The Interfaith & Belief Project

Belfast City Council has launched a new PEACEPLUS Interfaith and Belief Project to improve relations between and towards practitioners of faiths and beliefs present in Belfast – to increase knowledge and awareness, promote positive dialogue, and build mutual trust and respect. The project works in partnership with faith-based organisations – the Corrymeela Community, ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) NI, Belfast Islamic Centre, and Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum.

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB https://www.seupb.eu/).

1. Why get involved?

If you want to see your own faith or belief perspective positively portrayed in public settings, then please be part of this project! Together, we can help our city develop better understanding of difference, address sectarianism and racism and embrace diversity. If you are not a person of faith, then there are also opportunities.

You will be volunteering, but by doing so, you are helping **your own faith or belief community** and **your city,** and you are **gaining increasingly useful skills and experience** for your future life.

We can also provide **digital badges** for social media and LinkedIn to let you **show your experience** in working across faiths and cultures, a vital skill in our increasingly diverse society.

2. What is it about?

We need participants from a range of faiths and beliefs to deliver three programme streams. Your choice is:

Stream 1: Education and Awareness You will develop educational content on faith and belief perspectives including your own, for use in youth settings and schools, interfaith café events and in a community exhibition in Belfast city centre. Content will be on positive contributions that each perspective has made to society in Belfast and beyond. You will receive training and guidance on how to develop, and optionally to deliver these.

Stream 2: Unity and Peace Welcoming Programme Focusing on kindness and compassion that unites faith and belief groups, you will help develop and deliver an 18-month programme to map and showcase the valuable physical, human and community assets within different interfaith and belief groups across Belfast. This will enable others to increasingly access these assets going forwards.

Stream 3: Celebrating Faith and Belief Festivals Working in a diverse team, you will plan activities bringing people together to mark key faith and belief festivals. Activities will include dialogue between faiths and beliefs, celebration of festivals and collective community action projects.

3. **Who can get involved?**

There are three requirements for you to be able to participate:

1. To either **live, worship or work for a faith or belief in Belfast** with a postcode in the Belfast City Council area. If you are unsure of this, then you can check it at https://mapit.mysociety.org.

2. To be **open to working with those of different faiths and beliefs**. You do NOT require theological or spiritual knowledge though, either of your own perspective or of others – we will provide training and guidance on what to do.

3. To be willing to **provide details about yourself** for registration and for feedback, needed for the running of the project and to measure success.

Even if you do not have a formal faith or belief, there are opportunities to be involved. We still want to hear from you!

4. **How much time is involved?**

We would expect that there will be on average 1-2 sessions per month. These will be live sessions but with an option to attend online. If you cannot make any sessions, we will endeavour to make content available for you to keep up with proceedings. Our expectation is 24 hours over that time. This is until December 2027 (Streams 1 & 3) or December 2026 (Stream 2). We will need to record this in help measure the success of the programme.

5. **How can I learn more?**

Please contact Peter Tate (petertate@corrymeela.org) for any further questions.

We look forward to seeing you!