



Youth Interfaith Intercultural Programme

founded by Marlene Silbert in 2011

2025 Report



“While we can remember the past, we cannot write the future. Only our children, the future of our community, can do that.” Jonathan Sacks

THANK YOU to all the teachers, school principals and staff, hosts, facilitators, volunteers, helpers, drivers, shoppers, parents and families, and to every one of the 2025 Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners who participated so wholeheartedly this year.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL to all our DONORS, for your generosity and belief in what we do. You made this year possible.

WATCH [HERE](#) for the short video montage of our 2025 Grade 10 Programme.

The Youth Programme is a flagship project of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative (“CTII”) which has been running since 2000, born out of the Parliament of the World’s Religions held in Cape Town in December 1999. CTII is the legacy of so many dedicated and impactful leaders, activists and visionaries who forged a path of inter-religious co-operation, in the spirit of Ubuntu and with compassion, in service to the good of all.

The Youth Interfaith Intercultural Programme – History and Overview

This all began with Marlene Silbert. Now retired, she has dedicated her life to education and human rights activism. As a member of CTII, she single-handedly founded and led the first ever Youth Interfaith Intercultural Programme in 2011; it has run every year since, including offering a monthly online space to learners during the COVID pandemic. Marlene remains in full support of our ongoing efforts and vision for the Programme. It is her legacy, spirit, heart and passion which we honour and continue, as we seek to meet the challenges faced by young people today and do the work of fostering greater interfaith and intercultural understanding in our city, nation and world.



Over the past 15 years, approximately 700 learners from 20 different schools throughout the city have participated. The Programme is a two-year commitment for Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners; it provides a safe and stimulating learning environment in which young people can meet each other to build friendships and community across different religious, cultural, racial and socio-economic backgrounds, while also discovering more about themselves, others, and the world around them. The core questions we explore in depth are: *“Who am I? Who are you? Who are we?”*

The Programme is designed to enable learners to deepen their knowledge of different faith traditions and cultures, while also learning what it means to be authentic, engaged, concerned, and compassionate citizens. Through the year we addressed the issues of ‘othering’, identity, ---isms and ----phobias, mental health, power dynamics, post-colonial issues, the environment, the impact of slavery on South African history, and indigenous (Khoi and San) history in the Western Cape. In addition, we examined individually and collectively how to respond to the challenges experienced by young people in their schools and communities, and discovered together how to engage in sacred activism, compassion in action, dialogue, deep listening, open enquiry, and civic leadership.

2025 Grade 10 Programme



This year was our largest group yet, with 45 learners and 8 participating schools, which were:

Gardens Commercial High School

Herzlia High School, Vredehoek

Michael Oak Warldorf, Kenilworth

Rylands High School, Athlone

Sea Point High School

Spine Road High, Mitchells Plain

Springfield Convent School, Wynberg

Wynberg Senior Secondary School

The 2025 YIIP leadership team were:

Ana van Straten (freelance PA, member of Cape Town Unitarians) - assistant facilitator

Babalwa Ngcongolo (CTII, educator, and peace builder) – Grade 11 consultant and session facilitator

Golden Mwuara (Rylands High School graduate and 2022 YIIP alum) – assistant facilitator

Imaad Abrahams (UCT undergraduate and 2018 YIIP alum) - Grade 11 consultant and session facilitator

Pippa Jones (CTII, teacher and Interfaith minister) – lead facilitator of the Youth Programme

Sarah Oliver (CTII, Global Learning and Action Coordinator, URI) - Grade 11 consultant and session facilitator

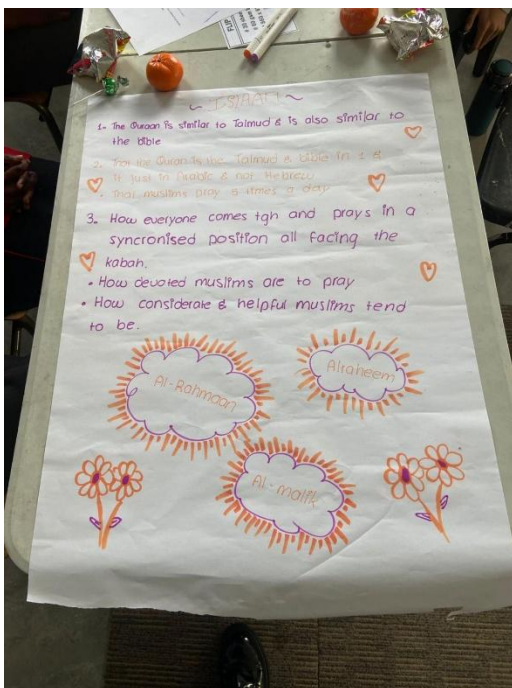
Zahra Jobe (Oude Molen Technical High School graduate and 2022 YIIP alum) – assistant facilitator

