

35 attend WFWP Ireland's event: Interfaith Women's Gathering in Dublin

Doris McCann
June 2, 2016



WFWP Ireland supported the Sisters of Faith for Peace in this event - an Interfaith Women's Gathering that took place in the Jewish Museum in Dublin in the evening of 2 June 2016. We had an enthusiastic group of about 35 women from mainly Jewish, Muslim, Christian and other faiths in attendance.

The museum is a former Synagogue which ceased to function as such and was brought back to life as the Irish-Jewish Museum. It is located in Dublin 8, Portobello, an area that used to be called Little Jerusalem.

Debbie Briscoe welcomed us warmly to the Museum on behalf of the Jewish Community, also explaining about some of its history.

Doris McCann then addressed the guests on behalf of the Sisters of Faith for Peace. She spoke about an internal aspect which motivates us to work in the area of interfaith and reconciliation.

In a world that is almost daily shaken by reports of terror, fear, violence and segregation, this work is becoming both increasingly important and challenging.

Doris spoke based on this quote by Anita Moorjani, which explains why only LOVE can diffuse fear and hatred - they can never be driven out by more violence and fear. This understanding really encapsulates one of the reasons that motivates us to do this kind of work:

"Reaching for Love, even while surrounded by Fear -

In relation to the violence and terror that has occurred around the globe.

I believe that the more fear that's being triggered by what's going on in the world, the more important it becomes for us to reach deep into our hearts for love. It's not easy to do, because during those worst times, every newspaper and TV report will be spreading the fear, but if we actually start buying into the fear, all we end up doing is spreading the fear, thereby adding to the fear that is out there. The more we spread the fear, the more we contribute to the separation, hatred and division. The more we are surrounded by fear and hatred and separation, the more important it becomes that we become aware that we need to reach for love, because that's what's lacking, to create such a situation. The normal reaction is anger, revenge, and retribution. However, the minute we start to take revenge against what's going on around us, we are becoming more of what we are against. We become that which we are taking revenge against, because the very act of revenge means to fight them on their own terms. That's why revenge doesn't work, and that's why there's so much fear and so much hatred. Now, more than ever, we really have to dig deep and find that place of love, and become it, so that we can share it and spread it. Only love can diffuse fear and hatred, not more violence and fear."

After that, Judith Charry came up to lead us through the main part of the evening, giving us a most interesting presentation and tour about the Museum as well as Jewish customs, traditions and their reasoning. The audience loved her animated and hands-on way of sharing her knowledge in great depth, and many questions came from the guests.

One lady asked for a prayer to be shared in memory of the Jewish people of this community, and Judy recited beautifully a psalm in Hebrew in their memory.

After the main presentation upstairs, we moved around and could observe the displays around the Museum, and Judy also explained about the original kitchen on the ground floor.

Even though we could not have refreshments this time as Museums in general do not permit food and drink on the premises, we had a fantastic time and really enjoyed each other, and the evening stretched out much longer than we had anticipated.

A wonderful experience and thank you again to Debbie and Judy and the Jewish Community as well as to all participants!

Reported by Doris McCann
WFWP Ireland President

