

connect



a youth
interfaith
action guide



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no 3443823
Registered in England
2 Grosvenor Gardens, London
SW1W 0DH
ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
www.interfaith.org.uk
www.twitter.com/IFNetUK
www.facebook.com/IFNetUK



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Throughout this guide you will find short quotes from young people of different faiths and beliefs. Thanks to all who provided them!

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

As a young person in 21st century Britain you belong to an increasingly diverse society where people of many faiths and cultures live side by side.

This action guide is about making connections, and building bridges towards friendship and understanding.

Whatever your faith or belief, you have a vital contribution to make to creating a society where there is trust, respect and cooperation between people of different faiths and beliefs.



WHAT IS INTER FAITH ACTIVITY?

Inter faith activity is about people of different faiths and beliefs coming together to build relationships, trust and understanding and working together for the common good. There are many ways that this happens.

“Young people are the leaders of the future! Inter faith knowledge is essential for living in a multi faith society, and young people need to be given opportunities to be inter faith leaders.”

Tenzin, Buddhist



Dialogue and Discussion

Traditionally, much inter faith activity has centred on dialogue and discussion. This brings people together to share ideas, understand better what each other believe, and explore areas of common ground and differences. It can take many forms, such as small discussion groups, round-tables, talks, panels and workshops.



EXAMPLE

Faith and Belief Forum – Interfaith Summit

The Youth Council of the Faith and Belief Forum organise an annual ‘Interfaith Summit’, coinciding with national Inter Faith Week. Young people from diverse faith and belief backgrounds come together to connect, explore and act. It provides them with a space to discuss current issues including race, the environment, mental health, and sexuality. It’s a space for honest and open dialogue that leads to real action.



Panel discussion at the Faith and Belief Forum’s annual Interfaith Summit



An Inter Faith Week Q & A with faith leaders for Gravesham Schools, organised by Gravesham Borough Council

Learning

Knowledge and understanding about different faiths and beliefs is both important and interesting. So, too, is developing the skills needed to interact well with others. Much inter faith activity therefore focuses on learning and on helping others understand our own beliefs.

This kind of learning takes place in informal contexts and also within formal education environments like schools, colleges and universities, and the learning experiences offered by other bodies such as youth organisations. In schools, RE plays an important part and many schools work with others to invite in people from different traditions to speak about faith and belief, as well as arranging visits to places of worship.



Westminster Interfaith arranged for Catholic Interns from a range of bodies to visit places of worship of other faiths

EXAMPLE

Newham Student SACRE

Religious Education in schools is very important for equipping young people to live in a multi faith society. Newham SACRE set up a Student SACRE in the borough to give young people a say on the type of things that they want to learn in RE, and to highlight issues most important to young people of faith. The Student SACRE has focused most recently on religiously motivated bullying, creating some resources for schools to use. Being part of the Student SACRE also provides an experience of working with young people of other backgrounds and helps develop dialogue and understanding of difference.

SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. See page 39 for more.



Christian and Muslim young people from the Leaders in Community group and the Good Shepherd Mission coming together for a day of dialogue and encounter in Tower Hamlets organised by The Feast

Social contexts and serving together

Coming together as people of different backgrounds to play sport, take part in arts or cultural activity, share a meal, or to work together to meet a practical need in the local community are all great ways to meet and learn about others and make friendships.

“In order to work towards common goals, we should be sharing our skills and working together.”

Shakeel, Christian

“Inter faith activity is about different faiths coming together and sharing their beliefs under one roof.”

Ervad Yazad, Zoroastrian

EXAMPLE

CCJ – Campus leadership scheme

CCJ appoints and supports Student Leaders to create inter faith initiatives at their universities. Through training and mentoring by an inter faith leader Student Leaders are empowered to organise their own student-led events which meet the needs of their campus. Invitations to national events throughout the year encourage students to build their networks. At the end of the year Student Leaders join an Alumni Network equipped with the skills and networks to be inter faith leaders in their communities.



Student participants in the CCJ Campus Leadership Programme taking part in a training conference

“Inter faith activity helps young people to relate religion to real life, rather than just being something abstract that only exists on paper. Religion is not just on paper, it is practical, and profoundly shapes the way that people live their lives. Encountering people of different faiths helps young people to realise this.”

Jasmine, Christian



Launch of the Religions for Peace UK Youth Interfaith Network

“The way we see the world can be heavily affected by the path we choose to walk in life; whether that be following a religion, a specific belief, or spiritual path. As a matter of respect and curiosity, I feel as though it is important for people to learn about different ways of life and religion. Interfaith would allow barriers to be crossed in regard to battling stereotypes and would bring communities together.”

Caitlin, Pagan

A WORD ABOUT WORDS!

Inter faith

'Inter faith' is used in this booklet to describe interactions between people of different faiths, and in some cases between those of religious and non-religious beliefs.

'Inter faith' dialogue often seeks to establish areas of agreement but the term 'inter faith' is not used here to imply lessening the distinctiveness of traditions.

Some prefer to speak of 'inter faith and belief' or 'inter belief' where people of non-religious beliefs are involved in dialogue.

Multi-faith

Some use 'multi faith' to describe projects or organisations where the emphasis is on joint working rather than interaction.

Dialogue

Where the term 'dialogue' is used in this guide it is used with the meaning of a conversation or written exchange which is a mutually respectful exploration of views with the hoped for outcome of greater understanding.

IFN's framework for inter faith dialogue is set out in its short guidelines, *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs*. These encourage interactions of a respectful and honest kind, careful and courteous listening and a shared commitment to the process of seeking greater understanding. They can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/code



There is a significant difference between 'dialogue' and 'debate'. 'Debate' is a form of discourse which involves probing of weaknesses in another's position and arguing for one's own. Learning and clarity can come from this but the process is very different from 'dialogue'. Not everyone finds the term 'dialogue' a helpful one; some prefer 'conversation' or 'discussion'. Those terms are also used in some contexts in this booklet. However, they do not always convey the full weight of what is intended by 'dialogue', which is why that term is used.

“Inter faith activity is about understanding one another. It’s possible to coexist peacefully by ignoring each other, but there is a difference between coexisting peacefully in that way, and actively living alongside each other.”

Fatema, Muslim

WHY IT MATTERS TO ME

“I made a friend with someone of a different religion to me, and discussing our faiths together made me open up to other religions, and understand other points of view. What began as a small encounter had a big impact on me.”

Aayush, Hindu

“Encountering different people opens your mind and helps you understand other points of view. This is why it is important to interact with people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures.”

Nishika, Buddhist

“Inter faith activity is all about unity, it means that we can coexist peacefully with one another.”

