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Everything you need to help
create an unforgettable
Inter Faith Week

8–15 November 2026

Resource pack

It is wonderful to see Inter Faith Week return for another year under the theme ‘Lighting the Way for a Shared Future.’ At a time when global and local challenges affect us all, it is more crucial than ever to applaud the extraordinary interfaith work taking place in communities up and down the country. Not only do I celebrate the achievements of interfaith groups, schools, and workplaces in fostering understanding, but I also urge everyone to get involved. Attend a shared meal, take part in a multifaith walk, or join a debate. By connecting in these ways, we discover our shared values, build lasting hope, and strengthen our resilience against those who seek to divide us.



Florence Eshalomi MP
Minister of State
Minister for Homelessness, Democracy, Communities and Faith

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A Message from the Inter Faith Week 2026 team

We are pleased that your group plans to run an activity for Inter Faith Week 2026. The theme for this year is **‘Lighting the Way for a Shared Future’**, inspired in part by the fact that the first day of this year’s Week coincides with Diwali. You may want to reflect this in some way, for instance through creating a light installation or using light in a symbolic way – but every local community is different and there is no ‘correct’ way to mark the Week.

We wish you every success in attracting good attendance at your event, especially among those who have previously not been involved in interfaith activity. By connecting during the Week and for the rest of the year, we discover our shared values, build lasting hope, and strengthen our resilience against those who seek to divide us.

This short booklet contains some pointers to help make your activity a success. Remember there are other resources available on the Inter Faith Week website <https://interfaithweek.org>. If you have any questions, just email communities@interfaithweek.org.

Do remember to take photos at your event, to share with your community. We may be able to feature some of them on our social media channels!

Have a great event!



What sort of event?

There are over 200 local interfaith groups around the UK, which bring people together year-round to make a difference to their local communities through dialogue, education, social events, social action projects and engagement with civic life. There are also many groups that bring together two or three faiths, such as branches of the Council of Christians and Jews. While your group may be involved in interfaith work all year, Inter Faith Week is a great opportunity to showcase what you do and encourage new people to get involved. You could...

- Join with your local authority to arrange a civic event to mark the Week
- Organise a 'faith trail' or 'open door day' in which faith communities open up their buildings to the public for short tours, or record a video tour
- Host a celebratory event with art displays from different communities, or a debate on a topic of current concern or 'Question Time' style discussion forum
- Work with relevant bodies such as your local SACRE or youth council to develop a forum event for young people from different faith backgrounds
- Partner with a local library or museum to run a 'faith exhibition', or prepare an exhibition that can be used in other public spaces
- Join with local schools to help organise a special series of assemblies involving presentations by people from different faith groups
- Organise a multifaith social action project
- Hold a dialogue meeting for women from different local faith communities to get together and discuss issues of common interest
- Team up with your local authority and members of different faith communities to organise a 'community clean-up' of a local park
- Arrange a multifaith sports event
- Arrange an event exploring different faiths' views on an agreed topic
- Or something else entirely!



Getting support

Support comes in many forms, from funding and in-kind support to advice and information. This page suggests a few sources.

Local faith communities

Ask places of worship in your area to support your activity and see if they are willing to make a venue or other resources available as a gift in kind, as well as taking part and encouraging their members to do so.

Contact your councillors, mayor, MP or Lord-Lieutenant

You can contact your councillors, mayor or Lord-Lieutenant through the local authority, and your MP by visiting <https://parliament.uk>. Encouraging dignitaries to attend can help to raise awareness of your activity and reach people who may not otherwise have heard about it. It may also help to get the interest of a local newspaper or radio station.

Local businesses

See if your local shops and other businesses might like to support you: invite them to sponsor the event or the publicity material, or ask if they may be willing to make resources available as a gift in kind.

Your local authority and other public bodies

Ask your local authority if they can offer a small grant, provide a free space or administrative support, or promote your activity via their website and social media. Other public bodies and services, such as the Police or Fire Service, may also be interested in supporting your activity, and may help broaden its reach.

