

# @home in a strange place



off the shelf  
a ready to use series for sacred conversation

## ***Suggested Outline for Conversations***

*"By remembering our forgotten stories we discover a better understanding of the pain people experience today."*

Our online 'Resource Bank' contains a number of resources to enable 'sacred conversations on migration. While we have provided some model conversations drawing on some of the resources, there are other resources which you will find more useful and appropriate for your context.

Should you wish to use these, the following is a suggested outline to help you on your way. This is merely a suggestion which you can reshape to work what is best for your context.

'At Home in a Strange Place'  
people of the way - on the way in sacred conversations

guidelines [for conversations]

starters [introducing the conversation]

main course [digging a bit deeper into the theme]

counter-points [[discussion points, questions etc]

action points [moving on in practical ways]

worship resources [may include a ritual/symbolic act and worship interspersed throughout conversation ]

## ***Planning for your conversation***

Whatever the size of a group or the scope of an intended conversation, planning for it is essential. So here are some steps you may wish to consider:

- Two or three persons should get together before and plan for the conversation
- Pray for the Spirit's guidance
- Spend time getting to know each other and the subject matter.
- Engage in some form of self-assessment (where your congregation is on issues related to migration and migrants)
- Consider where, when and how in your life together these conversations can be best encouraged
- Consider your own goals/objectives/outcomes
- Consider your own options for format, drawing from the suggested resources
- Establishing a time line is a good idea
- Consider ways the sacred conversations can be integrated in your congregation's life
- Announce the conversations well-ahead
- Develop guidelines for your sacred conversations
- Try to work in pairs to facilitate the conversations (may not always be possible)

- Always evaluate your conversation
- Share your experience with churches in your area/cluster/synod/wider URC

### **Qualities of a sacred conversation**

Conversation on migration will be sacred when we

- invoke God's presence and wisdom, allowing space for prayer at opening, closing or whenever anyone in the group feels a need for it.
- establish safe spaces with a commitment to mutual respect and Christian love.
- listen deeply to, and honour stories of pain, loss, displacement, triumph and faith
- listen deeply to, and honour, the feelings of shame, fear, and grief in those who are waking up to the reality of closed doors and rejection at the gates of our nation.
- do not let our conversation stop with an explosion of feelings, attitudes and behaviours, but continue on to examine the realities of our inhospitality.
- recognize that our deepest common humanity is grounded in the extravagantly inclusive love of God.
- realize that within our common God-given humanity resides diversity at its best.
- end our conversation with at least one tangible and specific commitment to action on behalf of justice for migrants in our communities.
- grasp that a conversation is an ongoing journey.



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We would very much appreciate if you can kindly provide us with any feedback that would help us to improve this and any of other the resources we have put together. Please use the feedback form which can be found among the online resources [titled your feedback matters].