

Dialogue Builds Bridges: Public Outcome Report

Multi-Faith and Multi-Cultural Dialogue Round Table – Hong Kong

International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations

Date: 10 June 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Venue: Unit B, 7/F, D2 Place ONE, 9 Cheung Yee Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon

Organizer: Ascent Partners Foundation Limited

Co-organizers: Dialogue In The Dark (HK) Foundation Limited and Refugee Union

Message at a Glance

The Multi-Faith and Multi-Cultural Dialogue Round Table brought together people from different countries, cultures and faith traditions for a morning of open conversation, listening and mutual learning. The dialogue created a welcoming space for participants to share lived experiences, correct misunderstandings and reflect on what it means to build a more inclusive community in Hong Kong.

The event showed that while people may come from different backgrounds, many of the values that guide community life are shared. Participants spoke about respect, dignity, kindness, hospitality, compassion, family, service and belonging. These shared values became the foundation for a constructive conversation about culture, faith and social inclusion.



1. Event Overview

The dialogue was organized to promote intercultural understanding, interfaith respect and stronger community connection. It was held in recognition of the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations and designed as a small-group dialogue rather than a formal conference.

A total of 24 listed persons joined the programme, including 20 dialogue participants and 4 facilitators. Participants represented communities connected with Indonesia, Togo, the Philippines, Morocco, Bangladesh, India, Madagascar, Egypt, Pakistan and Hong Kong Chinese communities. Faith and belief traditions represented included Islam, Christianity, Catholicism and the Baha'i Faith.

Event element	Summary
Purpose	To strengthen mutual understanding across cultures, countries and faith traditions.
Format	Facilitated small-group dialogue, group reflection and whole-room sharing.
Participants	24 listed persons, including 20 dialogue participants and 4 facilitators.
Main themes	Culture, belonging, hospitality, faith, dignity, misconceptions and community inclusion.
Reporting approach	Non-attributed reporting, focusing on shared learning rather than individual comments.

2. How the Dialogue Was Structured

The programme used two dialogue sessions. The first session invited participants to speak about culture, country, tradition and belonging. The second session invited participants to discuss faith, values, hospitality and respect for religious difference. This structure allowed the conversation to move from cultural identity to deeper interfaith understanding in a gradual and respectful way.

Session	Focus	What participants explored
Session 1: Cross-Cultural Dialogue	Country and cultural background	Cultural values, traditions, welcome, belonging and common misunderstandings.
Session 2: Interfaith Dialogue	Religion and faith tradition	Shared values, hospitality, religious practices, inclusion needs and mutual respect.
Group synthesis	Collective learning	Key insights, challenges and practical recommendations for future action.

3. What Participants Shared

Participants shared that culture is often expressed through language, food, festivals, family practices and everyday ways of showing respect. Several participants reflected that language barriers can make newcomers feel isolated, while simple efforts to communicate with patience and kindness can help build trust.

Participants also discussed how faith shapes daily life, identity and values. Muslim participants helped others understand the meaning of practices such as hijab, prayer and Ramadan. Christian and Catholic participants shared reflections on family, service, generosity and peace. The Baha'i perspective added another dimension to the conversation on unity, diversity and the oneness of humanity.

A strong theme across both sessions was that people often carry assumptions about communities they do not know personally. The event gave participants the opportunity to hear directly from one another, making the conversation more human, personal and constructive.

4. Key Outcomes

4.1 A Safe Space for Listening and Learning

The dialogue created a respectful environment where participants could speak from personal experience. This helped participants move beyond stereotypes and engage with one another as individuals. The small-group format made it easier for people to participate, ask questions and listen closely.

4.2 Shared Values Across Different Backgrounds

Participants repeatedly identified values that were common across cultures and faiths. These included respect, kindness, compassion, hospitality, humility, generosity and care for others. The recognition of shared values helped shift the conversation from difference to common humanity.

