

SIMONE SUSSKIND-WEINBERGER
CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born: 19.10. 1947, Brussels, Belgium
Married to David Susskind, 2 children: Noa and Amos
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EDUCATION

1965-1970 : Licence en Sciences Sociales de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles
1966-1970 : Candidature en Sciences économiques de l'Université Libre de
Bruxelles

LANGUAGES

French: native language.
English: fluent.
Dutch: conversant.
Hebrew: fluent speaking skills, partial reading and writing.
German: conversant.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I 1970-1996: Secular Jewish Community Center CCLJ

1970-1986 General Secretary

1986-1996 President

A Jewish cultural center developing educational, cultural and political programs based in Brussels.

Some major initiatives formulated and carried out within this framework:

1988: Give Peace a Chance: first public encounter between Israeli and Palestinian personalities (Abba Eban, Chaim Zadok, Zyad Abu Zyad, Hanna Siniora ...)- Brussels, under the auspices of Claude Cheysson, then Member of the European Commission.

1989: Give Peace a Chance - Women Speak Out: first public dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli women (including Hanan Ashrawi, Leila Shahid, Zaheera Kamal, Shulamit Aloni, Naomi Chazan, Yael Dayan)- Brussels, leading to the "Brussels Declaration", which was the basis of a new cooperation, encounters, demonstration and common activities of Palestinian and Israeli women.

1992: Project "Someday": a national exhibition of Israeli and Palestinian children's drawings including a pedagogical project on education for peace (Brussels, Liège, Antwerp), with the support of Queen Fabiola.

1992: Give Peace a Chance - Women Speak Out: second encounter of Palestinian and Israeli women leading to the creation of the "Jerusalem Link - A Women's Joint Venture for Peace", a project of cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian women, based in Jerusalem, supported by the European Commission.

1993: "Six hours for peace in the Middle East", an event to support the signing of the Oslo Agreement between the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the Chairman of the PLO, Yaser Arafat, with the participation of over 1000 people, including all major Belgian political figures.

II 1994-1995 INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT WITH INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

1994: " Mediterranean and European Women's Conference ", with the support of the European Commission and the Moroccan Government, held in Marrakech. A first Euro-Mediterranean encounter, 18 months before the launching of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The conference ended with the drafting of the Marrakech Declaration and the establishment of a series of women's regional networks.

1994: "Brussels and Jerusalem - From Conflict to Solution", a conference introducing the institutional and political system of Brussels in order to think of the future of the city of Jerusalem, with the "Harry Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace" of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the "Centre d'Etudes des Relations Internationales et stratégiques" -CERIS of the Free University of Brussels - Jerusalem. An initiative supported by the European Commission and the Brussels Region.

1995: Festival "The Art of Peace", a festival of Israeli and Palestinian cultures (more than 80 artists, musicians, filmmakers, actors performed during this event) - Brussels. Yossi Beilin, then Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords and Yaser Abed Rabbo, Minister of Culture of the Palestinian Authority opened the Festival, as well as Manuel Marin, then Member of the European Commission.

III 1995 - present A.I.M. (Actions in the Mediterranean)

President and Founder

An association aiming at promoting and developing cooperation between women from the Southern Mediterranean and European women and supporting dialogue and conflict resolution between women.

Main activities:

1996: "Give Peace a Chance - Women Speak out in the Balkans": presentation of the "Jerusalem Link" to 60 women who came from all the countries which emerged from Former Yugoslavia, in the presence of Queen Fabiola. - Brussels
(with the support of the European Commission and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

1997: "Give Peace a Chance - Women Speak out in Cyprus", first dialogue between 50 Greek and Turkish Cypriot women. - Brussels
The model of the Jerusalem Link was presented to the participants who expressed their interest in discussing the possibility of developing a similar process in Cyprus (with the support of the European Commission and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

1997: Coordination and setting up of an International Committee to support "**Sharing Jerusalem - Two Capitals for Two States**", an event organized by the Jerusalem Link, which gathered in the city thousands of Israelis and Palestinians who took part in a variety of political, cultural and academic activities, as well as a major demonstration in Jerusalem (with the support of the European Commission and multiple agencies and governments).

1997: Encounter between Algerian women journalists and Belgian women journalists.: 15 Algerian journalists invited by a collective of Belgian journalists, following the great massacres which took place in Algeria during the summer. - Brussels (with the support of the European Commission).

1998: A second encounter, in London, between Turkish and Greek Cypriot women aiming at developing in the island, a structure similar to the Jerusalem Link: the Cyprus Link - London (with the support of the European Commission).
In the following months, a common project agreed upon by most of the participants from both communities was signed.

2000: "Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the Promotion of Women in Economic Development", an initiative of the Belgian government in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership - Brussels (with the support of the European Commission).

2001: Preparation and coordination for the Belgian Presidency of the European Union of the Regional Forum: "**The Role of Women in Economic Development: the Equality Dimension between Men and Women in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**"-Brussels (with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission). Following this initiative, the European Commission will launch at the end of 2003, a **Regional program for women in economic development**.

2002: "**Israeli and Palestinian women at the Negotiating Table**" ; a project supported by the Belgian government

2002-2003 : "**Cypriot women in Dialogue**" ; a project supported by the Belgian government and the European Commission

2003-2004: "Belgian and Iranian Women" a project aiming at developing a friendship network between Belgian and Iranian women

IV 1998- present, Museum of Europe

Member of the Board

An association aiming at creating in Brussels a Museum of European History and Identity..

Responsibilities: Presentation of the project to Belgian and European political and cultural institutions, organization of key initial activities.

1999: Organization of the First International Symposium of the Museum of Europe: "**The Frontiers of Europe**",

2002: Organization of a second International Symposium of the Museum of Europe: "**De l'Europe-monde à l'Europe dans le monde: 1900-2000**"

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

1992-1996: Member of the Board of the Public Radio Television of the French Community of Belgium.

1995- present: Member of the Board and now Vice-President of AMAZONE (Women's House in Brussels).

2000- present: Member of the Bureau of the Socialist Party of Belgium and Advisor to the President Elio Di Rupo on Equal opportunity and international affairs, mainly the Middle East. Member of the Middle East Committee of the Socialist International

- 1999- 2002: Member of the Board of the New Israel Fund (U.S.A.-Israel) and actually, member of the International Council
- 1999- present: Member of the Board of the Bernheim Foundation - Belgium.
- 1998- present: Member of the Board of "Search for Common Ground " an international NGO whose objectives are to transform the way the world deals with conflict, by emphasizing cooperative solutions, pursued on a realistic scale and with practical means.
- 2002 – present : Member of the Board of "Editions De Boeck"
- 2003 –present: Member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures, launched by the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi
- 2003-present Advisor (« Preventive Diplomacy ») at the cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice

Numerous lectures, articles, TV and radio appearances.

DISTINCTIONS

- 1989 "Prix de la Libre Académie" - Belgium .
- 1991 Elected "Woman of the Year in Belgium".
- 2000 Doctor Honoris Causa of the Free University of Brussels .