

**THE FAITH COVENANT**  
**COVENANT FOR ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN**  
**DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL AND FAITH ORGANISATIONS**

**The Faith Covenant is built on the following principles:**

- Faith communities are free to practise their beliefs and religious observances without restriction, and to raise their voice in public debate and to be respected, within the framework of the law.
- Public services and faith based social action should respect service users from all backgrounds, with no discrimination on the grounds of religion, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.
- The voice, participation and solutions that faith communities bring are important, and consultation should enable them to be brought to bear for the benefit of the wider community.
- Faith organisations and services are encouraged to work not only with the Council but with local businesses, education providers, health and other publicly funded services in order to empower communities, recognising that monopolies of funding, action and participation can be damaging.

**The Faith Covenant entails the following commitments:**

***Dundee City Council*** commits to welcome the involvement of faith groups in the delivery of services and social action on an equal basis with other groups. In addition, the Council commits to:

- Building relationships and trust with faith groups;
- Adopting strategies for the engagement of faith communities in consultation exercises;
- Encouraging faith groups and their members to be involved in the reshaping and redesign of Council services;
- Establishing clear guidelines around funding;
- Sharing training and learning opportunities with faith organisations.

***Faith organisations*** commit to work actively with Dundee City Council in the design and delivery of services to the public. In addition, they commit to:

- Seeking opportunities to bring people together to serve the community, particularly its poorest and most isolated members;
- Serving equally all local residents seeking to access the public services they offer, irrespective of their religion, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation or disability, and without putting any pressure on individuals to convert;
- Using resources provided for delivering a service wholly for that purpose, and not for any other;
- Ensuring excellence in the safeguarding of adults and children, health and safety, accountability and transparency in decision making;
- Responding to consultations where appropriate;
- Sharing training and learning opportunities with the Council.