TACKLING HATE

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

James Baldwin
Offer some ponderings…

- What is hate? Are we in hateful times?

- Resisting/transforming hate within ourselves, between ourselves and ‘from above’.

- Examples of diverse & imaginative faith and civil society responses.
LENSES

relations and conditions

just peace
Turn to the poets...
George the Poet on hate crime: https://youtu.be/iWmjfha96R8
EXTREME HATE

...fascist politics is about identifying enemies, appealing to the in-group (usually the majority group) and smashing truth and replacing it with power.

Jason Stanley (Yale Philosopher and author of ‘How fascism works’)

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Fascism: I sometimes fear...

"I sometimes fear that
people think that fascism arrives in fancy dress
worn by grotesques and monsters
as played out in endless re-runs of the Nazis.

Fascism arrives as your friend.
It will restore your honour,
make you feel proud,
protect your house,
give you a job,
clean up the neighbourhood,
remind you of how great you once were,
clear out the venal and the corrupt,
remove anything you feel is unlike you...

It doesn't walk in saying,
"Our programme means militias, mass imprisonments, transportations,
war and persecution."

Michael Rosen
HATEFUL TIMES?

Compelling evidence of unacceptable and growing patterns of extreme hatred and vilification targeted against groups including migrants…

Michael O’Flaherty

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights’ director

(From QCEA Report Anti-Migrant Hate Speech report 2018)
HOPE NOT HATE’S THE PEOPLE VS THE ELITE: STATE OF HATE REPORT 2020

➤ Political discontent is being exploited by the far right.
➤ Divisions likely to increase.*
➤ Far right messaging & language is in the mainstream.

(*There’s also good news re. COVID & community spirit.*)
For spreading division and hate, this year's winners are: THE BRITISH TABLOID PRESS
Tackling hate within
The signs of sin entering conflict appear when we want to be God, when we assume superiority, when we oppress, when we try to lord it over others, when we refuse to listen, when we discount and exclude others, when we hold back deep feelings, when we avoid, when we hate, and when we project blame with no self-reflection.
People of faith are called to ask deep questions. This challenge may feel overwhelming, but it is necessary and presents opportunities for growth. We need to unlearn behaviours and assumptions we have as part of a group with privilege. We need to discover seeking racial justice as a spiritual practice.

Race and Privilege in Europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)
Tackling hate from above

I feel that if we don't take seriously the ways in which racism is embedded in structures of institutions, if we assume that there must be an identifiable racist who is the perpetrator, then we won't ever succeed in eradicating racism.

Angela Davis
Solidarity does not

**assume** that our struggles are the same struggles, or that our pain is the same pain, or that our hope is for the same future. Solidarity involves commitment, and work, as well as the recognition that even if we do not have the same feelings, or the same lives, or the same bodies, we do live on common ground.

*Sara Ahmed*
MAKE CONNECTIONS

https://www.migrantsorganise.org/

https://www.runnymedetrust.org/

https://www.jcwi.org.uk/

https://racialjusticenetwork.co.uk/

https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/

And in our neighbourhoods/local areas...
Tackling hate *between*

*forgiveness. Peacemaking doesn’t mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a*
“Stop what you are doing!”

“I won’t let go of you or cast you out of the human race.”
FAITH RESPONSES TO HATE ON THE STREETS
“Tensions were rapidly defused over tea and plates of custard creams, followed by an impromptu game of football.”

As women from across Bradford’s diverse communities, we came together in solidarity to spread the message of peace and unity. **We invited women to stand alongside one another to create a giant web made from green ribbons to show that the lives of women in Bradford are woven together.** People sang songs, handed out green ribbons and wrote messages of peace, which they tied to a peace tree. All these small acts of resilience and peace set the tone for what lay ahead.

**Wahida Shaffi**
ENGLISH DISCO LOVERS — CHRIS ALTON

“The English Disco Lovers’ deployment of wit and fun as weapons against belligerent xenophobia is a fine tribute to disco’s subversive utopian vision.”

Dorian Lynskey, The Guardian, Feb 2013
Community mediation networks

Luton

Bradford
Web of connections
EVERYDAY HATE
PEACEBUILDING IS...

The capacity to imagine something rooted in the real world yet capable of giving birth to that which does not exist.

John Paul Lederach

What can you imagine?
LAST WORD...

God does not require us to achieve any of the good tasks that humanity must pursue. What God requires of us is that we not stop trying.

Bayard Rustin
FURTHER INFO/LINKS

➢ ‘Engaging with conflict and challenging hate’ resource:

‘Includes good advice and tips from Tariq Bashir – Who Is Your Neighbour’

➢ Twitter:

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