Nikhwat, ‘Spiritual’

“In an increasingly multi-faith world, it is so important to promote respect and tolerance for the beliefs of others. It is the knowledge and understanding we gain in identifying the many similarities between our faiths that can help to unite us, and as a consequence, we are more able to affect change, promote harmony and achieve peace in our world, through working together in the advent of these universal aspirations.”

Robert, Spiritualist

“Inter faith activity has taught me the value of friendship – you can be so different, yet that encounter can be so beautiful.”

Mary Catherine, Christian

“Inter faith dialogue allows you to see faith from another’s perspective which then can lead to curiosity about your own faith. If a concept is discussed in inter faith discussion, it can prompt individuals to find out what their own faith says about that idea or concept, thus leading to more knowledge about yourself and others.”

Jaskiran, Sikh

FAITH IN THE WORLD TODAY

For many people, their faith and beliefs have a profound impact on their lives, shaping their values and the ways that they engage in society.

Faith can also be a powerful motivator to make the world a better place. Over the centuries, religious people have stood up for what they believed: from founders of faiths and prophets, to followers like Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. These are people of faith who have inspired others of all faiths, beliefs and backgrounds to transform the lives of those around them for the better, and to do so through working with others of good will. You and other young people of different faith and beliefs are an important part of this story. You will become the leaders, pioneers and change-makers of the future – and some of you already are.

The environment for inter faith dialogue and cooperation is different in a number of ways from the recent past. For example, online engagement is now common – and this guide includes a special section about that. There is also increasing diversity of faith and beliefs and patterns of migration, including through those seeking asylum and refuge. Global interconnectedness is ever increasing and that is reflected in many areas of the UK.

Being a young person who is a member of a faith community is not always easy. Religion or belief can be, for example, an aspect of identity that is the target of hatred – especially where clothes or religious symbols make a person very visibly a member of a faith tradition. Solidarity of inter faith response to prejudice and hate has been very important in recent years. You might be interested to look at *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities* (see page 42).



EXAMPLE

Interfaith Scotland – Radicalisation and reconciliation

Interfaith Scotland held a national youth conference on the theme of ‘Radicalisation and Reconciliation’. The conference was planned by a team of young people from different faiths from the University of St Andrews’ student-led Coexistence Initiative. The young people chose a theme and speakers and met regularly to plan the event with the support of Interfaith Scotland staff. Young people from a wide variety of faiths, beliefs and non-religious beliefs came together from across Scotland to attend the conference. There were presentations from expert speakers, and an opportunity to engage in dialogue on the theme.



EXAMPLE

Youth Voices Collective & North West Islamic Association – Workshop & Talk

The Youth Voices Collective is a group of young people from diverse backgrounds in the Derry and Strabane Council area, Northern Ireland. It is part of a programme of activities looking at radicalisation, politics and good relations in Northern Ireland. They visited the North West Islamic Association in Derry for a dialogue and workshop about Islam and Muslim culture and identity.



Members of Youth Voices Collective at the North West Islamic Association in Derry



Religion sometime gets equated with the most extreme manifestations or distortions of it. It is important to work to counter the misrepresentation of religion and belief – whether in the world at large or within our own communities – and to be part of an informed and respectful engagement about the place of religion and belief in our society and our world. Taking part in inter faith discussion and action is a way to do that.

Having strong beliefs or believing in the fundamental importance of the teachings of a faith does not make you an extremist. Nor are strong beliefs a barrier to learning about and from others.

“Engaging young people in inter faith activity is an important way of fighting prejudice. By having friends from different faiths, young people are able to understand the similarities and differences between people. This reduces the likelihood of conflict in the future.”

Jules, Christian

SHARED VALUES

The Golden Rule

Each faith has teachings about the importance of dealing rightly with other people. This principle – to treat others as we would wish to be treated ourselves – is sometimes called the “Golden Rule”.

Baha’i faith

Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for any one the things ye would not desire for yourselves.

This is my best counsel unto you, did ye but observe it.

Baha’u’llah, Gleanings, 128



Hinduism

This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.

Mahabharata 5.1517



Buddhism

Just as a mother would protect her only child with her life, even so let one cultivate a boundless love towards all beings.

Khuddaka Patha, from the Metta Sutta



Islam

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

Al-Nawawi’s Forty Hadith, 13



Christianity¹

Do to others as you would have them do unto you.

Luke 6.31



Jainism

I forgive all beings, may all beings forgive me, I have friendship towards all, malice towards none.

Pratikraman Sutra 35: 49



¹ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also uses this ‘golden rule’.

Judaism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man.

Talmud: Shabbat 31a



Paganism

There are many paths within contemporary Paganism. The example below reflects principles of modern Druidry as practised by members of The Druid Network.

The wholeness of nature is experienced as unconditionally sacred.



Sikhism

No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib p.1299



Spiritualism

We are all part of the universal creative force and therefore one family in God. [...] Spiritualists try to understand the needs of others and help all people regardless of race, colour or creed.

Brotherhood of Man, Spiritualists' Second Principle



Zoroastrianism

That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.

Dadistan-I-Dinik 94.5



SOME ACTIVITY IDEAS



- Join an existing inter faith initiative or take part in inter faith events in your area
- Have a conversation with a friend or neighbour about their faith or their non-religious belief and what it means to them
- If you belong to a faith community see what inter faith dialogue they are involved in and see if you can meet people of your own age from other faith communities in your area
- Offer to volunteer for a local or national inter faith organisation and explore internships if you want to go even further
- Get involved through other youth organisations you are involved with, such as the Scouts or Girlguiding
- If you belong to a place of worship ask if it can host an open day or a dialogue or Inter Faith Week event



Students from Edge Hill University visiting a local gurdwara

EXAMPLE

Leeds University Union Interfaith Week by the Faith Societies

For Inter Faith Week, representatives from all the University Faith Societies came together to put together a programme of activities which aimed to appeal to as many different students as possible. Each society hosted an event and they included events to learn about other religions through 'Speed Faithing', Scriptural Reasoning and a 'Faith Trail' to visit different places of worship. There were social action projects where people came together to visit the elderly, run a food drive and to distribute supplies to the homeless people in Leeds. The week also hosted more social events for people to come together to create new friendships based on shared interests. These events included an open mic night, football match, yoga lesson and a discussion group on feminism and religion!