Grant funding bodies

You could apply to the National Lottery Community Fund 'Awards for All' scheme or to private trusts for grants towards your event, particularly if you are aware of trusts which have an interest in your local area or region.

Media

Consider inviting local TV, radio and newspaper journalists to cover your activity or attend as guests. See also the page on Publicising your Activity.

Contact the Inter Faith Week team

The Inter Faith Week website (<https://interfaithweek.org>) contains useful information and a map showing all of the activities taking place. The former Inter Faith Network legacy website (<https://interfaith.org.uk>) also offers free resources. If you have a query please email us at communities@interfaithweek.org and we will do our best to help!

You can increase awareness of your activity by registering it on the website at <https://www.interfaithweek.org/events/register>. We encourage you to do so.

Publicising your activity

This page lists some simple ways to raise the profile of your organisation and your activities during Inter Faith Week. A good starting point is to talk through who your target audience is and what channels are most likely to reach them.

Register your activity on the website at <https://interfaithweek.org/events/register>

Use posters, leaflets and social media to make your event known, and answer any enquiries swiftly.

Traditional media

If you want local or regional newspapers and radio stations to cover your activities, build relationships with journalists, bloggers, editors, and presenters in advance. Contact them in good time to ask for their deadlines and what sort of information or stories they are interested in. Invite the local newspaper's photographer to your event.

Be available for comments or interviews to build trust. If a journalist is interested in Inter Faith Week or your type of event, contact them directly.

Consider appointing a press officer or media contact for the event.

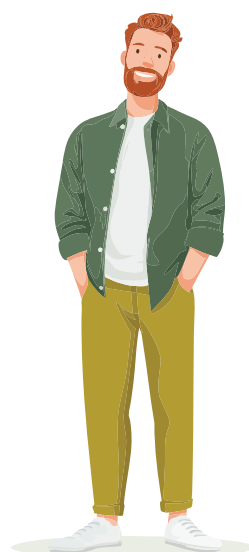
Follow up with good quality photos of the event, and provide captions with people's names. (When people register, be sure to ask them to sign a release form to say that they are content for photos to be used. Always ask permission from parents or guardians when using photos of children.)

Social Media

Social media is a powerful way to raise awareness and engage with others for greater impact. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and LinkedIn are widely used, but choose platforms suited for your audience.

Tag key individuals/organisations (@IFWeek) to boost reach, and use hashtags (#InterFaithWeek, plus your own if relevant). Include photos/graphics to attract attention.

For tips on media engagement, including writing a news release, please email our communications team at comms@interfaithweek.org



Lighting the Way for a Shared Future: discussion materials

The chosen theme for Inter Faith Week 2026 is Lighting the Way for a Shared Future. It is a celebration of hope, inspired by the symbolism of light across faiths and traditions, including the spirit of Diwali (8 November). The theme reflects a shared belief that even in challenging times, communities can come together to build understanding, trust and friendships.

At a time when disinformation, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, and other forms of prejudice are causing many people to feel isolated or pressured to hide who they are, interfaith activity offers an alternative: a glimpse of a shared future in which we all belong, stand together against hate and narrow definitions of belonging, and build stronger, more united communities. It offers a way forward rooted in solidarity, compassion, and shared action, creating space for people to connect across differences and work together for the common good.

Here are some discussion questions that you might like to use within your organisation:

- 01 What does "light" symbolise in your own faith, belief or personal experience?
- 02 What role does interfaith play in "lighting the way" for a shared future?
- 03 What actions (small or big, local or national) can we take in our schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods, or places of worship to help people feel safe, valued, and that they belong?

Running a multifaith social action project



Multifaith social action refers to people of diverse religious faiths, beliefs, and non-religious backgrounds coming together to address shared social, economic, and environmental issues within their local communities. Rather than focusing on dialogue, multifaith social action puts shared values, such as compassion, justice and service, into practice through hands-on initiatives including food banks, homeless shelters or environmental conservation projects. These projects provide practical support to people and communities while also helping participants build relationships, challenge prejudice and develop trust across different faith and belief backgrounds.

