



# Interfaith Scotland Newsletter

Welcome to our latest e-newsletter. Sadly, we are still in the full throes of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and individuals and communities across Scotland, the UK and indeed the globe, are having to dig deep to find their resilience in the face of an uncertain future. In Scotland we have seen a rise in the number of cases and outbreaks in Universities that have forced students into lockdown. Universities across Scotland are doing their best in difficult circumstances to support the students and their families and recently Interfaith Scotland was privileged to volunteer with diverse faith communities, alongside the Living Support Team of Glasgow University and the Chaplaincy, to engage with the students, to find out their most pressing needs, and to deliver food, medicine and other necessities to those in isolation. A link to the Scottish Government Guidance for students can be found below.



Recently Interfaith Scotland held its Annual Interfaith Lecture (Jason Leitch CBE) and AGM and we are delighted that the Board of Interfaith Scotland has representatives from seven faith communities and has an age range of 20-75. The new Chair of the Board of Interfaith Scotland is Linsay Taylor from the Muslim Council of Scotland. A brief message from Linsay can be found in the video link below.

In just over a month it will be Scottish Interfaith Week 2020. The theme is 'Connecting' and we are looking forward to creative events being held all across Scotland. Do engage with the week which runs from 8-15th November to join us in celebrating the rich religious and cultural diversity of Scotland.

As Autumn and Winter approach and we may have longer periods of lockdown, perhaps we can take [the Danish practice of Hygge](#) to heart, and stay connected and cosy for our health and wellbeing.

With best wishes

The Interfaith Scotland Team



'Linsay Taylor, Chair of the Board of Interfaith Scotland shares her views on interfaith engagement; Scottish Interfaith Week and 'Connecting'

**Upcoming Events : Interfaith Scotland**

**Under 25? Have Your Voice Heard by Decision Makers in Scotland!  
8 October, 6.30-7.30 pm**



Are you under 25 and willing to share your views on the issues that impact Scotland's young people?

Interfaith Scotland & the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) are teaming up to document your views on the important issues facing young people in Scotland. Have your say on topics such as; the government's response to homelessness; the protection of young people from seldom heard groups; equal pay; the government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. By sharing your views, you will be contributing to [the Scottish Youth Parliament's #FromScotlandsYoungPeople manifesto](#) which will direct their policies and campaigns over the next 5 years.

Sign-up below. For more info contact [aparna@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:aparna@interfaithscotland.org)

[Register](#)

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**8 October: Connecting Chaplains  
across Scotland (10am)**

Interfaith Scotland is hosting a Zoom meeting for University Chaplains and Honorary Chaplains across Scotland to look at ways of continuing to support staff and students during the pandemic. Any

Chaplains wishing to attend this meeting please email [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org) to receive the Zoom link.

### **14 October: Religious Leaders forum (1.30 pm)**

Interfaith Scotland is hosting its meeting with the Religious leaders of Scotland on 14th October. The Religious Leaders of Scotland have been meeting twice a year since 2002 and at this meeting they will be engaging with the critical issues of Climate Change, the Pandemic, poverty and inequality.

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### **6 October and 5 November : Public Equality and Diversity Training courses**

We are happy to offer our public training courses by Jamie Spurway which will be delivered online via Zoom.

