

23 February 2023 KIFF Meeting Notes

Online meeting

Attendees

- Rene - Rabbi, Kingston Liberal Synagogue
- Marina - Inclusion Lead RBK
- Caren - Inclusion Lead RBK
- Greta Farian - Humanist
- Fleur Standring - Lay representative for KLS
- Marilyn Leach - Lay rep from St. Matthews
- John Azah - KREC
- Jeremy Rodell - Chair of Humanist Group
- Susan Van Beveren - Head of Chaplain SW London on end of life care
- Joe Moffatt - Vicar of All Saints, Kingston
- Howard Greenoff - RBK
- Mohammad Arafat - Met Police
- Terezie Wickenden - Climate Action Team for Kingston Council
- Rashid Ali Laher - Volunteer Lay Chaplains Kingston Hospital & Princess Alice Hospice
- Michael Johns - Perring - Associate Curate SASM
- Claire Wilding - Met Police - Hate Crime Officer
- Suzanne D’Cruze - Met Police - Faith Engagement Officer SW BC
- Marianna Klaes - Community member
- Malik - Kingston Muslim Youth

Apologies

- Hamad Momin
- Stan Brown
- Sarah Mehdi
- Michael Lovell

Item	Meeting notes / actions
<p>Interfaith Conversation and reflections Rabbi Rene</p>	<p>Rene - We can organise more opportunities for this type of conversation and reflections if people would like. Susan - use gathering in a multi faith environment (Ash Wednesday example attended by Catholics, Anglicans, Humanists, Rabbi’s for example) Jeremy - Humanism isn’t a religion so no festivals etc. but have yet to evolve routine festivals to mark passage of the year / nature and turning of seasons. Humanists will do something for Christmas because society gets together with family/friends and originally it is part of mid-winter (opportunity to bring fun and light into this harder period). Other things are big life events (funeral, babies, weddings etc.). HMD also becoming a powerful moment. John Azah - Come to spread news etc. and bring together people. Help engage with people who don’t have a voice.</p>
<p>Holocaust Memorial Day (All)</p>	<p>General feedback Rene - Maybe 2024 can be on the actual day and plan for next year after summer and how to make even more inclusive to even more members of community. Explore how to push the boundaries for next year. Joe - Content and contributions were outstanding and very moving. A lovely</p>

	<p>balance between music and stories. Grateful to guest speaker for sharing her story. If we make clear that the wider community is invited, he is happy to encourage people from his community to attend.</p> <p>Fleur - Went very well. Good venue. Good atmosphere. How far are we reaching wider community groups? Can we do things differently?</p> <p>Marilyn - Did share in community newsletter. Sound was not quite high enough (speaker)</p> <p>Rashid - Good venue. Highlight our ethos - the diversity of speakers and ethos of Kingston is amazing. Show example of previous events/school pictures that a muslim girl won. Make previous events visible.</p> <p>Marilyn - Sound at that venue needed improving as not all speakers could be heard clearly.</p> <p>John - Very well planned and executed. As a Black African I wouldn't attend. Need to keep educating people to understand that HMD is inclusive and for everyone. Promotion of the event needs to speak to a wider audience.</p> <p>Jeremy - Very powerful speech. Next time push boundaries even more and start comms early.</p> <p>Michael Lovell: Would support celebrating the event on the actual HM Day, which is an anniversary of the liberation of the first concentration camp. Sundays are always more difficult for Christian Clergy, especially Catholics as we cannot use the event as a substitute for Mass.</p> <p>Michael J-P: Very moving and quite different. Worked well and the chance to meet informally before and after in the networking was useful. Is there more opportunity for informal gatherings for people of different faiths?</p> <p>Marina - Passing on thanks on behalf of the Council to KIFF for a very moving event and touching reflection. <u>Lessons learnt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take sign-in next time - security point. so we know exactly who is in the room - Speaker sound - Ensure teacher / families are fully aware of agenda and can agree to take young people out of the room if things are age inappropriate - Think about ways to engage wider community <p>Greta: Many local political parties and trade unions endeavour to do something for Black History Month and may be interested in contributing to an RBK event</p> <p>Action - John Azah to organise something on behalf of KIFF for Black History Month.</p> <p>Action - KIFF to look at Inter Faith Week 2023 as an opportunity to organise an informal networking occasion.</p> <p>Action - to maybe look at celebrating 2024 HMD on the actual day and start planning earlier (i.e. summer).</p>
<p>KIFF Coronation activities Joe Moffatt, Vicar, All Saints</p>	<p>All Saints been asked to participate as rich history associated with Coronations, Saxon Kings who chose Kingston to unite different peoples etc.</p> <p>Event with theme on unity: Sunday May 7th at 3pm. Street theatre at 3pm featuring a re-enactment of the Coronation of King Athelstan in the Memorial Gardens by members of the Rose Youth Theatre. At 3.30pm there will be a carnival vibe in the Market Square with Kingston Music Service leading a 'junk percussion samba'. There will also be traditional fairground rides and cream teas in the churchyard. The event will culminate in a</p>

