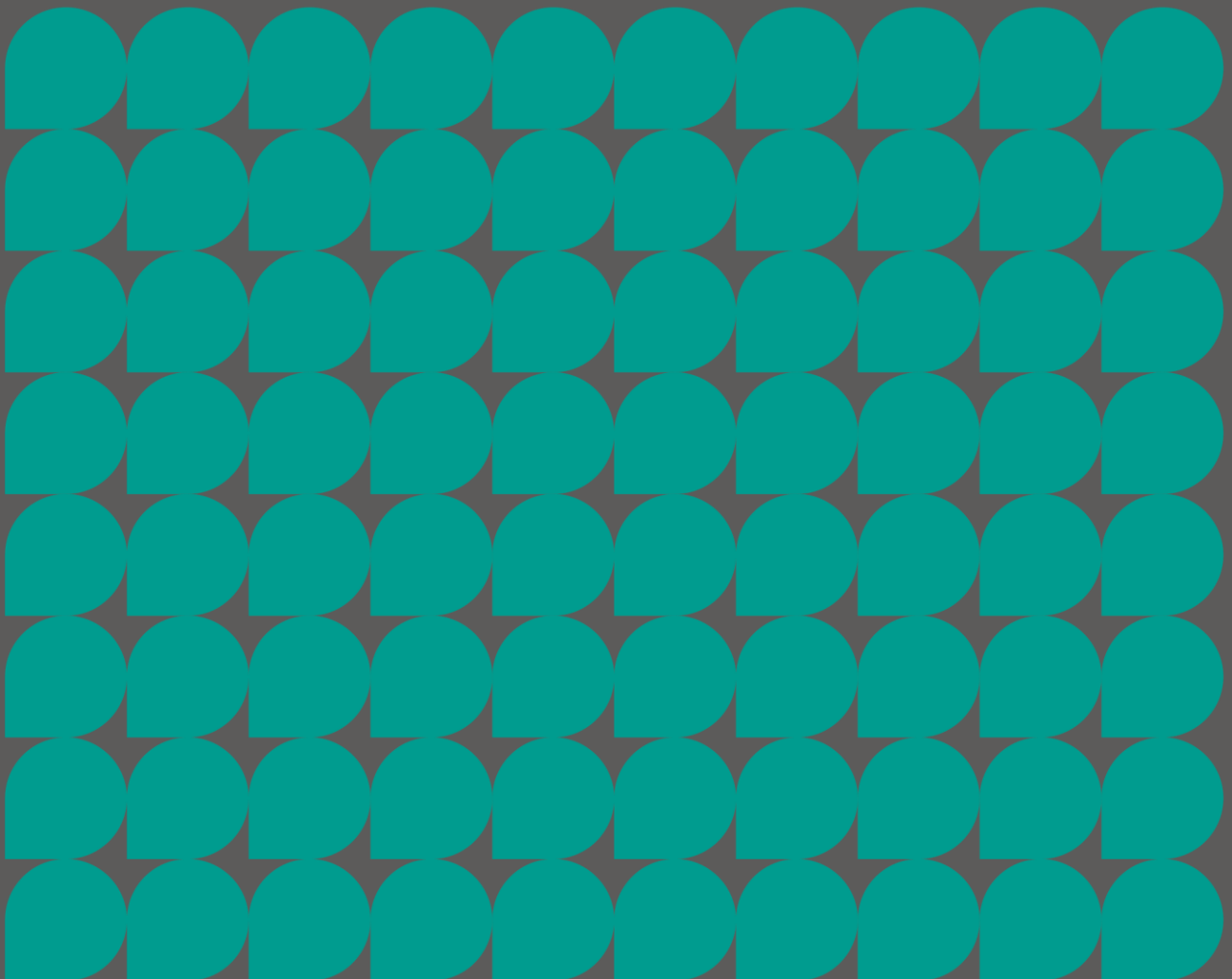


Greater Manchester Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant

March 2024



This Covenant is a joint commitment between Faith and Belief communities and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to a set of principles that guide **engagement, collaboration and delivery** at all levels.

The Covenant has been developed by the Greater Manchester Faith and Belief Advisory Panel, an advisory body made up of Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations from across the city-region, and Greater Manchester Combined Authority, made up of the ten Greater Manchester Councils and Mayor of Greater Manchester.

By working together, we can achieve our shared ambitions.

“We want Greater Manchester to be a place where everyone can live a good life, growing up, getting on and growing old in a greener, fairer, more prosperous city region”

Greater Manchester Strategy

The Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant is built on the following principles:

- Organisations and services can strengthen by drawing on diverse sources of funding, participation and action
- The voice, participation and solutions that Faith and Belief communities bring are important, and engagement and consultation enable them to contribute for the benefit of the wider community.
- Public services and Faith, Belief and Interfaith social action respect service users from all backgrounds, with no discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
- Recognition that Faith and Belief intersects with other protected characteristics, for example race and sex
- Faith and Belief communities are free to practise their beliefs and religious observances without restriction or discrimination, and to raise their voice in public debate and to be respected, within the framework of United Kingdom law.

The Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant entails the following commitments:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) commits to welcome the involvement of Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations in the delivery of services and social action on an equal basis with other organisations. In addition, GMCA commits to:

- Building relationships and trust with Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations
- Adopting appropriate strategies for the consultation and engagement of Faith and Belief communities in policymaking
- Encouraging Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations and their members to be actively involved in the shaping and design of local services, through a collaborative and asset-based approach
- Developing and sharing training and learning opportunities between Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations and GMCA, including strengthening Faith and Belief literacy
- Maintaining open and transparent procedures for funding and commissioning of services that welcome Faith and Belief organisations as potential service providers
- Providing resources to enable proactive and positive engagement with Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations, including the Faith and Belief Advisory Panel

Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations commit to work actively with Greater Manchester Combined Authority 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, including its most disadvantaged and isolated members
- Balancing different Faith and Beliefs in a way that promotes good relations between people and communities, and engaging in dialogue and activity that overcomes tensions
- Using resources provided for delivering a service wholly for that intended purpose,

- Ensuring excellence in child and vulnerable adult safeguarding, health and safety, accountability and transparency
- Proactively responding to consultation and engagement
- Sharing training and learning opportunities between Faith, Belief and Interfaith organisations and GMCA