Acknowledging, with heartfelt thanks, **all our CTII community friends and associates** who contributed in so many ways and whose energies, efforts, time, talents, support and generosity made everything happen.

Building on the success of the past three years, every **Grade 10** session takes place in varying locations, including several different religious venues, at the invitation of their respective leaders. This has an extraordinary effect upon the learners. They are able to have an experiential engagement with diverse faith traditions; learn about their beliefs, practices and rituals; then explore the themes of the Programme in a unique setting. For several of the learners, it was the first time they had ever been into a synagogue, mosque, church, ashram, or temple, or spoken directly with an imam, priest, rabbi, swami, sangoma, or Buddhist practitioner.

Session 1	Community House, Salt River	Getting to Know You & Programme Overview
Session 2	Erin Hall, Rondebosch	“Stalwarts of the Struggle” Our Past & Our Future Click here for CTII Blog & Photos (Mar 18)
Session 3	Rondebosch United Church	Host: Rev. Robert Steiner CTII Blog & Photos “Christianity” (Apr 15)
CAMP	Intercultural Day Camp (4 May 2025)	Venue: Springfield Convent High School CTII Blog & Photos “Half Day Camp” (May 5)
Session 4:	Siva Alayam Temple, Rylands	Hosts: Gurukkal and Sharita Moodley CTII Blog & Photos “Siva Alayam” (May 6)
Session 5	Obs Mowbray Shul	Hosts: Mark Turok and Rabbi Andrea Kuti CTII Blog & Photos “The Shul” (May 20)
Session 6:	Workshop on Indigeneity & Identity (Moravian Chapel, District Six)	Hosts: Bishop Augustine Joemath, Zebada January, and Cecil Plaatjies CTII Blog & Photos Indigeneity Identity (June 26)
Session 7:	Slave Lodge Tour & Groote Kerk visit	Host: Ds. Riaan de Villiers CTII Blog & Photos “Slave Lodge GK” (Aug 2)
Session 8:	Darus Salaam Masjid, Mitchell’s Plain	Hosts: Imam Kashief and Imam Abrahams CTII Blog & Photos “Islam” (Aug 19)
Session 9:	African Traditional Spirituality (in Rondevlei Nature Reserve)	Host: Dr. Christie van Zyl CTII Blog & Photos African Traditional (Nov 19)
Session 10:	Kagy Samye Dzong Buddhist Temple Kenilworth	Hosts: Jenny Canau, Cecil Plaatjies CTII Blog & Photos “Buddhism” (Sep 25)
CAMP	3-day Camp (17-19 Oct 2025)	Venue: Soetwater Enviro Centre & Reserve CTII Blog & Photos “Grade 10 Camp” (Oct 22)
Session 11:	Wrap-Up Session	Venue: St Philip’s Church, Kenwyn





The 2025 Grade 10 Camp

Our end-of-year Camp is always a precious opportunity to consolidate all the teachings of the Programme and build on the relationships between learners that have formed throughout the year. The 3-day Camp was held at Soetwater Environmental Education Centre in Kommetjie. Each day provided a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities that were educational, relational, inter-spiritual, and intercultural. This year we created a schedule that followed the foundational questions underpinning our Grade 10 programme:

Friday: **WHO ARE YOU?** settling in; beachcombing; opening ritual; 2025 review and reflection; walk to the middens and bird spotting; swimming and obstacle course; evening 'Culture Carousel'; a night hike.

Saturday: **WHO AM I?** morning meditation; Self Awareness, Identity and Tools for Mental Wellness Workshop; creative art session ("the essence of me"); team building 'Olympics'; learning about the birds and reptile sanctuary at the campsite; Workshops (i) African Knowledge Systems, and (ii) Faith and the Care and Protection of the Environment (SAFCEI); potjie competition; camp fire; fancy dress party.