4.3 Better Understanding of Religious and Cultural Practices

The dialogue helped participants understand practices that are sometimes misunderstood, including the hijab, daily prayer, Ramadan and religious hospitality. Participants recognized that respectful curiosity can reduce fear and replace assumptions with understanding.

4.4 Stronger Awareness of Refugee and Migrant Inclusion

Participants highlighted the importance of seeing refugees and migrants as people with dignity, skills, family responsibilities and a desire to contribute. The conversation reinforced that inclusion is not only about assistance; it is also about participation, recognition and opportunities to belong.

4.5 Practical Learning for Future Community Events

Participants identified practical steps that can make events more inclusive. These included considering dietary requirements, providing prayer space where possible, being mindful of fasting periods, using clear communication and reducing participation barriers for people with limited resources.

5. Public Key Messages

Key message	Why it matters
Dialogue builds trust.	Direct conversation helps people understand one another beyond stereotypes.
Diversity can strengthen community life.	Different traditions can contribute to shared values, creativity and social connection.
Inclusion begins with everyday actions.	Simple gestures of welcome, patience and respect can make a major difference.
Faith can support peace and dignity.	Many faith traditions encourage compassion, service, humility and care for others.
Refugees and migrants should be seen as contributors.	Community belonging grows when people are recognized for their skills, voices and potential.
One event is a beginning, not an endpoint.	Continued engagement is needed to build lasting relationships and understanding.

6. Lessons Learned

The dialogue demonstrated that community-building is most effective when people are invited to speak from lived experience. Participants did not need a formal lecture to learn from one another. They needed a safe structure, thoughtful facilitation and enough time to listen.

The project also showed that sensitive topics can be discussed constructively when the conversation is grounded in respect. Questions about culture, religion and refugee identity can be difficult, but they become more productive when participants are encouraged to ask with humility and answer from personal experience.

Finally, the event showed that inclusion requires practical planning. Respect for diversity should be reflected not only in words, but also in event design, communication, accessibility, food arrangements, prayer needs and follow-up opportunities.

7. Recommendations for Future Action

7.1 Continue Community Dialogue

The organizer and co-organizers are encouraged to continue hosting multicultural and interfaith dialogue activities. Regular engagement can deepen trust and help participants build relationships beyond a single event.

7.2 Use Everyday Themes to Connect People

Future events may use accessible themes such as family, food culture, festivals, hospitality, youth, community service, disability inclusion and neighbourhood life. These topics allow participants to connect through familiar experiences while learning about difference.

7.3 Strengthen Refugee and Migrant Participation

Future activities should continue to include refugee and migrant voices in meaningful ways. Participation should recognize the strengths, skills and leadership potential of community members, not only their needs.

7.4 Plan for Religious and Cultural Inclusion

Event planning should consider prayer space, dietary needs, fasting periods, language support, accessibility and clear pre-event information. These practical measures help participants feel respected and able to participate fully.

7.5 Support Facilitator Development

A small pool of trained facilitators can help sustain future dialogue activities. Facilitators should be supported to manage sensitive conversations, encourage balanced participation, protect privacy and summarize key learning points.

8. Suggested Follow-Up

Timeline	Suggested action
Within 2 weeks	Share this public outcome report with organizers, co-organizers and participants.
Within 1 month	Hold an internal review to identify priority themes for the next dialogue.
Within 2 months	Develop a plan for a follow-up multicultural or interfaith community activity.
Within 3 months	Prepare a short public learning brief or social media summary using non-attributed findings.
Ongoing	Build relationships with participant communities and develop facilitator capacity.