Hosting a Successful Project

Hosting a successful multifaith social action project relies on structured preparation, respectful engagement, and hands-on collaboration. Use this step-by-step checklist to guide your planning from initial concept through to post-event relationship building.

Phase 1

Getting started (6 to 8 Weeks Before)

Identify Co-organisers: Form a planning committee including leaders or representatives from at least two different faith or belief communities.

Select a Shared Cause: Agree on a hands-on project that reflects common values, such as a food collection drive, park clean-up, cooking for a local shelter, or building community garden beds.

Define Roles and Responsibilities: Assign specific leads for event management, volunteer outreach, faith and dietary sensitivity, and communications.

Set the Date and Time: Cross-check religious calendars, weekly holy days, and prayer times to ensure the selected date and time are accessible for all participating communities.

Phase 2

Practical arrangements (4 to 6 Weeks Before)

Secure a Neutral or Accessible Venue: Book a space that is welcoming to all groups (for example, a community centre, local park, or a faith venue that all partners agree upon).

Plan Dietary Accommodations: If providing food or refreshments, ensure clear options that satisfy dietary requirements (such as Halal, Kosher, vegetarian, or vegan) and label all ingredients clearly.

Review Religious Protocols: Confirm modesty considerations, venue entry rules (such as shoe removal or head coverings), and schedule short breaks if the event overlaps with prayer times.

Check Safeguarding and Insurance: Confirm public liability insurance coverage with the venue or co-hosting organisation, and check if DBS checks are required for activities involving children or vulnerable adults.



Phase 3

Promoting your project (2 to 4 Weeks Before)

Distribute Invitations: Share joint flyers, bulletins, and social media graphics across all partner congregations, schools, and local networks.

Collect Volunteer Details: Set up an online registration form to track attendee numbers, emergency contacts, accessibility requirements, and dietary preferences.

Gather Materials and Supplies: Purchase or request donations for all required project tools (for example, gardening gloves, packing boxes, cleaning tools, non-perishable food drive bins).

Register your activity on the Inter Faith Week website.

Phase 4

Final Preparations (1 Week Before)

Conduct a Venue Walk-through: Confirm room layouts, check accessibility features, inspect handwashing and sanitation facilities, and verify quiet/prayer space availability.

Prepare Welcome and Briefing Materials: Draft a brief opening script highlighting the community goals and setting a warm, inclusive tone.

Finalise Safety Logistics: Print attendance sign-in sheets, set up a designated first aid station, and prepare photo consent forms or colour-coded lanyards for participants who prefer not to be photographed.

Reconfirm Partner Faith Leaders: Send a quick reminder email with directions, parking instructions, and arrival times to all representatives.

Phase 5

On the day

Set Up Early: Arrive at least 60 to 90 minutes before the start time to set up registration tables, signage, materials, and refreshment areas.

Deliver Opening Briefing: Welcome participants, explain safety protocols, outline the day's goals, and set ground rules emphasising hands-on action and mutual respect.

Pair Up Volunteers: Mix participants from different faith backgrounds in working groups to encourage natural dialogue and relationship-building while completing tasks.

Capture the Impact: Photograph activities (with proper consent), log key statistics, and enjoy the collaborative effort.

Phase 6

After the event (1 to 2 Weeks After)

Send Thank-You Notes: Thank all volunteers, partner organisations, venue staff, and local sponsors with a summary of accomplishments.

Gather Feedback: Hold a debrief meeting with your committee to review what went well and identify areas for future improvement.

Share Your Results: Publish a photo summary and impact metrics on social media, local press outlets, and internal newsletters.

