

During **World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025**, Religions for Peace United Kingdom Interfaith Youth Network (UKIYN) <https://rfpuk.org/> hosted an engaging and insightful webinar that highlighted the importance of interfaith collaboration in addressing pressing societal issues. The event brought together esteemed collaboration partners, including Greshma Raju, Founder of EcoPeace Teen Café; Ralph Boer, a leader in Hillsong UK Church's Refugee Response and Social Impact Partnerships; and Alavari Jeevathol, also known as AJ, National Coordinator of Young Humanists UK. These distinguished speakers have been actively working to build bridges of understanding and cooperation between faith and non-faith communities while tackling challenges such as climate change, refugee support, and interfaith engagement.

Greshma Raju is a climate and peace educator with extensive experience in interfaith dialogue and environmental peacebuilding. As the founder of the EcoPeace Teen Café, she has created platforms for discussions on sustainability and social justice. In 2023, she partnered with Religions for Peace UK to launch the UKIYN EcoPeace Café, empowering young people to engage in interfaith and environmental dialogue.

During the webinar, Greshma spoke about the significance of interfaith collaboration in fostering peace, mutual understanding, and climate action. She shared her personal journey, which began with early interfaith experiences, evolved through the United Religions Initiative, and culminated in the establishment of the UKIYN EcoPeace Café, a global youth-led initiative that connects faith, sustainability, and community action.

From celebrating Ramadan as a child to participating in the Manresa Conference and receiving funding from Religions for Peace UK for the UKIYN EcoPeace Café in the UK, Greshma emphasised how interfaith dialogue can drive meaningful social change. She highlighted how UKIYN EcoPeace Café has empowered young people worldwide through skill-building, community projects, and climate-focused initiatives. This initiative has provided a safe space for conversation, education, and action. Greshma further elaborated on how small conversations can lead to a global impact, stressing the importance of grassroots engagement alongside international partnerships. She also shared valuable lessons on sustainability, peacebuilding, and financial resilience in social projects.

Ralph Boer is a leader in Hillsong Church's Refugee Response and Social Impact Partnerships in London. Ralph has championed initiatives that support refugees and asylum seekers, including English classes and community cafés. In 2022, he collaborated with Religions for Peace UK to foster multicultural and interfaith understanding among refugees through the UK Interfaith Network.

Ralph shared his inspiring story about a Community Café in Earls Court, London, dedicated to supporting asylum seekers and refugees. Having worked on Religions for Peace UK Refugee Integration projects since 2015, Ralph described how the Community

Café was established to provide a welcoming space for individuals facing isolation due to the UK asylum process.

The Community Café, launched in partnership with local churches and organisations, offers more than just meals; it fosters connection, cultural exchange, and interfaith dialogue. With attendees from diverse nationalities and religious backgrounds, the initiative embodies mutual respect, curiosity, and community-building. Activities such as playing UNO, sharing meals from different cultures, and engaging in interfaith discussions have helped individuals integrate and find a sense of belonging.

Through partnerships with Religions for Peace International Multi-Religious Humanitarian Fund Refugee Project and Religions for Peace UK Refugee Integration Projects, Ralph's team has participated in interfaith activities such as visits to places of worship, museum tours, and cultural celebrations. He emphasised how the Refugee Integration Project promotes understanding and friendship across faiths, creating vibrant and inclusive spaces where strangers become neighbors and fostering resilience and peace among those involved.

Alavari Jeevathol, known as AJ, serves as the National Coordinator of Young Humanists UK, a director and trustee of Humanists International, and a founding trustee of the National Multifaith Youth Centre in the UK. AJ has collaborated with Religions for Peace UK on humanitarian youth projects and continues to support non-religious asylum seekers, refugees, and environmental sustainability initiatives.

This session explored the power of interfaith dialogue and community service, offering personal insights and institutional perspectives on fostering unity across different faiths and beliefs. AJ shared his journey of engaging in interfaith study groups, meditation, and service projects, emphasising the common spiritual and philosophical values that unite people despite their diverse backgrounds.

He discussed the challenges and rewards of interfaith work, highlighting its role in strengthening communities, promoting mindfulness, and addressing global issues such as refugee support and human rights advocacy. Through real-world examples, including the founding of the National Multifaith Youth Centre and experiences from international interfaith efforts, AJ showcased how interfaith consciousness can drive meaningful social change. This thought-provoking talk encouraged viewers to look beyond labels, embrace shared values, and actively contribute to a more inclusive and harmonious world.

The session also provided a step-by-step guide on how to register and enhance the visibility of the Religions for Peace UK PeaceBuilders Network. The network aims to connect and support individuals and organisations dedicated to interfaith collaboration and peacebuilding.

PeaceBuilders Network Registration: <https://rfpuk.org/peacebuilders-network/>

This event successfully united individuals and organisations dedicated to promoting peace and understanding through collaboration. Attendees from diverse backgrounds had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and gain valuable insights from our distinguished speakers. The session offered practical tools, deep reflections, and a space for open dialogue, empowering participants to nurture inner peace and meaningful connections.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in this inspiring event. Together, we can build bridges of understanding and work towards a more peaceful and inclusive world.

Missed the session? Watch the recording here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5OboAQFBNg&t=5s>

<https://www.facebook.com/religionsforpeaceuk>

**#WorldInterfaithHarmonyWeek #InterfaithDialogue #PeaceBuilding #Sustainability
#RefugeeSupport #FaithInAction #EcoPeace #TogetherForPeace**