Get together with friends, fellow students or colleagues to:

- Arrange a shared meal with dishes linked to different faith traditions
- Organise an event for Inter Faith Week (see page 35)
- Organise a quiz, featuring questions about each other's faiths
- Hold a 'speed-faithing' event, with 5 minutes for each person to explain and answer questions about their faith or belief
- Organise an inter faith sporting activity
- Hold a multi-faith exhibition, highlighting the importance of faith through art or photography
- Make a podcast featuring young people talking about what faith means to them



Islington Faiths Forum's 'Peace Cup' football tournament

- Hold an 'open mic night' inviting contributions from people of different backgrounds
- Organise visits to different places of worship – or join in with ones run by others such as a local inter faith group
- Organise a multi faith social action project
- Fundraise with groups or friends of other faiths for a charity you all support

There are many different ways to get involved and to play a role in inter faith dialogue and action. First and foremost, do what interests you. The ideas above are just a few that have worked for others. Some you could initiate yourself; others, you might want to work with a group to which you belong such as a Students' Union or SU faith and belief soc. For practical pointers on getting started and planning activities, see page 26.

EXAMPLE

The Scouts

“Scouting offers young people the opportunity to gain skills for life. A Scout Group which meets in a church, right in the middle of a multi-cultural area has just opened for young people. The Scout Group members; Muslims, Atheists, a Buddhist, Hindu and Christians from a variety of different nationalities all are now working together to provide young people the best possible Scouting experience. All members have individually chosen their preferred promise and they are all super excited to be Scouts.”

For more info, visit:
www.scouts.org.uk

GOOD TO TALK



Students at a Faith and Leadership event organised by the LSE Faith Centre

Dialogue tips

Religion and belief are fascinating – they are a part of what makes the world such a rich mix of people, cultures and traditions. This is positive, and is often the reason why people become involved in inter faith activity. At the same time, it is important to bear in mind that some topics of conversation are challenging and sensitive and that people often speak about faith and belief with passion. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind when speaking about faith and religious topics:

- When asking questions of others about their faith, offer a genuine, personal reason for your query.
- Find out what others actually believe and value, and let them express this in their own terms.
- Find out what you have in common; what connects you rather than divides you.

“Everyone connects with their faith differently. Some people really study it, and enjoy reading, discussing, learning about the theology or philosophy. Many others take their faith seriously and live it out, who don’t spend much time deep in learning, but enjoy the fellowship and community of others. The same is true of inter faith activity. Not everyone will be attracted to scholarly engagement or deep discussion. It is important to find ways to reach that majority of people through what they are interested in.”

Lauren, Jewish

EXAMPLE

University of Bristol – Religion and Mental Health

“During Inter Faith Week, CCJ Student Leaders and six faith societies at the University of Bristol came together to organise a panel discussion and dialogue on the theme of ‘Religion and Mental Health’. Faith leaders, religious community members and students discussed mental health challenges and different ways of looking at these through the lens of faith. This kind of event brings mutual religious and secular learning to help tackle tough issues.”



- Respect the other person’s right to express their beliefs and convictions and to disagree.
- We are not all the same – respect the fact that religious beliefs may affect what someone eats, what they wear and how they deal with other people.
- Ensure your faith is presented with integrity – be prepared to say ‘I don’t know the answer to that, but I’ll find out’. Always be honest.
- Take care that everyone understands the religious terms that you are using and allow people to pause you if they need to ask what something means.
- A sense of humour can lighten the mood, but take care to respect people’s boundaries. Jokes on religious topics can inadvertently cause offence.

“Jainism talks about ‘Anekantavada’, which states that all view points are multifaceted. It is through this doctrine that we can understand each other’s perspective and be more tolerant to each other’s faith.”

Mihir, Jain

EXAMPLE

South Cardiff Interfaith Network – Young, Free and Religious

South Cardiff Interfaith Network’s project ‘Young, Free and Religious’, brings young people of different faiths together to talk about faith in Cardiff today. The participants first came together to make a podcast to discuss their faith, and what it means to them and then took part in an event at the Wales Millennium Centre during Inter Faith Week, where members of the public, faith community leaders and others were invited to hear about the project. There were stalls from the Baha’i, Hindu, Christian, and Muslim faiths, and the event received great coverage which spread the message further.



- Listen intently – inter faith engagement should be about learning and understanding, as well as expressing your own point of view.

Talking with people of different faiths and beliefs is not about compromising your own principles or beliefs. It’s about getting rid of misconceptions and prejudices, looking for common ground and about constructively discussing genuine areas of disagreement with the aim of greater understanding.

Tips for getting started

- Make sure that that all participants can be seen and heard
- Begin with an icebreaker or energiser activity
- Ask everyone to introduce themselves by saying something about their faith or belief background if they feel comfortable with this
- Invite one person to facilitate the discussion so that they can ensure everyone who wants to gets an opportunity to speak
- Encourage people to talk from their own experiences using “I” statements such as “I believe” or “I think that” rather than generalising

Dialogue – Ground rules

It is good to establish a few ground rules for the discussion and to write these down. Examples of these are:

- Agree that personal information or opinions shared in the group are not to be shared outside the room or online without permission
- Agree to create a courteous environment where participants feel comfortable talking to one another
- Ensure people can finish what they’re saying without interruption
- Experiment with the ‘talking stick’ system where there is a stick or other item that is handed to someone who wants to talk; they then talk and others listen
- If things do get a bit heated, call for a break



Once you have got to know each other and have found out something about each other's faith or beliefs, you might want to discuss some current issues or particular topics from a faith perspective.

Remember: dialogue is not always about getting everyone to agree – it can be about learning to disagree respectfully and constructively.

In engaging with others of different faiths and beliefs, it is important to be aware where painful histories exist between communities as well as where challenging interactions globally in the present day might lie close to the surface. Part of listening and hearing well is to be able to hear this – and respond if you feel it appropriate.

“Inter faith activity is about respecting everyone’s faiths and beliefs. Acknowledging that other people believe different things is really important.”

Jaimal, Hindu

“It is important to be able to have quality disagreements. We can acknowledge that difference exists without undermining the fact that we also have many shared values.”

Hamzah, Muslim

EXAMPLE

Bolton Interfaith Council – Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors

The Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors Project, run by Bolton Interfaith Council, is a forum where girls and young women of different faith backgrounds in Bolton come together for encounter, dialogue, participation and acquiring social skills. There are lots of opportunities for civic engagement and learning skills like public speaking, discussing community, raising funds for charities and learning about personal ownership. Recently, one of its members became a Youth MP and for the past two years members of the group have won “young volunteers awards” at the Inspiring Women awards.



With dialogue activities, it is worth working out in advance a contingency plan to draw conversation to a close and seek to recover good relations if the dialogue breaks down. Usually, it is possible for discussions to be kept on track through facilitation or common commitment to steer challenging interactions toward more constructive approaches. However, if things become very challenging, it may be best to call for a break. After this, try to bring people back together and sum up some of the positive aspects of the dialogue, and affirm the integrity of those who have participated, recognising that sometimes people have deep differences of view. If appropriate, you may wish to suggest a topic be returned to at a future point. Try to ensure that people leave on good terms where possible.

Even though there are challenges, these kinds of conversation are tremendously important.

“There is a lot of misunderstanding between faiths, especially among young people who are not exposed to those with different beliefs. We should be trying to overcome assumptions and stereotypes through dialogue.”

Ross, Atheist



RE Young Ambassadors from Redhill Academy, Nottinghamshire talking with Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth at an IFN meeting in Peterborough

Possible conversation-starter statements

“Religion and politics don’t mix”

“Religion is increasingly irrelevant in 21st century Britain”

“If people or groups want to live mainly separately that’s fine!”

“Dialogue and joint social action are vital to a healthy society”

“Dialogue between people of different faith backgrounds and between religious and non-religious people is equally important”

“Some young people do not feel comfortable with practising their religion in public”

“Sport is the new religion”

“Faith schools are still relevant in Britain today”

SERVING TOGETHER – GIVING YOUR TIME!

Faith traditions all teach about the importance of service to others. Many faith communities will be involved in running projects and providing services within your local area, and some may be doing so on an inter faith basis. National faith communities are also engaged with tackling some of the world's biggest problems, and are campaigning on issues of national and global significance.

Working together with people of other faiths and beliefs to serve others, and campaign on social issues, can be a very powerful way to make new friends and learn about their traditions. It provides opportunities to ask questions about what motivates you and learn more about some of your shared values.

This is true also of civic engagement – contributing as people of different backgrounds to our local communities through volunteering or working for social or political change.

There are some programmes run by national inter faith organisations in which you can get involved and you can also work to set up your own short projects such as joint faith society local environmental days – park clearing, litter picking and tree planting or cooking for the homeless. There are also programmes run by other bodies, such as Step up to Serve and National Citizen Service. See pages 38–42.

A number of traditions have special days linked to them where inter faith volunteering is encouraged. See page 35 for more.

“Interaction between faiths is important because we’re united in common goals – we are all striving to be better, to do better, and to make the world better. We have faith because we hope for the future, and when we come together we can share it with each other and help make hoped-for futures become more of a reality.”

Emily, Latter-day Saint (Mormon)

EXAMPLE

LSE Faith Centre – Giving Tree

During Inter Faith Week the LSE Faith Centre has a ‘Giving Tree’ where students and staff can pledge items to go into refugee welcome packs. This also helps to highlight the role of the Faith Centre on campus, with volunteers across faiths manning the tree and this brings more students of different faith and belief backgrounds together. Social action is a really unifying force, and is an important part of the development of inter faith activity on the LSE campus.



Student taking a pledge from the ‘Giving Tree’ at the LSE Faith Centre during Inter Faith Week

EXAMPLE

Near Neighbours Catalyst Leadership Programme

Catalyst is a Leadership Training programme run by Near Neighbours. It emphasises the importance of religious and ethnic diversity in our country and encourages young people to be understanding and supportive of other backgrounds. The programme empowers young people between the ages of 16-26 from different faiths and backgrounds to act as positive role models in their neighbourhoods and communities by developing practical and leadership skills. Topics covered range from media and communication, identity, belonging and faith, social action, and leadership skills.



Above: Young people taking part in the Catalyst Leadership Programme, organised by Near Neighbours

Right: Graduates of the JLGB NCS programme collecting their certificates

EXAMPLE

Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade – Interfaith National Citizen Service

National Citizen Service (NCS) brings young people aged 15-17 together for adventure and team building activities, a residential week and an opportunity to design and implement a social action project in their communities.

JLGB (Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade) has pioneered provision of a faith-sensitive version of the national NCS residential programme, for those of all faiths and none. The three week programme unites young people of different faiths and backgrounds through adventure activities, social cohesion sessions and the development of a chosen skill. Participants are split into teams based on their chosen skill including photography, film making, digital marketing, catering and sports and fitness. Speaking about the ‘graduation ceremony’ guest Laura Pradelska, actress and star of Game of Thrones said: “I was really moved by how amazing these young people are. From mental health issues, autism and interfaith community cohesion I was blown away by how incredible their social action projects were. Today more than ever, it is so important for young people of different backgrounds to come together, learn from each other and work side by side to make the world a better place.”



EXAMPLE

Devon Interfaith Forum 4 Youth

“I learned about religions how most others do: RE lessons in school. These didn’t always answer the questions that came to mind. Through school, I joined the Devon Interfaith Forum 4 Youth which is linked to the Devon Faith and Belief Forum. The Forum ran trips that allowed me to meet people of a variety of faiths, allowing me to sate my curiosity. The trips were run mostly in Devon, but also extended to other areas of the UK. They included important issues like environmentalism and tackling prejudice; and also fun events based around outdoor pursuits, music, and crafts. These events gave me the perfect opportunity to make friends with people of different faiths and break down the prejudices that come from segregation.”

Anthony, Christian

Don’t expect agreement on every front! Working for change with like-minded people of many backgrounds, you may well find that you agree on some issues but not on all. Developing skills for negotiating and explaining and learning on the way is part of the journey and very useful both for the project and for one’s future career and volunteering.

Be clear where you disagree with expressed views or behaviour or where something makes you feel uncomfortable. Loyalty to a cause or a person does not mean that problematic behaviour should go unchallenged. If you experience difficulties or do not feel able to challenge something directly, seek support.



Participants in the ‘Sacred Activists’ programme of the St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace

“Social action is so important – people are able to unite around big ideas that they can all subscribe to, and work together on. People of all faiths suffer from things like homelessness. We need to stress the activism side of faith.”

Jaspreet Singh, Sikh

“Inter faith is about dialogue and action. From dialogue we can produce action to support our communities and make the world a better place – we can improve human society.”

Susan, Christian

SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE & MUSIC

Inter faith engagement can be rewarding simply through people of different faiths just being together, or doing something of common interest. In fact, this can be a great place to start, and the kinds of questions that naturally arise may be similar to those linked to dialogue.

As noted earlier, start with what interests you. It can be incredibly rewarding to discover that you share common interests with people from different backgrounds by participating in them together, whether this is football, music, dance, photography or something else entirely.

These activities are not only fun and enjoyable by themselves, but are also a great way just to meet people of different faiths, and to begin building mutual respect and understanding. Sport, arts, culture and music are key ways for helping people to engage with each other, for breaking down barriers, and for creating a spirit of connectedness that enables deeper engagement.

Inter Faith Week is a great time to try out these sorts of activities, perhaps even as part of a programme of events. See page 35.



