

# **Youth Interfaith Council**

*House of Commons*

*Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013*

## **Joint Declaration on the Effect of Social Media on Faith Communities**

We, the undersigned:

- acknowledge the potential for good presented by social media for building and sustaining relationships.
- embrace the egalitarian nature of social media that empowers every individual to create and share their own creative content.
- reject the prohibition of the use of social media; those who wish should be free to embrace this legitimate form of communication.
- encourage faith communities to explore ways of fostering community through social media.
- encourage faith communities to communicate their important messages through social media to members of their own community and also in conversation with those of other communities.
- demand that the freedom to express faith be respected by all; likewise we demand respectful dialogue and reject hate-speech.
- caution against the abuse of social media to substitute for the intimacy of face-to-face fellowship.