

Contributing to Intercultural and Inclusive Youth Work in a Diverse & Multi-Faith Northern Ireland

Reach Out Enrich Within

Further Resources



A. Further Resources, Contacts and Reference Points

It is desirable to include people from different backgrounds as you plan activities and recruit for your youth organisation. The contact details provided below will be a start. However, it cannot identify all faiths and beliefs as they are numerous and because all faith communities are in themselves complex and multi-faceted.

Minority Faiths and Inter Faith	
Name of Organisation	Website/E-mail
The Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum	www.niinterfaithforum.org ni.interfaith@gmail.com
Belfast Islamic Centre	www.belfastislamiccentre.org.uk/bic anwar_maddy@yahoo.com
Hindu and Indian Community Centre	www.iccbelfast.com info@iccbelfast.org.uk
Irish Council of Churches	www.irishchurches.org info@irishchurches.org
Buddhist communities	www.meditationbelfast.org www.blackmountainzencentre.org
Jewish community	www.belfastjewishcommunity.org.uk
Baha'i Association	www.bahai-belfast.org.uk
British Humanist Association	www.humanist.org.uk

Largest Christian Denominations in Northern Ireland	
Name of Organisation	Website/E-mail
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	www.presbyterianireland.org info@presbyterianireland.org
Catholic Church in Ireland	www.armagharchdiocese.org admin@aracoeli.com
Church of Ireland	www.ireland.anglican.org enquiries@ireland.anglican.org
Methodist Church in Ireland	www.irishmethodist.org secretary@irishmethodist.org

Advice Providers and Information	
Name of Organisation	Website/E-mail
Education Authority	www.eani.org.uk info@eani.org.uk
Youth Link: NI	www.youthlink.org.uk info@youthlink.org.uk
Equality Commission NI	www.equalityni.org/home information@equalityni.org
Human Rights Commission NI	www.nihrc.org information@nihrc.org
Community Relations Council NI	www.community-relations.org.uk dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk

Resources	
Name of Organisation	Website/E-mail
Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership - Statistics on BME and newly arrived communities	www.migrationni.org/dataeditoruploads/northernireland.pdf
Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership - Support Organisation	www.migrationni.org/support-organisations
Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership - Key information and legislation	www.migrationni.org/information-for-service-providers
EMBRACE guidelines - Christians working for interfaith understanding	www.embraceni.org/category/interfaith-understanding
Community Relations Council NI	www.community-relations.org.uk dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk
Inter Faith Network UK - Principles of building good relations	www.interfaith.org.uk/about-ifn/values-of-ifn
Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum - Detailed briefing notes on diet and events	www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/briefing-notes/94-catering-and-faith-based-dietary-practice/file
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) - Summary of religions and practices	www.bbc.co.uk/religions
Inter Faith Network UK - Principles of building good relations	www.interfaith.org.uk/about-ifn/values-of-ifn
Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum - Detailed briefing notes on diet and events	www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/briefing-notes/94-catering-and-faith-based-dietary-practice/file
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) - Summary of religions and practices	www.bbc.co.uk/religions

B. Grid of Essential Day, Festival and Prayer Guide for Main Faith Backgrounds

Main Religions

The table below provides some advice on some of the main faiths and their culture or practices. It is not comprehensive of all of the faiths or all of the practices. However, it does provide an initial practical overview and guide.

