

“Food banks in the UK are overwhelmingly operated by church-affiliated groups, including over 1000 outlets run by Christian charity, the Trussell Trust. Yet Sufra, meaning “come to the table” in Arabic, is one of a growing number of Muslim organisations also attempting to tackle food poverty. The Muslim communities are the second major providers of food banks

Like many Christians motivated by their faith to help others, giving to the less fortunate is an important tenet of Islam. Voluntary donations and charity work (Sadaqah) among British Muslims have typically been geared towards poverty relief projects overseas. But Sufra organisers say many Muslims now “increasingly feel they have a responsibility to the wider

problems here in Britain”.
 From the website of the Islamic Society of Britain
www.isb.org.uk/foodbank



David Cameron, Ex-Prime Minister speaking in 2016:
“My moments of greatest peace come perhaps every other Thursday morning when I go to sung Eucharist at St. Mary Abbots, the church in Kensington, west London, linked to the school my children attend. I find a little bit of peace and hopefully a bit of guidance. I have finally made it this year to the place where our Saviour was both crucified and born. It’s a remarkable, extraordinary place, and I think something that will stay with me. The Bible tells us to bear one another’s burdens: Jesus invented the Big Society 2000 years ago, I just want to see more of it and encourage as much of it as possible. What we both (churches and government) need more of is more evangelism. More belief that we can get out there and actually change people’s lives and make a difference and improve the spiritual, physical and moral state of our country.”

Reported in Daily Telegraph, April 2014



John Lennon:
“Imagine no religion, it’s easy if you try
No hell below us. Above us only sky.
Nothing to kill of die for.
Imagine all the people living life in peace.”



The word ‘Islam’ means ‘peace’ and in the earliest Islamic communities 15 centuries ago ended tribal fighting and sectarianism. They established the ‘Ummah’ (global Muslim community) and used Shariah law to seek a civil society of fairness and of diminished prejudice, intolerance and poverty. In the modern world, Muslim aid agencies (Islamic Relief, Muslim Hands, Muslim Aid, many others) seek to make peace through development. Muslim co-operation and contributions to inter faith work are many and various. In recent times, the unfair stereotyping of Islam as associated in some inevitable way with terror or fanaticism has done much harm, as have the un-Islamic actions of some self styled ‘Islamists’. [RE Textbook]



“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.” In this very famous quotation Communist philosopher Karl Marx asserts that religion is false, but that its function is like a drug (opium) which can dull the pain of living a wretched life- religion doesn’t have to be all true to make you feel better.

“The Catholic Church is one of the biggest global health providers. It runs 5,246 hospitals, 17530 dispensaries, 577 leprosy clinics, 15,208 houses for the elderly, chronically ill and those with physical and learning disabilities worldwide”

(Caritas / Financial Times / The Universe 2012)



‘Those who act kindly in the world will have kindness’ Qur’an, Surah 39.10

‘Treat people in such a way and live amongst them in such a manner that if you die they will weep for you; alive they will crave your company’ Nahjul Balagha, Saying 9, Islam

"...spend out of love for Him, for your family, for orphans, for the refugee, for those who have need." Qur’an, Surah 2:17

‘Humankind, especially the marginalised and oppressed, need each other to confront the many dangers and challenges of liberation. Let us hope that because of (and not despite) our different creeds and worldviews we are going to walk this road side by side.’ Farid Esack, South African contemporary Islamic theologian.



Islamic Relief raises and spends over £130 000 000 a year, to serve the poor globally

"It is not religions that cause wars but people. Some people use religion to support their hatred or fear, and make war in the name of Jesus, the Buddha or the Prophet. But most Muslims, Christians or Buddhists use their religion to try and live a good life for the well being of all. So don't blame religion for human selfishness."



The 'Encyclopaedia of Wars', 5 volumes, 2012, edited by Gordon Martell, published by Wiley-Blackwell, analysed 1763 wars from the last 10 000 years of human history. What percentage were started by, caused by religions? And what percentage by governments?

Answers: 7% Religious, 93% Governmental.



"The human psyche has two great sicknesses: the urge to carry vendetta across generations, and the tendency to fasten group labels on people rather than see them as individuals. Abrahamic religion gives strong sanction to both - and mixes explosively with both. Only the wilfully blind could fail to implicate the divisive force of religion in most, if not all, of the violent enmities in the world today. Without a doubt it is the prime aggravator of the Middle East. Those of us who have for years politely concealed our contempt for the dangerous collective delusion of religion need to stand up and speak out. Things are different now. All is changed, changed utterly." *Professor Richard Dawkins, Atheist, author of 'The God Delusion.'*

Stephen Fry was asked: If you die, and come face to face with God, what will you say? His reply:



"How dare you? How dare you create a world to which there is such misery that is not our fault. It's not right, it's utterly, utterly evil.

"Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain? That's what I would say. "

"Handcuffs or keys?" Religion comes in many forms. Any form that ties you down, stops you being the best you can be, that can lead to the dark side. But other forms liberate people, set them free and enable them to grow. That's typical of religion too. The question is: what makes the difference between the religion that ties you down and the religion that sets you free?" RS Lecturer.



Seymour, age 13, made this picture.

'Gandhi and Rev Dr King are two of the world's most famous peacemakers, one a Hindu and one a Christian. They were both very religious. People who say that 'religion causes wars' forget that peace is also often made from religious motives, in religious communities, by religious leaders. If you look at all the Nobel Peace Prize winners, then huge numbers are Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish: people of faith.'