



CIVIC EXCHANGE NETWORK

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Workshop discussions

What role does faith play in today's modern society?

Interactive workshop one

Q. What role can education providers play in working more collaboratively with communities including faith to support student wellbeing?

- Providing facilities for community groups within the University. (A)
- Providing more information on the role of the Student Union and how communities of faith can engage with them. (B)
- Provide greater opportunities for students to volunteer to support wellbeing across the city and support faith projects (i.e., Christmas charity events) (G)
- Structure curriculum and academic timetables which enable faith worship for students and staff.
- Identify suitable services to direct students to relevant places locally.
- Research opportunities. (F)
- Dedicated wellbeing rooms for students to access. (D)
- Where possible to be proactive not reactive to student wellbeing needs.
- Providing space where students can build networks within a faith community at Solent.
- Providing faith literacy and information on where places of worship are located across the city to Solent Students and staff.
- Opportunities for language and knowledge exchange
- Have a single point of contact within the university and communities of faith to aid consistency and conversations. (E)

- Sharing meals and involvement of TOUCH network where communities can come together and share stories.
- Attending and promoting local events such as recent CHURCHWORKS which looked at faith and social prescribing.
- Debate forums for students to inform lectures what needs and requirements they would like.
- University involvement in the 'Love where you live' events.
- Café style talks with societies being made more visual and available to students.
- Faith database which can be used by students (and staff) to support faith advisor on signposting 'what is on' across the city.
- Share information and make this visible across campus.
- Community outreach through mentoring children in the community and helping with homework etc.
- Encourage intrigue - 'what is happening over there'
- Offer mentoring and training with communities of faith to enhance staff knowledge and support.
- Greater opportunities for communities of faith to come into freshers/welcome week (C)
- Students are provided with an everyday facility where they can be listened to and supported.
- Have an inclusive campus approach – make it interesting.
- Greater collaborative engagement with Southampton Volunteer Service (SVS)
- Film nights which showcase a range of different countries, backgrounds, and languages.
- Host more engagement events where communities of faith can speak to students and staff.
- How representative is the university?
- Normalise difference. People are all different but have shared outcomes (educate and progress)
- Ensure all faiths are promoted and supported across the University.

Helpful information linked to the above

- (A) As part of our civic comment to Southampton, Solent provides a free meeting space on the last Friday of each month for community groups. You can find out more information and [book here](#).
- (B) The [Student Union](#) has a dedicated website which provides a wealth of information on societies and events taking place throughout the year. You can also find contact details on each of the officers.
- (C) If you would like to be involved in fresher's week, please send an email to students.union@solent.ac.uk
- (D) The University has a dedicated multi-faith space for students and staff which is available during campus opening hours. More information on student support can be found [here](#).
- (E) Please contact our Communities Development Team on engagement@solent.ac.uk if you would like to discuss working with the university in any capacity.
- (F) We have a dedicated Research Hub who would be delighted to discuss any research areas or projects you may be looking into. Please contact research.innovation@solent.ac.uk

(G) Solent Futures has a volunteering board which students and staff can access. Organisations can post volunteering roles here for free. Please email solent.futures@solent.ac.uk with your details

Interactive workshop two

Q How do we strengthen our communications between communities of faith?

- What methods of communication are communities of faith already using? Could these be shared/pushed across a singular network/stream for all to view?
- Making communications relevant and to the point.
- Sharing of multi-faith newsletters and social media handles across all communities.
- Provide opportunities for communities to learn and gain greater understanding on language, culture, access, time, education, and hierarchy.
- Utilise the faith calendar on Southampton City Council website and have faith and community events publicised on the big screens in and around the city center.
- Needs community development not just community engagement!
- Getting decision makers to attend meetings to allow for forward momentum.
- Ensuring the correct terminology and language is used to initiate conversations. Not all materials of engagement to be written in English.
- Invite more communities of faith to university events. Allow faith space visits across the academic year which could include the sharing of cultural insights.
- Attend and share events (for example pace walks)
- Business plays a part.
- Lack of consistency. Focusing on flavour of the month.

Resources

- Does government 'do God?'. An independent review into how government engages with faith.	PDF
- Keeping the Faith. Partnerships between faith groups and local authorities during and beyond the pandemic.	PDF
- Keeping the Faith 2.0. Embedding a new normal for partnership working in post-pandemic Britain.	PDF
- Leveling up our communities: proposals for a new social covenant	PDF
- The 3 types of social capital (Bridging, Bonding and Linking)	Website
- Southampton Council of Faiths	Website

Contact Us

If you would like to speak to us regarding potential opportunities to work with our students or if you have a project, activity, or research area you would like to explore with Solent University. Please contact the Communities Development Team on engagement@solent.ac.uk.

Find further details on how Solent University is engaging with local business and communities by visiting our [website](#).

