

## What is Interfaith?

The term "interfaith" describes any kind of activity between people of different faiths or beliefs. It's about how it matters for people to build bridges of friendship and understanding between people of the different and distinct religions in the world today.

## Why a youth forum?

Young people are vital contributors to building good interfaith relations here in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. We hope that the youth forum will be an opportunity for young people to use their energy, ideas and resources and channel them into connecting and making friends with young people from other faith communities.

## National Interfaith Forum

The National Interfaith Forum brings together representatives of interfaith, faith and non faith groups from around New Zealand. The 8th National Forum is being held in Wellington from 26-28 February 2011, with the Youth Forum on the Saturday, a Women's Forum on the Sunday, and the main forum on the Monday. For more information go to [www.interfaith.org.nz](http://www.interfaith.org.nz)

## Am I too young or too old for the youth forum?

For this forum we are defining youth as 18-30 year olds, but if you are close to this range and want to attend, we won't kick you out!

*"The reality today is that we are all interdependent and have to co-exist on this small planet. Therefore, the only sensible and intelligent way of resolving differences and clashes of interests, whether between individuals or nations, is through dialogue".*

- The Dalai Lama



*"One world, one people,  
living together as a global family!  
Young people will cross religious,  
ethnic and cultural divides to  
recognize the universal human  
as family. WE ARE ONE and  
the elders of tomorrow will  
carry this torch".*

-- Nina Meyerhof

# 2011 National Youth Interfaith Forum

Wellington

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February



## Guest Speaker: Freeman Trebilcock



**Freeman Trebilcock** is a 21-year-old Australian born Tibetan Buddhist monk and a founding member of the international peace organization Loving Kindness Peaceful Youth.

Freeman has a deep commitment to promoting inner values as the basis of creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. Freeman has collaborated in numerous interfaith initiatives including organizing and participating in the "Dialogue with the Dalai Lama: Multifaith Forum for Schools" in 2007 and coordinating the Buddhist community for the Melbourne Interfaith Youth Pilgrimage in 2008. Freeman has twice attended the Interfaith Youth Core's (IFYC) conference on interfaith work. Inspired by the IFYC model of interfaith service, in 2009 Freeman started InterAction: multifaith youth network, an Australian-based organization which promotes religious pluralism by engaging young people in common action for the common good. InterAction held its launch in Melbourne in the lead-up to the Parliament of the World's Religions and will continue to use the energy generated by this major event to advance interfaith harmony and cooperation locally and across the globe".

[www.uri.org/the\\_latest/author/freemantrebilcock](http://www.uri.org/the_latest/author/freemantrebilcock)

[www.interaction.org.au/Aboutus/OurTeam/tabid/84/Default.aspxw](http://www.interaction.org.au/Aboutus/OurTeam/tabid/84/Default.aspxw)

[www.youtube.com/user/InterfaithYouthCore#p/u/26/sIWnXr6sPuE](http://www.youtube.com/user/InterfaithYouthCore#p/u/26/sIWnXr6sPuE)

## Youth Forum Programme

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February – 9:45am-5:00pm  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, FAI House, 180 Molesworth St, Wellington

9:45am **Registration**

10:00am **Forum begins**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

### **Interfaith Devotions**

**Workshop I** – What is Interfaith and what involvement have you had in Interfaith so far?

### **Guest Speaker - Freeman Trebilcock**

### **A need for Compassion in all discourses -**

Karen Armstrong Video :

12 Steps towards a compassionate life

12:45pm Lunch

2:00pm **Panel Discussion** – Youth 4 Interfaith in 2020: What could be the opportunities and challenges for youth participation?

**Workshop II** – 2011-2020: What next for us? (focusing on the opportunities)

### **Feedback**

**Endorsements and Pledges** – The Charter for Compassion, The Earth Charter, The Charter for a World without Violence and the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week Initiative

### **Statement for Main Forum**

### **Closing Remarks**

5:00pm Forum closes

## National Interfaith Forum other events

### **Women's Forum – Sunday 27th February**

9:30am-4:30pm

15th Floor, FAI House, 180 Molesworth Street

### **Dinner and Public Lecture – Sunday 27th February**

Venue and Time: TBC

### **Main Forum – Monday 28th February**

8:00am-5:00pm

Grand Hall and Legislative Chambers, Parliament Buildings, Molesworth Street

**For information about the National Interfaith Forum contact [pushpa.wood@gmail.com](mailto:pushpa.wood@gmail.com)**

**or visit [www.interfaith.org.nz](http://www.interfaith.org.nz)**

**Register online for the Youth Forum  
or other events:  
[www.interfaith.org.nz/nif2011.aspx](http://www.interfaith.org.nz/nif2011.aspx)**

**Email: [youth4interfaith@gmail.com](mailto:youth4interfaith@gmail.com)  
for more information about the youth forum.**

