

SACRE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Sessions House

18.11.2014

Session 1: Participant responses to activity - EVIL

1. The worst evil in the world is , , , ,

- the suffering of innocent children'
- stealing- when you lie you steal from someone's right to truth, when you kill someone you steal their right to live.
- human beings killing other human beings.
- knowing that what you are doing is evil/ recognising your actions are - evil and still doing them, behaving in a certain way just to be evil.
- murder.
- child killing/abuse.
- animal cruelty.
- not doing anything to stop evil.
- open to interpretation.
- those who do not fight the evil in their hearts.
- genocide.
- people
- torture.
- taking another person's life.
- unloyalty.
- life. Creates the false hope and punishment to humans.
- humans.
- greed.
- coffee.
- lack of empathy or pride.
- pride - it has the power to abuse, devalue and suck out goodness from people/nations and hardens your ability to recognise there needs to be change.
- money.
- murder as it ends life and any greatness that may come from that life.
- ignorance and lack of understanding or willingness to understand because people do not like things they do not understand. This leads to generalisation and hate (racism). People need to try and understand.
- war.

2. **One evil thing that can be stopped is ...** - no evil can be stopped. It is up to the individual person.

- abuse in schools.
- I don't believe they can be stopped as much as the world would like them to be e.g. our world would have thought the holocaust would have eradicated the occurrence of people having more genders, races, religions etc. but it has not.
- hunger - there is enough food for all.
- murder - the individuals should know that its wrong.
- poverty- if Western rich countries work with those in need and cancel out world debt to enable poor countries to grow.
- starvation. X2
- being a passenger.
- poverty/hunger, People commit crimes to get rid of these.
- war. I think that if war was stopped then there would be a lot less spite in this world and less people would be killed.
- environmental damage.
- poverty, We could stop so much suffering by overcoming our greed.
- No evil think can be stopped no matter how many laws are imposed, evil is innate and there will always be something evil.
- lying. Lying is taught ability by society that can be irradiated.

3. **There is no devil or Satan because ...**

- devil/Satan is a concept not a real entity which can be used to explain good and bad e.g. black and white.
- evil is just a test from God so that He can understand our faith in Him.
- it is the Ying and Yang in each object, person, animal. Strive for good to dominate.
- because God created all things and therefore would not create something with all powerful evil.
- because we all interpret evil into being different things. Why is there a leader for that?
- we should not blame evil on a being such as thee devil. Evil is a fault of humans.
- there is no devil or Satan, simply all your negative thoughts that manifest into something overwhelming.
- it exists in our world.

4. **I believe Satan is real - you can tell because ...**

- there is evil in the world,.- Satan is the evil half of people's hearts.- if there is an absolute good, or you believe in such a thing, there must be an equal yet opposite evil (be it Satan or another name).

- I believe Satan is real, you can tell because Satan has been reincarnated in evil people such as Hitler and David Cameron.
- of the evil in the world.
- there is evil in the world. Satan may not be the way he is described and may be the driving force of evil.
- I believe Satan is real as if no good then we would know no good as we would have no comparative there fore Satan is good.
- I believe Satan is real - you can tell this as people are inspired by something to commit evil.
- the devil is a human construe used to justify evil acts, as well as deter act as a deterrent against evil acts.

5. Evil is stronger than good - just look at ...

- deep inside every human being slumbers a dichotomy of good and evil. Life is a playground of these two dualities.
- evil stronger as tend to get away with it. A murderer takes a life but may only get prison. Not equal.
- there are still millions of people starving everyday, yet we have millionaire across the globe.
- we always remember the evil things and forget the good - evil
- just look at the news. The main things that we see is the bad things going on in the world, we hardly ever see the good.
- Life. Only the strong and evil rule, like dictators (Hitler).

6. You can get good from evil, for example ...

- we can get good from evil because in the just environment great evil threatens a great good has often risen to defeat it, and lights shine bright in the darkest darkness.
- the ability to appreciate when good things happen to you or others, people seek the warmth and comfort of good when bad things happen.
- charities to help people affected by evil.
- wars that bring peace.
- doctrine of double effect x2
- going to jail allows you to reflect on where you have gone wrong and how you can improve.
- forgiveness and reconciliation after dreadful crimes of cruelty in concentration camps, forgiving.
- you can get a lot of sharing in war.
- when Makaka Yousafzai continued her campaign for girls education after she was shot by the Taliban.

- child abusers - the child may get fostered/adopted by another family/ live a happier life.
- the " silver lining" analogy - evil can spur on good deeds.
- Corrymeela Project of how Ireland has reconciled after their troubles.
- the work that Stephen Lawrence's mum does.
- the genocide by Hitler will never be forgotten and will never happen again.
- e.g. if you lie just to keep a surprise up e.g. lying that you have not bought someone something for their birthday when you really have.
- it can make people stronger.
- there are examples from the holocaust of people showing great kindness and love to those persecuted.
- The Second World War shows that people of many cultural differences can together to stop someone declared to be the "devil" and stop the suffering of others.

