



The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow  
Councillor Philip Braat

20 February 2020

Our Ref: PB/LH

To Whom It May Concern

**Interfaith Glasgow**

As Lord Provost of Glasgow, it will always be my priority to engage with the many faith communities that enrich the city's religious and cultural life.

I recently had the privilege of attending some of the Interfaith Glasgow events during the World Interfaith Harmony Week. In particular, I enjoyed attending *Upstanders Not Bystanders*, and *Together in A Crisis: Faith and Climate Change*. Both events showed the range and depth of engagement that Interfaith Glasgow strive for across all the faith communities.

Both of these events highlighted the very urgent role of faith communities in promoting interfaith understanding, and locating the role of faith in addressing the significant challenge of climate change to us all.

This is, I feel, emblematic of the great work of Interfaith Glasgow, namely that faith communities are not solely engaged on the basis of their faith, but also as live, organically-embedded Glasgow communities with other interests, experiences, ideas and concerns that can enhance the life of this great city of ours.

I hope to continue the very positive engagement of the office of Lord Provost with Interfaith Glasgow, and with all and any other communities of faith within the city.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Braat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

**The Rt Hon the Lord Provost of Glasgow  
Councillor Philip Braat**



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

25th February 2020

To whom it may concern,

### **Interfaith Glasgow**

I have had the pleasure of working with Interfaith Glasgow over the previous three years and I am deeply impressed at their innovative means of bringing different faiths together.

One such example was Interfaith Glasgow's event held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, an occasion I was delighted to attend and formally welcome the visitors. The event was held in the large housing estate of Castlemilk, an area of my constituency with a long history of welcoming and housing immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, which of course brings together a number of faiths, and none. There were also a number of agencies and community organisations present to support the event and aid the guests.

Events such as these have a number of benefits, some of which are measurable; the number of people who are referred to agencies and community partners, the type of assistance provided; access to the NHS, housing issues, assisting with fuel poverty, accessing benefits, providing volunteering opportunities that increase skills and widens people's scope for employability and taking an active part in their community.

There are also those benefits that are immeasurable; people of different faiths coming together in understanding and co-operation, removing social isolation, helping to develop a community and a sense of place building.

Interfaith Glasgow are constantly looking to achieve these outcomes and much more. They are tireless in their efforts while being inclusive, sensitive and innovative. It is a pleasure working with them.

Kindest Regards,

James Dornan MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Cathcart

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## Councillor Graham Campbell

Glasgow, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

To Whom It May Concern



**INTERFAITH GLASGOW**

**Dear Colleagues**

I had the pleasure of attending Interfaith Glasgow's event "Upstanders not Bystanders" on the 26<sup>th</sup> January – an event where people of all faiths and none learned how to respond to hate incidents in their communities. This was part of their programme of events for World Interfaith Harmony Week titled "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally". The programme also looked at the issues of climate change and refugee integration, vital issues because of recent flooding and wildfire incidents across the world and in here in Scotland and UK. It is also very prescient that in the year Glasgow will be hosting COP26 the international UN conference on Tackling Climate Change later this year – civic society organisations like Interfaith Glasgow acting on the basis of interfaith cooperation are going to be crucial in galvanising public opinion in this regard. World Interfaith Harmony Week offers the perfect opportunity for different faith viewpoints to engage on issues of people and planet as we all prepare for COP26.

As Glasgow's first African Caribbean elected city councillor and someone who has been an active anti-racist and environmental campaigner for over 25 years, I was pleased to attend and actively participate in the "Upstanders Not Bystanders" event to take part in dialogue with people from diverse faith backgrounds on issues of tackling direct discrimination. I know personally, having organised multi-faith anti-poverty education work with Asian, Arab and African communities, how tackling such major political and social issues from a faith perspective provides a truly valuable and unique forum. Interfaith Glasgow reaches many people through this form of outreach very well indeed and I believe it is a model to follow in other areas of public policy which require a community engagement focus.

Although they have minimal resources I believe Interfaith Glasgow's local impact is really important. With just 1.5 full time staff and numerous volunteers – it provides the only space I know where people from multiple faith perspectives have an open space to address major issues that have an impact locally and globally that is worthy of international recognition.

**Yours Sincerely**

**Councillor Graham Campbell**

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