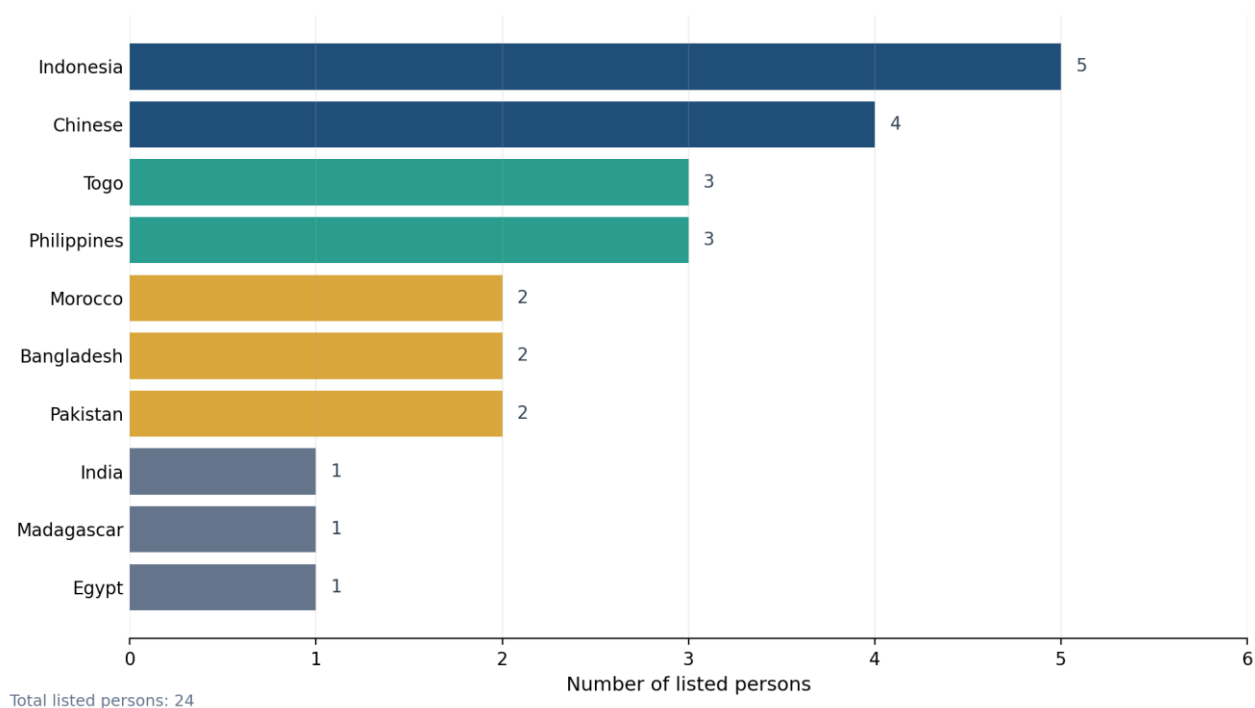
9. Closing Reflection

The Multi-Faith and Multi-Cultural Dialogue Round Table demonstrated that respectful dialogue can create meaningful human connection. Participants came from different countries, cultures and faith traditions, yet many of their hopes were closely connected: to be respected, to be understood, to contribute and to belong.

The event was a reminder that social cohesion is built through repeated acts of listening, welcome and cooperation. By continuing this work, Hong Kong can strengthen community relationships and create more spaces where people of different backgrounds feel valued and included.

