

WFWP Ireland supports Women's Interfaith Gathering in Dublin

Doris McCann
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WFWP Ireland supported a Women's Interfaith Gathering which was held in cooperation with the Sisters of Faith for Peace, and hosted by St. Finian's Lutheran Christian Church in Dublin, on 31 March 2016.

It was a very encouraging experience seeing the more than 40 women from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths showing such an interest in and enjoying each other! The group included women from the different denominations of the faiths, so it was truly an amazing mix.

The Lutheran women were assisted by Nora Tillman from the Jewish Orthodox Community in preparation of kosher and halal refreshments, to ensure that everybody present could fully enjoy the gathering.

Anne-Marie Reilly welcomed us on behalf of the Lutheran Church. Then, Doris McCann, WFWP Ireland President, addressed the audience, reminding us that we need to dismantle the 'Us versus Them' mentality by connecting and getting to know each other as friends, breaking through the stereotypes by bringing in the human element. In order to fight back against those who divide us, we need to create a world where understanding, empathy and compassion spread faster than hate.

This is why women are crucial at this time, as in general, women naturally seek to connect and build relationships. It is one of our strong points that we should harness for the sake of a greater purpose of peace-building. As women, we need to believe and remind ourselves that our strengths are not only valuable but essential in helping bring about peace at this time.

After this, the group moved from the 'Luther-House' Community Hall in to the Church, to listen to an explanation about the Lutheran faith by Pastor Annette Mahlzahl-Gathmann. Annette gave a very insightful talk about the faith and the development of the Lutheran Church, including here in Dublin.

Her address prompted quite a few questions from the guests leading to a good interaction.

We finished the evening on a very relaxed and joyful note, mingling over the lovely refreshments that included kosher and halal food.