



National Council of Jews Christians and Muslims

Amsterdam

The city characterised by its diversity,

The city where persecuted Armenians, Huguenots and Jews came to find safe haven.

The city that prospered because of the freedom it gave to the printed word.

The city also called Mokum, an affectionate Yiddish translation for this city, ha Makom being the official Hebrew word for city.

Where 70 years ago in 1948 the World Council of Churches was established.

1948, also the year in which the State of Israel was set up and the Jewish people after almost 2000 years of exile around the world, could re-establish their own country and a promise of security.

1948, also the year in which the dream of the Palestinians for a country of their own was not realised.

This is the famous poem of Jacob Israel de Haan

*He who in Amsterdam often said: Jerusalem
and once been driven to Jerusalem
says in a daydreaming voice
Amsterdam, Amsterdam*

Jerusalem, city of gold, world city of peace, but these days more contested than ever before.

We each have our own and specific stories about Jerusalem, but fail to grasp the story of the other.

Everyone that claims Jerusalem as their own city but does not know nor wants to know the story of the other does not contribute to a peaceful solution.

Just praying for peace does not work, nor do protests or flag waving bring real peace any closer.

Today let each of us make a **promise** to finally start listening to the story of the other, in order to bring the peace of Jerusalem closer, as a real possibility.

Hanneke Gelderblom-Lankhout

Jan Post Hospers

Ebubekir Ozturk