



conference 2016

Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with Darebin City Council and Darebin Interfaith Council

WORKSHOPS & PLENARY SESSIONS

Workshop 1 – Faith, Compassion and Justice

Each religion teaches ethical and moral precepts. How does your faith promote compassion and the seeking of justice? How does your faith seek the good for all people? How does your faith limit or impede your impulse to care? Points to be discussed:

- Faith and ethics
- Diversity of views in each community
- The challenge of change over time
- Who determines goodness/evil? And how?
- What constitutes justice? Fairness? Must caring be deserved?

Facilitator: Gary Bouma AM, UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Interreligious Relations - Asia Pacific, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Monash University

Panelists:

- Jewish: Rabbi Fred Morgan AM, Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Theology & Philosophy at Australian Catholic University and Emeritus Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel, St Kilda.
- Christian: Reverend Carolyn Francis, ordained Baptist minister at Collins Street Baptist Church.
- Islam: Monique Toohey, Lecturer in Cross Cultural Counselling (Australian Catholic University), former Executive Islamic Council of Victoria, Psychologist and Author.
- Sikh: Jasbir Singh Suropada, Chairperson of Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria
- Hindu: Bhakta Dasa, Hindu Council of Australia (Vic), Minister of Religion in the Vaisnava Vedic tradition, Vice President of Federation of Indian Origin Multi-Faith Organisation (FIMO)
- Buddhist: Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim, Zen Buddhist Monastic, Spiritual Director of the Seon Centre and Past President of the Australian Sangha Association.
- Baha'i: Dr. Dorothea Hancock, Researcher in applied ethics and moral education in cross-cultural settings.



conference 2016

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Darebin City Council and Darebin Interfaith Council*

Workshop 2 – Voices of Youth: Faith, Interfaith and Multiculturalism

This workshop will provide inspiring, original insights and opinions from young people on faith, interfaith and multiculturalism. Points to be discussed:

- **Faith:** What is the religion or faith of your family? What are some of the practices/rituals/traditions/values that you enjoy and find meaningful in the way that your family engages with your religion? Do you think you will continue the practices of your family in the same way when you have your family? Do you think you will do things differently? How? Why?
- **Interfaith:** What does the term 'interfaith dialogue' mean to you? Have you had any interfaith dialogue experiences, either formally or informally? Were these positive or negative experiences? Describe and explain. Do you think they were meaningful experiences for those involved? Why or why not? Would you like to participate in some or more interfaith dialogue experiences? Why or why not? Do you think that interfaith dialogue is a worthwhile endeavour? If so, what would you like it to look like?
- **Multiculturalism:** How would you explain what multiculturalism means? How might an ideal multicultural society look like? What would you like it to look like? What might be the relationship between an ideal multicultural society and interfaith dialogue? Can we have a well-functioning multicultural society without interfaith dialogue?

Facilitator: Frances Prince, Multicultural & Interfaith Liaison Officer of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and Coordinator of Teacher Development @ Mt. Scopus Memorial College.

Panelists:

- **Jewish:** Michael Fisher, National Chairperson of Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), and studying Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University.
- **Christian:** Kiara Goldsmith, facilitator of Building Bridges program.
- **Islam:** Arman Haque, A founding member of Al-Ehsan Youth Centre in Notting Hill, student at Pillars of Guidance Community Centre, member of the hospital chaplaincy team and youth engagement group at the Islamic Council of Victoria.
- **Hindu:** Nilisha Bhagooli, Local Darebin resident, Member of the Darebin Hindu community, attends Iskcon Hindu Temple in Albert Park, is a member of Darebin's annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival organising committee, and business student at Kaplan Business School.
- **Sikh:** Rupinder Kaur, born and bred in Melbourne, executive member of the Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria, co-chair for the Hume Council Youth Leadership Group, studying a Bachelor in Communications and a Diploma in Fitness, and casual Legal editor.



conference 2016

Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with Darebin City Council and Darebin Interfaith Council

Workshop 3 – Faith, Sexuality & Gender Diversity

This workshop will feature experts, faith leaders and people of diverse faiths, to explore the intersections of faith, sexuality and gender diversity.

From a base of human dignity and respect, the panel will explore themes such as:

- What obstacles do religious individuals and communities face in embracing gender diversity?
- Can a faith community justify exclusion? Can a faith community hold opposing beliefs in tension, but still foster a sense of belonging?
- Can faith communities play a role in promoting the inclusion of, and elimination of discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people?

Facilitator: Luke Gahan (Researcher, La Trobe University and Editor of the book Heaven Bent: Australian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex experiences of faith, religion and spirituality)

Panelists:

- Sally Goldner, Executive Director Transgender Victoria, and Treasurer of Bisexual Alliance Victoria
- Pastor Becky Bauer, Melbourne Inclusive Church, Northcote
- Aly M., Queer Muslim activist, founder of Queer Muslims in Australia (online group)
- Rev Matt Glover, Director MGA Counselling Services & Executive Officer of Spiritual Care Australia
- David Marlow, Executive Director, Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV)
- Reverend Ian Smith, Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC) and Churches of Christ Minister
- Nail Aykan, General Manager of Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV)



conference 2016

Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with Darebin City Council and Darebin Interfaith Council

Workshop 4 - "Say NO to Racism" Bystander Training Workshop

The Say NO to Racism training package encourages and enables participants to take safe and constructive action against racism. The training covers interpersonal racism and its impacts, barriers to bystander action, the potential of bystander anti-racism and practical skills and tools to help people take action.

At this workshop, the facilitators of Say NO to Racism will provide a snapshot of the full-day training program. Participants of the workshop will be introduced to the strategies used in the training package for constructive and safe bystander action against racism. The workshop will provide information on the social barriers to bystander action and their relevance to faith-based communities. Furthermore, participants will have the chance to practice the strategies and get a sense of how they can be used in real life.

Polykala facilitators use experiential learning to encourage participants to learn and reflect while doing the activities. This approach allows participants to put themselves in a realistic situation to overcome barriers and practice the tools and language required for safe and constructive bystander intervention.

Participants who complete an introductory workshop will be invited to participate in a full-day Say NO to Racism bystander training workshop which will take place on:

Date: Monday, November 21st 2016 **Time:** 9:30am – 4:30pm

Location: Victorian Council of Churches - Causeway House (4th Floor), 306 Little Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 (Chellew Room)

Facilitators: Ananth Gopal, Tom Henderson & Dure de Winter | Polykala

Polykala is a leadership training organisation run by Harvard-trained facilitators.