Sunday: **WHO ARE WE?** morning meditation; The UN Game (Power Dynamics); A Charter for a Compassionate School; Activism – 'Do What You Can Where You Can'; group mural; closing ritual.



The New Grade 11 Programme: “Local Eyes, Global Heart”

Responding to the changes in logistics for several of our participating schools, and cognizant of the fact that many of them now run their own learner-led Tutoring Programmes throughout the city of Cape Town, we re-imagined the Grade 11 Schools curriculum. Our team designed and then launched its inaugural Grade 11 Programme in Term 2 – our monthly venue generously offered to us by the Turquoise Harmony Institute.

Through interactive workshops, reflective dialogue, and creative problem-solving, the students begin to step into their power—not just as learners, but as changemakers. What makes this Programme exciting is how it weaves together personal reflection, spiritual values, and a commitment to action. Rooted in interfaith collaboration and ethical leadership, it invites our young people to think deeply, feel fully, and act with purpose.

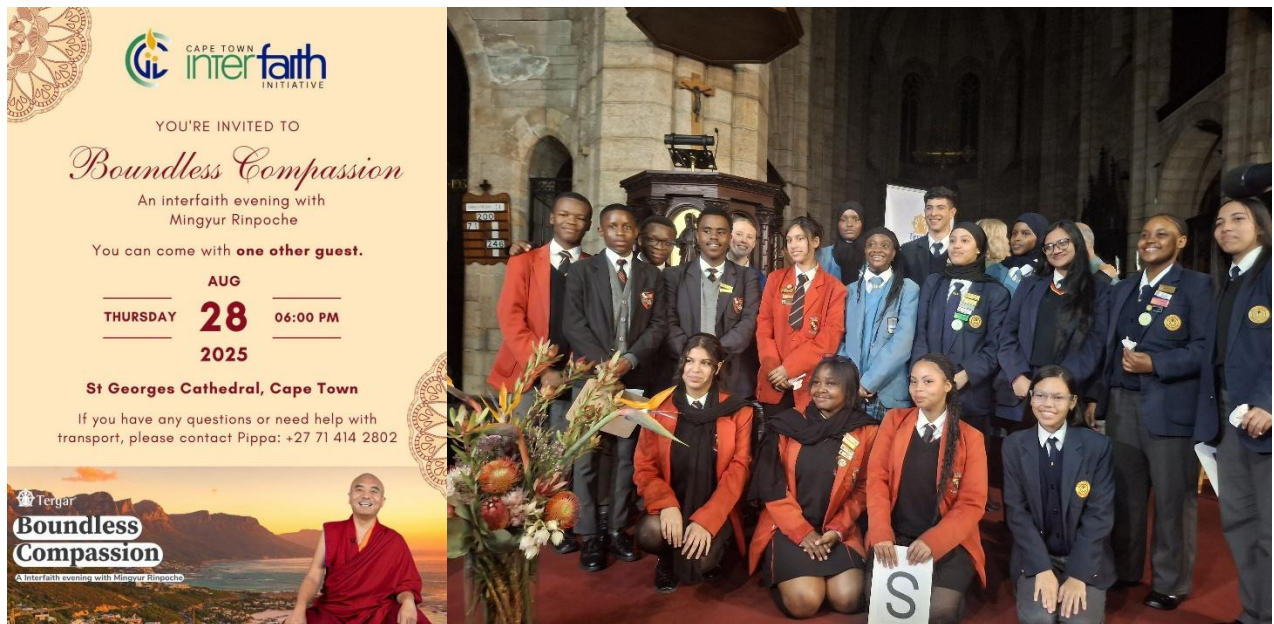
Co-facilitators Babalwa Ngcongolo, Imad Abrahams, Sarah Oliver, and Pippa Jones, drawing on their varied and broad experience of youth engagement and international work, collaborated to bring “Local Eyes, Global Heart” to life. The content and vision of this new Programme capitalize on their combined global connections, interfaith work, and experience in leadership training, to equip our Grade 11 learners with essential tools and knowledge for their future studies, careers and activism.



