

"The Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) truly captured the essence and universal values of the 2021 UN Harmony week. EIFA co - hosted a very well attended joint programme with the Dublin, Ireland Interfaith Association that featured a Hindu Swami and a Jewish lay leader describing in an emotional and inspiring manner the core harmonious elements of both religions. As one example of how effective these programmes were, an Edinburgh Jewish Rabbi who admitted he knew very little about Hinduism, actually raised a question for the Hindu Swami about misconceptions and fears some Jews have over the "multiple idols" within Hinduism. The Swami thoughtfully explained that to the Hindu people these were not idols nor multiple deities. They all represented one philosophy of all living creatures have a soul and are all part of a supreme soul. The Rabbi then responded by saying, "Thank you, I just learned something new." And that is the point of UN Harmony Week and it was well illustrated and very effectively delivered by EIFA."

Emeritus Professor Joe Goldblatt

Edinburgh Jewish Lay Leader, Chair of Fundraising, Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre