

## Meeting secretary general Plaisier with Dalai Lama (June 5<sup>th</sup> 2009)

Human dignity, the possibilities for interreligious dialogue and religious freedom were central in the discussion of religious leaders with the Dalai Lama which took place this morning in The Hague. At the invitation of foreign secretary Drs. M.J.M. Verhagen secretary general Plaisier was present at a meeting with the Dalai Lama. Rabbi A.S. Soetendorp, Drs. L.F.M. van Oers, Episcopal staff member for the interreligious dialogue and the Dean of The Hague, Dr. A.J.M. van der Helm also took part in the conversation.



In the discussion was emphasized how important the awareness is that preceding all national, cultural or religious differences, people share human nature with each other. They are image carriers of God. Religion can reinforce this awareness, but religion can also be abused to sow or intensify hatred between people. It is the combined assignment to respect each other and to live of love and to distribute love. Afterwards secretary Plaisier said that it is hopeful when people of different religions meet with one and other like this in respect: 'Hopeful, because it can be a contribution to the peaceful cohabitation of various religions and social groups.'