Despite the changes in our Grade 11 Programme, we remain connected with the [Amy Foundation](#). Both CTII and the Youth Programme wholeheartedly support the tremendous work which the Foundation is doing in our communities, including their tutoring sessions for primary school learners in Bonteheuwel. The staff and volunteers are powerful role models to our young people and beacons of hope for our city and nation.

Grade 11 Achievements in 2025

(i) Mingyur Rinpoche and the Boundless Compassion event at St George's Cathedral



This was Mingyur Rinpoche's first ever visit to South Africa and our [Grade 11 learners](#) were invited by the organisers to be part of the event. Using Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* as their inspiration, the learners organized themselves into small groups and created thought-provoking vignettes that brought to life the themes of Empathy, Mindfulness, Self-Compassion, Love Your Enemies and so on. The evening was recorded and broadcast on a variety of platforms, touching lives worldwide. It was a resounding success and a life-changing experience for our young people. [READ AND SEE MORE](#)

(ii) The Junior Peace Council (JPC) - founded by the Grade 11 learners this year

"One Act of Peace at a Time" by Kearabilwe

Imagine a community where every young person feels seen, heard, and empowered to shape the future. That's the vision of the JPC, a movement built on compassion, servant leadership and leading with heart. Our work will begin where it matters most: in the community. We will go door-to-door, visit schools, and sit in circles of interfaith dialogue. We won't just talk about peace; we will build it by listening and earning trust. Some of the ideas the group has had is to offer practical help by supplying communities with monthly food and toiletry parcels for families in need. We also want to work to create small-scale employment opportunities for the youth. Our main goal is not just to give people what we think they need but listen to what they actually need, hence following the 'Platinum Rule' we want to achieve a system where we not only help people in need but also educate them to help themselves by empowering them to do more in their own communities. Through youth forums and workshops, we create safe spaces where young people can talk about real issues such as gang violence, homelessness, drug abuse, and Gender-Based Violence. And together find a path towards healing and peace building. We have drafted a constitution and membership charter that keeps us accountable - to serve with transparency, responsibility, and compassion. We have grown as leaders that lead with empathy not egos. You may ask: what is the outcome? Stronger youth leadership; greater trust between generations; less tension; more dialogue; and, most importantly, a lasting network of youth-led change. The JPC believes that peace is not a dream, it's daily practice. When one young person chooses to serve, to listen, to lead with love, it creates a ripple that can transform a community. Together, we can spark that butterfly effect of lasting change one youth, one community one act of peace at a time."



“For the youth, by the youth, with the youth” by Anushqah

The Junior Peace Council is a CTII youth initiative dedicated to creating a platform for inclusive youth leadership. The JPC seeks to bridge generational gaps, build trust across communities, and promote unity, justice and social responsibility. As members of the CTII youth program, we have come to realise that peace is not just the absence of conflict, but a fundamental human right that requires effort and dedication to achieve. We believe that young people have a critical role to play in shaping the future of our communities and that our voices matter. The JPC is our response to the call for a more inclusive and just society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Our approach is centered on addressing the root causes of the many social issues faced by South African communities and most importantly working with and not for our communities. We are driven by a simple yet powerful slogan: “For the youth, by the youth, with the youth” This is not just a phrase but a commitment to empowering young people as agents of peace and unity. Building on the foundation laid by CTII, we strongly believe that together we can make the impossible possible.

(iii) Youth Experiencing Prayer in Muslim and Christian Traditions Retreat (29-31 Aug)

Two of our Grade 11 learners (Amy-Rose and Zanenkosi) were sponsored and invited to join this retreat in the Volmoed Trust, as representatives of the CTII Youth Programme. The event was organised by Network of Centres for Christian-Muslim Relations; the participants gathered from diverse Muslim (Sunni and Shia) and Christian (Anglican, Protestant, Catholic, Reformed, Pentecostal and more) traditions and came from various parts of South Africa. The Network’s vision is one where Christian-Muslim relations around the world are marked by mutual understanding, respect and collaboration for a culture of peace and harmony. The retreat offers young people the chance to experience prayer from Muslim and Christian perspectives, and to focus on the Inter-Religious Dialogue Framework (Life, Action, Religious Experience, and Theological Exchange). The main speakers were Rev Edwin Arrison, Prof John de Gruchy, Mowlana Syed Aftab Haider, Imam Rashied Omar, Sister Sadaf Haider, and Bishop Sylvester David.



