



 [thesydneystatement.org.au](https://thesydneystatement.org.au)



## OUR WORLD

In our globalised world, we are more connected than ever before, but there are also greater disparities of access, wealth and power that divide us. In this volatile situation, religions are sometimes marginalised or manipulated to seek political, economic, cultural, ethnic or racial advantage over others, fuelling divisiveness and even violence, including in our society. However, religions at their best promote unity, justice and peace.

## OUR CITY

Sydney is an international city. It is home to people from all countries, cultures and religions. To create a vibrant, harmonious and resilient society, people must show mutual respect, understanding and cooperation across these differences. Because religions promote self-transcendence and belonging, they are ideally suited for this task of growing relations between people from different backgrounds.

## OUR VOICE

Youth PoWR (Parliament of the World's Religions) is a coalition of young adults from different religions. We, the members of Youth PoWR, have listened and shared with each other our experience of the best and the worst of interfaith relations in our city. Out of this conversation, we have crafted *The Sydney Statement*, a multi-faith charter for growing the multicultural and multi-religious society we envision for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. Although named in terms of 'Sydney', it is relevant to our state, our country and our world. Although framed in terms of 'religions', it includes all faiths, beliefs and worldviews. We present *The Sydney Statement* for your consideration.

## OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Sydney and its environs, the diverse clans of the Eora, Dharug, Dharawal, Gandangara and Guringai nations. We acknowledge their elders, past, present and emerging.

## OUR CONTEXT

Sydney is a multicultural, multi-religious city. More than a quarter of us were born overseas. We identify with more than 300 ancestries. We speak more than 215 languages. We follow more than 150 different religions or spiritualities. Cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity is deeply embedded in the life of our city.



## OUR VALUES

The Dignity of the Human Person, Life, Freedom, Equality, Safety and Security, Hospitality, Gratitude, Generosity and Service, Humility, Respect, Openness, Care for the Environment, Solidarity.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

Multiculturalism, Citizenship, Democracy, Secularity, the Rule of Law, the Compatibility of Science and Religion.



 [The Sydney Statement](#)  
 [the\\_sydney\\_statement](#)

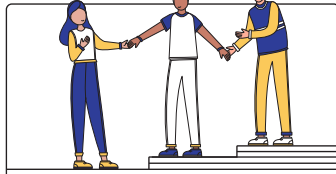
 [info@thesydneystatement.org.au](mailto:info@thesydneystatement.org.au)

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## OUR COMMITMENTS

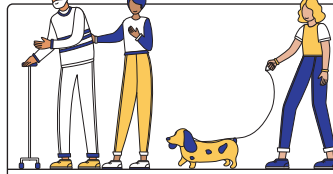
### DIALOGUE OF LIFE – Living our faith in our everyday relations with others.



We will be passionately religious and compassionately interreligious.



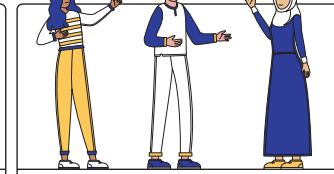
We will treat others as we want to be treated.



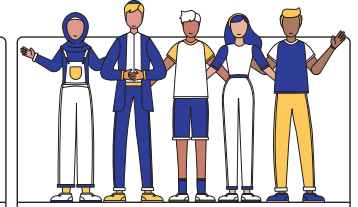
We will show love, care and respect for others in our daily lives.



We will promote mutual respect, understanding and cooperation between believers.



We will acknowledge both our commonalities and our differences.

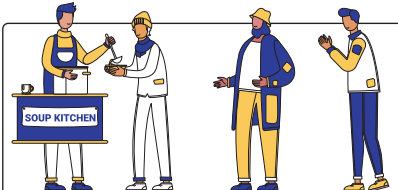


We will support recognition of society's religious diversity.

### DIALOGUE OF ACTION – Working together on social issues based on shared values.



We will work together for social cohesion.



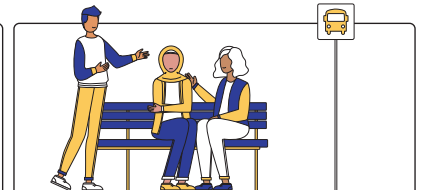
We will work together on common social issues.



We will work together to promote peace.

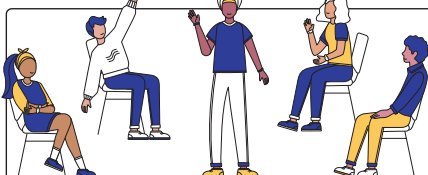


We will work together on environmental issues.



We will act in solidarity with victims of religious discrimination.

### DIALOGUE OF KNOWLEDGE – Sharing about our doctrines, creeds, morality and practices.



We will learn about the teachings, practices and customs of other religions.



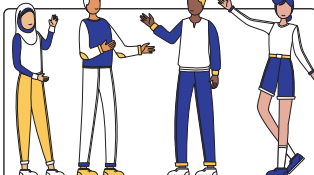
We will encourage education about different religions.



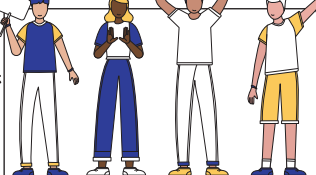
We will be critical consumers of media.



We will speak out against all forms of religious prejudice.

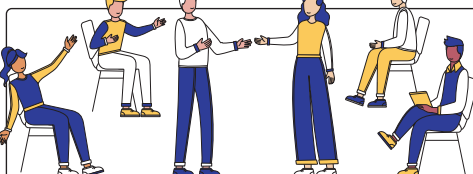


We will give a positive and accurate account of all religions.

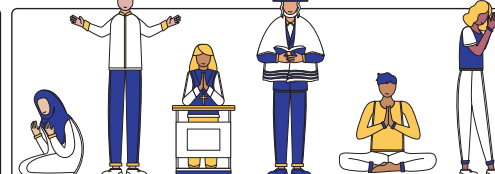


We will reject violence and extremism.

### DIALOGUE OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE – Sharing our spiritualities.

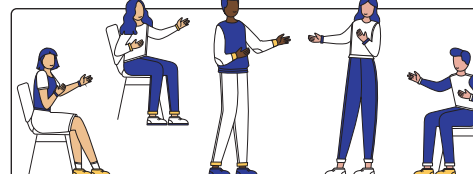


We will share the spirituality of our religions.



We will respect each other's places of worship.

### INTRA-FAITH DIALOGUE – Engaging with the members of our own faith communities.



We will promote interfaith dialogue within our own faith communities.



We will make 19 March "Bridge Day" for building bridges between believers.

## OUR AFFIRMATION

We, the members of Youth PoWR, affirmed *The Sydney Statement* and authorised its publication in October 2020.

## OUR INVITATION

We invite you – our peers, our elders, the members and leaders of our own and other faith traditions, and all people of goodwill – to 'build bridges between believers from different religions' by living out the values, principles and commitments of *The Sydney Statement*.