Youth on Solid Ground inter faith football match

EXAMPLE

Touchstone Bradford

Touchstone is a Christian-led inter faith programme that organises creative activities in Bradford for young people and others of different faith backgrounds, including the 'Roots and Shoots' women and girls inter faith group. It attended a workshop run by Cecil Green Arts to make banners and hats for a rally to mark 100 years of women's suffrage, and then participated in the rally itself. This made a very visible statement about Christians and Muslims coming together to celebrate women's achievements in the last 100 years, and empowered the younger generation to keep pushing for progress.



Members of the 'Roots and Shoots' group wearing their hats at the rally to mark 100 years of women's suffrage

EXAMPLE

Youth on Solid Ground – Inter Faith Football Match

“Youth on Solid Ground (YSG) changes the lives of young people through the power of sports, coaching, youth work and mentoring interventions. It organised an inter faith football match in Manchester. A YSG team played one from the Manchester Jewish Soccer League – it was a real demonstration of just how powerful sport can be as a way of bringing diverse communities together.”

EXAMPLE

GemArts – East by North East

East by North East, a music project led by GemArts in partnership with other local charities, schools and faith communities, provides young people from diverse backgrounds in Newcastle and Gateshead with weekly opportunities to make music with local professional music leaders. This is a great way to meet other young people from different backgrounds and enjoy making music together.

For more info, visit: gemarts.org



Young people taking part in an inter faith drama project in Blackburn led by Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum



Girls taking part in the Interfaith Games, a project of the Association of Muslim Schools

PLANNING AND PRACTICALITIES

Deciding you want to take the initiative and organise an inter faith activity can be daunting at first – but it doesn't have to be!

Getting started

Build on your existing acquaintances: Who do you already know from another faith or belief? Existing relationships are a good place to start as you reach out to others. This might be as simple as talking to a friend, classmate or colleague of another faith, talking to your RE teacher or someone in another faith society, or talking to local youth clubs. Be creative!

When we interact with someone of a different background, we can sometimes feel as though we do not understand where they are coming from. This is a normal feeling, and they may feel the same way about you. Regardless of their background, the person you are working with is a person with strengths and vulnerabilities just like you. Bearing this in mind in your interactions will help you to develop mutual respect and trust. This is the foundation of all good relationships, including friendships with people of other faiths and beliefs.

If you are at university or in further education, contact your Student Union or faith or belief society. The National Union of Students encourages student unions to become involved in building good relations on campus: www.nusconnect.org.uk/learning-resources/faith-and-belief/good-campus-relations



Participants in the Near Neighbours Catalyst programme

Many Student Unions encourage inter faith engagement, as well as aiming to support the needs of students from different faith backgrounds. Faith or belief societies are increasingly involved in inter faith activity, dialogue and social action on campus. Chaplaincies often support students in inter faith dialogue and joint social action projects.

Checklists for planning and practicalities

Planning

- Plan in advance – write down what you want to achieve and how you want to do it – think ahead and be flexible.
- Get people involved – don't try to do everything yourself, and include people of other faiths or beliefs on your planning group.
- Make a list of everything you will need and how to get hold of it.
- If you need some funding, start by asking people and organisations that you know (the resources section lists some suggestions of organisations you can apply to for funding).
- Get going. Get your project rolling, don't sit on your idea and do nothing about it. If things don't go exactly as you expected, you can always adjust your plan as you go. You won't know if something is a success until you've tried it!
- If you know you are doing something worthwhile, stay focused and don't let others put you down.
- After your event or project seek feedback to help you learn about what works for the future.
- Bear in mind the practicalities opposite.

Practicalities

- Try to avoid holding activities on days of religious observance, including festivals. More information on festivals is on page 34.
- If you plan an event which features prayers or readings from different faiths, try to organise the event so that each faith makes a contribution in turn without expecting everyone to join in. Not everyone is comfortable joining in with prayer from a different religion.
- Consider holding your first activity in a neutral space. Some may feel uncomfortable entering a place of worship, particularly at first.
- Try to make available a space which people can use for prayers or quiet reflection during the activity if they need to.
- Take a look at the material on pages 31–33 about food and drink at inter faith events.
- Ask people if they have any accessibility needs when thinking about where to hold an activity.
- If you plan to take photographs or record your activity, explain to people how you will use this and how they can opt-out.
- In some contexts, such as planning sporting activities, it may be helpful to ask those you are working with whether mixed-gender activity is appropriate.



Participants in discussion at IFN Focus Group session at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, London

“As a student, the Chaplaincy was the first place I encountered fruitful interfaith dialogue, for many people it’s the prime link to those of other faiths within their universities, workplaces and schools. The role of chaplaincies in interfaith dialogue is to initiate and support discussion between their peers of different faiths; this enables them to build relationships, find shared values and do remarkable things together. In my university life, the links within the chaplaincy have been responsible for some of my most treasured friendships. Chaplaincies are an excellent place to start if you’re interested in getting to know people a little bit different from yourself.”

Joseph, Christian

SOCIAL MEDIA – A TOOL FOR INTER FAITH ENGAGEMENT

In today's increasingly globalised world, more and more young people are using social media to engage with issues they feel are important both locally and worldwide. Social media is a platform which can be used to reach large audiences, and to respond to issues as they happen. With many young people having either smartphones or computers with which to access these sites, social media is an accessible way for people to engage in inter faith activity.

Social media can be used for inter faith activity in a variety of ways, such as:

- Inviting friends to events on Facebook
- Updating your friends and followers of activities you are attending
- Live streaming events on Snapchat or Instagram in real time
- Posting about or sharing content about issues you feel are important
- A platform on which to have dialogue and discussion
- Sharing pictures and videos of successful inter faith activity
- Taking part in ongoing debates using hashtags
- Using WhatsApp groups to plan and keep people in touch with developments
- Mobilising people to respond to important issues
- Helping to spread positive stories
- Expressing solidarity in times of emergency or crisis



Faith and Belief Forum ParliaMentors posing for a selfie



Taking part in an Inter Faith Week Twitter campaign

Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat make it easy to raise awareness of any inter faith activity you are involved in or organising. If you are planning an inter faith event, consider inviting your followers over social media, and getting your friends to share the event to reach an even bigger audience.

While social media can be a very useful tool to engage with others on matters of inter faith activity, it of course needs to be used with caution. It is important to keep in mind the guidelines for dialogue and discussion mentioned earlier in this guide, to ensure that all participants in social media activity feel safe and comfortable in viewing and/or participating in discussion online. See page 43 for a link to some general guidance on staying safe online.



