

Initial results report - a reference source of concerns and potential solutions for the future



This analysis of the outputs from the evening attempts to reflect the wide range of obstacles to peace and unity identified by attendees and also the possible actions that may provide the means to improve understanding and co-operation in our diverse community.

Two areas of activity were the focus of the evenings discussions between a wide variety of community members at seven separate tables that produced the results contained within this document.

People were asked to consider:

1. The pressures creating obstacles to peace and unity in our diverse community within Croydon.
2. How we can develop actions and events to remove barriers to understanding and co-operation. (With the longer term objective being peace and unity locally)

All seven tables provided responses to these questions and the broad headings below show the key issues and suggestions.

PRESSURES AND OBSTACLES

1. Lack of knowledge
2. Prejudice
3. Media
4. Inequality
5. Mistrust/suspicion
6. Status Quo
7. Fear
8. Isolation

ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

1. Events like this one
2. Promoting respect for places of worship
3. Talking to neighbours
4. Twinning diverse wards
5. Cultural events
6. Freedom of speech
7. Celebrating difference
8. Moral values/responsibility
9. Holding local and national government to account
10. Austerity event to benchmark current position
11. Multi-faith sports events

The full compilation of comments and suggestions follows:

PRESSURES AND OBSTACLES

1. Lack of knowledge

Lack of knowledge / understanding of others

Lack of understanding of faith communities

General ignorance/ disinterest

Indoctrination by others

2. Prejudice

Prejudice

Rigid family values

Stereotyping others

Lack of integration/ assimilation

3. Media

Negative influences

Fake news

Communications bias

“Social media”

Insular outlook – virtual reality

4. Inequality

Lack of recognition of non-white contributions ie soldiers, entrepreneurs, caring professions.

Economic and social

Economy/ poverty - blaming the foreigner

Youth and women’s voices not heard

5. Mistrust/suspicion

Arm sales

Politicians working for own personal gain not country

Brexit and political turmoil

Low representation of minorities in government

6. Status Quo

Suburbia

Arrogance

Wealth

Rise of the far right

7. Fear

Fear of and dislike of difference

Cultural difference, balance between cultural identity and appreciation of others

Different groups/ political parties/ interests

8. Isolation

Rigid family values at odds with society

Lack of compassion/ indifference

Competing priorities

ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

1. Events like this one

Making people aware of issues/ education sessions

Cross generation/ ethnicity/ sexuality meetings to promote inclusion and responsibility

Teaching the common elements of belief/ faith communities

2. Promoting respect for places of worship

Open days and visits to places of worship

Putting combinations of faiths into projects or conversations on different topics

3. Talking to neighbours

Recovering the art of conversation

Meeting others and learning how they believe peace can be achieved through their beliefs

4. Twinning diverse wards

Twinning association between Croydon wards ie Thornton Heath and Purley to create understanding of differing communities

Implementing ideas/ programs to educate children and young people and steer away from crime.

More youth centres across borough.

5. Cultural events

Social get togethers

Poetry events

Celebratory/ communal events

6. Freedom of speech

Encourage and protect freedom of speech

Establish speakers corner for people to express their opinions

Invite inspirational speakers to Croydon

7. Celebrating difference

Enjoy and celebrate our differences

Share good stories and actions

Even disagreement should be valued, we are all individuals despite our differences

8. Moral values/responsibility

Identify family values as foundations for role model behaviour

Promote moral values/ responsibility

- Build common values - love
- Volunteering/ helping others
 - Universal brother and sisterhood
 - Mentoring of youth

9. Holding local and national government to account

They represent us the general public

Provide more local funding

Knife crime summit with Croydon Council to identify those at risk and determine what actions faith groups can take.

10. Austerity event to benchmark current position

Croydon wide look at the impact to date and define routes to mitigate/ fix the problem

11. Multi-faith sports events

Use sport to unite and create social integration across faith groups

Ongoing sport linked programs

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