



# Christchurch Inter-Faith Council

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Greetings from Christchurch Interfaith Council:

*\Salaam alaykum Shalom Allah'u'abha Namaste Kia Ora Peace be with you.*

The new Christchurch Interfaith Council was elected by the Interfaith Society at its AGM in August 2007. Its aim is to provide opportunities for people of diverse religious backgrounds to meet and share their experiences within a framework of tolerance, respect and understanding. The Council represents a number of affiliated faith groups and communities in Christchurch and is extremely conscious of the need to maintain equitable gender balance. It rotates monthly around different religious venues in order to gain experience of different religious traditions.

To date some of its activities include: prayers for world peace, held in Christchurch's Cathedral Square at which Council members offered prayers for peace. This was followed by a gathering for peace in Hagley Park and the ringing of the Japanese Peace Bell that had been donated to the citizens of Christchurch. The Council also supported and promoted the National Statement on Religious Diversity, and through its Interfaith Society sponsored several interfaith dialogues and monthly informational discussions about different faith groups and communities in the city.

The Council remains in very good heart. On 24 February 2008 it gathered at the Christchurch Town Hall to say farewell to its foundation chairman, Bishop David Coles, who is retiring as Bishop of Christchurch. Two council members also made brief speeches and presented several small gifts (book, candle and flowers) to Bishop David Coles and his wife.

We have also been considering the need for a national interfaith day and whether we might have the resources and/or resolve to convene a national interfaith forum in 2010. We have many interesting challenges ahead of us, but we are not lacking in confidence or determination to uphold the ideals of the interfaith movement in New Zealand.

Peace be with you all.

Christchurch Interfaith Council



The Christchurch Interfaith Council is a Participant in the Diversity Action Programme of the Human Rights Commission