

Religious diversity, young people and women of the Commonwealth

Speaker 1

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(Australia)**



Women's Interfaith Network



Women's Interfaith Network



WIN Launch (March 2001)



Women's Interfaith Network

- The Women's Interfaith Network ("WIN") is a gathering of women of different religious traditions who meet and work to promote harmony, understanding and respect among the followers of the various world religions, and stand together as a sign of solidarity among people of faith.
- We operate from a conviction that mutual understanding and respect for different religious expressions proceed from building personal relationships, co-operation and discussion. Therefore, we meet monthly, listening to one another's faith stories and support each other in projects that promote our ideals.



Women's Interfaith Network



Members of WIN at the “Unity in Adversity” multi-faith gathering at Government House in Sydney, hosted by the Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr



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Anglican Deaconess Sue Emeleus and Tibetan Buddhist Nun Rev Chonyi



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**Ven Hay Jin Su Nim (Buddhist Korean Nun) and Sr
Mary Cresp (Catholic)**



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**Caroline Haski (Jewish) Vasanta (Peri Baha'i) Rev
Helen Richmond (Uniting Church) Mina Batra (Sikh)**



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Sarah Taouill, (Muslim Shiite), Josie Lacey (Jewish), Rev Helen Richmond (Uniting Church Minister)



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Mataji (Hindu Nun), Josie Lacey (Jewish).



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Mina Batra (Sikh), Acey Teasedale (Quaker), Sue Emelaus (Anglican).



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WIN Blessing at induction of Anglican Deaconess Reverend Sue Emelaus
February 2005



Women's Interfaith Network

PRINCIPLES

- Respect for other religions.
- Encouragement of mutual understanding and learning about the ideals of various religious groups, through personal relationships of co- operation and discussion.
- Rejection of all proselytising.
- Encouragement of joint advocacy by representatives of the different religious groups to address common social concerns.
- Spreading the ideal of harmony between religions as widely as possible



Women's Interfaith Network

- a) If there are complaints that a core member is contravening the aim, principles and policies of the Network, a mediation group will be formed by the Core Group to discern the situation with the member and make recommendations to the Core Group.
- b) If, after such discernment, the offending member is not willing to adhere to the aims, principles and policies of the Network, that member will be required to relinquish membership of WIN.



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“Consensus” General agreement reached by all participants, having examined the “fors” and “againsts” of the question. Consensus may be arrived at in a number of ways. If there is, after discussion and representation, an enduring difference of opinion, the following options may be explored:

- Participants are asked if they can live with the decision that is favoured by the majority.
- Participants explore a compromise.
- it is decided to suspend the final decision (if appropriate) until after further consideration.
- a part-decision may be arrived at by isolating the common ground of agreement and the differences treated in a different way (as above).



Women's Interfaith Network

The organisation aims to bring together women of different religious traditions in order to promote harmony, understanding and respect among the followers of the various world religions, and as a sign of solidarity among people of faith.

What was the Journey of Promise?

The Journey of Promise brought together a group of young people from the three Abrahamic faiths in an intensive experience of sharing and exploring faith and culture across a broad range of contemporary life in Sydney; and recorded this experience in a video/DVD for wider awareness, discussion and activities elsewhere

Who was involved in it?

What happened on the Journey of Promise?

Journey of Promise



Steering Committee of Muslim, Christians and Jewish representatives

Journey of Promise

Activities included:

- encounters with a variety of places of secular and religious significance including Indigenous culture and civic life
- opportunities for individual and group reflection,
- input and/or facilitation by national, community and faith leaders
- workshops exploring shared responses to particular issues of importance in contemporary Australian society

Talking to each other



“The seminar was sponsored by the federal government (\$50,000), however, about \$30,000 went to the making of a documentary about the ‘Journey’, everything we did was videoed by a professional documentary maker. The participants were really great people and I made some very strong bonds.” Josh (Jewish)

Journey of Promise

QUOTES

- “This week I made strong connections with both Muslims and Christians, and found out that although we have different beliefs we have so many similarities, and mutual respect is essential if we really want to live in peace and harmony. I feel the Journey of Promise was a beacon of light, playing a small role in preventing the avalanche of distrust and division. “ Josh
- Bahije (Muslim) was intrigued by similarities in the culture and traditions of the three Abrahamic faith communities. "The Jewish community, in particular, seems to be so similar to us in some of their traditions," she said
- “The most important thing about the week was the informal conversations and sharing most evenings, after the planned activities were over, and the last day," she says. "They were really the times of exploring each other’s beliefs and thoughts." Kelly (Christian)

Journey of Promise



- **A project within the Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews, proudly supported by the Australian Government's Living in Harmony initiative, and managed by the National Council of Churches in Australia.**