

Interfaith Pilgrimage

***Thought for the Day by Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
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On Sunday I'll be travelling to Israel together with religious leaders and members of different faith communities from Scotland. I'm so excited as I have never been to the Middle East before, and to be able to walk where Jesus walked, to see where Prophet Mohammed ascended to Heaven and stand at the Western Wall and pray to God for peace, is going to feel out of this world.

That small piece of land is so blessed that four religions, Christianity, Judaism, Islam and the Baha'i faith have many significant places of worship, So why is it so hard to keep peace in the place where so many Prophets of the different religions have walked. What would the founders of these religions say today, who advocated love God, love one another, and serve the whole of humanity.

And yet hatred showed itself again with the atrocity in Jerusalem on Wednesday when the peace initiative had been going so well since March. When I heard of the bulldozer attack I began to worry, will it be safe, should I be going and leaving my family but then I thought everything lies in the hands of God. Sometimes when we try to do good obstacles are put in our way but this should not deter us from carrying on.

As a Sikh I'm told in the Holy Sikh Scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib ji, that if I am to be an initiator of peace then I have to have inner peace and this can only be obtained through Simran and Sewa, praying to God and selflessly serving God and His Creation. I personally want to meet women from different faiths in Jerusalem to see how we can bring about peace practically. I want to see where we can link together and through common action bring about change. The people of faith travelling with me all work to unite communities in Scotland. I hope during our short time there, we will be able to share our experiences with people in Jerusalem and learn from them. Sometimes it is the small steps taken together that have the largest impact on the world.

Ravinder Kaur Nijjar is a former Convener of Scottish Inter Faith Council; Sikh Representative and Executive Committee Member of UK Inter Faith Network; Co-Chair of Religions for Peace European Women of Faith Network.