

Ground-Rules for dialogue

These ground-rules have been developed for students and officers to use when facilitating dialogue around faith and belief. It is useful to discuss ground-rules before starting any dialogue, and allowing the group to add points to this list as they feel necessary.

- Use 'I' statements, to avoid trying to represent everyone in your faith tradition.
- Respect the right of others to disagree with you.
- Be sensitive.
- Think about the language you use and how you engage in conversation.
- Be straightforward about your intentions for taking part in all inter-faith initiatives; including having a shared purpose.
- Say when you feel uncomfortable with something that has been said or done.
- Correct mis-understandings and mis-representations of your own and other people's faith when you come across them. It is really important that as you learn more about other faith traditions you challenge those who hold incorrect views and stereotypes about people.

Other things to consider:

- Recognise that all of us at times fall short of the ideals of our own faith tradition and we should not compare our own ideals with other people's practices.
 - Take responsibility for preventing disagreement from leading to conflict.
 - Listening as well as speaking is necessary for a genuine conversation.
 - Make sure that when it's your time to listen you listen and aren't just waiting to respond.
 - Understand that no derogatory comment will go unchallenged.
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