


## Message from the Chair

**Reporting UK participation in SDGs Conference #UNGA79**

Religions for Peace UK presented our work towards delivering Sustainable Development Goals at the SDGs Conference in New York City during the 79th United Nations General Assembly, hosted by the Journalists and Writers Foundation. This gathering brought together diverse participants: journalists, writers, professionals, volunteers, government stakeholders, aspiring interns, and seasoned practitioners. Through roundtable discussions, we raised critical issues, suggested action plans, and reaffirmed our shared commitment to building a sustainable society.

I travelled alongside colleagues from Albania, Bulgaria, and Spain, all members of the Religions for Peace European National Inter-religious Bodies. Together, we presented the movement's alignment with the 17 SDGs, which we view as essential elements of peace. Our programmes and projects contribute to sustainability by promoting equality and equity across all areas vital to human survival. However, progress often hinges on government policies, which are inevitably linked to politics. If the rich and powerful fail to adopt sustainability as a shared goal, civil society and NGOs will remain the key players upholding the ideals and practices necessary to maintain societal stability.

Despite some frustrations, I left the conference feeling hopeful. While government commitments may seem limited and calls for deregulation troubling, the individuals at such gatherings are the true pillars of the sustainability movement. The SDGs has taken the concept of "peace" and given it real shapes and forms, and not just a distant and unattainable ideal. Religions for Peace UK, alongside faith actors of our global movement, believes in walking the path of peace, step by step. By raising awareness, improving education, and fostering collaboration across interfaith, intercultural, and intergenerational lines, we are working to realise the our vision.

Policy alone cannot drive change; it is the people's willingness to act that will bring sustainable peace for present and future generations. To strengthen this collective effort, Religions for Peace UK has launched the *PeaceBuilders Network* on our website - a directory designed to connect practitioners, showcase initiatives, and encourage collaboration. Greater visibility and cooperation among us will amplify our efforts to create the peaceful world we all strive to build.

Cinde Lee
Chair, Religions for Peace UK







## PeaceBuilders Network

This PeaceBuilders Network is a directory featuring interfaith and peace organisations and individuals. Users can upload their individual or organisation name, contact details, synopsis of their work and areas of interest. Entries are submitted and managed by users and information can be kept updated by logging on with a password. The PeaceBuilders Network features a search engine to facilitate easy access by name, work initiative and region.
All entries are moderated.




Register Here

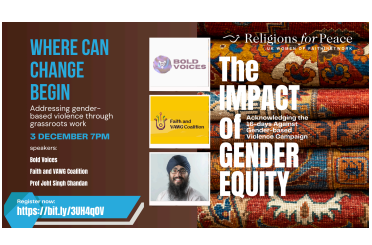
## Upcoming Activities

### The Impact of Gender Equity - Where can Change Begin

The UK Women of Faith Network's campaign In support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence will be featuring frontline UK organisations this year.

Part of our campaign will be an inspiring webinar on **3 December 7PM (GMT)** featuring experts and grassroots advocates Natasha Eeles (Bold Voices), Elsabeth Gezahegn from Faith and VAWG Coalition, and Professor Joht Singh Chandan (University of Birmingham). In this session we will hear about effective strategies, community-driven efforts and ways we can all support the movement toward greater safety and equity.

Register Now




### 23 - 30 November is National Tree Week

This month we are celebrating the National Tree Week in a special way. We'll be donating towards the Dundreggan Nursery Appeal by Trees for Life. The call for action from the Nursery is to secure the work they do to provide native seedling for trees, some of them rare and hard-to-grow, to rewild and restore biodiversity to the Scottish Highlands. Learn more about this project, take action to support environmental work, be the ChangeMaker we can all become.

Read the full post

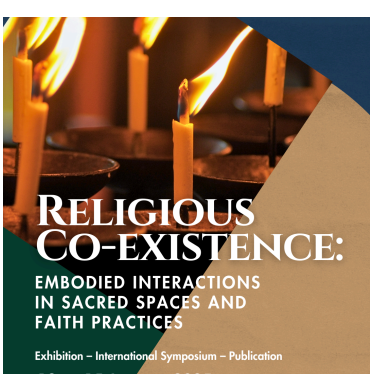



### Religious Coexistence: Embodied Interactions in Sacred Spaces and Faith Practices

RfPUK is collaborating with Newcastle University to present the Religious Coexistence Symposium, an event dedicated to exploring the role of sacred spaces in fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse faith communities.

The "Shared Sacred Sites" exhibition will be at the Newcastle University from mid January for a month. A 3-day Symposium between 13 and 15 January 2025 will be bringing together leading scholars and over 20 research presentations on themes such as interfaith dialogue, faith identity, and the impact of sacred spaces.

For details please contact Eda Molla Chousein
youth.coordinator@rfpuk.org




## Highlights from Past Events

### RfP European National Inter-religious Bodies Meeting in Athens

RfP European National Inter-religious Bodies (ENIB) Board Meeting took place on 22 September 2024 at the Gefyres Eirinis (Bridges for Peace) Office in Athens.

RfP national chapter representatives from Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Germany, Albania, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK attended the hybrid Board Meeting. The meeting welcome the new chapters of Finland and Greece and spent time to understand the interfaith work they are involved in, their challenges and their achievements.
Each national representative recounted the work in their country, and recognised the similarities in our challenges as well as the differences in our encounter in regions from the Mediterranean to the Nordic regions.

Two tasks stood out at the meeting: all ENIB chapters will focus on developing collaborative programmes with fellow chapters as set out in the new RfP Europe strategic plan, and renewed effort will be directed at better communication between chapters to maximise the effect of the RfP global priorities we all work towards.





### From London to Brighton: finding friendship and exploration

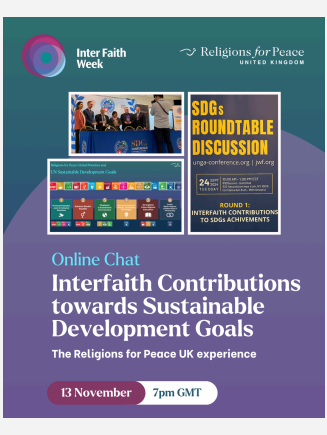
On 28 September 2024, the UK Interfaith Youth Network's programme of refugees integration continues with Hillsong Church UK and Holy Trinity Brompton. We organised a trip for 90 refugee and asylum seeker guests and volunteers from London to Brighton. It is RfPUK's goal to help newcomers to the UK to experience British culture and places of worship, encourage exploration, and stimulate learning beyond their temporary accommodations would allow, thus offering a chance to foster connection between people from different faith groups and nationalities.

For a full event report please visit our social media page.




### Inter Faith Week 2024 - Online Chat on Interfaith Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals

On 13 November, as part of Inter Faith Week 2024, Religions for Peace UK hosted an online chat entitled *Interfaith Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals.* Building on our presentation at the SDGs Conference during #UNGA79 in New York City in September, we shared how SDGs defined our actionable goals for our programmes and projects. This chat session introduced our CIO foundational model, ongoing programmes and global strategies, while opening a dialogue with the UK interfaith community, inviting their comments and suggestions on our 2025 programmes. Participants also learned about our PeaceBuilders Network which is a new platform to increase visibility for peace workers and organisations.




There are many people working towards sustainability and peace. Religions for Peace UK aims to share resources and work together to amplify our impact as positive contribution to our world.

Let us share peace and blessings by working together.
*Religions for Peace UK Team*

Religions for Peace
UNITED KINGDOM

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