

Organizers:



Sheffield Faiths
Forum



**How do we live together? – Thurs 28 Nov 2007
Sheffield Hallam University**

Summary of event

- 50 attendees
- Attendance from the following traditions and groups: Anatolian Muslim Centre; Baha'i community; Muslim; Christian – Anglican, Orthodox, Catholic; Unitarian; Christian Science Church; Ahmadiyya Muslim Association; Buddhist – Amida Trust; Jewish Reform Congregation; Humanist; Education and Dialogue Charity; Dialogue Society; Islamic Society of Britain; South Yorkshire Police; Sheffield First Community Cohesion Strategy Working Group; Sheffield Faiths Forum; Sheffield Interfaith; Sheffield Hallam University, Leeds Metropolitan University; NIACE.

Programme

Welcome Speech	19:00	Introduction	Bishop John Rawsthorne (Chair)
First Speech	19:05		Ozcan Keles, Education and Dialogue Charity
Second Speech	19:20		Inspector Richard Batty, South Yorkshire Police
Closing Remarks	19:35	Summary and Conclusion	Bishop John Rawsthorne (Chair)
Refreshments and discussion	19:45- 21:00		*

Aims

- emphasise the necessity of interfaith and intercultural dialogue in promoting cohesion and universal human values such as respect, peace and tolerance
- attempt to build a consensus around the underlying causes of conflicts in our society
- introduce clear and tangible ideas as to how interfaith dialogue can help address these issues.

Bishop John Rawsthorne welcomed the delegates and the speakers and provided some background to the event (having been approached by the Education and Dialogue Charity to work in partnership on a community cohesion event). Ozcan Keles, an executive Board member of the Dialogue Society (a sister organisation of the Education and Dialogue Charity), spoke about his understanding of the Muslim faith and the responsibility to change ourselves and to come together in dialogue. He stressed the need to build personal relationships at a grass roots level through the process of working together in partnership with each other.

Inspector Richard Batty from the Specialist Community Engagement Unit of South Yorkshire Police explained the police's links with faith communities. Honest dialogue between the police and faith communities was required at times of calm and at times of crisis in order to build trust. He highlighted the responsibility of faith groups and leaders to engage with their youth and encouraged different faith groups to share in celebrations and services together. The event concluded with time for informal and lively dialogue between all the diverse event delegates.