

End of Year Report *2024*

Different Faiths, Common Action

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Message *from the* Chair

Looking back on 2024, we have experienced societal turbulence not seen in decades. Wars rage on in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, riots erupt across British cities, where extremists spread intolerance and discontent. Amid this turmoil, the prospect of a better future feels both urgent and daunting as the spectre of global conflict looms large.

Polarisation and incivility have eroded the foundations of dialogue. Many feel profoundly weary, burdened by the emotional toll of division and violence.
Economic inequality further compounds the crises, the working classes see their living standards deteriorate, anger and desperation fester. Climate change also contributes to instability both to the planet and to the affected populations. The widening gap in resources and opportunities exacerbates tensions, pushing us closer to the brink of unimaginable military action, shadowed by the chilling threat of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Conflict has not merely knocked on our door; it has entered our homes and lives.
Interfaith peace organisations like ours face unprecedented challenges. From harsh realities, we draw conviction. We now have greater access to better education and enhanced connectivity, and it is of vital importance that we hone our critical thinking skills to help us discern unbiased perspectives, free from manipulation, like never before.
If we can quell the corrosive materialism that has dominated our lives, we can harness the very technologies we often fear. Artificial intelligence, advanced communication, and digital tools can be leveraged to deliver care more effectively, educate more broadly, and empower more deeply.
Instead of fearing the future, we can choose to shape it. We can endeavour to uphold shared values and restore the civility that should defined public discourse. We can choose collaboration instead of conflict, responsibility over self- indulgence, and dialogue and mutual respect over war and destruction.

By focusing on shared security and the well-being of all, we have the opportunity to redefine life in a global community—one where the pursuit of the common good takes precedence over profits for a select few

As 2025 approaches, *Religions for Peace UK* ventures forth with our planned efforts to promote spiritual compassion, religious coexistence, and societal collaboration. Let us embrace a shared vision of hope and action. Let us strengthen our resolve to tackle inequality, foster understanding, and work together for a more just and peaceful world.



Cinde Lee
Chair, Religions for Peace UK

The Worldwide Movement of *Religions for Peace*



Religions for Peace UK is part of a global movement with over 90 chapters across six regions, together, we strive to achieve objectives by aligning our efforts with shared global
priorities, all of which are based on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global Religions for Peace movement convenes World Assemblies to deliberate on a shared agenda which resulted in six key priorities to guide our collective efforts toward building a sustainable and peaceful society.

6
Regions

90+
National Chapters

Our *Impact*

Religions for Peace UK leverages social media to promote harmony, understanding, and collaboration among diverse faiths. By sharing inspiring stories, fostering dialogue, and combating hate speech, it builds an inclusive online space for peace and mutual respect across communities.

Hosted
40
events

Engaged
444
participants

Social media reach
6520

Involved
30
volunteers

Featured
24
speakers



visit our website

Our *Networks*

We share our work with our constituent UK Women of Faith Network and the UK Interfaith Youth Network. Together, we advance the strategy to build and strengthen sustainable mechanisms that link local, national, regional, and global multi-religious structures, forging partnerships with other sectors of society.



The UK Women of Faith Network

The UK Women of Faith Network (UKWFN) seeks to amplify the role of women of faith to achieve transformational changes to urgent challenges, thus securing a better environment for our future generations.



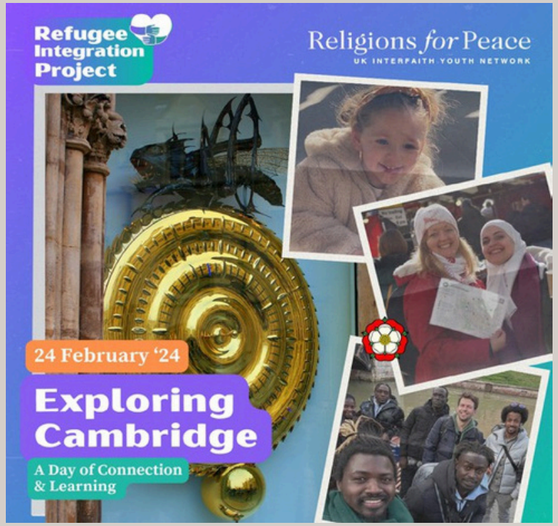
The UK Interfaith Youth Network

The UK Interfaith Youth Network (UKIYN) is a multi-religious youth network with volunteers from multi and interfaith organisations in the UK to advocate for positive change for peaceful coexistence.

