

A Note for Teachers

- **Facing History and Ourselves** is an educational charity providing teaching resources to help young people develop as empathetic, critical thinkers, who understand the role they can play in shaping society for the better. We believe that civic agency is developed through intellectual rigour, emotional engagement and ethical reflection. Learn more about us on our [website](#).
- This PowerPoint presentation has been created to be used in a S1-4 and KS3-4 assembly during **Interfaith Week**.
- While you may need to modify this presentation to meet the needs of your students, please note that Facing History and Ourselves does not endorse your changes that alter the presentation's content or original layout.

#ChangeStartsWithMe

Interfaith Week Assembly

Facing History UK Assemblies



Essential Question

What is Interfaith Week and why do we celebrate it?

What is Interfaith Week?

- **Interfaith Week** takes place during 10th –17th November.
- The aim of Interfaith Week is to highlight the work done by those of different faiths, to promote learning and collaboration between those of different faiths, and to celebrate diversity.
- The theme for this year is **‘Sharing My Story: Building Our Future’**.

Interfaith Week for Schools

Linking Faiths, Beliefs, and
Communities

Group Brainstorming

How many different religions/faiths can you name?



Think, Pair, Share

What do you think
**'sharing my story,
building our future'**
means?



Reflecting on the Theme

'Sharing my story, building our future'

1. Why is it important that we all share our individual stories?
 - a. How can it help us better understand each other?
1. What do you think building a future together would look like?
 - a. How would this be supported by greater understanding of others?
1. Why is interfaith collaboration important for building a collective future?



Examples of Interfaith Work

Some examples of interfaith work in the UK are:

- **Scriptural reasoning:** When members of different religions come together to examine common themes or people in their religious traditions.
- **Shared spaces:** Some churches work with other religions to share spaces or to give disused buildings to another religion to use.
- **Councils of faiths:** When local committees of different religions come together to talk and campaign on issues of shared interest.
- **Disaster Response:** Different religions often come together to respond to humanitarian issues and provide support/funds for those in need.
- **Shared Celebrations:** When people of one religion invite others to important celebrations to understand and share in the important parts of their religion.

How might these approaches promote understanding and collaboration?

Reflect on Interfaith Responses to Hate

1. How did the attack impact the Muslim community?
2. What is the school principal Mufti Muhammad Abdulmuheet's response towards the attackers?
3. How do other faith leaders respond to the attack?
 - a. What is powerful about this response?
 - b. How do you think it made those attacked feel?
4. What does this example show about the power of interfaith collaboration?

[Watch the Video](#)



Three Parables for Integration

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks tells three parables about 100 strangers looking for somewhere to stay.

In the first parable, they are wandering around the countryside and arrive at a big country house where they are welcomed to live with the owner as guests. This is society as a country house.

In the second parable, they are wandering around a city and find a hotel. They are able to pay to stay and have more freedom and equality than in the first parable as the hotel only has guests (there is no power imbalance). This is society as a hotel.

In the third parable, the strangers arrive at a town and are welcomed by everyone and are helped to build their own homes on an empty patch of land. This is society as a home we build together.

Three Parables for Integration

In relation to this third model, Sacks states:

The newcomers still occasionally seem strange. They speak and act and dress differently than the locals. But those long sessions of working together have had their effect. The locals know the newcomers are serious, committed, dedicated. They have their own ways, but they have also learned the ways of the people of the town, and they have worked out [...] a rough and ready friendship. [...] Making something together breaks down walls of suspicion and misunderstanding. [. . .] That is society as the home we build together.

What can these three parables teach us about integration and collaboration?

Exit Ticket

Take a moment to think about the following:

Interfaith Week is important because

Sharing our stories is important because

Working together to build our future is important because



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