

Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee

Community Conversation, February 2026

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members: London McBride, Samia Bano, Rebecca Rona, Carlos Valverde

Topic

The topic for this community conversation is how people belonging to different religious, spiritual, or humanist traditions respond to social injustice, oppression and/or humanitarian crises.

We expect their responses will highlight shared values, such as compassion in action, and shared teachings, such as variations of the golden rule enshrined in various faith and spiritual traditions: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and "Don't do unto others as you would not have done unto you"...

We believe this topic and approach will be valuable and likely to create more compassion, empathy and sense of solidarity among our community members, inspired by our shared values, and moral and ethical perspectives.

Possible Event Titles:

- Compassion in Action: An Interfaith Response to Injustice
- Interfaith Responses to Injustice and Humanitarian Crisis
- Shared Values, Shared Humanity: Interfaith Conversations for a Just World

Format and Timeline

We suggest the following:

- * Welcome/Introductions (10-15 min.)
- * Facilitated Q&A/discussion/model conversation among interfaith panelists (1 hour)
- * Small group discussion with "light facilitation" (50 minutes)
- * Small groups report back + Q&A/big group discussion (30 minutes)
- * Conclusion/resources sharing/next steps (25 minutes)

Total event time: 3 hours

Panelists

We are seeking panelists belonging to diverse faith groups, such as Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu/Sikh and Bahai. We will make sure to include a panelist who follows a secular humanist moral and ethical code. We plan to identify panelists who are actively engaged in addressing social justice issues and/or humanitarian crises, and who are inspired to do so by their religious/spiritual faith traditions or secular humanist moral and ethical code.

Conclusion/Resources Sharing/Next Steps

We would like to refer event participants to already existing dialogue groups and organizations where event participants can get involved with various social justice or humanitarian crisis response campaigns. Panelists will be encouraged to share information about such resources and campaigns that they are a part of or that they recommend.

Event Moderators and Hosts

Our ad hoc subcommittee members will serve as event moderators and hosts. Member Bano will serve as the event MC, and Member Valverde will lead the facilitated Q&A/discussion/model conversation among the interfaith panelists. In doing so, Member Valverde will pose questions of the panelists.

Questions and other prompts for panelists under consideration

- Share an experience when you've been involved with a social justice or humanitarian crisis issue --> What's the issue, why is it meaningful to you, how did you get involved, what actions did you take, how did you participate?
- Share a teaching from your own tradition or a different tradition that inspires you and informs your involvement with social justice or humanitarian crisis issues.
- Describe a model or hero/heroine you have. They can be someone from your own tradition or a different tradition: who are they, what inspires you about them, what is one key lesson you've learned from them.
- When it comes to inspiring others to join you in taking action on causes you're passionate about, what's worked for you? What challenges have you faced?
- Reflect on something you've heard a fellow panelist say that you found meaningful or insightful or surprising. You can share your own insight or ask a clarifying or follow-up question.

Handout With Inspiring Quotes

Ahead of the event we will ask our panelists to submit quotes of teachings from their traditions that inspire/inform their involvement with social justice or humanitarian crisis issues. We will create a handout with those quotes for our event participants.

Small Group Discussion, Handouts as Springboard

During the "light facilitation" portion of the event, participants can use the handout with inspiring quotes encouraging engagement with social justice or humanitarian crisis issues as a springboard for jumping into their discussion. For further discussion, participants in small groups can discuss questions similar to the questions posed to the panelists.

As such some of the questions posed during small group discussion can be:

- Pick a teaching from the quotes handout that you find inspiring/insightful/meaningful and share your thoughts on it. We encourage you to pick a quote from a different tradition than you

own to reflect on...

- Share a social justice or humanitarian crisis issue you've been involved with --> Why is it meaningful to you, how did you get involved, what actions did you take, how did you participate?
- Talk about a model or hero you have, it can be someone from your own tradition, or a different tradition --> who are they, what inspires you about them...
- When it comes to inspiring others to join you in taking action on causes you're passionate about, what's worked for you? What challenges have you faced?
- Reflect on something you've heard a fellow participant say that you found meaningful/insightful/surprising --> You can add some insight of your own to the thought or ask a clarifying or follow up question.

Request of all EHRAC Members

We request that all EHRAC members volunteer to serve as small group facilitators for the event, with the understanding that their role will only entail engaging in "light facilitation", such as ensuring that everyone in the small groups gets a chance to speak and that specified time limits for discussion are adhered to.

Community Members

We may also recruit some community members to serve as back up small group facilitators. These community members would be asked to step into the facilitator role if we have more than 70-80 participants show up and/or if some EHRAC members are absent or otherwise unable to serve as a facilitator. Our goal is to have each small groups have between 6-10 participants.

Snacks

We would like to get a variety of traditional, ethnic foods, snacks and drinks that are popular among the various religious/faith communities that will be represented on the event panel and audience.

Budget:

\$900 for food and drink

Constructive Feedback

We welcome suggestions and any other constructive feedback on all aspects of this report and event plan.