7. Evil lies in every heart - you can tell because

- no one is perfect.
- as there is good in every heart there is also evil. But do you choose to act upon it.
- the "rubber necking" on the M25.
- we can all be selfish at times which can cause pain and suffering to others on occasions.
- no one is inheritably good, there is jealousy, greed in humans.
- every person at some point in their lives has done something bad and even if they don't they still want to.
- nobody is perfect and we live with regrets and normally this is from evil.
- no one lives a sin free life.
- nobody is ever perfect.
- everyone lies.
- no one can be perfect, there is both evil and good inside everyone, it is just which side we act on.
- every one has the capability to do something evil - it's part of our human nature.
- human beings have an instinctive behaviour to think the worst of others, have to keep anger in check, etc.
- there is not one person that can say they've never done anything bad.
- good will turn into evil.
- it is still evident in the world today despite human's knowledge of its existence on earth.

8. One evil we should leave behind is ... because ...

- self-confidence
- prejudice - we should be more open minded and accepting of other people.
- greed
- poverty - we all deserve to live in equality and peace.
- One evil we should leave behind is anger. If people were a lot less angry there wouldn't be as much evil in them.
- slavery.
- One evil we should leave behind is intolerance of others' beliefs and life styles.
- capitalism
- We should leave behind ignorance so it is always there to be corrected but as long there is difference there will be ignorance so it will stay behind.
- apathy.

9. The older generation is typical evil or vice is ...

- apathy and resignation/ acceptance that change won't happen.
- older people believing younger generation are worse than they are !!
- teenagers.
- technology; it removes old fashioned values of face to face contact and can make the work place more confusing.
- having stereotypical ideas about younger generation - are rude about it.
- Their evil is stigma over issues which are now considered normal - leading to prejudice.
- the authority they feel they have and the dated views they have on the world.
- that they don't listen to young people. Change is good, not detrimental to society. Values and morals are malleable, free will shouldn't be stopped.
- ignorance.

10. The future is evil, and will get worse because ...

- human beings are extremely selfish by nature as they are governed by a sense of survival.
- of the poverty and ill in the world.
- people are not educated /open minded enough to understand the views and beliefs of other religious groups.
- too many people think that they can change the world through killing innocent people.
- humans will never unite under one religion
- of environmental issues; everything is dying and no one is helping.

- one evil leads to another and they will keep growing.
- we don't accept and acknowledge our own individual and societies faults e.g. when did learn in histories about the travesty of the crusades.
- we should educate and put preventions in place. Punishing is an option but does it equate to any form of goodness?
- our society is trying to get rid of evil but our society will never have every one as a good person and more and more people are born every day so we will just get worse.
- people are greedy. The longer that people want more and take more then the more we will go without in the future.
- we make sure that will happen.

11. When it comes to child abuse, rapists and the worst evil doers, we should ...

- with a conscious comes an awareness of good and evil and the ability to choose your actions accordingly.
- treat them as they treated those they hurt.
- Try and show that they are the worst evil by making them suffer.
- castrate or severe punishment like hard labour.
- try to make them understand the consequences of their actions and hope to change their perceptions.
- make them suffer, like they have made others suffer.
- be looked after with compassion.
- humble and realise we may be just as flawed in God's eyes.
- Attempt to make them see how their actions can impact a person's whole life.
- Try and change evil to good because we have the ability to make great change for the better.

12. Evil is (or seems) fun because ..

- we all like to be bad sometimes. Breaking rules is fun.
- Sin can be fun - not evil; However.
- There no sense or thought needed I sin - you can drink alcohol and have no awareness of other, instead of being sober and understanding people.
- It wouldn't be tempting if it wasn't and absolute joyride.
- You can push boundaries and there are no rules.
- You can get adrenaline rush from doing what you shouldn't and because villains are always laughing.
- Some people may find evil fun because the act goes against conventions of society and so they find an exciting sense within it.
- It usually involves the "forbidden" which some people get enjoyment from doing.

- There are no inhibitions or boundaries.
- As you are breaking the norm and the constraints of life you feel free rather than locked in what humanity expects from you,

13. Men are more evil than women because ...

- they have more power to misuse
- the world's greatest criminals are men and in films men are usually the evil character.
- they are governed by rage and impulse.
- women talk about their feelings are more.
- more men in prison. More men are prevail ant to child abuse.
- lack of emotional intelligence.
- NO.
- men are more reactionary evil, they killed in cavemen times to get food where as the women were the mothering nurturing figure and are more carling and less evil,
- less self control.

