

FFWPU-UK Members Turn Out In Force For London Interfaith Fun Run!

Michael Balcomb
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FFWPU-UK was well represented at the recent London Interfaith Fun Run that was held over Bank Holiday Monday as family and friends joined together to fundraise for important causes.

Russell Gough shares his experiences as coordinator of the Fun Run:

It was a great day at the Saracens StoneX stadium in Barnet. The weather was fine and not too hot for a run!



We arrived around 09.00 to construct our FFWPU stall. We were one of 20 plus faith communities represented at the "London Interfaith Fun Run" in its second year.

I was asked to coordinate outreach at the event. Not dwelling too much on the precise mode of outreach intended, I was determined to at least display to the curious, the works and vision of our True Parents.

Did we outreach well? We "represented" to other faiths present, the Mayor, the Lord Lieutenant of London, we blessed, we spoke to individuals who were curious and we had the most colourful stall (in my opinion). In that sense, we did quite a good job!

I had one good experience visiting a group which educates and empowers refugee women. I was able to invite them to the next online WFWP event. Due to the number of stalls and busy program, however, I couldn't visit any more.

The runs themselves were enjoyable, though testing, and created a great team spirit to help cement the unity of the event. Been there, done that. Got the T-shirt!



Going forward we could have a coordinated kit (shorts, socks...green hair!) to distinguish our runners from the pack. Greater numbers too. I think we had 16 this time. Also, we could donate to the interfaith Fun Run, as a good gesture.

It may also be a way to get more involved with interfaith issues and offer our expertise.

The new DP intro pamphlets worked better. A cheaper give-away version would be better for such events. The roll-out display boards were very effective and eye-catching.

The "Brahma Kumari" stand gave out many Indian sweets and goodies to eat. Possibly our members could wear hanboks and give out Korean sweets as well! Performing Korean Band? Japanese Choir?

It was all over by 3pm. Overall a good experience. Happy to do it again. - Russell Gough.

Original Story:

Our members joined Londoners of different faiths and beliefs for a day filled with activities for the young and old, with sponsored runs raising funds for amazing charities.

Volunteers for the event were organised by Russell, Akiko and Joe G. while Bruno and Elizabeth Klotz helped run the display which allowed for attendees to learn more about our organisation.

Our River South Pastors, Adza and Nittaya M., were among our members who took part in the run while Robert T.'s family participated in the short 1km walk. Their daughter was our youngest participant at the event (pictured below).

The Fun Run was a precious opportunity for our members who attended as it sent a message that we are one and the same, regardless of differences, we are on the side of friendship and community.

If you want to read an alternative article, please visit: faithbeliefforum.org/london-interfaith-fun-run-creates-change-and-new-connections-between-communities/

We would like to thank all of those who supported the event and made it a success!



News / London Interfaith Fun Run creates change and connections between communities

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NEWS



The Faith & Belief Forum



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People of all backgrounds and beliefs wanting to make a difference got together at StoneX Stadium for the London Interfaith Fun Run this Bank Holiday Monday. The event united people from diverse communities for a day of supporting good causes and building new connections.

Hundreds of runners and spectators took part in the run to fundraise for causes ranging from climate change, food banks and homelessness to interfaith, refugees and asylum seekers, represented by over 50 charities.

Organised by the Faith & Belief Forum and Maccabi GB and supported by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith, the



London Interfaith Fun Run offered options of 10km, 5km or 1km which people could run, jog, or walk at their own pace.

Michael Ziff, President of Maccabi GB, said: “We were delighted to hold the second Interfaith Fun Run which welcomed over 750 runners and spectators. It was truly wonderful seeing people from different faiths, beliefs and religions all come together to make London more connected.”

Phil Champain, Director of the Faith & Belief Forum, said: “The London Interfaith Fun Run showcased the amazing variety of communities that make London the great city it is. It was fantastic to see 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds running alongside one another and everyone dancing together to music that ranged from jive to Farsi pop. Events like the Fun Run are a reminder that our society works best when people of all backgrounds, cultures and beliefs are united.”



Sherifat Kamal, who ran 1K for Faiths Women

Community UK, says: “An interfaith fun run is unusual, but anything that creates community cohesion is excellent to me. London is a city of diverse cultures and ethnicities and anything that brings us together to celebrate this makes me feel good.”

Saira Begum Mir BEM from food bank PL84U Al-Suffa in Leytonstone, one of the charities involved in the Fun Run, said: “Interfaith to us means reaching out, building bridges, and making stronger connections, which this event does. I don’t like the word ‘tolerate’, I prefer the word respect, and building respect is often what charities like ours are trying to do.”

The event offered more than just running as participants could enjoy vibrant performances, sample foods from different cultures, have interfaith encounters, do arts and crafts, play in the Fun Zone, and meet charities at a buzzing charity fair. The diverse performances included Capoeira with the African Portuguese Speaking Community; Afghan, Kurdish, Iranian and Arabic dances performed by refugees from New Citizens Gateway; drumming with Shumei UK; and The Jive Aces, the UK’s number 1 Jive and Swing Band.

The event featured speeches by Sir Ken Olisa, Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, and David Dangoor



CBE, Chair of
the Lord-
Lieutenant of
Greater



London's Council on Faith, who initiated the London Interfaith Fun Run project.

David Dangoor CBE said: "The London Interfaith Fun Run is an opportunity for Londoners, whatever their ethnic group or faith, to come together and send a message of unity and friendship. It clearly shows the enormous amount of good this city's diverse communities and cultures can do when we all work together."

We would like to thank all the partners and sponsors of the London Interfaith Fun Run 2022: Maccabi GB, the Faith & Belief Forum, Dangoor Education, JVN, Saracens, Arnold Clark Community Fund, Groundswell Project, Community, Asian Media Group, Church Times, Eastern Eye, Jewish News, Sikh Channel, and Voice of Islam Radio.

Notes for editors

For additional information or for interviews with the charities and runners involved, please contact philip@faithbeliefforum.org

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