Annex. Participation Snapshot

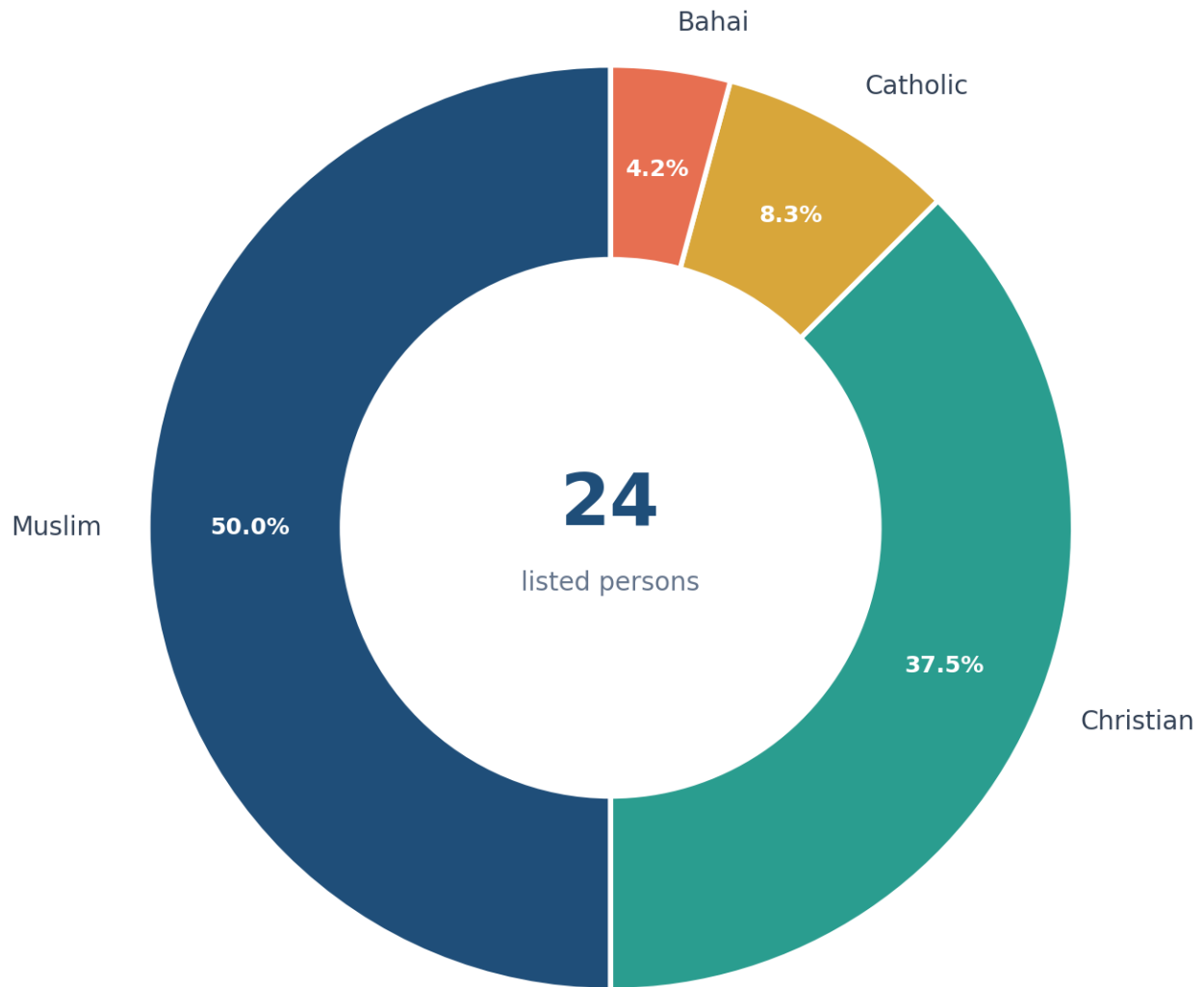
Participant Diversity by Country / Cultural Background



Country and Cultural Background

Country / cultural background	Count	Percentage
Indonesia	5	20.8%
Chinese	4	16.7%
Togo	3	12.5%
Philippines	3	12.5%
Morocco	2	8.3%
Bangladesh	2	8.3%
Pakistan	2	8.3%
India	1	4.2%
Madagascar	1	4.2%
Egypt	1	4.2%
Total	24	100.0%

Participant Diversity by Faith Tradition



Catholic shown separately as identified in participant list

Religion and Faith Tradition

Religion / faith tradition	Count	Percentage
Muslim	12	50.0%
Christian	9	37.5%
Catholic	2	8.3%
Baha'i	1	4.2%
Total	24	100.0%

Catholic participants are shown separately because they were identified separately in the participant list, while also being recognized as part of the wider Christian tradition for dialogue planning purposes.

Public Reporting Note

This report presents non-attributed findings from the dialogue. Individual participant comments have been summarized into themes to protect privacy and to focus on shared learning, community outcomes and practical recommendations.