

## **Concord's Annual Peace Service Leeds Street Team's Presentation**

### **Presented by:**

**Idris Aslam / Horia Kamboh / Haroon Ali / Emaan Ali / Haroon Kamboh**

Idris : Salutations! I'm Idris, the youth club team leader

Horia : Salaam! I'm Horia, a weekend team leader

Haroon A: Shalom! I'm Haroon, a youth club activity leader

Emaan: Sas-ri-akaal! I'm Emaan, the publicity lead

Haroon K: Hi! I'm haroon, the little leader who everyone loves

Idris: We are all between 11-19 years old so bear with us as we share our story and journey with you

Horia: We wish to narrate a short sad tale, not three years have passed

Haroon A: But it is the light that ignites the drive for peace we have .

Emaan: Only three Februarys have passed since a long term friend got off the bus

Haroon K: That day he had already been in a fight with someone once close

Idris: These once mates were arguing over school boy issues .One had rebuked the other, the other exchanged fists in retaliation

Horia: Did not Martin Luther King say: peace cannot be kept by force but by understanding  
“? But the misunderstanding between old friends would seal their fates

Haroon A: Post school, our friend did proceed towards his home. He got off the bus a stop earlier than usual, a small walk would not be much to bear, he thought. Coincidentally fate had spoken.

Emaan: A familiar face crossed his path. The two old neighbours, now agitated by each other, they spoke, argued, exchanged coarse words.

Haroon K: This began their final fight.

Idris: “Are not words weapons? Thus choose them wisely for a neighbour thus the faithful do not harm their neighbours.” We can hear the words of prophet Muhammed echo from the Quran school these two boys did attend.

Horia: One struck the other and the other retaliated, fists flew, strikes to the face, blood and fury did appear .

Haroon A: The anger, pride and pain lead the rush, what turned this friendship? Was it ego, a miscommunication, a broken love, we shall never know what was truly the root.

Emaan: The perpetrator clutched his pocket, produced his defense, leapt off the ground and with such rage, anger, soulful pain, the aggressive act he did enact.

Does not Blinded rage, a lack of inner peace or patience cause the fall of men?

Haroon K: These are the thoughts of eastern peace philosophers, since many years ago.

Idris: The blade did thrust once straight through to meet the human heart, the fatal stab,collapse, there was silence, as passers by called for help...

Horia: Yet poor Irfan Waheed was pronounced dead upon arrival....

Haroon A: The aggression in our tale is well critiqued by the Buddha who said "he who envies the other will not find inner peace"

Emaan: Surely the ability to self control in times of rage is an act of peace, to divert aggression, to bite one's lip and swallow one's pride – this is the struggle for inner peace...

Haroon K: The tearing of a heart, tore the hearts of Harehills

Idris: Two mothers had lost their sons, two fathers left emotionally exhausted. Over a girl, a gang, material weakness, why do we lose our boys?

Horia: One moment, one act of revenge sent a young man to jail. One moment of revenge sent forth a soul towards the heavenly veil.

Haroon A: We saw his coffin pass into the mosque surrounded, across the road from what later would become the Infinity Centre, our base

Emaan: As we prayed I questioned: why do we allow our boys to slay, lack methods for controlling their negative emotions? Why do they think it 's ok to arm themselves as so many do

Haroon K: in style, gang man following, or fear their reason...

Idris: When Faith and fortune are tested, families are in times of tribulation, does this add pressure? The violent themselves are usually vulnerable.

Horia: To be the peacemakers we must first forgive, it's hard but Marianne Williamson said: "There is no peace without forgiveness".

Emaan: We opened the doors of the Street Team. Our green T-shirt's are a homage to Irfan, over 5 days of the week we are out and about looking for young people to talk to

Haroon A: We Invite the youth in the parks to unite over a ball and play different games together in the main parks of harehills for the sake of building peace, behind the groups they revert to.

Haroon K: Mother Teresa did say “peace is spread by the humble smile”

Idris: That’s all we do when we are outreaching in the neighbourhood. We know where the youth do congregate, the dealers conspire and the vulnerable look for value

Horia: To be a peacemaker you must first feel valued and thus value your home and be adopted by other peacemakers

Emaan: This is the community the Street Team tries to make young people aware of all around them, with the various youth spaces, support structure and role models around

Haroon K: It’s helped us go from mourners to peace ambassadors now

Haroon A: Community consists of those who empower your inner self belief; Violence can be trumped if misunderstandings are unveiled.

If teens have a place to go to like our youth centre, or are made aware of the local spaces for them by our Street Ambassadors, then they have a source of peaceful friendship beyond the false prophets online

Idris: Our own mentors say: The mind without inner calm or inner peace can rush to the darkness of assumptions, create fear of the other and target the weak amongst us

Horia: What is peace, a five letter word, with hope it’s real and truly achievable, but it starts on our streets and within our own minds

Emaan: We look to the sacred place we call our home, envisage people treating each other as we wish ourselves to be treated

Haroon A: As young mentors, We share our words wisely, question together and hope to cultivate success...

Idris: Peace is a place where we can be teens without fear, fury or fights.  
Our Success is peace.

Haroon K: And peace is the light of human beings being better together.

Horia: For Hassan of Basra did say “Spread peace through wholesome food, positive chatter and encourage others to a table for tomorrow’s peace”.

Emaan: That’s what we do as we plan meals, community get togethers and community events throughout the year, in order to bring people together in the hope of growing peace, resilience and love.

Haroon A: We live by Martin Luther King's mantra: "Unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word..."

Haroon K: We are the youth of Leeds, peace is within us, we are peace, we bring peace

Horia: For together it forms our bright green future

Idris: We leave you with the words of Pakistani peacemaker and humanitarian Abdul Sattar Edhi

Horia: "The value of everyday life is based on the tragedy it leaves behind with some person and the way others are encouraged to avoid it being repeated..."

Emaan: Hope is peace, peace is hope, hope isn't another son laid to rest.  
Our humble work is but a starting block

HaroonK: Thank you for listening – peace to you all.