

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF DIVERSITY

MEASC - ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES AND FAITHS
DUBLIN, IRELAND



CATEGORIES

- A** Connecting activities & community events
- S** Community spaces where diverse people meet

PRESENTER

Razwan Akhtar, Youth Board Coordinator

DESCRIPTION

MEASC is an annual festival of cultures and faiths that draws on and celebrates the diversity of contemporary Irish society.

The festival offers a safe space for encounter, opportunity to build bridges and overcome division between our various cultures and faiths in a fun day, full of music, food, song, and dance - with many cultures represented.

MOTIVATION

This one-day festival aims to showcase the beauty and richness of faith and culture from our diverse faith communities in Dublin City, and inspire people to take positive actions in their communities and workplaces to build positive sustainable social change.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

The promising practice deals with fear and prejudice through raising awareness and helping people to embrace diversity, faiths, and cultures.

MORE DETAILS

MEASC, which means 'mix' in Irish, is now in its third year, and is hosted by the Dublin City Interfaith Forum, with Dublin City Council. This one-day festival aims to showcase the beauty and richness of faith and culture from our diverse faith communities in Dublin City – from Sikhs to Sufis, Zen Buddhists to Irish Jews, and so much more...

Apart from MEASC bringing all faith traditions together, it is most importantly lots of fun and a good family day out, with games and workshops for children and adults.

Learn to meditate. Make some Jewish bread. Have your head wrapped in a turban. There's bound to be a new experience for anyone.

The festival is highly supported by the Dublin City faith communities, community groups, local artists, craft groups, sports, and educational groups. In a very short time it has proven its valuable contribution to raising awareness and understanding of the contribution diverse migrant communities make to our city.

As in previous years, the festival offers children and adults alike an opportunity to reconnect and encounter culture, arts and food, from home and abroad.

The MEASC Interfaith Festival acts as a mediator to magnify good intentions to serve overall prosperity. MEASC is set to grow into a well-known annual event in the life of Dublin City.

OUTCOMES

The promising practice increases mutual respect, helping to bridge diverse communities, to begin collaborating and working with each other for positive social change, which leads to overcoming division and preventing future conflicts.

LESSONS LEARNED

Learnt how to deal with differences, dispel myths and preconceptions. The promising practice brings to light the value of people from diverse backgrounds working together. Our work demonstrates that even with all our differences, we have a lot more in common than not.

The promising practice really brings to light, the following saying by Rumi:

"We may know who we are or we may not. We may be Muslims, Jews or Christians but until our hearts become the mould for every heart we will only see our differences."