EXAMPLE

Edinburgh Interfaith Association – The Ground We Share

Edinburgh Interfaith Association has worked with young people of different faiths to develop 'The Ground We Share', an online interactive resource which provides answers to young people's questions around faith and belief. The resource, which aims to break down misconceptions, features video interviews between young people and representatives of different faiths.

www.thegroundweshare.com



Follow the Inter Faith Network!

 www.facebook.com/ifnetuk  @IFNetUK  @IFNetUK

LET'S TALK OVER LUNCH

Sharing meals is a great way to get to know people. Many faith traditions encourage sharing food, and it is perhaps unsurprising that many inter faith activities involve food too!

Religious beliefs, rooted in the scriptures and teachings of the different faiths, as well as particular ethical beliefs, have a bearing on what some participants will eat and drink.



Liverpool students taking part in 'Langar on Campus' organised by the Liverpool Sikh Society

“At university, I was observing the Baha’i 19 day fast, which takes place every March. It lasts from sunrise to sunset each day. I went to the kitchen in my halls at about 3am to get something to eat, and to my surprise a Muslim student was there. I explained why I was eating so late, and she explained that that was similar to the Ramadan fast. It was a really powerful encounter, getting to share and learn about an area of common ground with someone I barely knew.”

Sophie, Baha’i

For example

- Hindus refrain from eating beef and many are vegetarian and do not eat eggs. Some also avoid garlic and onion. Eating pork or ham or other products from pigs is forbidden for Jews and Muslims.
- Jains do not eat meat or eggs and are supposed to avoid eating root vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, garlic and onion to minimise harm to minute living beings.
- Jews have special dietary laws and many will eat only “kosher” (“fit” or “proper”) food.
- Muslims have special dietary rules which means that they are supposed only to eat “halal” (“permitted”) foods.
- Many Sikhs and Buddhists are vegetarian as are some Christians and others.
- Alcohol is forbidden to Bahai’s, Muslims and to followers of a number of other faiths. Many Buddhists, Hindus, Jains and Sikhs and some Christians also avoid alcohol.
- Some religious people, such as Latter-day Saints, also avoid drinks containing caffeine or other stimulants.
- Ethical principles of some people of non-religious beliefs will also have a bearing on what they eat.
- Sikhs do not eat ritually slaughtered meat, including halal or kosher meat.

So how do we feed everyone at a multi faith get together?

You Could:

- Prepare plenty of totally vegetarian dishes, taking care not to use animal gelatine or animal fats.
- Have some vegetarian dishes which contain no eggs, garlic, onion, potato or root vegetables which are kept on separate plates/trays.
- Use vegan spreads.
- Make sure there is no alcohol in food or drinks unless clearly labelled.
- Watch out for crisps and other snacks which may contain animal or fish protein.
- Have plenty of fruit available, including unprepared whole fruit.
- Always label the food clearly so that people can feel comfortable about what they are eating.
- If you are serving caffeinated drinks, such as tea, coffee or cola, make sure you have some alternatives available like fruit juices or herbal teas.
- Arrange for kosher food to be made available where required.

More detailed information about faith-based dietary practice can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications/food

The best policy is to ask people!

The pointers in this section are designed as a starting point, and to help get you thinking about food and drink. However, each person may practise their faith slightly differently, and many people have dietary needs which have nothing to do with their faith, such as allergies or things they just don't like. The best approach is to ask people in advance to let you know about their dietary needs.

Fasting

A requirement to fast at particular times in the religious year is part of a number of religious traditions. Some people of faith may also fast at other times, such as during periods of mourning or in preparation for a rite of passage. Fasting can take many different forms. Some fasts involve abstaining from food and drink during particular times or from particular types of food and drink for a period of time. Experience of fasting can be a basis for positive discussion between people of different faiths and beliefs.

It is important to be mindful of periods of fasting when planning events and to talk with possible participants about the timing and nature of the event.

“When food is involved a lot of people turn up – we had old and young people coming in, lots of discussions, it was an inter faith community café.”

Nudrat, 'Spiritual'

EXAMPLE

Faith, Forces and Food – St Philip's Centre

During Inter Faith Week, the St Philip's Centre, Leicester, launched 'Faith, Forces and Food'. The project was launched with the help of catering students of different faiths at Leicester College, who hosted a special lunch for over 60 participants. The project aimed to bring together members of the British Armed Forces with diverse communities across the city to share food and get to know one another. Lunches and dinners took place every day of the Week, and involved members of eight faith communities.



Participants in the special lunch to launch the Faith, Forces and Food project

FAITH FESTIVALS – CELEBRATING TOGETHER!

Every faith community has special days when significant events are marked or celebrated. Calendars of different faiths are often different from our national calendar, and some dates based on a lunar calendar change each year.

You can find out dates of different faith festivals on IFN's website at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals

Faith traditions have many festivals. However, IFN's national faith community member bodies have given guidance on the two where greetings would be especially welcomed by them. This can be found on the same page as the festival dates above and is updated annually.

Sometimes it is appropriate to invite people of other faiths and beliefs to celebrate with you or observe how a festival is marked. This can be a great way to learn!



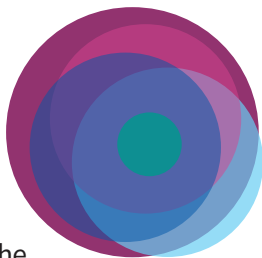
Interfaith Friday Night Dinner at Cambridge University Jewish Society.

SPECIAL DAYS AND WEEKS

Special days and weeks are a great opportunity to bring people together. They can generate better publicity than other one-off activities, and many provide additional information, advice and support for activity organisers. They are also a good way to try out something new without feeling committed to a long-term project right away.

Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week takes place each November, beginning on Remembrance Sunday. In England, Northern Ireland and Wales it is led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK linking with the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and the Inter-faith Council for Wales. Scottish Interfaith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland (see overleaf).



Each year, hundreds of activities take place. The Week is open to everyone, and any organisation or group can organise an activity. A large number of the activities each year take place in schools, colleges, universities and other youth contexts.

Inter Faith Week is an opportunity for young people of different faiths and beliefs to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and



Members of the Union of Jewish Students at an Inter Faith Week event in Barnet

building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

For information about activities you can join in with, and more ideas and planning resources for your own, visit www.interfaithweek.org

Scottish Interfaith Week



Scottish Interfaith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland. It provides an opportunity for individuals, local inter faith groups, faith communities, organisations and educational bodies to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity and plan events that bring local people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation. It takes place across the same dates as Inter Faith Week in the other nations, and also has a dedicated website scottishinterfaithweek.org. There is a theme for the Week each year which provides a focus for dialogue. These have included Connecting Generations, Creativity and the Arts, Religion and the Media, and Caring for the Environment.



