

THE WELCOME DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITIES WELCOMING PEOPLE LEAVING PRISON



How to become a Welcome Directory Faith Community

The Welcome Directory is building a national database of welcoming and supportive faith communities. Eventually, we hope to have hundreds and thousands of faith communities listed, who have formed a link with their local prison chaplaincy team.

There are about 120 prisons in England and Wales and we are working hard to establish the work in every prison. These are still early days in the life of the charity and by working with us at this stage, you are in a very real sense helping to pioneer and establish this work in the life of our nation.

We understand that your faith community might already have a great working relationship with your local prison, perhaps a group go in on a regular basis. You might therefore be eligible to fast track your registration. Simply visit www.welcomedirectory.org.uk and send us a fast track request form and we will send you a link to an online registration form.

We have given you a sample of The Welcome Directory sessions which have been updated with current statistics and reflect the latest in desistance research. We hope you enjoy looking at the sample along with others in your community. However, there is more information that you need to complete the sessions and we would love to hear from you so that we can send you everything you need and help to enable your community to participate fully.

Next steps:

1. Have a look at the first session and decide whether you would like to gather a small group together to work through the material. Talk to leaders in your community about it.
2. Get in touch with jon.green@welcomedirectory.org.uk so that we can ensure you have everything you need to get started.
3. Because not all prisons have yet established The Welcome Directory in their prison, we will need to work with the prison close to you and help them to host session two. This might take time, but many prisons are keen to host faith communities and establish The Welcome Directory so your interest might be the catalyst that enables a prison chaplaincy team to begin to host session two.

We are really excited about the potential of the work and once it is fully established, the potential is enormous. Again, thank you for taking an interest in the work of The Welcome Directory and we look forward to working with you to register your community.