

Testimonials

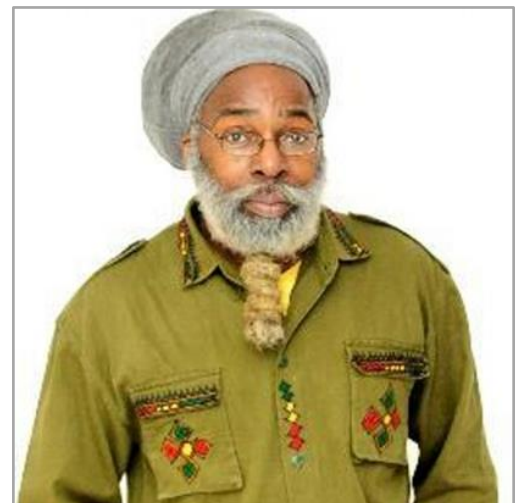
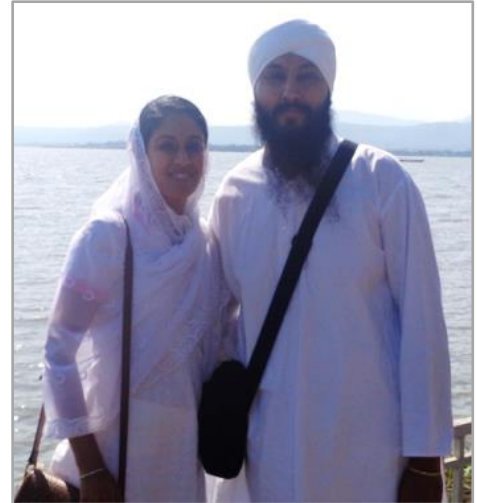
Gurraj Singh & Serina Kaur - I am currently enrolled on the course, 'Understanding Chaplaincy from a Faith Perspective' with Narinder Kaur at The Nishkam Centre. As part of this course, my fellow students and I were invited to the "Peace Forum on Forgiveness and Reconciliation" as part of my learning. I was able to bring my husband, Gurraj, along as a Guest. The forum was a very well organised event, meeting and working with people of other faiths. It highlighted the fact that we all have the same underlying values of compassion, empathy, love and elements which all make forgiveness and reconciliation a key and essential element in everyday life, turning points like arguments, differences, and even marriage or death.

The one big high entity, which bounds us together, is Waheguru (God) and this is what connected us all on the day. We were able to share life events and stories making us think of how to support forgiveness and reconciliation through acceptance and tolerance of others opinions, beliefs, values, faith or Dharam.

We found the talk by Tariq Jahan in particularly uplifting and very moving. Tariq's son was killed during the riots in 2011. We feel Tariq is a portrayal of forgiveness himself and for that we can all look up to him and learn from him as another human being. Through this work we also shared ways of how to collaborate and think of ideas to further improve the 'Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation'.

We have walked away with a lot of spiritual strength, to not only continue my course in Chaplaincy, but a great deal to think about and more importantly action forgiveness and reconciliation in our every day lives. Gurraj and I felt extremely humbled to share this moment with every single person who attended this forum and privileged to meet new friends from all faiths and walks of life who we hope we can keep connected to.

Moqapi Selassie "All we are saying is give peace a chance." **John Lennon**
"Forgiveness is the fastest way to God." **Kabir** On Saturday 4th February 2017 a unique event took place at the Nishkam Centre, Soho Road, Birmingham. The Peace Forum on Forgiveness and Reconciliation saw members of different faiths assemble to debate, contemplate and discuss 'The Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation in our Contemporary World.' The event consisted of videos, highlighting historic occurrences of forgiveness and reconciliation; organisational efforts to make these principles a reality; personal testimonies of what it really means to forgive; group debates/discussions on the topic; and, suggestions towards a 'Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.' One of the most poignant and touching testimonies was that of Tariq Jahan whose son got mown down by a car and died during the 2011 riots. The incident, which took place less than three miles from where the gathering took place, received national and international coverage. However, it was Tariq Jahan's reaction to his son's death by calling for calm amidst the rabid call for revenge that averted possible further bloodshed and was most commendable. Forgiveness in action. The event, then, concluded with a set of points that would go forward to making up a Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation: the call for a Day of Forgiveness and Reconciliation to be tabled at the United Nations and that other events of its nature would be kept in the future. Finally, the Nishkam Centre were wonderful hosts. The event was part of the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2017.



Aubrey-Clifford Clarke -This was the first conference on Forgiveness and Reconciliation that I have attended. The Nishkam Centre, inter-faith materials & facilitation were excellent. The Forgiveness and Reconciliation Conference was very inspirational, energising, bringing lots of ideas, with both substantial and in-depth knowledge together with case studies, learning from experience and being fully practice-oriented. Well-balanced composition of participants including Bhai Sahib Dr Mohinder Singh and Tariq Jahan who contributed to interesting and focused discussions and exchanges on forgiveness and reconciliation. It has really given me new insight and power to persevere for forgiveness and reconciliation in my future work in chaplaincy. I recommend this conference on Forgiveness and Reconciliation to all of those interested in how forgiveness and reconciliation can make a real difference in society today.



Rana Nazir - Thank you....words cannot express how myself and Dr Misfar felt after the event. Let's just say we have not stopped talking about you both and the wonderful people we met on the day. We spoke about it on way to Luton and on the way back....you are doing awesome work and the love, joy and inner peace you are spreading amongst others is life changing! Meeting Bhai Sahib was an emotional experience in itself...what a beautiful soul that brought tears to my eyes. You are the much hidden gems in our communities...keep doing what you are doing...we are with you to support and with you all the way now.

William Ozanne-The programme consisted of series of presentations, part video part oral. This provided a useful combination of field examples and theoretical apologetic. As part of the World Interfaith Harmony Week, it was an important contribution by the Sikh community to Birmingham society. As part of the process of publicising the Charter of Forgiveness and Reconciliation it brought together impressive evidence of support from the Vatican, drawing on the wisdom of Pope Francis, from Coventry Cathedral's Centre for Reconciliation, outlining the widespread activities undertaken there under the direction of the Dean of Coventry, from a young and dynamic representative of the Muslim community, together with Mr. Tariq Jahan and from the Sikh community, drawing on the life and teaching of Guru Nanak.

From the point of view of the International Charter of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, while the engagement of prestigious support keeps the Charter in the public domain, it has reached a stage of maturity in which its effects and action should begin to be more obvious. For the smaller group of interested people of differing faiths present on February 4th, perhaps shorter and more personal testimony would have inspired more to action. In the local scene evidence of socio-political reconciliation could be brought in and create a more coherent movement with the example of Coventry Cathedral's Centre. In the international field more could be done to bring together in conferences members of those who have experienced Commissions of Truth and Reconciliation at national level.