Other Highlights of 2025

This year we were offered some extraordinary opportunities to involve the Grade 10 and 11 learners, as well as some of our graduate alumni, in activities that were additional to our Programme curriculum. Our learners were provided with meaningful and memorable experiences that helped broaden their worldview and exposed them to people, places, voices, and occasions not typically available to them.

❖ Interfaith Iftar for the Youth – hosted by the Turquoise Harmony Institute (19 March 2025)

The [Turquoise Harmony Institute](#) hosted an *iftar* (breaking of the Ramadan fast) dinner at Star College, Bridgetown, in Cape Town.



(L-R) Tara (Grade 10) shared from her Buddhist tradition; Mbali (Grade 11) from her African Traditional Spirituality; and Golden (assistant Youth Programme facilitator) from his Christian faith.

“...they spoke magnificently to the 200-strong assembly. And many more young voices from inside the larger Turquoise, Muslim and Interfaith communities amazed us with their eloquence and insight...we are proud to be associated with the Turquoise Harmony Institute; may our complementarity grow from strength to strength.” (Nic Paton, CTII)

❖ Interfaith Blessings at the Artscape Women’s Day event (Saturday 9 August 2025)

Zebada January (CTII) - Land Acknowledgement and August 9 Ceremony Opening Blessing

CHRISTIAN BLESSINGS:

Blessing (2022 Youth Programme graduate) & Lilah (Grade 10 - Springfield Convent High School)

MUSLIM BLESSINGS:

Nuhaa (Grade 10 - Rylands High School) & Taybah (Grade 10 - Springfield Convent High School)

HINDU BLESSINGS:

Kaelee (Grade 10 - Rylands High School) & Misha (Grade 10 - Rylands High School)

JEWISH BLESSINGS: - offered in absentia due to Shabbat

Jade, Josie, and Lexi (Grade 10 – Herzlia High School)



“Thank you so much for organising the interfaith ceremony.

It really set the tone for our theme ‘Peace in Action’ and working together.

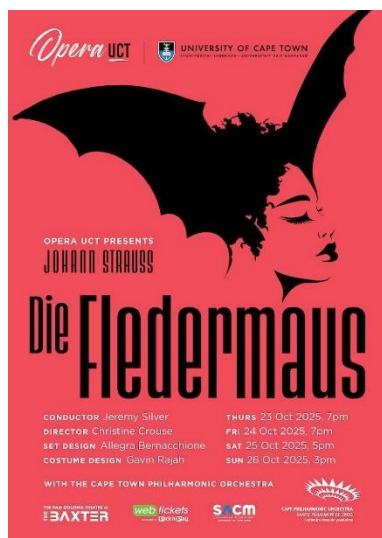
These young women really inspired me; their readings were universal and not sectarian at all.

They have displayed great courage and humanity.

With appreciation.”

Marlene Le Roux, CEO – Artscape Theatre

❖ **Opera UCT presents *Die Fledermaus* at the BAXTER THEATRE (23-26 October 2025)**



Our learners and graduates were personally invited by the conductor Jeremy Silver and First Violinist, Eriel Huang, who are both great supporters of bringing the arts (for free) to young people throughout Cape Town.

Most of our learners have never experienced an opera before and/or been to the Baxter Theatre. Those who attended were treated to the chance to go backstage, see the set, and meet some of the musicians and singers. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them and a memory to be treasured forever.

❖ 15TH DESMOND TUTU INTERNATIONAL PEACE LECTURE at CTICC (20 November 2025)

Twenty of our learners from Grades 10 and 11, and our MS-YIIP alumni, were given VIP tickets to this popular annual event. Thank you, [Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation](#) staff, for this remarkable opportunity.



This milestone year marked 15 years of Peace in Action, continuing Archbishop Tutu's legacy of dialogue, empathy and moral courage.

Under the theme *Faith, Conflict, and Our Shared Humanity in a Fractured World*, the headline speaker, Dr Shashi Tahoor - global thought leader - explored ways of building bridges of understanding in a divided world. Also on offer was music, poetry, and other thought-provoking speeches, which inspired, challenged and uplifted us all.