Peaceful *Society*

Peace is the focus of our work. We hold the belief that peace is not a distant ideal and we view the UN Sustainable Development Goals as concrete objectives, with actionable steps and measurable outcomes, ensuring that our advocacy translates into practical, impactful, and results-driven actions.





Refugee Integration Programme

The humanitarian effort under the Refugee Integration Programme continued throughout 2024, addressing the needs of refugees and asylum seekers as they faced increasingly complex application processes.
The UKIYN programme provided enhanced opportunities for guests to engage with the multi-cultural and multi-religious fabric of UK society, fostering understanding and integration.







Parenting in a Changing World

Parents and caregivers often find themselves unprepared for the complexities of modern parenting. The rapid evolution of technology, shifting societal values, and the pervasive influence of artificial intelligence present unique challenges.
The RfPUK Parenting in a Changing World series brought together experts to share valuable insights, practical methods, and strategies for navigating these uncertainties. The initiative also aimed to foster a supportive network among participants, empowering them to adapt to the demands of today's dynamic environment.

Environmental Initiatives

A stable environment is essential for sustainable peace. While climate patterns may naturally fluctuate over eras, we cannot ignore the significant role human activity has played in degrading the world around us. The call to action from RfPUK emphasises both individual and communal contributions to drive meaningful change.



EcoAction

Our EcoAction programme encapsulates the essence of Confucian philosophy, focusing on the ripple effect of self-improvement and responsibility extending outward to impact society.

The programme invited speakers to share their views and expertise, and they aligned these values with practical sustainability practices, offering participants actionable tools like checklists to help develop good practice that contribute to a balanced and responsible lifestyle.







Trees for Peace

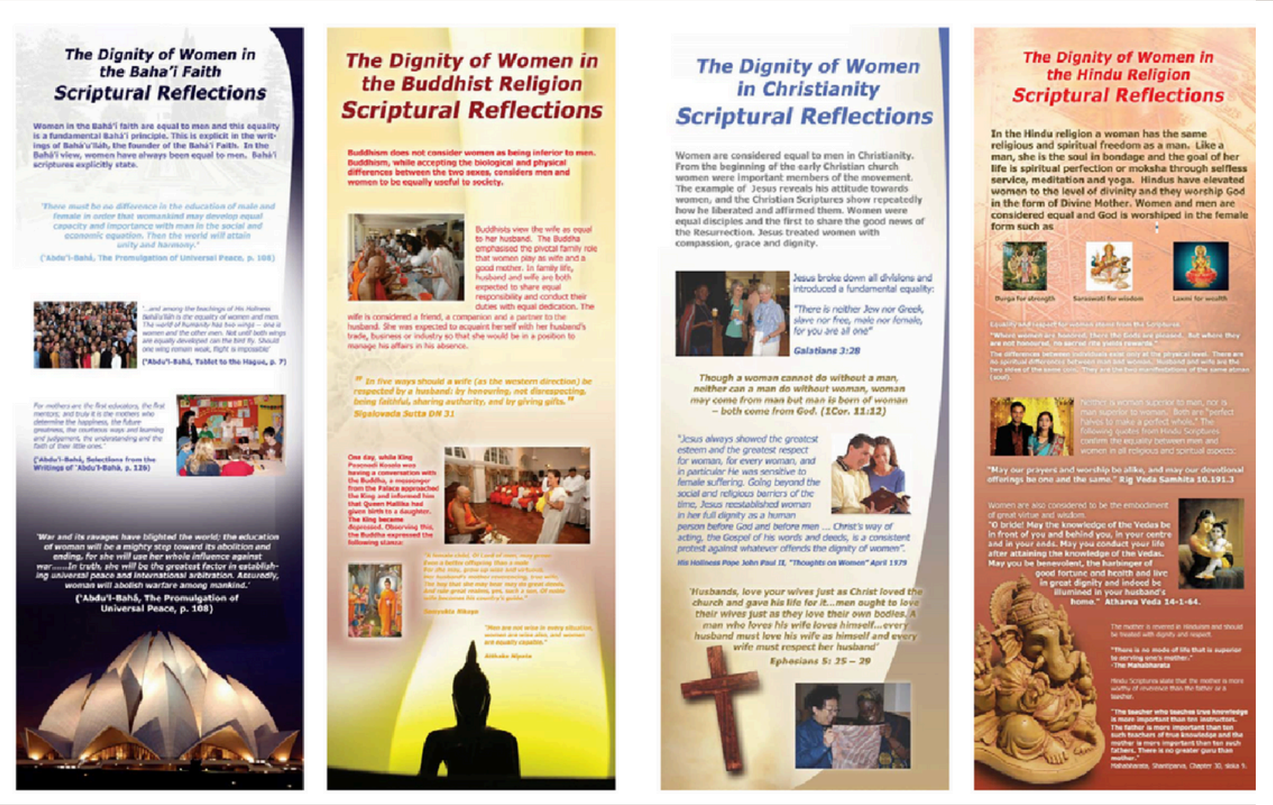
Throughout 2024, RfPUK has showcased organisations leading UN environmental days, honouring the efforts of individuals working for global stability and peace. While the scale of environmental challenges can feel overwhelming, our Trees for Peace programme offers a simple, impactful answer of planting trees to restore biodiversity in Scotland.