Faith	Prayer/ Worship Day	Festivals	Food Advice	Other
Baha'i	Daily prayer – no special needs.	Fasting sunrise to sunset for 19 days immediately before the Spring equinox which is usually around the 21st March.	No formal dietary requirements. Alcohol is forbidden.	Number of youth providers currently. Focus on respect for all faiths and help young people develop personal responsibility.
Buddhism	Several variants – no special needs.	Several festivals during the year.	Generally diet is vegetarian or vegan. Alcohol is forbidden.	Prayers can be at a temple or at home.
Christianity	Church services on a Sunday, especially in the morning.	A number of holiday periods especially Easter and Christmas.	No special dietary requirements. Some Christians avoid alcohol.	Significant youth provision already taking place in church halls including many uniformed and non-uniformed youth providers.
Hinduism	Daily prayer – no special needs.	Several festivals such as Diwali and Holi.	Hindus do not eat meat or fish and many do not eat eggs. Some Hindus do eat meat but not beef or pork. Alcohol is allowed.	Mela and Holi festivals attract significant crowds in Northern Ireland.
Islam	Mosque services on a Friday, especially 12-2pm.	Fasting during Ramadan. Number of other festivals.	Halal food preferable. No pork and ensure vegetarian or vegan options available. Clear labelling of food. Alcohol is forbidden.	Prayers five times per day. During an away day or camp try to ensure there is a clean, quiet area set aside for reflection or prayers.
Judaism	Friday evening at sunset until Saturday evening at sunset.	Several, such as Yom Kippur, which is also a day of fasting.	Kosher food preferable. No pork. Clear labelling of food. Don't mix dairy products with meat.	Prayers three times a day.
Sikhism	Usually a Sunday but there is no formal set day.	Several especially Diwali and the Festival of Lights.	Devout Sikhs will not eat meat though many Sikhs do. Vegetarian or vegan food is an important option. No beef as the cow is sacred. Avoid pork. Sikhs are not permitted to use Halal food. Alcohol is forbidden.	Some symbolic dress codes.

C. Short Quiz

To introduce cultural minorities, the main faiths and BME communities in Northern Ireland

No.	Question	Options	Tick
1	Approximately how many languages are used in Northern Ireland as a person's main language	50	A
		70	B
		90	C
		110	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
2	What is a Jewish place of worship called?	Mosque	A
		Synagogue	B
		Church	C
		Temple	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
3	What religion do Muslims practice?	Christianity	A
		Judaism	B
		Sikhism	C
		Islam	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
4	Where did the first Sikhs to arrive in Northern Ireland mainly settle?	Derry/Londonderry	A
		Craigavon	B
		Newry	C
		Belfast	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
5	Which religion celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany?	Buddhism	A
		Hinduism	B
		Islam	C
		Christianity	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
6	What animal do Hindus believe is special?	Cow	A
		Pig	B
		Horse	C
		Snake	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
7	Baha'is fast for 19 days in which month?	December	A
		March	B
		June	C
		September	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
8	What is the main day of worship for a Muslim?	Thursday	A
		Friday	B
		Saturday	C
		Sunday	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
9	A Jewish religious leader is called a Rabbi. What does Rabbi mean?	Teacher	A
		Clever One	B
		Righteous	C
		Worker	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
10	Which of these is the oldest religion?	Christianity	A
		Islam	B
		Hinduism	C
		Baha'i	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
11	Which of these statements is NOT true?	Jewish people do not mix dairy products (like milk) and meat in the same meal	A
		Christianity is the oldest world religion	B
		Sikhs and Hindus will often celebrate at the same festivals	C
		The Dalai Lama is a Buddhist	D
No.	Question	Options	Tick
12	Which of these statements IS true?	All Arabs are Muslim	A
		All Irish people are Protestant or Catholic	B
		Christians wrote the Old Testament of the Bible	C
		The Qur'an recognises Jesus as a major Prophet	D

Answers

Question	Correct Answer
1	C – you may want to explore what languages they are and what faiths are associated with the people who speak these languages
2	B – you could ask where the Jewish synagogue in Belfast is. Has anyone visited a synagogue?
3	D – what do people know about Islam? Are the things talked about in the news true of Islam?
4	A – while there are Sikhs in all parts of Northern Ireland many settled in the North West. You might explore why that was?
5	D – you may talk about the meaning of the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus or about the central figures in other religions
6	A – you may explore why that is and what animals are regarded in particular ways by other faiths
7	B – you may want to explore why faiths fast and how difficult it is to fast
8	B – what are the worship days for other faiths and how might worshipping on those days affect peoples' lives?
9	A – you may discuss what are the qualities needed to be a good teacher and role model?
10	C – you may explore the age of other religions and the regions of the world in which they started
11	B – you may discuss when different faiths were founded and whether there is any linkages between them
12	D – you could ask whether people have visited a Mosque and discussed Islam with Muslims?

D. Bibliography

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