



conference 2019

Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: Refugees & Asylum Seekers: A Celebration of Courage and Achievements

Location: Supper Room 1, Springvale Town Hall **Time:** 2:30 - 3:50pm

Australia has long provided refuge to those who have had to flee their country of origin and prides itself on being a cultural mosaic. But for some the words 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker' conjures up negative stereotypes. Misinformation and the political debate on border protection is overshadowing the positive contributions refugees make to society.

This workshop will seek to address any misconceptions about refugees and asylum seekers and provide an opportunity for celebrating the courage and often unrecognised achievements of people who are inspirational role models and community leaders. The workshop will also acknowledge their positive contributions in building a cohesive and prosperous city, counter negative portrayals and stereotypes and inspire attendees to collaborate on building connections with newly-arrived people.

Facilitator: Ms Dalal Smiley, Chief Executive Officer, Wellsprings for Women

Panellists:

- **Ms Be Ha** – Be Ha, a Buddhist Vietnamese, escaped from Vietnam in 1979 with her family on a small fishing boat. The boat floated for a month, starved of food and water and fighting off deadly pirate attacks, before being rescued by the British cargo vessel Entalina. Now safely living in Australia as a Justice of Peace for over 20 years, Be Ha's life of community service has earned her numerous awards including a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), being inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women as well as a Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award.
- **Mr Simon Landid** – Imprisoned and tortured by the Sudanese INF in 2001 for organising a bible exhibition at a University campus, Simon Landid managed to flee to Egypt where he sought asylum for three years. In 2004 he was accepted by the Australian Embassy in Cairo and travelled to Melbourne to begin a new life. Simon is now extremely involved in the music industry and writes songs portraying the stories of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers in Sudanese Arabic.



conference 2019

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong*

- **Ms Nayran Tabiei** – Nayran Tabiei has always loved her home but she was forced to flee Syria and leave behind her sons who were conscripted in the military. With her husband and young daughter, they travelled to Lebanon, then Thailand, and finally made the dangerous journey by boat to Australian waters in 2012, where they were discovered and taken to Christmas Island. Now, in Melbourne, she cooks delicious Syrian feasts, runs cooking classes with Free to Feed and has created a cult community of beloved fans. She shares her story of fighting with sharks to secure a better life for her family.
- **Councillor Matthew Kirwan**, City of Greater Dandenong, speaking on the 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign - backyourneighbour.com.au



conference 2019

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong*

Workshop 2: Voices of Youth: My Faith, My Generation

Location: Supper Room 2, Springvale Town Hall

Time: 2:30 - 3:50pm

Gone are the days of young people simply adopting the identity and faith of their family or community of origin without question. The youth of today are critically engaging with their faith tradition and making their own decisions.

Whether choosing to follow in their parents' footsteps or forging their own path, the faith of today's young person is one they have claimed for themselves.

This workshop will provide the opportunity to hear inspiring, original insights and opinions from young people on their faith, their world views and hopes for the future.

Facilitator: Mr Isaac Mead, Youth Pastor, The Salvation Army

Panellists:

- Hindu/Secular: **Ms. Khayshie Tilak Ramesh**, co-founder and vice-president of Young People for Refugees in Bendigo, and board director of Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. Current youth commissioner of the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
- Baha'i: **Ms Claudia Roshan** has been a member of the Bahai Faith since she re-affirmed at the age of 15. Claudia is currently 20 years old and in the process of completing her Bachelor of Business at Monash University. She enjoys travelling, sports, and has spent her last few trips skiing in places such as New Zealand and Japan
- Christian: **Thomas Hmun** is from Chin state, Myanmar and is finishing off a Bachelors in Psychology hoping to get into social work. Following his parents' footsteps, he hopes to be able to work with refugees and asylum seekers, particularly within his own community. Thomas is a 24 year old Baptist Christian exploring and wanting to connect the generational gap between 1st and 2nd generation migrants.
- Islam: **Sajda Yakub** is a young Melbournian Muslim, finishing her studies in law, commerce, sociology and journalism - and volunteering in the youth committee of the Islamic Council of Victoria. Racism and sexism make her teeth clench, and with that passion, she hopes to make a difference to the treatment of marginalised and disadvantaged communities.



conference 2019

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong*

- Sikh: **Prabjoth Singh** is a 25 year old graduate from Monash University with a Bachelors in Accounting. Prabjoth is heavily involved in interfaith and is the Sikh representative for the Victoria Police Multifaith Youth Council. Apart from work and volunteering with different communities, Prabjoth is a passionate traveller both locally and internationally.
- Buddhist: **Amy Chu** is a Year 11 student studying at Nossal High school. She is involved with City of Greater Dandenong's youth services and is passionate about promoting young people's voice in the community. Amy is brought up in a Buddhist family and believes religion and faith is integral to a young person's identity.



conference 2019

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong*

Workshop 3: Performing Arts and Faith: a hands on experience!

Location: *Stage, Springvale Town Hall* **Time:** *2:30pm-3:50pm*

The performing arts play an important part in the expression of our faith. In particular, music and comedy have the capacity to engage with different elements of our being and to move us in various ways.

Join our multi-talented facilitators to create a short play that will connect faiths through light-hearted humour and music.

Please Note: This workshop has a capacity of 25 participants so arrive early to guarantee enrolment. Participants are encouraged to bring a costume and will perform their play to all conference delegates after their workshop.

Facilitators:

- **Justine Sless:** Jewish comedian, writer and former creative director of Melbourne Jewish Comedy Festival, who likes to create light-hearted irreverent humour.
- **Fablice Manirakiza:** Former Victorian Young Achiever of the Year who shares his unique life's journey through music, hip-hop performance and dialogue.



conference 2019

*Hosted by: Faith Communities Council of Victoria in association with
Interfaith Network of City of Greater Dandenong and City of Greater Dandenong*

Workshop 4: Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme

Location: *Mayoral Room, Springvale Town Hall* **Time:** *2:30 - 3:50pm*

From 1 January 2017, religious and faith-based organisations that provide services for children are required to comply with Child Safe Standards. These standards aim to drive cultural change in organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice. The standards are compulsory but not prescriptive. This allows religious organisations flexibility in how they implement the standards to meet the requirements.

From 1 January 2018, religious and faith-based organisations are required to comply with the Reportable Conduct Scheme and respond to allegations of reportable conduct, and misconduct that may include reportable conduct, made against their workers and volunteers, by investigating those allegations and reporting to the Commission for Children and Young People.

If you are part of a religious and faith-based organisation that is required by law to be compliant with Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme, this is an information session to support your knowledge and implementation. We all have an obligation to do the best we can to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

The workshop will include an interactive style discussion on practical case studies to illustrate the application of the Scheme.

Facilitator: Emily Sanders, Director Regulation | Commission for Children and Young People

The Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) is an independent statutory body that promotes improvement in policies and practices affecting the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people. We have a particular focus on vulnerable children and young people. For more information see: www.ccyp.vic.gov.au