We may not be able to dance from initiatives to initiatives, but we can choose a default action to help. Small actions, like droplets, create an ocean of change. We believe in communal action.

Inter-religious Education

We believe respect and meaningful dialogue in diverse societies may address stereotypes and reduce misunderstandings.

Promoting religious literacy helps individuals appreciate how faith shapes worldviews and societal dynamics. Recognising the diversity within traditions and understanding their intersections with ethics, art, politics, and law. By learning about religious beliefs, aims, practice, liturgies and their many ways of instilling spirituality into their lives, we know them as individuals, and this understanding enhances empathy and critical thinking as it nurtures peaceful coexistence and collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world, valuing shared humanity amid religious diversity.



Dignity of Women

The UK Women of Faith Network's Dignity of Women exhibition and interfaith discussion showcased the value of women across religious traditions by showcasing scriptural texts from different faith traditions, some times even excerpts from the participants' own faiths.

The unique events in this series highlighted the universal appreciation of women's contributions, fostering mutual respect and understanding. Through meaningful dialogue, attendees built friendships and opened doors to collaboration, demonstrating how inter-religious education can bridge divides and inspire collective efforts toward gender equity and shared goals.

Inter-religious Education







Inner Well-being Across Faiths

Inner peace is a cornerstone of many world religions, serving as a counter balance from the pressures of personal ambition, social expectations, and the increasingly complex challenges that strain our mental and moral well-being. The UK Interfaith Youth Network launched the Inner Well-being Across Faiths programme.

This initiative introduces meditation practices from various faith traditions, underscoring their shared vision for peace. By fostering religious literacy and demonstrating how inner tranquility shapes our outward actions, the programme bridges diverse beliefs while promoting mutual understanding and harmony.

Gender Equity

Although the UK is widely recognised as a modern and progressive society, gender inequality remains a significant challenge.

Issues such as wage gaps, underrepresentation in leadership, and unequal access to opportunities highlight the deep-seated nature of this problem. Our UK Women of Faith Network champions an equitable approach, advocating for fair support systems that account for individuals' varied starting points in life. Achieving gender equity requires collaborative efforts from communities, policymakers, and organisations to build a society where everyone can thrive.



Inspirational Women

Inspirational religious women play a vital role in shaping societies through their faith, leadership and passion. They embody resilience, promote moral values, and champion social justice, often leading efforts for education, equality, and community development.

We invite women in interfaith work to share their journey, experience and struggle by online webinars, thus advocating for actions with kindness and courage, and their contribution uplifts individuals and communities, bridging divides and offering hope and advice through their unwavering commitment to spiritual and humanitarian endeavour.

Impact of Gender Equity

This year, the UKWFN supported the 16 Days of activism against Gender-based Violence campaign by sharing the work of UK grassroots organisation on social media, our campaign is called Impact of Gender Equity.

We also organised a webinar entitled Where Can Change Begin, featuring experts from clinical, educational as well as faith backgrounds, and sent out an information leaflet of VAWG for posting in safe places by faith and belief communities.



Working *together*

Religions for Peace UK has stepped up our outreach to collaborate with academic institutions and faith and belief communities. This ongoing effort reflects our commitment to becoming a network that promotes and encourages interfaith and multifaith cooperation for a more peaceful world.







Faith and VAWG Coalition

Hillsong



University of Glasgow

Inter Faith Week

Working *together*





BOLD VOICES







Religions for Peace
EUROPE

Quakers in Britain

Plum Village UK

Trees for Life

Beyond *the UK*

Through our many programmes and projects, we have established strong liaisons with national and international organisations. Recognising that challenging issues transcend boundaries, peace organisations must collaborate to maximise their impact.