❖ ACWAY G20 Interfaith Youth Forum 2025, Cape Town (10-14 August 2025)

We are so grateful to ACWAY (A Common Word Among the Youth) for sponsoring our Youth Programme assistant facilitators to attend the G20 Interfaith Youth Forum which ran alongside the main G20 Interfaith Forum in Cape Town in August this year. [HERE](#) are Zahra's thoughts and photos about her experience.

[ACWAY](#) is a youth-led global network dedicated to promoting peace, dialogue, and coexistence across cultural and religious divides. With over 200 grassroots initiatives already implemented, ACWAY continues to empower youth to act as ambassadors for peace in their communities and on global stages.

The objectives of the Youth Interfaith Forum are to:

1. Expand and strengthen our global network of young interfaith practitioners equipped to deliver multicultural and interfaith activities in their communities.
2. Share practical tools, skills, and experiences to advance interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding across diverse contexts of local realities.
3. Prepare participants to engage strategically within the G20 Interfaith Forum framework and broader interfaith initiatives.

A Global Platform for Youth Leadership in Interfaith Action

The Youth Interfaith Forum (YIF20) is more than a conference; it is a **space for emerging leaders from across the world to unite, share experiences, learn practical tools for peacebuilding, and build a common vision for inclusive, interfaith collaboration.**



YIF20 Interfaith Youth Forum,
Cape Town
10-14 August 2025

Leading with Ubuntu: At the heart of Interfaith Action



The themes of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability guided the IF20's work this year, including the global issues we are facing: food security, economic action, education, refugees, and disaster prevention/response. For faith communities, "Leaving No One Behind" was the priority. Watch the IF20 documentary [HERE](#).

❖ Forging Friendship, Understanding and Respect in Troubled Times



Participant Reflections

"One of my favourite parts was sharing things from my own Jewish background. I got to explain what Shabbat is and why we light candles and rest from work on Fridays. My new friends were very interested, and many said they liked the idea of taking a break from technology and focusing on family. I also learned a lot from them — about Islam, Christianity, and other traditions I hadn't known much about before. It was amazing to see how many of our values were similar, like kindness, honesty, and helping others.

Even though I've only been in the Programme for one year, it has already changed how I see the world. It taught me that different faiths don't have to divide us, they can bring us closer through understanding and respect." (Ben, Herzlia)

"When I joined I wasn't very much in my faith, I was dry, very dry. And then I met other spiritually-led people, and they actually helped me, both with my faith and other things. And I can say that thanks to them I actually got baptised this year. I would never have thought that I would be like this now. It definitely has made me more open minded to different religions and cultures...growing up Christian, then seeing other people's viewpoints on life made me think, okay, there's somebody else's opinion on that. Maybe I can use that not to change my beliefs but to better myself." **(Zetah, Spine Road)**

"When I first heard about the Programme, I was intrigued and thought it would be a good thing for me to do, and so I opted to join. I never realised that the choice I made would open a whole new version of the world to me...I immediately felt a sense of safety, community, and a belief that there are in fact people in this world that will go out of their way to make a difference.

Over the sessions, I have grown close with people from completely different backgrounds and beliefs, which I am very grateful for. I loved every session we did, and I managed to take out a very valuable lesson from each person who I spoke/interacted with." **(Leo, Herzlia)**

"I'd recommend this Programme to everyone because it is not only about uplifting us as individuals, it's also about building bridges between faiths. As a Christian, you have your own beliefs, and when you see a Muslim or someone who practises Hinduism, you see that person as being completely different. What this programme has done is to bring us together and foster collaboration between us as a whole."

(Lunam, Sea Point)

"Before I entered the Interfaith Programme, I pretty much saw my religion (Islam) as the only correct religion and there was nothing else, like everybody else was wrong. But of course if you believe in something, you will only see that as the correct way. But interfaith really allowed me to understand. I didn't have to accept, but I could listen. And that really changed the way I viewed life...with us understanding each other and asking the questions, it's the most important thing we can do for the best future for the world.

