

SHARED VALUES: THE GOLDEN RULE

Exploring differences and commonalities and working together on the basis of shared values is a vital part of living together well in a diverse society.

Each faith tradition has teachings about the importance of treating others as we ourselves would wish to be treated. These teachings inspire and underpin engagement of people of different faiths with others and their social action for the wellbeing of society. These teachings are sometimes called the Golden Rule. There are equivalents in non-religious belief writings.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has worked with its member bodies since 1987 for inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. The Golden Rule quotations here were drawn together by it, with the assistance of its Faith Communities Forum. The Act of Commitment by the Faith Communities of the UK, developed with the Inter Faith Network, reflects other values that the faith communities saw as held in common

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/act-of-commitment

Baha'i faith

Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for any one the things ye would not desire for yourselves.

This is my best counsel unto you, did ye but observe it.

Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, 128



Buddhism

Just as a mother would protect her only child with her life, even so let one cultivate a boundless love towards all beings.

Khuddaka Patha, from the Metta Sutta



Christianity

*Do to others as you would have them do unto you.**

Luke 6.31



Hinduism

This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.

Mahabharata 5.1517



Islam

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith, 13



Jainism

I forgive all beings, may all beings forgive me, I have friendship towards all, malice towards none.

Pratikraman Sutra 35: 49



Judaism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man.

Talmud: Shabbat 31a



Paganism

*The wholeness of nature is experienced as unconditionally sacred.***



Sikhism

No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib p.1299



Spiritualism

We are all part of the universal creative force and therefore one family in God. [...] Spiritualists try to understand the needs of others and help all people regardless of race, colour or creed.

Brotherhood of Man, Spiritualists' Second Principle



Zoroastrianism

That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.

Dadistan-I-Dinik 94.5



* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also uses this 'golden rule'.

** There are many paths within contemporary Paganism. The example above reflects principles of modern Druidry as practised by members of The Druid Network

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This material is drawn from the IFN publication *Connect: A youth inter faith action guide* which was based on consultation with the Faith Communities Forum of the Inter Faith Network for the UK and its Board of Trustees.

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