Forum for Democracy, Athens

The Religions for Peace European National Interreligious Bodies in collaboration with Gefyres Irinis (Bridges for Peace), our newest European national chapter presented the Forum for Democracy, Sustainability and Interreligious Dialogue**.** The Forum was a valuable opportunity to carry out open, frank, and accepting discussions on our differences as well as shared goals and aspirations for our society.









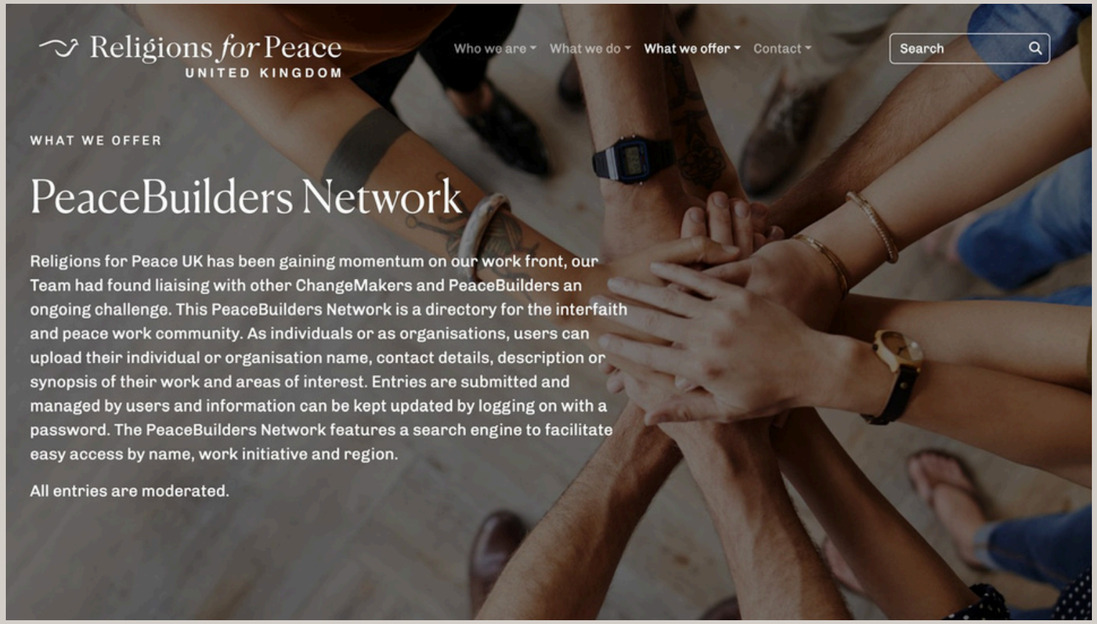
SDGs Conference, New York City

At the invitation of the Journalists and Writers Foundation in New York City, four European National Interreligious Bodies from Religions for Peace presented their research, methodologies, activities, and achievements related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part the Roundtable Discussion *Interfaith contributions to SDGs achievements* held on the margins of #UNGA79, the conference aimed to address critical issues pertaining to sustainable peace and development, providing a platform to explore challenges and propose inclusive solutions to social, economic, and environmental issues.

Religions for Peace UK elaborated on the global priorities of the Religions for Peace movement and their alignment with the SDGs. The UK's approach of "catalyse, convene, and collaborate" was outlined and invitation to engage with the PeaceBuilder's Network via the RfPUK website was extended to this international event.