#### **Schedule**

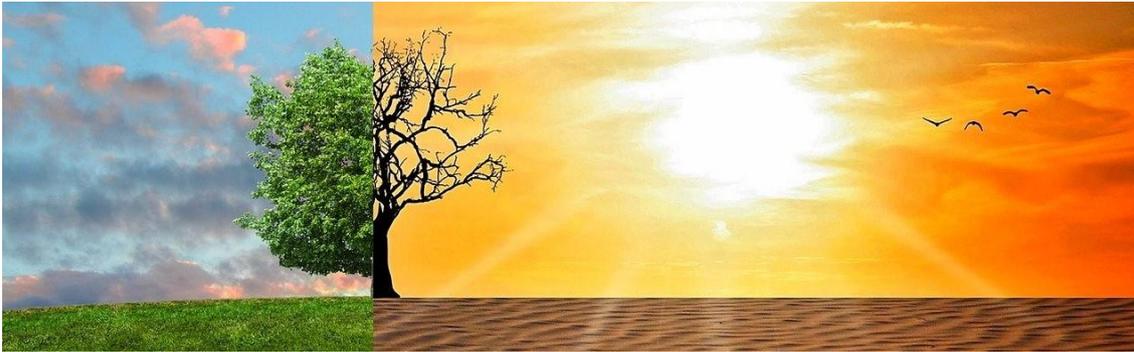
6 Oct, 1000 – 1300: Unconscious bias  
5 Nov, 1300 – 1630: 3 mottos a guide to equality, diversity & inclusion

All courses cost only £40 per person. To book please go to [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/interfaith-scotland-16811469249](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/interfaith-scotland-16811469249). If you cannot pay by card, then email Jamie 20th October to receive the Zoom link.

at [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org) to book and arrange payment.

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## Interfaith Webinar Series on Climate Change



Covid-19 has disrupted nearly every agenda worldwide in 2020. But we are not only facing the emergency of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are also facing an ever more pressing climate emergency. Every day of inaction on climate change puts the future of the world in deeper peril and exacerbates pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. As people of faith we understand that climate change is an existential issue that calls on our core values and our understanding of life to guide us to action and change.

Interfaith Scotland in partnership with Interfaith Glasgow and the International Liaison Committee are holding 3 Climate Change Webinars via Zoom with international speakers and engagement. Dates for your diaries and further details coming soon.

### **27 October, 9 am : Webinar #1The world we want**

This webinar will explore the narratives that faith traditions from all over the world bring towards helping navigate humanity through this precarious time.

### **3 November, 4 pm : Webinar #2COP26 –Ramp up the ambitions!**

This webinar will discuss what needs to be on the agenda of COP26 and what does it mean for climate action now.

### **10 November, 4 pm: Webinar #3Hope for the future**

This interactive dialogue will bring to light stories of hope in action from various faith communities confronting the climate crisis.

## Scottish Interfaith Week: 8-15 Nov

With Scottish Interfaith week just a little more than a month away, our SIFW team is sending out an E-Newsletter with all the news and events for SIFW. You can sign up to the E-Newsletter using the button below. Don't forget to follow all the SIFW social media channels (links below). We look forward to hearing about the events happening all over Scotland. Check out some of the events already up on the website (link below).

[Sign-up](#)



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events : Local Interfaith Groups

## **Chaplains: Bridging the Generational Gap**

Interfaith Exchange, a multimedia publication engaging youth in Interfaith dialogue, are hosting a webinar on **6 October at 3.30pm**. Their Co-Founders, Porter and Raahim, will be discussing 'Bridging the Generational Gap' with two university chaplains: one Christian, Revd Dr Donald MacEwan, and one Muslim, Shaykh Hassan Rabbani. It is a Facebook Live event and can be viewed [here](#).

## **Fife Interfaith Group Online Security**

Fife Interfaith group is organising a presentation on online security on **21 October at 7pm** (meeting will open at 6.50pm and lock at 7.15pm). The meeting is limited to 100 participants. It is not intended to be comprehensive and you should seek professional advice if you still have concerns.

### **Guest Speakers:**

Mike Palmer: Web Development Manager for an Edinburgh based Accountancy firm specialising in Robotic Process Automation.

Steve Watson: Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) 6 years' experience as an auditor of Information Systems and Security and is currently working in his firm's Information Security team advising on the cyber and cloud security strategy and policies.

