence scholarship Ofakim at the University of Haifa in 2018 where she explored the inter-generational transmission of collective memory of second and third-generations of the Palestinian Nakba. Alongside her DPhil studies, Lamma is part of the research team evaluating the impact of the Noor Initiative which aims to support and empower young Palestinian Arab women in Israel.

Rania Murra is the general director at the Arab Educational Institute in Bethlehem. She has served on the Pax Christi International board, the Edward Said Conservatory, currently serves as a board member for Wings of Hope, Bethlehem. She has participated in dozens of workshops on interpersonal communication, women in leadership, youth leadership, conflict and crisis management, advocacy, nonviolence and mediation.



Rania Murra

CMEP STAFF



Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon
CMEP's Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon is the Exec. Dir. of Churches for Middle East Peace and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). Cannon formerly served as the senior director of Advocacy and Outreach for World Vision U.S. on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC; as a consultant to the Middle East for child advocacy issues for Compassion International in Jerusalem; as the executive pastor of Hillside Covenant Church located in Walnut Creek, California; and as director of development and transformation for extension ministries at Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Illinois. Cannon holds an MDiv from North Park Theological Seminary, an MBA from North Park University's School of Business and Nonprofit Management, and an MA in bioethics from Trinity International University. She received her first doctorate in American History with a minor in Middle Eastern studies at the University of California (Davis) focusing on the history of the American Protestant church in Israel and Palestine and her second doctorate in Ministry in Spiritual Formation from Northern Theological Seminary. She is the author of several books including the award-winning *Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World* and editor of *A Land Full of God: Christian Perspectives on the Holy Land*. Her work has been highlighted in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christianity Today*, *Leadership Magazine*, *The Christian Post*, *Jerusalem Post*, *EU Parliament Magazine*, *Huffington Post*, and other international media outlets.

Destiny Magnett is the Programs and Outreach Manager at Churches for Middle East Peace where she serves as the primary liaison for church partners, collaboratively builds CMEP's online and in-person programming, and co-leads the regional coordinator program. Destiny holds a Master of Theological Studies Degree and Religion & Public Life Certificate from Harvard Divinity School, where her work focused on decoloniality, religious ethics, peacebuilding, and religion in the public sphere. She also holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from Grinnell College. Prior to joining CMEP, Destiny has experience working at the intersection of religion and peacebuilding in a variety of spheres, including the Office of International Religious Freedom at the U.S. Department of State, Search for Common Ground-Jordan, Harvard's Office of Religion and Public Life, and on the digital humanities project Mapping Islamophobia. While born and raised in Kansas, she is now based in the Boston area.



Destiny Magnett
CMEP's Programs and
Outreach Manager

CMEP STAFF



Hannah Hutton
Facilitator and
CMEP's Middle East and Events Coordinator

Hannah is the Middle East and Events Coordinator at Churches for Middle East Peace. She earned her B.A. in Humanities from the University of Louisville with a concentration in literature and religious studies. She has been involved in various organizations over the last twenty years that work to create a safe space for dialogue between cultures and religions. Hannah is passionate about people, hearing their stories and amplifying their voices. She is starting her Master's in Peace and Justice from St. Stephen's University.

SUPPORTERS

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- Anonymous Grant
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