	<p>Service of Thanksgiving at 4.30pm at All Saints Church. This will include some school choirs singing alongside our church choir.</p> <p>Action: I would like to hear from faith leaders who would be happy to provide a short prayer from their own tradition and to be present to read it at the service, or to nominate a representative.</p> <p>Please contact me directly on joe@allsaintskingston.co.uk</p>
<p>Supporting the community to implement energy efficient measures Terezie Wickenden, RBK Climate Action Team</p>	<p>Terezie: Aiming to support borough to become carbon neutral. If anyone is interested in decarbonising buildings, contact Terezie to learn about funding opportunities and signposting - terezie.wickenden@kingston.gov.uk Also please contact Terezie for bespoke talks and any other advice on sustainability. Presentation here</p> <p>Michael J-P - Terezie has helped SASM in a very practical way supporting their application for funding feasibility for solar panels</p> <p>Howard Greenoff - There is an opportunity for a joint initiative between RBK/KIFF promoting carbon reduction and interfaith gathering through establishing a 'Tiny Forest(s)'. (Roughly tennis court size with up to 600 tree whips). This has the benefit of contributing to reducing our carbon footprint (creating a land sink(s)) and improving biodiversity. Kingston Cemetery has an established conservation area that could be used as a trial. More info: Tiny Forest</p>
<p>Community Iftar Hamad Momin, Faith Adviser Kingston Uni</p>	<p>Hamad: If anyone interested in Ramadan or an Open Iftar to contact him. Kingston University are planning something with local faith groups/Mosques.</p> <p>Malik (Kingston Muslim Youth): last year provided 2,000 hot meals. This year planning 4,000!</p> <p>Sarah: Very happy to help/co-organise community Iftar/interfaith event for Ramadan</p> <p>Action - All - contact Hamad if you can get involved</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Bereavement Cafe update (Joe and Sanja) Joe Moffatt - Sanja (CEO KVA) talked to Joe to see if All Saints would be interested. Still exploring - maybe one at All Saints and one at Kingston Bereavement Services. Please be in touch with Joe if anyone else wants to take part!</p> <p>Howard Greenoff - Susan and Howard are part of a SWL/KVA sub group looking to introduce Bereavement Cafes (9BC) in communities as for the existing one in New Malden. Ewell Health is also seeking opportunity for a BC at the British legion building local to them. Kingston Bereavement Counselling Services is also looking to develop a BC in addition to formal bereavement counselling. Princess Alice Hospice can provide training for BC and 'Bereavement Walks'. Kingston Crematorium/cemetery will be developed further as a bereavement hub offering residents practical advice and support. Surbiton Cemetery Chapel is offered as a gathering/training location when not in primary use.</p>

International Women's Day campaign (Marina Payen, Inclusion Lead, RBK)

Invitation to KIFF to get involved in a borough-wide campaign for International Women's Day 08 March. The aim is to collaboratively celebrate women's achievements in the Borough. We are encouraging men to take part too in the campaign as allies as we all need to play a part in challenging gender stereotypes.

This year the challenge set by IWD is '[strike the EmbraceEquity pose](#)' so, if you use social media, would KIFF in their different communities like to collaborate by

1. **Taking a similar picture** with this pose
2. **Share on 08 March** on your social media and include the following text: '*This International Women's Day, we are celebrating women's achievements in our Borough with @kingston_council*' by... (mention how you are supporting equity in your own sphere of influence or, if you are a man, mentioning what you are doing as an ally). Add person in photo's name and job title.
3. **Tag IWD and @kingston_council** so we can mutually share and amplify women's achievements in the borough

Action: All that can take part please do!