Join Instructions: [Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 876 5322 6401

Passcode 459042

### **Central Scotland Interfaith Group Soul Space**

Central Scotland Interfaith Group is hosting their monthly 'Soul Space' on zoom on Sunday **11 October at 5 pm**. The theme for the evening is 'Fire'. You are welcome to bring something to share with the group such as a poem, prayer, story or piece of music. If you would like to attend please contact Andrew Sarle at [csi@irenic.org.uk](mailto:csi@irenic.org.uk)

### **Aberdeen Interfaith Group**

Aberdeen Interfaith Group will host their regular interfaith dialogue on zoom on **6 October at 7.00pm** on the theme of 'Spiritual Journey'. Please contact Patricia Findlay for more details at [p.a.findlay@btopenworld.com](mailto:p.a.findlay@btopenworld.com)

### **Women of faith and communities Glasgow**

Women of Faith & Community are planning to meet on **Monday 5 October** at The Hidden Garden, Tramway in accordance with the government guidelines about meeting outdoors. Please contact [womenoffaith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:womenoffaith@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

# Additional News and Views

## Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board

The Scottish Government established a Social Renewal Advisory Board to advise them on supporting people and communities during the Pandemic and beyond. As part of the process of engagement, the Board is running a call for ideas and evidence from organisations, community groups and individuals and there is a space where you can input your ideas and encourage others to also do so (by 16th October). Please see below; <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-people-and-communities-call-for-ideas/>

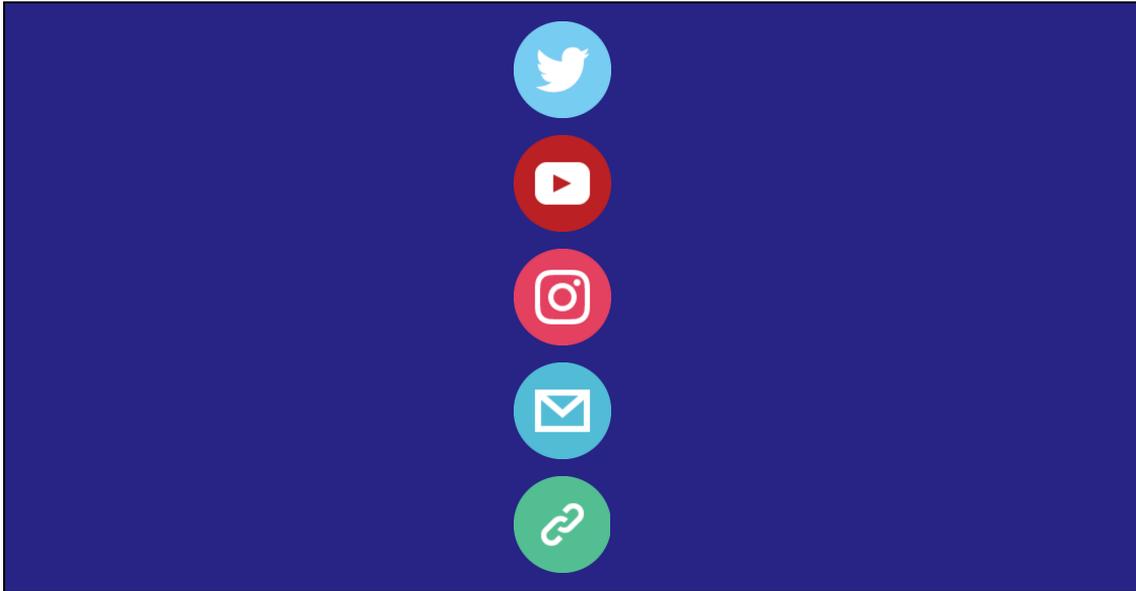
## Scottish Government Current Advice for Students

The current outbreak of COVID-19 at universities across Scotland have made, what should be an exciting and enjoyable experience for young people, a difficult and potentially frightening one. The current guidance from the Scottish Government can be found below and we hope that it is helpful to students and their families. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/pages/students/>

## Hate Crime Awareness Week October

19 October is the start of Hate Crime Awareness Week. To take part in the launch of Hate Crime Awareness please register via link below; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/glasgow-is-no-place-for-hate-hate-crime-awareness-week-2020-tickets-122386500317#:~:text=About%20this%20Event,share%20their%20experience%20of%20disability.>





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