

What it is?

A resource for *sacred conversations on migration*: aimed at local churches and/or church related groups to help in the exploring of issues around moving/migrating.

'Sacred' alongside conversations underscores a faith and biblical perspective on lived experiences and encounters. invites honest engagement, intentional listening, transforming relationships and commitment to a different vision of home and belonging.

What are the aims?

Working the theme '*at home in a strange place*', it is hoped that the resources can generate a series of 'conversation points' to help people reflect together on their experiences, stories and encounters.

create opportunities for churches to connect faith, worship, advocacy, solidarity and practical engagement.

What are the expected outcomes?

That 'sacred conversations' will lead to deeper reflection, conversion of minds and attitudes *and* concrete acts towards a new vision of home and belonging.

"journeying into deeper reflection, conversion of minds and attitudes *and* concrete acts towards a new vision of home and belonging."

Committing

We offer and commit to....

'SACRED CONVERSATIONS...'

Orienting questions for reflection can include:

- how does my personal experience/ encounter/story of moving, displacement and finding a home help transform my church and community?
- in what practical ways can these conversations change our thinking, our relationship with others, and how we engage with 'popular' conversations around migrants and migration?
- how can our worship life reflect these conversations and our stories?
- what new vision of local, national and global communities would we wish to see take shape resulting from these conversations?

@home in a
strange
place



'sacred
conversations' on
migrating



<http://urc.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>

@home in a strange place

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resourcing

What will the resources include?

It will include a thematic introduction and rationale; suggestions on conversation methods; short stories, bible reflections; a board game; a written and filmed short play; video magazine clips; worship materials, links to online ecumenical resources etc.

Some will be new materials. We will also draw on all available resources (materials and people) to encourage the conversations.

Materials will be available and accessible through the URC/Mission/Synod webpages. Facebook and other media will also be used.

Resources will be posted regularly as and when they are available. There will always be materials available for a conversation. All will be invited to contribute to the resource bank.

"We believe that the linking of issues is key to encouraging solidarity and transforming attitudes."

building on

How can churches use the resources?

We will encourage working with already designated/established 'event markers' and URC publications to explore the theme/ and encourage the conversations

-for example: Racial Justice Sunday, Multicultural Celebration, Refugee Week, Interfaith Week, One World Week, Homelessness Sunday, Prison Week, Black History Month, Pilots, Reform, collaborating with TDO's, mission enablers and synod evangelists, and youth staff etc

Sermons - table talks – films - video clips - away days - special events - small groups – short play or drama – and much more



introducing

Where will these conversations be introduced?

'Sacred conversations' (@home in a strange place) will be introduced at key gatherings of the URC commencing at the Multicultural Celebration (September 2015) and followed up at Mission Councils, Synod gatherings, General Assembly 2016 and significant network meetings. We hope these conversations can get fully going until the end of 2017.

A few congregations will be invited to pilot the materials, with the hope that the documented experiences both generate wider interest and sharpen it.

Can these 'conversations' spin-off in multiple directions leading to transformed lives and a renewed commitment to a 'full-life' vision of home and belonging (as per the indicator statements of vision2020 and the 'multicultural church, intercultural habit' charter)? We hope so!

"sacred conversations are premised on hope that is grounded in the expansive and embracing love of God..."

suggesting...

'sacred conversations' will include times of worship, prayer or a ritual and reflections. Here are some examples of engaging:

- sermon series followed by discussion about topics raised in the service
- conversations around a film, video clip, image
- table talk on a recent news item or happening in the community related to theme
- at a special evening event and around a meal drawing on a diverse group to include migrants, councillors and local MP's (keeping focus on sacred)
- with a small group from your church participate in an event related to migrants.
- facilitate a short play/drama piece by young people in your church or community
- encourage participation in events or organizations working with migrants and migration issues in your community.

Whatever your method

- ensure that the format include elements that address heart, mind and spirit
- be mindful of including time and resources that nurture the spirit and invoke God's Spirit and presence: music, poetry, prayer, and ritual are just some of the ways that call us to remember that these are sacred conversations.