



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Department of Religion Studies Interreligious Week 2026

Date: 5th–9th September 2026

Venue: HMS10

The Department of Religion Studies at the University of the Free State will host its **Interreligious Week 2026** under the theme “**Unity in Diversity.**” This initiative brings together representatives from diverse religious traditions, including the Baha’i Faith, African Spirituality, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. The week aims to create a platform for dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration across religious boundaries in South Africa.

In a country marked by ongoing challenges such as gender-based violence and femicide, unemployment, inequality, and social fragmentation, this initiative emphasizes the role of religion as a constructive force for peace, social cohesion, and sustainable development. By fostering interreligious dialogue and collaboration, the programme encourages participants to move beyond mere tolerance toward active engagement in addressing pressing social issues in South Africa.

The Interreligious Week also aligns with **Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** within the Faculty of Theology and Religion, offering students practical experience in interfaith engagement and community-based learning.

Key Focus Areas

- **Dialogue and Understanding:** Creating spaces for meaningful engagement among different religious traditions to promote respect, empathy, and mutual learning.
- **Peace and Social Cohesion:** Exploring how diverse religious communities can contribute to peacebuilding and social unity in South Africa.
- **Collaboration for Social Change:** Identifying ways in which interreligious dialogue can address urgent societal challenges.
- **Religion in the Public Space:** Reflecting on the role of religion in ethical leadership, public discourse, and community development.
- **Student Formation and Work Integrated Learning:** Providing opportunities for students to develop practical skills in interreligious engagement, critical reflection, and socially responsible ministerial formation.

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Enquiries

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