



Lewisham Interfaith Peace Walk 2018

The London Borough of Lewisham celebrated its Fourth Annual Peace Walk on Sunday 24th June 2018.

As we have now come to expect and admire, the august day was patronised by Leaders of the various Faiths within the Borough, The Police, Civic Leaders, business owners, members of various organisations and groups, and the general public all committed not just to the notion of a peaceful and tolerant society, but actively working to sustain this reality that is a hallmark of Lewisham.

This year, the Walk commenced at The Hindu Temple on Clarendon Rise, stopping off at the Salvation Army, before the column progressed to the Lewisham Islamic Centre, where they were welcomed by Iman Shakeel Begg, before twelve-year-old Rumaysa Saeed read the opening chapter from the Qur'an (Surah al-Fatiha or The Opening) in Arabic followed by an English translation.

Next, Imam Ashraf Dabous reminded everyone about the importance of Peace, and Sister Asma Meer from the "Peace of Cake Initiative" spoke about the Initiative's work and vision of bringing diverse peoples and communities together vis-à-vis the Peace Walk.

The visit to the Islamic Centre concluded with the Lighting of The Candle of Peace by fourteen-year-old Junayd Saeed and Sister Fouzia Razvi.

The procession then moved to the Civic Suite in Catford Town Hall, where our new Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan, welcomed everyone, before The Candle of Peace was lit by Lewisham's newest Member of Parliament, Janet Daby.

The 2018 Peace Walk concluded under the geniality of Joe Burchell of the Catford and Bromley Synagogue with words of thanks and appreciation.

We live in the greatest Borough in the country with a unique proclivity towards uniting peoples of all backgrounds. It is important to remember that this was not always the case; that there remain amongst us the dying vestiges of racist and xenophobic voices screaming hatred and division, falsely hoping to efface the victories of decades-old struggles that have led to this unique multicultural society. By “giving peace a chance” – the antithesis of racism and xenophobia – we consign these voices of hatred and division to the annals of the darkest part of our history.



Thank you for reading! Don't forget to share as much as possible!

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