Raising Awareness of Hate Crime in Tonge Moor

Follow on press release after Hate Crime Awareness Week 8-14th February 2016

Context

The Building Bridges Project is a partnership project led by Tonge Moor URC (Church at The Centre) Tonge Children’s Centre and various other Tonge Moor organisations.

The current aims of the Building Bridges are:

1. To foster mutual respect, trust, support and kindness between generations, faith and cultures.
2. To help to develop Tonge’s Children Centre into a hub for the community.
3. To work with other groups, to support other community activities addressing needs in the area.
4. That (by the end of the project) everyone in the local community will feel that Church at The Centre is available for them.

Historically the demographic of the Tonge Moor area has been white British however over the last few years this has changed. Our local primary schools have informed us that there are 140 pupils across these 4 schools situated in the Tonge Moor area that have English as a second language. The current total of pupils across all 4 schools is 961. Because of this changing demographic and the stated first aim of Building Bridges, we have encouraged various partners to join together to develop a project to raise awareness of hate crime within the area.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

Bolton Safe Partnership encouraged us to raise awareness of hate crime during the week of the 8-14th of February 2016, therefore
Building Bridges and others involved with the primary schools, churches, uniformed organisations and other youth groups within Tonge Moor took part in a poster design competition.

The overall winners came from Moorgate Primary school, Shelby and Alexus.

Alexus said: ‘Our class learned a lot about hate crime through this competition and it’s very important.’ Whilst Shelby added: ‘we made our poster colourful with paint splashes and it’s fantastic to have won.’

Their poster was professionally printed off and displayed around Tonge Moor in various community locations during Hate Crime Awareness Week.

We had so many entries which were of such a high calibre that the judges made several runners up:
The community of Tonge Moor, raising awareness of:

- Hate Crime!
- Stop Hate Crime!
- BE NICE! You can do it!

Different backgrounds
Different ethnicities
Different religions
Different sexuality
Different abilities

Building Bridges is a partnership Project:

- The United Reformed Church
- Bolton at Home
- Building Bridges
- Bolton Council
- Tonge Children's Centre

The community of Tonge Moor, raising awareness of:

- Sue Yates, Tonge Children’s Centre Manager
- Vicky Pukiello-Collier, Extended Services Development Officer
- Ronnie Chikwama, Pastor at Kingdom Fellowship Church

felt we needed to value more than the one winning design so they chose some runners up:

- Lewis from Castle Hill Primary School
- Bolton Borough Youth Council
- Castle Hill Young People’s Centre
- Abi and Millie from Tonge Moor Primary School
- Year 6 from Tonge Moor Primary School
- Haruna from Tonge Moor Primary School

These designs were then adapted into a design for a pop up banner.

There were also two posters that were so informative that we felt they should be turned into leaflets for our intercultural celebration fun day which we are planning for the summer holidays. These poster/leaflet designs were submitted by:
• Joyce from Tonge Moor Primary School
• Year 6 student Castle Hill Primary School

**Community Celebration and Drama Production**

During the summer holidays we will hold a community fun day and intercultural celebration where we will have fun exploring other cultures and faiths. Then during the autumn, we hope to develop a community drama production to explore hate crime and its possible consequences.

Alison Dalton,
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