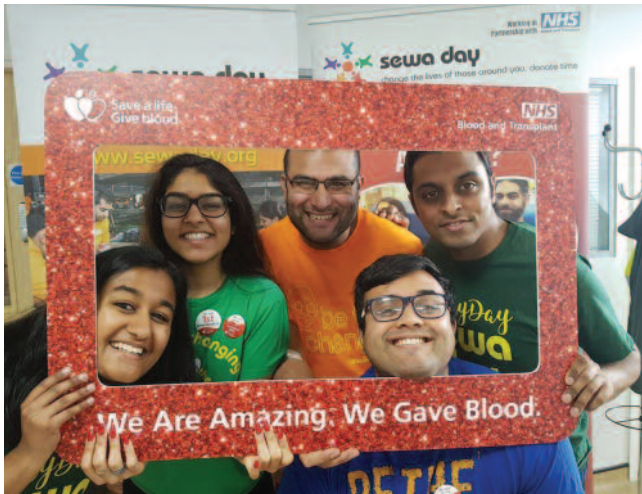
Participants at an annual launch event for Scottish Interfaith Week



Participants at a training event for youth workers on interfaith dialogue



Interfaith
Scotland



People donating blood to the NHS as part of a Sewa Day project

Sewa Day

Sewa Day is a day of service and volunteering which usually takes place in October. The word 'sewa' comes from Sanskrit and is embedded in the Dharmic traditions of ancient India. It means to sacrifice your time and resources for the benefit of others without wanting anything in return. www.sewaday.org

Mitzvah Day

Mitzvah day is a day of social action and voluntary service led by the Jewish community. It began in the UK, but now takes place across the world. It takes place in November, usually on the first or last Sunday of Inter Faith Week, and many activities take place to mark both as special 'Interfaith Mitzvah Days'. mitzvahday.org.uk



People of different faiths taking part in 'Mitzvah Day cooking' project

Sadaqa Day

Sadaqa Day is a day of social action led by the Muslim community but open to all. Its date varies annually. mysadaqaday.org

Other special days and weeks

There are many other great occasions to bring people together, such as the Big Lunch, the Great Get Together, One World Week and World Interfaith Harmony Week. You can also bring an inter faith dimension to many other Days and Weeks!

RESOURCES

General information and contacts

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works to promote understanding, cooperation and good relations between organisations and persons of different faiths in the UK. We are always happy to be contacted by those with an interest in inter faith activity, or who are looking for information and advice on related issues. As a network, we are in touch with inter faith organisations and activists across the country, and are also happy to try and put you in touch with others who may be better placed to answer your queries.

2 Grosvenor Gardens,
London, SW1W 0DH
www.interfaith.org.uk
@ifnetuk
www.facebook.com/ifnetuk
ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
020 7730 0410

The devolved nations

Each of the UK's devolved nations has its own inter faith linking body which can provide information, advice and contacts. These are:

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum
niinterfaithforum.org

Interfaith Scotland
www.interfaithscotland.org

Inter-faith Council for Wales
www.cytun.org.uk/interfaithwales

Inter Faith Network member bodies

National Faith Community Representative Member Bodies

IFN links in membership national faith community representative bodies from a wide range of faith traditions, many of which have youth programmes. They can be contacted through the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list

Local inter faith organisations

There are local inter faith groups across the UK. A number of these run activities and programmes for and with young people and all of which welcome engagement by young people. See the list at: www.interfaith.org.uk/locator

National and Regional Inter Faith and Educational and Academic Member Organisations

IFN's National and Regional Inter Faith member organisations provide a wide variety of ways to get involved in inter faith activity, including youth inter faith projects and programmes. These bodies can be contacted through the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/nrifos

Those with active youth programmes currently include: the Faith and Belief Forum, the Council of Christians and Jews, Interfaith Scotland, the Christian Muslim Forum, the Faith Awareness programme of Christians Aware, International Association for Religious Freedom British Chapter, the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby, NASACRE, the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, Religions for Peace UK, the St Philip's Centre,

Joseph Interfaith Foundation, the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, Westminster Interfaith, and the Women's Interfaith Network.

Other national organisations

The following organisations run regular inter faith projects, programmes or events for young people in different parts of the country.

The Feast

The Feast is a Christian-led charity bringing together young people from different faiths and cultures to create encounters, build friendships and explore faith.

thefeast.org.uk

contact@thefeast.org.uk

0121 675 1158

@TheFeastProject

www.facebook.com/TheFeastProject

Near Neighbours

Near Neighbours is a programme of the Church Urban Fund of the Church of England. It brings people of different faiths, beliefs and backgrounds together to develop positive relationships in multi-faith areas, and works with young people. It is also a grant-giving body, supporting local community activities which bring people together to make a difference. It also runs the Catalyst youth leadership programme, which is referred to in this guide.

www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours

near.neighbours@cuf.org.uk

0207 898 1508

@nearneighbours

www.facebook.com/nearneighbours

The Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade

JLGB runs a wide range of activities for Jewish young people, as well as regular inter faith activities. It also provides a faith-sensitive National Citizen Service programme to young people of different faiths and beliefs, as referred to in this guide (Page 22).

www.jlgb.org/ncs

020 3857 5905

@JLGBHQ

www.facebook.com/jlgbhq

Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs)

Every local authority area in England and Wales has a SACRE which advises on and oversees RE provision. Some run programmes directly with young people. You can find your local SACRE contacts through the National Association of SACREs at www.nasacre.org.uk/database

Details about SACREs in Wales can be found on the website of the Wales Association of SACREs at www.wasacre.org.uk

National Student Faith and Belief Organisations

There are a number of faith-based student organisations in the UK, each representing students from a particular faith community, with individual branches at colleges and universities. Many are involved in inter faith activity on campus and nationally.

More information about these bodies, including contact information, can be found through the National Union of Students at

www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/65266/National%20Student%20Faith%20and%20Belief%20Organisations%20briefing.pdf

Youth organisations

Many youth organisations that are neither faith-based nor specifically ‘inter faith’ nonetheless run programmes designed to bring young people of different backgrounds together to learn from each other and make a difference. Examples are:

Girlguiding

www.girlguiding.org.uk

The Scout Association

www.scouts.org.uk

National Citizen Service

NCS (National Citizen Service) is a national programme for 15-17 year olds:

www.ncsyes.co.uk

Step up to Serve’s #Iwill campaign provides, through its many partners, lots of opportunities for social action volunteering, a number of which have a multi-faith dimension.

www.iwill.org.uk/get-involved/young-people

Funding

Inter Faith Youth Trust

The Inter Faith Youth Trust supports youth inter faith initiatives in the UK, including through a small grants programme for youth-focused Inter Faith Week activities. It supports projects which involve young people in all aspects of design, delivery and evaluation.

www.ifyouthtrust.org.uk

@ifyouthtrust

www.facebook.com/interfaithyouthtrust

Near Neighbours

Near Neighbours provides small grants to community projects which bring people together to make a difference. Its contact details are in the section above.

