

Interfaith marriage Conference Press Release

Inter-faith marriage was the focus of a seminar on February 8th jointly hosted by the Committee for Other Faiths, Marriage Care and the Marriage and Family Life Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The day seminar, a first attempt by the Conference to address the complex issues of Inter-faith marriage across departments, took place in Liverpool during National Marriage Week. It was aimed at diocesan co-ordinators of family ministry, diocesan inter-faith advisors and members of Marriage Care centres around the country.

The purpose of the seminar was to establish greater clarity about issues raised by inter-faith marriages, for the couple, their children and their respective families with a view to identifying the pastoral and formation issues involved.

The expectation was that the seminar would feed into a planned research project on inter-faith family situations and that it would encourage broader networking among those involved in family and inter-faith ministry.

The consensus at the end of the Conference was that Interfaith Marriage was one of the most important issues facing young people today. In a society where young people of all faiths come into constant contact with each other it was agreed that much greater attention needed to be paid to this reality in a formation context.

The hope was expressed that this seminar would provide an excellent opportunity for all those who work to support family life and inter-faith dialogue to explore the issues and provide impetus to the task of providing pastoral support'.

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