14. Humans are more evil than animals because ...

- they don't know any better.
- they have free will and a mind to make ethical decisions.
- they have the ability to deny their instincts for the sake of others or purpose.
- they have a moral capacity and make conscious moral choices.
- humans kill for fun and not for survival.
- they are the only species that start wars and purposely with no reason ends life.
- humans have more control over the environment.
- they are rational creatures with choice.
- humans have the power and the ability to control what is out of animal's "hands".
- of the acts they commit to others around them.
- humans kill for fun.
- we know what we are doing is right or wrong where as animals do not know that. We have a conscience and they don't.
- humans can use reason to decide whether something . Animal behaviour is usually influenced by the treatment received by the humans.
- humans have a conscience and can choose to do evil or not.
- animals only do things by necessity not choice.
- animals act according to instinct and therefore can not intently do something evil - where as humans have a motive and drive behind evil.

- humans are able to control their actions, animals behave according to their natural instinct.
- they have a more thorough understanding of the consequences of what they will do. Humans have more choice and animals are governed by instinct.
- animals never do anything out of malice (unless they are cats).
- humans are conscious moral beings who are aware of what is right and what is wrong.
- they harm and kill for the sake of it. Animals usually kill to survive.
- They kill more of their own species.
- No. If it was then there wouldn't be good people at all, because evil would have got rid of them.
- HUMANS SHOULD KNOW BETTER.

15. "Evil" is a weird idea because ...

- it makes us question whether an act is evil, or the person doing it.
- what is evil to one person is acceptable to another.
- evil is a concept - it is the absence of good.
- every thing can be perceived as evil in one way or another.
- IT IS NOT OBJECTIVE (a choice)

16. What I do to reduce evil is ...

- attempt to cultivate empathy and understanding.
- try and be the best person I can.
- accepting evil reduces it because it is no longer evil.
- try and be the best person I possibly can.
- start with my own life and aim to promote human rights.
- be nice.
- manage what enters the heart. People such as Hitler were influenced by life experience to do what they did.
- I am going to learn more about RE at uni and hopefully become a RE teacher.

17. What conquers evil is ...

- LOVE !!! Those who do evil acts do not feel a part of common humanity - they need to feel the love.
- kindness.
- self less love.
- courage to stand up against the majority even at personal risk.
- our behaviour; we can change the way we live our lives.
- Love
- Good,

- working together to do good in the world
- recognition of the power of good and love.
- evil, you would start a war to stop a dictator.
- peace of heart and mind.
- knowing evil exists and striving for good and better starting with self and letting it flow to others.
- a positive mind about any situations.
- Evil will never be conquered but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to conquer it with joy and kindness.
- is more evil because you cannot conquer evil without committing evil.
- kindness.

18. Are politicians able to stop evil? I think ...

- politicians would stop evil if their hearts were pure and willing to truly serve the people,
- that they make sure evil happens , instead of preventing it.
- it takes everyone to stop evil.
- no. Politicians come and go but little changes, It takes way too long to change anything.
- politicians do only what suits them. If stopping evil if of benefit to them then they will.
- no, it is down to the individual person . Laws, or even people, can not change a person's characteristics.
- yes - they chose not to (often for votes)
- no. but promoting evil through dirty politics won't help.
- no, because it will always be present.
- yes, if they would try instead of becoming part of the problem.
- no, no one can ever stop evil, they can try though! If they could they would've done it by now.
- That it depends on if what is evil is better for the greater good is it evil?
- Politicians are only humans who are chosen to represent others; so if any individual can defeat evil then they may be able to as well.
- No, evil is always going to be part of humanity - all they can do is minimise it.
- yes, in some cases.
- policies and legislation can encourage good.
- not everyone will conform to one politician - cannot contro everyone or stop evil.

19. Can prayer reduce evil? I think ...

- it depends of the views of the individual and their beliefs.

- no, but your response to the answer can.
- prayer can even though it is not real. To pray is to make better, through personal strength you can do it.
- no, but it could help to relieve someone's pain.
- prayer does not reduce evil as it is not an action to stop evil, just a way of telling some one thoughts.
- no, but it can give people hope and belief in changing.
- prayer alone can't reduce evil, actions upon prayers can.
- it's possible. There may not be a God but prayer might cause people to pause/reflect/ act for change etc.
- yes, if by prayer we mean acknowledging our failing and reflecting a desire to change and a willingness to accept guidance.
- if many people pray at a similar time for torture to stop, the perpetrator may cease from evil ways.
- so many people would have good thoughts and deeds when praying.

20.I also want to say ...

- we are all good at our core! If we don't look for that in others or believe it about ourselves then we must resign ourselves to a hopeless existence.
- as far as the problem of evil, when people complain/question why God hasn't stopped Hitler (for example), we don't know if there's been a bigger evils than he has prevented.

(I have not altered/changed any spelling or grammar. This is a true record of what was shared by the participants. Nicky Younosi,)