



URI Young Leaders Program
2008

Taking the Initiative...The Role of Youth in Global Interfaith Action **Intra- Faith Activity**

“Rather than dividing us, religion can be the force empowering people from around the world to work together and build cultures of peace, justice, and healing. Using the resources of our different faith traditions, we can work together in the name of peace for a transformed, healed world.”

- URI Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide

Part One: Individual Reflection - 5 minutes

Take some time to reflect individually on the following, and write down any specific values and practices of your tradition that come to mind.

- 1) Think of a teaching, value or practice from your religious tradition or spiritual path that has been or can be used to promote respect, inclusion, and peace.
- 2) Now think of a teaching, value or practice from your tradition that represents a challenge to peaceful interfaith relations, that has been used or could be used to promote prejudice, intolerance or even religiously motivated violence.

Part Two: Small Group Intra-Faith Discussion - 30 minutes

Get into groups of people of the same tradition. Choose one person in the group to facilitate the discussion and one person to note on flipchart paper the points and themes of the discussion, in particular the list of teachings, values and practices you will identify, with a brief explanation of each factor.

Allow time for each person in your group to share the teachings they came up with in their individual reflection. Reflect first on the sources of inclusion and peace in your tradition, followed by the sources of exclusion and violence.

Important: The purpose of this activity is not to arrive to a consensus or agreement regarding the different teachings, values, or practices that have been shared by the various individuals, or to debate the differences, but to seek to understand one another more.

Part Three: Presentations to the Whole / Identifying Common Challenges - 20 minutes

Have one person from each faith group present both the core teachings and values of inclusion as well as the challenges to peaceful interfaith relations in that tradition. Facilitator draws out key insights and makes summary of common challenges faced across faith traditions.

Part Four: Inter-faith Dialogue

Now, gather into interfaith table groups to share insights about teachings, values, and practices from your traditions that were shared in the intra-faith groups.

Focus the conversation around: What are some of the common challenges we all face in doing interfaith work in our community? How can we be of support to each other in meeting these challenges and working for interfaith cooperation and understanding?

- Make sure each person shares their views and explains their selected values and practices.
- Give your group time to ask questions about the beliefs or practices of each other, in a respectful manner, and to dispel any myths and stereotypes they may have about the other.