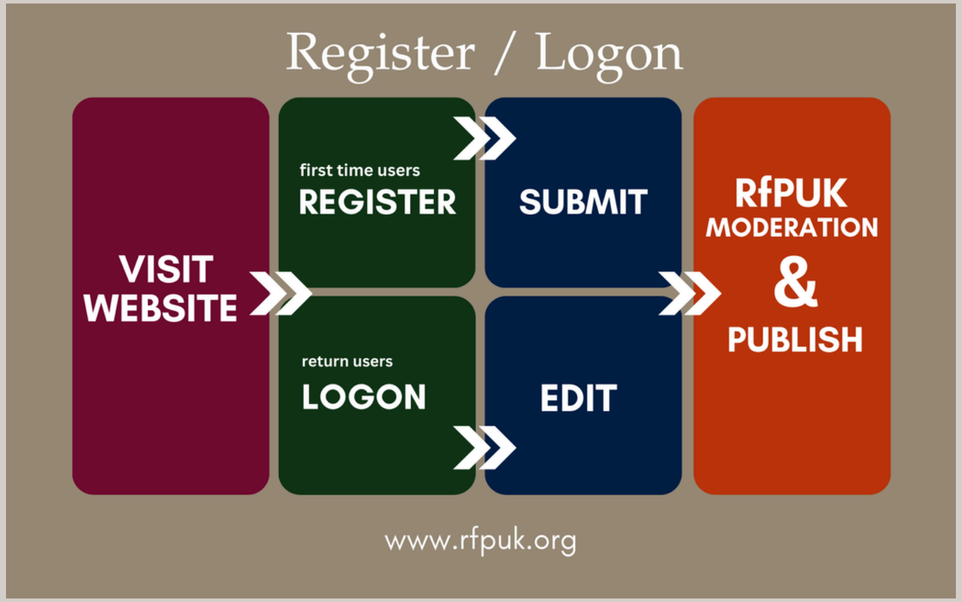
PeaceBuilders *Network*

Religions for Peace UK has created an online directory designed to bring together PeaceBuilders and ChangeMakers from diverse backgrounds.



We believe that by linking passionate individuals and organisations, we can collectively advance our shared mission of peace and understanding. The Network features a search function, browsers can find individuals/organisations by areas of work and by region.

Users need to register to submit entries. all submissions are moderated to ensure a safe space for all participants. The PeaceBuilders Network is committed to continuous growth and improvement.



Contact us

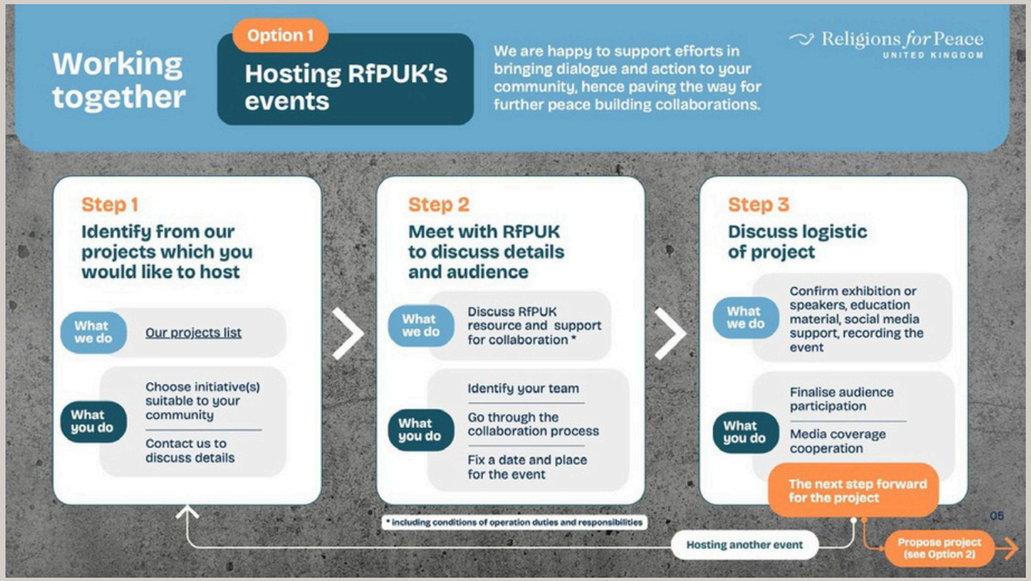
To share your thoughts and suggestions please contact us: *office@rfpuk.org*

Inviting *Collaboration*

Collaboration with other faith and belief communities, civic organisations, and government agencies is rooted in the understanding that people of faith often share common goals.

At the catalysing phase of presenting project ideas, we emphasise inclusive dialogue and shared purpose.
Guided by Religions for Peace UK's global key priorities, we develop our own programmes that address pressing societal challenges, fostering peace, justice, and sustainable development.
This cooperative approach ensures impactful initiatives that resonate across diverse communities and drive meaningful change.







@RfPUK

Religions for Peace UK

- Join our Peacebuilders Network
- RfPUK website
- RfPUK FaceBook
- RfPUK LinkedIn
- RfPUK YouTube
- RfPUK Instagram
- RfPUK X (Twiter)

Resources

- EcoAction Individual and Household Checklists
- VAWG Is NOT OK poster
- Gender Empowerment Toolkit
- BE THE CHANGE environmental workbook

UK Interfaith Youth Network

- UKIYN Linktree
- UKIYN YouTube
- UKIYN FaceBook

UK Women of Faith Network

- UKWFN Linktree
- UKWFN YouTube
- UKWFN FaceBook

RfP International / RfP Europe

- RfP International website
- ENIB Religions for Peace Europe FaceBook

Linktree

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