The Programme really helped me create friendships. And all these friendships came from all over Cape Town. I'm talking about all different schools. And those are friendships that will last a lifetime. It also allowed me to enter a safe space where I could talk about my belief system, my values, my models, and nobody else judged me for that. And I think that not everywhere you can do that." **(Ahmad, Rylands)**

"What stood out most for me was the opportunity to connect with people I might never have met otherwise. I really enjoyed having honest conversations about life, faith, and values with people whose perspectives were different from mine...Seeing the faith and devotion in other religions helped me appreciate the beauty and meaning in my own. At the church, I admired the sense of community and caring for others. And in the Buddhist temple, I was inspired by the calmness and focus on inner peace. Each visit made me think differently and helped me grow in understanding... It reminded me that learning about others doesn't take anything away from your own faith — it actually strengthens it. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity to learn, to connect, and to see the world through new eyes. It's something I'll always appreciate and carry with me." **(Daniel, Herzlia)**

The Graduation Ceremony at the Civic Centre, Cape Town (Sunday, 2 November 2025)

Our graduation for the Grade 10s and Grade 11s was held at the Cape Town Civic Centre in the Banqueting Hall. We were generously hosted by the City of Cape Town, and Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis presided. Acknowledging the graduates and their many achievements throughout the year, the Mayor delivered a moving and meaningful speech to encourage them on their continuing journeys, also honouring the important work of the CTII Youth Interfaith Intercultural Programme.



The Mayor's Speech

"To every Grade 10 and Grade 11 learner here this afternoon, congratulations! You have completed a remarkable journey – one that has challenged you to think critically, to listen compassionately, and to build bridges of understanding across the diversity of our city.

This programme, founded by the remarkable educator and activist, Marlene Silbert, back in 2011, has been transforming lives over the past 15 years.

Hundreds of learners from many different schools have participated in this journey of discovery. And tonight, you join that legacy – a growing community of young people who believe that the difference between us is not a barrier to unity, but the foundation of it.

Cape Town is one of the most diverse cities in the world. Our streets, our schools, our houses of worship tell the story of our rich and colourful past.

But diversity alone does not guarantee harmony. It takes work and curiosity and dialogue. And that is exactly what you have done.

And in doing so, you have built a foundation for empathy and understanding that many adults still struggle to achieve.

You have confronted issues that lie at the heart of our society – prejudice, inequality, identity – and you have done so with openness and honesty.

You have learned about the scars of slavery and colonialism that still shape our history, and about the wisdom of the Khoi and San peoples whose roots run deep in this land.

You have explored activism, compassion, and the power of listening.

All of that learning is not only for the classroom or the camp. It is the kind of knowledge that changes the way we live.

And with that knowledge you must become ambassadors of peace and justice wherever you go, from your school corridors to your sports teams, from your places of worship to your social media pages.

You are now tasked to become active citizens who care for one another and for this city we all share.

This is precisely what Cape Town needs. We need your energy, your creativity, and your courage. We need young people who can look beyond fear and prejudice, who can build bridges between communities.

We need new, energetic leadership in tackling the issues of our time: climate change, inequality, violence, and building a city that is able to offer hope and opportunity for many more people.

You may sometimes feel that you are still too young to make a difference. But remember this: every great change begins with a small act of courage. A kind word in the face of bullying. A decision to include someone who is different. A voice raised when others stay silent.

These moments matter.

As Mayor, I am deeply proud of programmes like this one, because they remind us of what our city can be when we invest in the hearts and minds of our youth.

As you move forward, hold on to what you have learned here. Keep listening. Keep questioning. Keep connecting.

Be the generation that transforms dialogue into action and faith into service.

On behalf of the City of Cape Town, I thank your mentors, teachers, and families for supporting you on this journey.

And to you, our graduates, congratulations once more. Cape Town's future is brighter because of you.

Thank you. And now go out and continue to build the city of hope that we all believe in.

The ceremony was filled with music, singing, art, poetry, blessings and prayers, and a variety of contributions made by several Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners and the Facilitators. [SEE AND READ MORE](#)

"What a wonderful and inspiring afternoon. What a privilege to be part of this and see all these young people who hold the future in their hands.

Your work, that of your team, and Marlene's vision are simply the most important facet of our lives in this beautiful city of ours. What a pity it cannot be repeated in areas where faith conflict reigns. This deserves a global platform, and I know that is what you are striving for."

