



Dear friends

It is with great pleasure that we would like to invite you to the first **European Scout Interreligious Forum's (ESIF) Gathering and Launch Event** from the evening of 15th February – afternoon of Sunday 18th February 2018.

ESIF, together with the European Scout Region are holding this weekend assembly to inspire and educate more Scout and Guide leaders to become involved in interfaith activities across Europe.

There are many NSO/NSAs within the European region organising events where they would like faith input including faith zones. This has presented a definite need to increase the numbers of people who can take an active role within the individual and joint faith areas.

We appreciate that this is late notice however, we have only recently had confirmation of funding to cover accommodation and travel costs.

ESIF is the European network of the Interreligious Forum of World Scouting (IFoWS) comprising of 6 faiths and beliefs who hold consultative status with WOSM. However, we extend an invitation to all other faiths and beliefs across the European Scout Region.

Identity

The European Scout Interreligious Forum is the group of religious networks in the Europe Scout region that share common ground and acknowledge the right each scout has and the opportunities they should have to develop and practice their spirituality and religion.

Vision

To be a relevant interreligious network, based on friendship and mutual respect, with a strong partnership on regional and national level regarding the spiritual and religious dimension in Scouting.

To set a positive and inspirational example to the wider society in interreligious dialogue and peace building.

Mission

Our mission is:

- to engage in "Duty to God", personal spiritual development, interreligious dialogue and peace education;
- to share our spiritual and religious experiences;
- to work in a close partnership with the European Scout Region and NSOs/NSAs to provide support, contributions and opportunities regarding their educational work in the spiritual and religious dimension, as well as interreligious dialogue, in Scouting.

You are invited to join us for a weekend of education, activities, dialogue and discussion. This will take place as follows:

Date: **Evening of Thursday 15th February – Afternoon of Sunday 18th February 2018**
Place: **Het Scouthuis, Wilrijkstraat 45, 2140 Antwerpen, Belgium**
Cost: **€30 per person, payable on arrival**
Delegates: **9 delegates per faith**

It is also a requirement of the grant funding that the delegate makeup consists of at least 50% of each faith being 30 years of age or under and a similar split of male and female.

Registration:

Each Faith is to send through the attached **registration form to Dawn Sheppard** with the details of all of their delegates. **This is to arrive no later than Thursday 25th January.**

We are looking for a mix of Scout and Guide leaders of different nationalities and ages within the European region. Please spread this information as widely as you can within your respective networks.

Travel:

There are two options for travel:

- Book yourself and claim back costs – Information of costs must still be submitted to Rose-Marie Henny - rmhenny@scout.org (please cc Dawn Sheppard @ wbsc.european.region@gmail.com)
- Request travel is booked by the European Regional office. Please contact rmhenny@scout.org (please cc Dawn Sheppard @ wbsc.european.region@gmail.com)

Please be advised that anyone flying will be restricted to hand luggage only however one piece of hold luggage is permissible per faith (where required) to bring any religious artefacts and information for their presentation.

An outline of the program is attached. We are looking for this to be an interactive seminar and would request that each faith put together both a blessing to be used at the beginning of one of the sessions (maximum of 10 minutes), a presentation covering an introduction to your faith and belief to be shared with the rest of the delegates (45 minutes) and information on previous FAB zone activities run by your Faith (10 - 15 minutes). This is to provide an insight and education to the other faiths into the fundamental and underlying beliefs of each of our religions and activities used to help explain them to young people.

We hope to see you at the weekend and are looking forward to the sharing of ideas, knowledge and activities.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Scouting

Dawn Sheppard - Deputy Chair, ESIF Committee

ESIF Committee

Claudio Gasponi - Chair

Michael Marks - Deputy Chair