



Bridging Faiths, Building Peace: King's University College Hosts the 12th Annual London Interfaith Peace Camp

London, Ontario – Amid global conflicts and rising tensions, King's University College successfully hosted the 12th Annual London Interfaith Peace Camp (LIPC), reaffirming its crucial role in fostering unity and understanding among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities. Established in 2013, LIPC has become a vital platform for interfaith dialogue, offering children from grades 1 through 8 a unique opportunity to build friendships across faiths and learn enduring lessons about peace.

This year's camp faced unprecedented challenges, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine, which weighed heavily on the hearts and minds of participants. Despite these complexities, the overwhelming sentiment among the LIPC community was that now, more than ever, the camp's message of hope and peace is vital. King's University College, as the annual host of LIPC, took thoughtful steps to ensure that all participants felt supported, valued, and safe. The camp fostered an environment where difficult conversations could lead to healing and growth, reinforcing the camp's mission of fostering peace and understanding across faith traditions.

By hosting LIPC, King's demonstrates its commitment to fostering critical thinking, dialogue, and reconciliation, which are central to its mission. The camp's focus on understanding and equity aligns with King's values, showing how the university community actively engages in meaningful learning experiences that promote peace and mutual respect across different faiths.

Quotes:

"From a Muslim perspective, interfaith work, including initiatives like LIPC, is crucial for fostering understanding and dispelling misconceptions. Islam emphasizes the importance of compassion and dialogue, and engaging with people of different faiths allows us to break down barriers of ignorance and fear. By building relationships and exchanging ideas, we can challenge these misconceptions, promote mutual respect, and work together towards a more inclusive and harmonious society."

— Sr. Shahin Pardhan, London Muslim Community

"The relationships we have developed through LIPC over the years have been invaluable. As our communities have faced tragedies and triumphs, the trust and goodwill fostered through this camp have allowed us to turn to each other, even in challenging times. Our children learn that there is much more that unites us than divides us. We don't have to agree on everything to respect and support each other, and we all share the same hopes and fears navigating a world that isn't always safe for us or our people."

— Rabbi Debra Dressler, London Jewish Community

“In a world increasingly marked by polarization, King’s University College is committed to being a place where people of all faiths can come together to learn, inspire, and teach. This year’s camp was more important than ever, as it provided a space for these young people to model compassionate listening and to demonstrate how such empathy can heal divisions, reminding us all that there is hope for a better world.”

— Jim Panchaud, Director of Campus Ministry, King’s University College

About King’s

King’s is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honours degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. Institutionally autonomous, King’s is academically affiliated with Western University, and King’s graduates receive a Western University degree. King’s is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the values of social justice, equality, and the education of the whole person.

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