

## Faiths for the City

A Collaboration by Birmingham Faith Leaders Group and the University of Birmingham

# Diversity and the Quality of Living

Saturday 1 March, 9.45am–3.30pm  
Banqueting Suite, Council House,  
Victoria Square

**Open to all, admission FREE**  
**Light lunch provided**

Faiths for the City is a project initiated by the University of Birmingham's multi-faith chaplaincy. Its aim is to create dialogue among citizens focused on specific issues related to the welfare of the city. The project looks particularly at the contributions that Birmingham's different faith communities can bring to life together in Britain's largest and most diverse, multi-faith and multi-ethnic city. The project was launched in the University's Great Hall on 11 September and is continuing throughout the year with a series of one-day events.

**Diversity and the Quality of Living** is hosted by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Randal Brew and will be opened by Cllr Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council.



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with support from Westhill Endowment Trust and the Department of Communities and Local Government



Living together in a city requires respect and understanding. It offers the possibility that through habits of socialising together we can contribute to each other's quality of living. Living together in a city is a continuous project of building civic institutions, spaces and cultures. In Birmingham, at the start of the 21st Century, we face the need to build a community that meets our requirements and matches the great civic achievements of Birmingham's past. Cities are also spaces of conflict and of inequalities and injustices. Ethnic and religious difference is all too frequently a source of anxiety

and misunderstanding, perhaps heightened in recent years. This day event is an opportunity to explore key aspects of current city life. Discussion areas will include education and young people as local citizens, the organisation of public space and the expression of difference, and the operation of the criminal justice system within local communities. The event will bring together people representing different aspects of Birmingham life, including local politicians, activists, academics, and professionals, as well as citizens, everyday 'experts' in the art of living in the city.

The morning session will involve speakers who will present a short introduction to the different themes and topics. Speakers include; Cllr Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council, Mr Noor Siddiqi, Scholar of Islam and Solicitor, Dr Therese O'Toole, University of Birmingham, Dr Dick Atkinson, Balsall Heath Forum, and young activists from Birmingham Citizens. In the afternoon there will be separate workshops on each of the three themes, followed by a plenary discussion among all participants at the end of the day.

