

Dr. Maureen Sier
Interfaith Scotland
Flemington House
110 Flemington Street
Glasgow
G21 4BT

12 February 2020

Dear Maureen

As you are aware, last week Fife College and the Scottish Prison Service ran a joint event organized by Interfaith Scotland and a delegation of faith representatives in HMP Barlinnie to engage with prisoners during **World Interfaith Harmony Week**. Over 100 prisoners heard personal stories of survival and transformation.

Two speakers in particular struck a chord with all present and delivered very moving speeches which left a lasting impression. They heard from Bosnian genocide survivor, Hasan Hasanovic, who explored with the prisoners how he, despite facing genocide and losing his twin brother and father, had still managed to transform hate into constructive energy and how he now focuses on **education and peace building**. They also heard from an ex-prisoner, Nick, who shared with the group how he had used the **power of faith** to turn his life around and to never be a prisoner of hate.

The dialogue with the prisoners was extremely well facilitated and all the men who engaged with the programme commented on how it had changed their perspectives and several stated it had made them want to re-think their way of life given how lucky they are to live in Scotland rather than a country torn apart by war. This innovative programme of Interfaith Scotland is to be commended and we offer this letter of support in your bid for the World Interfaith Harmony Week competition.

May I extend my heartfelt thanks for your support into bringing this event into Barlinnie and if there is anything further we can do to assist then please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Mitchell

Audrey Mitchell
Head of Prison Contracts