

Welcome to Interfaith Action's Spring 2009 bulletin keeping you up to date with our current projects, events and volunteer opportunities.

What we've been up to...

- » The fourth issue of **Interact magazine** was published online in February, with a focus on International Development and Faith. *Next issue's theme is on all things green (environmentally that is), so if you have an idea for an article, interview or opinion column send us an e-mail.*
- » At the beginning of March we linked up with the **Interfaith Youth Core** who delivered a **Leadership Training workshop** for students and volunteers wanting to organise interfaith dialogue and action on campus.
- » This was followed up with the Coexistence Trusts's **Student Leadership Training Day** at the House of Lords on 26th March, which we supported by delivering three workshops in partnership with the Three Faiths Forum on "Tools for dialogue & action on campus".
- » Interfaith Action was invited to deliver a workshop at the **NUS's Anti-Fascism Anti-Racism Conference** in February, unfortunately the event was postponed but we look forward to working with the NUS again.

Events coming up...

Several of you who attended the leadership training in March have come to us since asking for more advice and support in leading events and projects on campus. In support of this Interfaith Action is working with Faith Matters for a **brainstorm** to get your input on projects that will make a difference to issues on campus; and the Three Faiths Forum for a follow up workshop on '**Interfaith: Making Your Ideas a Reality**'. In this session, you'll come with an idea, and leave with an action-plan of how you will make your event both a reality and a success.

Both of the above events will be held in June, if you would like to register your interest please e-mail or call on the details below.

Other Events

Pieces of Peace; Sunday 19th April 2pm-4pm at Parliament Square
 (mass demonstration organised by the **Three Faiths Forum**)

At this Mass Dialogue rotation you'll meet lots of people who are as keen to share as you are on a wide range of topics, from the silly to the serious, from your beliefs to what you feel about Britain. Meet people, hear their stories and tell them yours. Whatever your age, ethnicity, nationality or political affiliation, whether you are a person of faith, an atheist or agnostic, come on down and bring a friend.

Leadership for a Religiously Diverse World; October 25-27th

Interfaith Youth Core 6th Conference on Interfaith Youth Work at Northwestern University (Illinois, USA) but there is some funding for interested students to apply from the UK to attend. Visit www.ifyc.org/conference for more information.

Interfaith Action is a not for profit organisation working with young people and students from all faith backgrounds, across London to develop and deliver community volunteer projects.

Our aim is to build understanding and respect between people of all faiths (and none), working predominantly with 14-25 year olds.

We achieve this through facilitating dialogue, raising awareness and strengthening understanding; but most uniquely through establishing volunteer projects for young people to participate in over a specific period of time - building friendships and working together for mutual benefit (to them and their local community).

As part of our University Programme we work with university students, chaplains and student unions to establish interfaith groups and activities on campus.



Interact magazine is the only (known) interfaith, culture and lifestyle magazine produced by and for students, in the UK.

A unique media interfaith project where students from different faith backgrounds volunteer together as the editorial team; developing skills and experience in print media.

Volunteer Opportunities

Summer Internships

Looking for responsibility and project management experience? Support Interfaith Action with a variety of exciting projects and events based at our office in Kentish Town. Minimum commitment of 4 weeks, full-time or 8 weeks, part-time required (start dates flexible).

Interact Magazine

A variety of roles to support the development of Interact magazine including writers, designers, cartoonists plus opportunities to support advertising and distribution. Volunteer as part of the editorial team (min. 8 hours a week) or when you can as a freelancer.

Youth Mentors

Support our new youth led volunteer projects in Enfield & Camden. You will be trained to support small groups of 14-19 year olds as they develop their unique volunteer projects in their local communities. Familiarity with one of the local areas would be beneficial, and some previous experience working with this age group is essential. (Starting in June, 4 month commitment required - approximately 4 hours a week).

New Funding & Projects...

We have been awarded funding from Camden Volunteer Centre (as part of their Camden Community Based Grants) and Enfield's Community Safety Partnership for two unique youth led volunteer projects.

The projects will recruit and support 20 young people (aged 14-19) from across each borough (from local places of worship and youth groups) to lead and develop their own volunteer project. The project will begin with a number of introductory sessions exploring themes of volunteering, community, the environment as well as local social & political issues of concern to the young participants. In these sessions participants will also develop practical dialogue skills, culminating in an Interfaith Youth Forum.

The volunteer project(s) will last for approximately 4 months, ending with an exhibition event. Alongside this we will also organise five interfaith volunteer days, for up to 100 young people to gain a taster of volunteering (in a multi-faith setting), across the two boroughs. To find out more about the project or to be involved please get in touch.

We would like to thank the following charitable trusts and organisations for funding our projects: including University Programme, Interact Magazine & Volunteering funded by the *City Bridge Trust - Fostering Leadership & Reconciliation*; and, the *Trust for London*

Connecting Communities Plus (DCLG)

In March 2009 our funding from Connecting Communities Plus came to an end. In 2008 we were awarded £12,000 from the DCLG to support our University Programme, Interact Magazine & interfaith volunteering (amongst students). Since then we have used the money to support over 50 students on campus participate in dialogue, organise events and establish interfaith groups/forums; as well as provide opportunities for them to volunteer. An additional 80 volunteers have supported the development and production of 3 issues of Interact Magazine, the Community Links Project (in partnership with the North London Hospice) and our Safe Garden Project.

The Safe Garden Pilot is a success!

The Safe Garden Pilot Project in Enfield has now come to an end, with 15 young volunteers supporting 12 elderly residents with their gardening over the past 6 months (throughout the winter)!

In total over 400 hours of volunteering have been committed by our multi-faith volunteer team (who were predominantly students from Enfield College completing their Level 3 certificate).



We're hoping to continue and extend the project throughout the summer, (funding dependent). If you would like more information about this project or a copy of the projects case study please get in touch.

