



Building a multi-faith response to food poverty

Glasgow Interfaith Food Justice Network: Interim report, August 2018

Using face-to-face and virtual opportunities to build our network

We support collaboration between people from different faith and belief backgrounds who volunteer and work with projects that support people facing food insecurity. Monthly meetings, networking events, an email list, a Facebook page and WhatsApp groups all help members to share ideas, information and good practice. When arranging meetings and events we try to avoid religious festivals. Our WhatsApp group helps food initiatives pass on excess food and other resources, especially when responding urgently, further building a sense of interfaith solidarity.

We also enable participants to engage with the 'big picture', including issues such as welfare reform, campaigning and government policy. This is assisted by our [Interfaith Food Justice Declaration](#) (which contains our guiding principles and a common commitment to working together) and through working with Nourish Scotland and the Scottish Food Coalition.

We support One Big Picnic, an annual, large scale, free community meal in central Glasgow which brings together people of all backgrounds to share food provided by diverse food initiatives. It's a model of free food distribution which champions dignity and unity.

Challenges and learning

We want to work together as an interfaith network to ensure that food justice is at the heart of the Scottish Government's promised Good Food Nation Bill, and promote engagement with the consultation.

We attribute the popularity of One Big Picnic to the broad purpose of promoting the 'unity and dignity of all', coupled with free food in a central public outdoor space.

Next steps

We plan to do more to include the voices of those experiencing food poverty in developing our network by involving members from the Poverty Truth Commission.

www.sustainweb.org/foodpower



"Though from different traditions, we share beliefs that move us to action when people in our communities go hungry: access to food is a basic human right..."

The Interfaith Food Justice Declaration

Outcomes

- Diverse faith groups providing food initiatives are better connected with one another and feel better supported and motivated.
- Diverse groups feel more empowered to raise their voices to call for food justice, while also delivering much needed services.