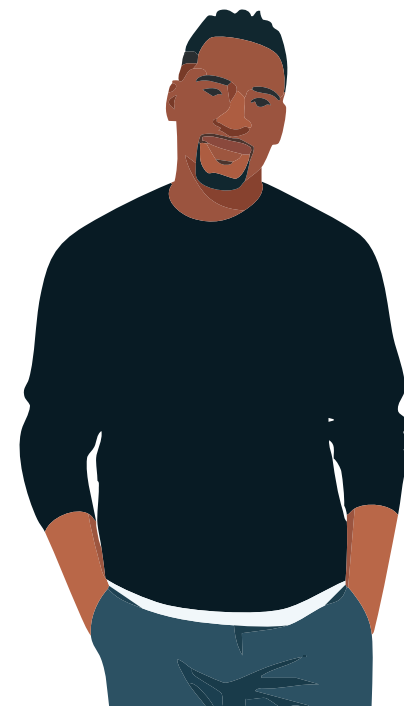
Plan the Next Step: Schedule a follow-up informal gathering to keep the interfaith network active and discuss future joint initiatives.

A handy checklist

The following pages apply to activities other than multifaith social action projects. We hope they will be helpful as you plan your event, on the day, and when you follow it up.

Before the event

- ☐ Create a task list and allocate responsibilities clearly.
- ☐ Find a venue, and decide on whether you (also) need a virtual platform.
- ☐ Invite speakers and any other contributors.
- ☐ Invite the audience – it's best to do this when the contributors have confirmed.
- ☐ Contact companies or bodies such as your local authority to seek in-kind support; invite your local MP, the Mayor or the Lord-Lieutenant/Deputy Lieutenant.
- ☐ Acquire any permissions you may need.
- ☐ Complete a risk assessment, and make sure you have appropriate insurance.
- ☐ Ensure that participants have DBS checks if necessary.
- ☐ Let participants know where they need to be, and when.
- ☐ Add your event to your website.
- ☐ Send out a news release.
- ☐ Ask two or three people to record your event as it is happening by making notes and taking pictures.
- ☐ Set up a sign-up or ticket webpage.
- ☐ If your event is wholly or partially online, ensure that the meeting link and any passwords have been sent to attendees.
- ☐ Register your project at <https://interfaithweek.org/events/register>



On the day

- ☐ Arrive early to check all the facilities are as required - including any audiovisual equipment - and that reception arrangements are in place
- ☐ Put up signs, including a big welcome sign.
- ☐ Meet and greet, with staff/volunteers meeting people and showing them where to go.
- ☐ Keep a list of who has arrived, or ask them to sign in.
- ☐ You might want to ask visitors to fill out a simple monitoring form to give a sense, after the activity, of the diversity of people who have taken part.
- ☐ Make sure you have brought any paperwork such as evaluation forms or a risk assessment.
- ☐ Make sure that there is an identified first aider and they know where the first aid kit is.
- ☐ Ensure that people taking part know where toilets, changing areas and refreshment areas are, as well as fire escapes and meeting points in the event of an emergency.
- ☐ If you are encouraging people to tweet from your event, display prominently #InterFaithWeek and any hashtags that you are using.
- ☐ Bring a camera to take pictures for your records, to tweet, etc.
- ☐ If food is being served, consider dietary requirements and how food is served and displayed.
- ☐ Set up any audiovisual equipment and ensure sound and picture quality is good.
- ☐ At the end of the event, thank the attendees, volunteers, supporters and sponsors.

If your event is wholly or partially online

- ☐ Test the link to make sure it works, and check the settings to see if participants will be automatically muted, etc.
- ☐ Make sure your internet connection is stable.
- ☐ Begin the event early so you are ready to let people in from the waiting room on time.
- ☐ If you're using a wireless headset, ensure it's charged.
- ☐ Test screen-sharing, video, and PowerPoint slides to ensure they function as expected.

After the event

- ☐ Tell the media of your success: have a news release ready to send to a local or regional newspaper, highlighting how your activity went. Be sure to include at least one photo to add human interest to the story.
- ☐ Use social media to highlight your event.
- ☐ Record feedback from participants, stallholders and volunteers.
- ☐ Evaluate the activity, identifying learning points to help guide future events.
- ☐ Send photos to the Inter Faith Week team (comms@interfaithweek.org) or tag @IFWeek; this helps us tell the story of the Week.

Download a blank poster

To download a blank A4 poster, into which you can insert details of your Inter Faith Week activity, go to <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-poster-a4>

Stay connected

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