ICCRR International collaborative conflict resolution and resilience symposium

identity and survival:
The real stories of Middle Eastern minorities

What the world misunderstands about the Middle East

JANUARY 15, 2026, AMSTERDAM

10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM | LUNCH | 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

iccrr.nl@gmail.com

https://shops.link2ticket.nl/_10Qqr

The ticket price € 17,50.

Student ticket € 5,00

The symposium will take place at a location that will be announced the day before the symposium for safety reasons.

This international symposium takes a closer look at media narratives and their ideas that strongly influence Western policy. We analyze the complex role of sectarianism, tribal structures and loyalty in the Middle East.

SCHEDULE

Panel: What the World Gets Wrong About the Middle East

Breaking narratives, Misconceptions about sects, tribes, and loyalties, Understanding nuances beyond headlines

Panel Duration: *45–60 minutes*
moderated discussion 10–15 min

Moderator: Ellie Ochenberg
Fireside Chat: "Media, Truth, and Representation: Who Tells the Minority Story?"
Participants: Ellie Ochenberg+ Akram Mansour

Themes:
- *How global media covers (or ignores) Middle Eastern minorities*
- *Impact of misinformation*
- *What stories resonate with audiences in the West*

Fireside Chat: "Faith, Identity, and Persecution: A Middle Eastern Christian Perspective" Participants: *Shiri Fein-Grossman+ Andrew Tucker*

Themes:
- *Christianity's 2,000-year-old presence in the Middle East*
- *Why Middle Eastern Christians are both ancient and endangered*
- *How international legal frameworks (ICC/ICJ) help or harm minority survival*
- *The gap between "legal justice" and lived experience*
- *What Western audiences often misunderstand about Christian minorities*

Roundtable 1: "Shared Fears, Shared Futures: How Do We Build Resilience?"
Prompt the audience (Jewish community under pressure) to reflect on parallels.

Questions:
- *What minority experiences felt familiar?*
- *What lessons apply to Jewish communities today?*
- *What alliances matter now?*

Roundtable 2: "The Role of Diaspora in Shaping the Region's Future"
Questions:
- *What responsibility do diaspora communities have?*
- *How does advocacy work from abroad?*
- *How can stories be told ethically and effectively*