

How to Host an Interfaith Event

The best way to build interfaith harmony is in personal encounters with people of other faiths.

Interfaith experiences can transform our understanding of other faiths and break through the barriers created by negative stereotypes.

We encourage you to take the opportunity to host an interfaith event in Interfaith September.



Share a meal with our interfaith neighbours and engage deeply in one-on-one conversation.

You could include time for a speaker during the event, or provide 'discussion starter' cards on each table, or you might choose to simply sit down together, share food and share in conversation about each others' lives.



Invite a keynote speaker or gather a panel of one or more other speakers.

Allow time for the audience to ask questions.

Alternatively, you might simply invite a leader of another faith to speak to your congregation or faith group.



Organise a time and space for members of several different faiths to present something of their culture and faith tradition.

You might include cultural performances, or time your celebration to coincide with Harmony Day or the International Day of Peace.

Plan a program where each faith group can introduce a particular aspect of their faith tradition.

So you've decided on a interfaith event. What next?

- Get input from those you intend to include.
- Be clear about the purpose of the event. The aim is to foster an understanding of each other's faiths. It is about sharing not conversion.
- Avoid key times of worship or holy days for different faiths: <http://ow.ly/QGpFf>
- Consult on the proposed venue. For example, if you intend on inviting Muslim guests, it would be appropriate to ask if they need access to a room for prayers.
- If serving food, identify and cater for all dietary requirements of members of different faiths. If you are unsure, ask.
- Research and be mindful of the etiquette required when meeting people of different faiths: <http://ow.ly/QGpGX>



You may have other ideas and these are most welcome. Please share with us your experiences: rof@nat.uca.org.au