Youth inter faith programmes you might join in with

Faith and Belief Forum – ParliaMentors

ParliaMentors is a young people’s leadership programme where teams of university students of different faiths and non-religious beliefs collaborate on social action projects while being mentored by MP’s.

faithbeliefforum.org/programme/parliamentors

02074851350

@ParliaMentors

www.facebook.com/parliamentors1

CCJ – Campus Leadership Programme

The Campus Leadership Programme is run by the Council of Christians and Jews. It gives students the opportunity to become Student Leaders in inter faith activity on their campus. The programme includes a Student Training Conference and support for running inter faith events at universities.

www.ccj.org.uk/our-work/campus-leadership

Katharine.crew@ccj.org.uk

0203 515 3003

@CCJUK

www.facebook.com/TheCCJUK

Religions for Peace – UK Interfaith Youth Network

The Religions for Peace UK Interfaith Youth Network is a platform for youth organisations of all religions, advancing common action for peace.

www.rfpuk.org/about/uk-interfaith-youth-network
rfp.ukiyn@gmail.com
@RfPUK
www.facebook.com/rfp.ukiyn

Joseph Interfaith Foundation

Joseph Interfaith Foundation partners with Islamic and Jewish societies to run inter faith activities on university campuses.

www.josephinterfaithfoundation.org
0208 458 9081
info@josephinterfaithfoundation.org
www.facebook.com/JosephInterfaithFoundation

Inter Faith Network publications and guides

Check out the website of the Inter Faith Network for the UK www.interfaith.org.uk and subscribe to its e-bulletin at www.interfaith.org.uk/e-bulletin which carries news of inter faith projects and events.

Follow IFN and Inter Faith Week Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
www.twitter.com/IFNetUK

In addition, most of IFN's member bodies have an active presence on social media, and this can be a good way to get involved in inter faith activity for the first time. You can find Facebook and Twitter pages for our member bodies on our website at www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list

If you are in Scotland, visit the Interfaith Scotland website, which has a page dedicated to online resources: www.interfaithscotland.org/resources

IFN has produced a number of resources to help you delve further into the aspects of inter faith activity you are most interested in. Some of these are below:

Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

A practical resource for those wishing to deepen their engagement with inter faith activity by getting involved in dialogue with people of different faiths and beliefs. The booklet offers some short reflections and examples drawn from the work of IFN and its member bodies, with the aim of inspiring and encouraging further discussion and engagement.

It can be downloaded at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/lets-talk-practical-pointers-for-inter-faith-dialogue

Building good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs

Developed by IFN, in consultation with its member bodies, this short guidance on Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs is widely used.

It can be downloaded at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/building-good-relations-between-people-of-different-faiths-and-beliefs-code

Inter Faith Learning, Dialogue and Cooperation: Next Steps

A resource for people who have attended an inter faith event and want to know how to get further involved in inter faith activity. The booklet includes information and pointers about different ways to get further involved with inter faith activity.

It can be downloaded at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-learning-dialogue-and-cooperation-next-steps

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit

A resource developed for Inter Faith Week to give people tips and ideas for organising successful inter faith activities. The booklet is packed with suggestions for ways of marking the Week as well as examples and illustrations drawn from successful activities held to date.

It can be downloaded at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-week-toolkit

Catering and faith based dietary practice: Briefing note

A briefing note for caterers and others about the dietary practices of faith communities including a chart of ingredients that people of different faiths are, or are not, likely to consume.

It can be downloaded at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/catering-and-faith-based-dietary-practice-briefing-note

Faith festivals: Guidance on sending greetings

Working with its Faith Communities Forum, IFN has produced guidance on sending greetings for two festivals per calendar year for each faith community represented by its National Faith Community Representative Bodies.

It can be downloaded at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/faith-festivals-guidance-on-sending-greetings

Faith festivals are also listed on IFN's website, with thanks to the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals

Faiths Working Together Toolkit

A toolkit containing practical pointers for making contact, planning and publicising inter faith activities, and advice on key principles, produced in partnership between Near Neighbours and The Inter Faith Network for the UK. Page 26 of this guide includes some material drawn from this.

It can be downloaded at
www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/faiths-working-together-toolkit

Looking after one another: the safety and security of our faith communities

A short document containing guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber-attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally.

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017

Other publications and guides

Inter faith resources relevant to young people have also been produced by other organisations. Here are just a few that you may find useful:

The Feast – Guidelines for Dialogue

The Feast has produced ‘Guidelines for Dialogue’ specifically targeted at young people’s inter faith activities. The guidelines can be downloaded at thefeast.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Guidelines-for-dialogue-2013.pdf

Interfaith Scotland – Belief in Dialogue

Interfaith Scotland have produced ‘Belief in Dialogue’, a good practice guide on religion and belief in Scotland, with relevance for the rest of the UK. It can be downloaded at www.interfaithscotland.org/app/download/2316395/Belief%2Bin%2BDialogue.pdf

Youth Link Northern Ireland – Reach Out, Enrich Within

Youth Link Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and others, has produced ‘Reach Out, Enrich Within’, a practical guide for those working with young people to approach intercultural engagement in their communities. It can be downloaded at www.youthlink.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Reach-Out-Enrich-Within.pdf

National Union of Students

The National Union of Students produces a range of information and guidance on faith and belief on campus, which can be found here:

www.nusconnect.org.uk/learning-resources/faith-and-belief

General guides

A number of resources and guides exist with general information about the practicalities of planning activities and events, including things like budgets, insurance, safeguarding and licensing.

Cabinet Office – Organising a voluntary event ‘can do’ guide

www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events/the-can-do-guide-to-organising-and-running-voluntary-and-community-events

Eden Project Communities

Eden Project Communities has produced a wide range of resources looking at different aspects of running projects and events. Many of these are linked to The Big Lunch, but will have relevance for other kinds of community activity too. www.edenprojectcommunities.com/make-it-happen

Childline – Staying safe online

Some general guidance on staying safe online can be found on the ChildLine website, and is relevant to different ages. It can be found at www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is very grateful to all who helped make this guide possible:

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- IFN's member bodies, which provided valuable assistance in preparing the guide.
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2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

www.interfaith.org.uk

www.twitter.com/IFNetUK

www.facebook.com/IFNetUK

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