

Press Release

## **TOWER HAMLETS SCHOOL IN PILOT SCHEME TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS HARMONY**

4th April 2007

Tolerance International-UK has launched an educational programme to counter the dangers of religious intolerance. This is a pilot scheme which began its course at an east London school on the 21st of March.

This innovative programme is designed to raise awareness of the problems of religious intolerance with the aim of finding viable solutions. The programme is entitled Embracing Tolerance and guides the youth through a process of generating awareness, problem identification and solution finding.

The first of these sessions was met with enthusiasm by the youth. They welcomed the debate and engaged very eagerly, speaking openly about their views on religious intolerance. Many, regardless of ethnic background, felt that they could relate to the issues that were discussed.

Maryam Al Alami, Director of research at Tolerance International-UK said:

"This programme is very important, particularly in today's world. It brings hope and enthusiasm for the future and its practical effects will help us defeat extremism disguised as religion."

In a climate where religion is a sensitive topic that requires a response by government and society. This programme works at the heart of the problem by challenging the minds of the youth. It is hoped that by creating better informed youth, guiding them through a process of generating solutions, we can challenge the prospect of intolerance & extremism.

As part of its initiative to address extremism Tolerance International-UK has also launched a petition to persuade the government to commemorate July 7th as the "National Day of Tolerance." See: [www.toleranceinternational.org.uk](http://www.toleranceinternational.org.uk)

Ends

Notes to editors

For more information about this programme or general enquiries about Tolerance International-UK please contact:

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Tolerance International-UK is a registered charity set up to provide relief to victims of intolerance and extremism worldwide. Its community programs in the UK are directed towards the young by engaging with them on issues which might prompt extremism. Charity No. 1082759.