(Beryl Eichenberger, Woman Zone)



(front L-R) at the 2025 Graduation: Ms Chavda, Gardens Commercial and Ms Govender, Spine Road High School

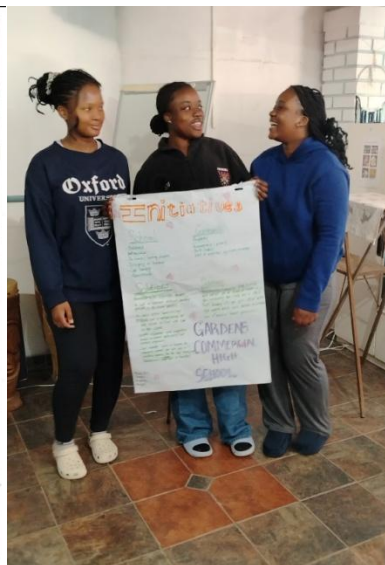
"The Interfaith Programme has allowed our learners to explore the world beyond their own; explore their personalities and discover friendships beyond their wildest dreams.

The Programme creates a space of safe conversation, allowing them to express themselves and just be. They become humble in understanding others."

(N Govender, Spine Road High School)

“Do what you can, where you can.” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

These are the Grade 10 learner responses from their Camp Workshop and their plans for 2026:



(from the top L-R)

Sea Point High School: “Buddy for a Buddy” (creating a safe space in school for those most at risk)

Michael Oak Waldorf: “A Homelessness and Hunger Programme”

Gardens Commercial High School: “Tackling Absenteeism”

Wynberg High School: “An Anti-Bullying Initiative”

Springfield Convent: “A Campaign for a Social Justice Education Programme”

Rylands High School: “Facilitating Skill-Based Learning Programmes”

Spine Road High School: “A Sanitary Pad Initiative”

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

Zahra graduated from the Youth Programme in 2023 and is currently in her gap year, working as an apprentice in Mechanics. In 2025, she not only became a Facilitator but also joined the CTII Board. *"I have always felt very welcomed and safe to speak my mind. I have learned a great deal from other cultures, religions and races and the CTII community has kept me motivated to be involved."*



Blessing was a graduate of the 2023 Youth Programme. In 2024, she became a Facilitator, and in 2025, joined the CTII Board. She is working now to save for her university studies. *"Interfaith has restored my faith in humanity. I've chosen to be a part of the community because it aligns with my values and passion for fostering understanding and empathy. Being a refugee myself, I've experienced first-hand the importance of compassion and support. CTII embodies those values and I'm committed to contributing to its mission."*

Golden graduated from the Youth Programme in 2023 and immediately became a Facilitator, a role in which he has flourished for the past two years (2024-2025). He is now working full-time and plans to study law in 2026.



Aidon has just graduated high school. In his second year of the Youth Programme (2024), he was selected to serve on the Junior City Council of Cape Town. He plans to take a gap year before studying Politics at university. He wants not only to remain an active member of CTII but also to serve as Facilitator for the 2026 Youth Programme.



Ana came to us in January through the Cape Town Unitarians and successfully completed her first year as a Facilitator. Newly married and working as a freelance PA, she plans to continue her support of the 2026 Youth Programme as an administrator.

Savannah, originally from Eswatini, is studying for a BA at the Academy of Digital Arts in Cape Town. She has been a wonderful part-time addition to our team, especially at Camp, where she led a dynamic creative workshop. She enjoyed working with our young people and looks forward to more opportunities to do so in 2026.



We rely solely on donations to make all of this happen.

If you would like to contribute and be part of this amazing work, please click [HERE](#)

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS

Ben and Shirley Rabinowitz Foundation; Glen Heneck – Melbro Wholesale Proprietary Limited; Philip and Michele Krawitz Charitable Trust; Therese Bimka and friends; and to those who gave anonymously.

THANK YOU for your loving generosity and continued support.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HOSTS AND PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTORS

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Lauren Seckington (2nd from left) is from Arkansas, USA. She has a BA in Religious Studies and a BA in Communications. As part of her one-year Thomas J. Watson global project "Seeking Peace Through Interfaith Dialogue" she interned with CTII and the Youth Programme (May-June 2025).

Whitney Hedlund (3rd from left) came from Chicago, USA to Cape Town to do research for her master's in International Peace Studies, joined by her husband **James Guebert** (1st left). They interned with CTII (July - Nov 2025). **Nora Grinberga**, from Latvia, (centre) volunteered primarily for the Amy Foundation, as well as for the Youth Programme (Sep-Nov 2025).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION!

