

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Humanity in Harmony Gathering Report



Hosted by

The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Zoroastrian Centre, 440 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9TL

19 November 2025

The Humanity in Harmony event, held on Wednesday, 19 November 2025, at the Zoroastrian Centre in Harrow, brought together around 70 participants representing a broad spectrum of faiths, beliefs, and value-based traditions.



This gathering marked the culmination of four months of online collaboration among individuals from eight faith communities, who had been exploring ways to work collectively to safeguard diversity, strengthen unity of purpose, and shape a growing interfaith movement rooted in cooperation and shared values.

Reconnecting in Person

The transition from online collaboration to in-person meetings generated a sense of joy, warmth, and renewed purpose. The arrival of new participants highlighted the forum’s expanding convening power and growing reputation for inclusive, meaningful dialogue. The atmosphere throughout the evening was characterised by comradeship, fellowship, and shared dedication.

Before the formal programme began, a short video conversation on the meaning and significance of prayer and meditation was recorded. This was followed by a shared meal that gave participants a chance to meet and build friendships across traditions.

Opening Addresses and Devotional Contributions

Welcome Address



Dorab Mistry OBE

The evening opened with an address by Dorab Mistry OBE, who emphasised the importance of ensuring that every borough has its own Interfaith or Multi-Faith organisation. He encouraged the group to view this event as “the first of many steps forward” and expressed confidence in the participants’ capacity for constructive collaboration.

Zoroastrian Monajat

A Zoroastrian prayer (Monajat) was then offered—dedicated to Ahura Mazda, the Great Wisdom present in all creation.



Gull Bilimoria & Dolly Contractor



Deepak Naik OBE



Brahma Kumaris

Introduction to Unity in Diversity

Mr Deepak Naik MBE introduced the Unity in Diversity Group, followed by a period of silent meditation led by the Brahma Kumaris.

Briefing Paper Overview



Bhupinder Singh

Bhupinder Singh presented the key points of the Briefing Paper, highlighting the profound but often understated contributions of diverse religious and spiritual communities—including Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, the Bahá'í Faith, Pagan traditions, the Brahma Kumaris, and the Church of Scientology.

Their contributions—through entrepreneurship, professional expertise, philanthropy and charitable work—are interwoven into the fabric of British life. The Unity in Diversity Forum aligns with the Civil Society Covenant, designed to empower community-led initiatives and strengthen collaborative partnerships across society.

Youth Reflections: The Power of Listening

A central feature of the programme was the sharing of reflections from young people of different Faiths and Beliefs on the theme of listening.

Participants explored teachings on listening drawn from their traditions, noting a shared principle: that listening—deep, calm, thoughtful listening, including to one’s own inner self—is essential for building harmony.

This emergent insight suggests that *listening* could serve as a common ethical foundation for a more cohesive and united society. The youth proposed that the practice of attentive listening can empower partnerships, nurture dialogue and help build a more peaceful, respectful and resilient United Kingdom.



“Listening is rooted in deep inner silence. In silence, we can experience ourselves in our truest form as beings of light and children of the One.”

— Vini Goyal, Brahma Kumaris

“Listening to your inner self is like being in harmony with your inner world—it's about tuning into your thoughts, emotions and values, and letting them guide you towards a more authentic, fulfilling life.”

— Sushmita Sahu, Brahma Kumaris

Roundtable Discussions

Participants engaged in nine table discussions, focusing on two themes:

1. **The Guiding Principles**
2. **Strategic Planning for 2026**

1. Guiding Principles

One group spent time reflecting on the first statement under “We Are”:

“Rooted in Dharmic, Faiths, Beliefs and value-based traditions.”

Suggestions included adding “common values” and clarifying references to the Divine or spiritual energy. A Rig Veda quotation—*“Truth is one; sages call it by many names”*—was well received. Some participants expressed uncertainty around the phrase “evolution of ethics”, preferring language rooted in shared human solidarity and mutual respect.

Despite semantic differences, there was a broad consensus on the need for clear, inclusive and meaningful language that reflects the group’s identity and purpose.

2. Strategic Plan for 2026

Participants reaffirmed the importance of remaining focused, purposeful and collaborative. There was strong support for developing a clear, practical 2026 plan that builds on existing work and grows organically.

Summary of Roundtable Themes

Strengthening the Community

Participants emphasised the importance of:

- Establishing a strong internal structure
- Fostering effective collaboration across local organisations
- Engaging people of all ages—especially youth—at the grassroots level
- Involving young people directly in community-building activities
- Integrating relevant themes into education, including Religious Education
- Providing opportunities for moral, social and personal development
- Organising youth-focused initiatives that build belonging and responsibility

Enhancing Group Solidarity

A shared desire emerged to:

- Strengthen listening, unity and collective decision-making
- Cultivate learning across traditions in a spirit of mutual respect
- Increase opportunities for interactive workshops similar to this event

Key Questions Raised

- What is the purpose of this initiative?
Should the group model itself on the IFN, or pursue a distinct path?
- Who are we as a collective?
Clarifying mission, identity and values.
- How does this initiative complement existing interfaith efforts?

Proposed Directions

- Host a Conference on Social Cohesion exploring:
 - Mapping networks across communities
 - Grassroots-up approaches
 - Presenting insights about one's own community to a wider audience
- Start small and grow organically, connecting existing initiatives
- Use music as a unifying tool
- Demonstrate the impact of collective interfaith action

Participant Feedback

Feedback sheets indicated that participants appreciated:

- The interactive format
- The shift from abstract discussion toward practical action planning
- The presence and contributions of youth
- The multigenerational diversity of the gathering

Closing Reflections and Final Prayer



Rohinton Munshi

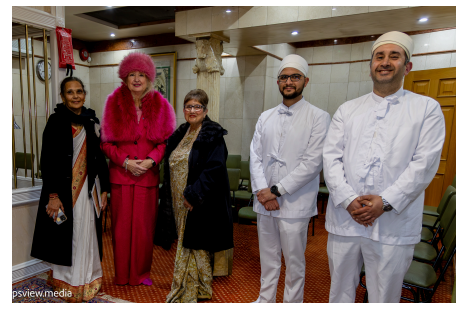
The meeting concluded with Mr Deepak Naik presenting the core principles and values of the Unity in Diversity Group.

A vote of thanks was offered by ZTFE Honorary Secretary Mr Rohinton Munshi.

Participants were then invited to the Zoroastrian Prayer Room for a reflective session led by Resident Priest, Ervad Saheb Yazad Bhadha. The Centre also extended a warm invitation to visit the Fire Temple, where participants learned about the profound significance of fire in Zoroastrianism—symbolising purity, truth, and the Divine light that guides ethical living and spiritual understanding.







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