



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

## Interfaith Scotland World Interfaith Harmony Week Report 'Tackling Hate Together'



**Photo: Muslim & Jewish Participants embrace**

The World Interfaith Harmony event '**Tackling Hate Together**' was supported by representatives from diverse faith communities, Remembering Srebrenica and Police Scotland. This open public interfaith event explored how we as a society could 'tackle hate together' and begin to stem the tide of growing division and hatred.

Over 65 people attended the event, held in Garnethill Synagogue, the oldest Synagogue in Glasgow. Those present came from diverse religious and non-religious traditions including, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, Baha'i, Unitarian and Humanist.

The evening opened with two short guest presentations from a Jewish Holocaust survivor and a Muslim survivor of the Bosnian Genocide. The focus of their presentations was on how the extreme hatred had evolved that led to mass murder and what they as individuals

had done, over many years, to transform the hatred they initially felt into constructive energy to work for peace education and human rights.

Immediately after the presentations the audience engaged with the speakers in an open question and answer session which included hard-hitting questions such as *'what happens to children that are born as a result of sexual violence?'* and *'how can faith communities work together to help build peace and promote the spiritual values at the heart of their traditions?'*

Immediately after the Q & A those present paired with someone from a religious tradition other than their own and explored the following questions;

1. What could I do when I hear hateful words?
2. What could I do when I see hateful actions?
3. What could I do when I witness a hate incident or crime?

The participants were invited to write their answers on cards which were gathered at the end of the evening. Interfaith Scotland is using these answers to prepare a 'Tackling Hate Together' guide. This guide will be a complement to the 'transforming hate speech guide' that Interfaith Scotland published in partnership with diverse youth organisations (see <https://interfaithscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Transforming-Hate-in-Youth-Settings-Practical-Manual.pdf>)

The evening ended with a short summary from Chief Inspector, Colleen Wylie (Safer Communities, Equality and Diversity Unit). The Chief Inspector highlighted how Police Scotland is working with communities to end hatred and violence and she emphasised the critical importance of the support of the faith communities of Scotland to the work of Police Scotland. She highlighted the unique contribution each faith community with their distinct teachings could bring to tackling hate. The power of working together was also emphasised and World Interfaith Harmony Week was highlighted as a powerful global initiative.





#### Feedback excerpts:

- *loved the dialogue*
- *learned so much*
- *given me confidence to tackle hate*
- *felt a rise in my courage levels*
- *so much gained in one short evening*
- *profound thanks to organisers*
- *more please*
- *World Interfaith Harmony Week such a great opportunity to highlight what we can do together*
- *loved young and old and diverse faiths being together*
- *It is so important to tackle hate together and each of our faith communities has something unique to add to the conversation*
- *So much power when we work together*

#### Advertising and Social Media Coverage (Over 6,000 engagements)

Tackling Hate together: Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tackling-hate-together-tickets-89576434527#>

# Social Media Engagement

Facebook post from Interfaith Scotland (@interfaithscotland) published by Maureen Barbara Sier on January 29 at 9:24 PM. The post features a large image of a group of people sitting in a room with ornate architecture, likely a synagogue. The text of the post reads: "WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK EVENT, 'Tackling Hate Together' at the beautiful Garnethill Synagogue and Scottish Jewish Archive Centre. Honoured to have our survivors Janine and Hasan share their stories to a group of diverse Scots followed by a dialogue on how best to tackle hate. We then heard from Police Scotland the importance of reporting hate crimes and the role intervention & education has to play in challenging hatred. Thank you to all who joined us for a wonderful evening." The post has 5,646 People Reached and 643 Engagements. The right sidebar shows contact information for Interfaith Scotland, including the address: Flemington House, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, United Kingdom G21 4BF, and phone number 0141 558 0778. It also lists categories: Nonprofit Organization · Religious Organization · Religious Center.

Facebook post from Interfaith Scotland (@interfaithscotland) published by Frances Hume on January 30 at 8:32 AM. The post features a large image of a man and a woman embracing, with a smaller image of a group of people in the background. The text of the post reads: "Really great turnout for the first of our World Interfaith Harmony Week events 'tackling Hate Together' held in the oldest Synagogue in Scotland Ashley Inn #interfaith #harmony". The post has 319 People Reached and 87 Engagements. The right sidebar shows contact information for Interfaith Scotland, including the address: Flemington House, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, United Kingdom G21 4BF, and phone number 0141 558 0778. It also lists categories: Nonprofit Organization · Religious Organization · Religious Center. The bottom of the page shows the URL: https://www.facebook.com/interfaithscotland/#.