

***Come and join us  
on a search***

***and get to know the different  
life-views in Leuven***



***Sunday 30 May 2021***

***Together we take care of each other !***

***Vlaams Brabantse Interlevensbeschouwelijke ontmoeting***

## Welcome to our quest

We are taking you on a journey through Leuven to get to know the different life-views that are active in Leuven.

At 16 places in Leuven, you will find a poster in the window.

At some stops, you will be welcomed by representatives of an organisation.

There you are welcome to join a “pavement talk”.

(indicated by a green umbrella in the brochure).



At other stops, you will simply find a poster in the window with the instructions (marked with a yellow umbrella in the brochure).



The stops are easily recognisable by the symbol that we use:  
the colourful umbrellas.

Colourful, just like Leuven is colourful.

Colourful, since so many different  
life-views are present.

Colourful umbrellas that we open  
to protect and take care of each other.

**“Taking care of each other”**

is the central theme of this day.

The quest is intended for young and old, and for  
everyone who is curious and wants  
to know more about the riches of different life-views.



The answers to the questions come with one or two letters.

We encourage you to collect all these letters, so that at the end of your quest  
you can put them together to form a sentence.

What you will be looking for is a fitting title for the day.

When you have completed your form, together with the final sentence and your  
name and address details, you can deposit it in our “competition box”, on the  
lawn in front of **Hal 5**. You might win a nice prize!

**At 18:00 you are welcome again at Hal 5.** We will close our day with all the  
representatives stationed at the different stops.

Good luck!

## Stop 1

(Penitentiënstraat 33, Leuven)



### *Al Fath Mosque (Islamic cultural center)*

The Islamic Cultural Centre was founded in the early 90s, under the name of MCC (Moroccan Cultural Centre).

In 1994 we bought the building where we are still located today.

In 2015 it was completely renovated.

Our main activity is running a mosque. In addition, the building serves as a meeting place –we welcome visitors.

We also organize classes in our Arabic school.

Last but not least, the mosque also hosts celebrations, soccer evenings and quiz nights.

During Ramadan 2021, the 4 Leuven mosques, together with the non-profit organization JET vzw and the city of Leuven, organized an Iftar distribution for people and students in the area who are struggling financially.



Contact: [mohammed.bachiri@hotmail.be](mailto:mohammed.bachiri@hotmail.be)

## Stop 2

(Kolonel Begaultlaan 45, Wilsele)



### *Al Ihsaan mosque*

The Al Ihsaan Mosque was founded in 2007.

In the meantime, this Islamic religious community has been recognised by the Flemish Government.

The mission of Al Ihsaan is to provide the Muslims of greater Leuven with a prayer and meeting place, where they can practice their religious rites.

In addition, Islamic religious education classes are given to young children during the weekend. Socio-cultural activities are organised as well, whenever possible with openness

towards other cultural or religious organisations.

During Ramadan 2021, the Leuven mosques, together with the non-profit organisation JET vzw and the city of Leuven, organise an Iftar distribution for people and students in the area who are struggling financially.

Financial donations (sadaqah) can be gifted to help organise the Iftar.



Contact: Mimoun El Mesaoudi ([info@alihsaan.be](mailto:info@alihsaan.be))

## Stop 3

(Diestsesteenweg 72 C, Kessel-Lo)



### *Al Salam mosque*

We are a community of Kurdish people from Kurdistan (Kurds of Iraq).

Our Kurdish humanitarian association was founded in 2015 by a number of Kurdish friends. Until 2015 there was no Kurdish association active in Leuven. Through this founding, a void was filled and from then on we could communicate with, and take care of each other, when faced with difficult circumstances.

We are very active with our community. We also work together with other communities to develop better communication, and to take further care of each other. For example, we already collaborated with a Somali community and with the Moroccan community.

Last year during Ramadan, together with the 3 other Leuven mosques, we delivered food parcels to people in Leuven who are struggling financially.

This is an action that will be organized again, this year.

We organize activities and info evenings for newcomers and refugees (Syrian and Iraqi refugees).

We help newcomers with their search for accommodation in Leuven. In addition, we also help people who need interpreters in communicating with the OCMW, the CAW, hospital staff or during appointments with lawyers.

Every year, we participate in the clean-up campaign in Leuven. When the city of Leuven and the Office for Diversity and Equal Opportunities organize new activities, we join in.

As people, we are both Kurdish and Muslim. This is why we have united these two components in a single association. In our meeting space we organize all our activities, including our religious services, e.g., Eid celebrations, Festival of Sacrifice, Fridays prayers.

Our goal is to love people and to be open to everyone, without making any distinctions based on nationality or skin color.



Contact: sheh Deler - [deler.s@hotmail.be](mailto:deler.s@hotmail.be)

## Stop 4

(*'het Paviljoentje'* (little pavilion) in the Dijlepark, a small park located behind the Dijle watermills, Zwartzustersstraat 16, Leuven. Walk past the restaurant until you reach the back of the park, near the little blue bridge.)



## *Bahá'i Community*

Our community is part of the Bahá'i World Community. It is estimated that there are about seven million **Bahá'i** faithful worldwide, spread across most countries and regions of the world. The Bahá'i spiritual and administrative centre is located in Haifa, Israel.

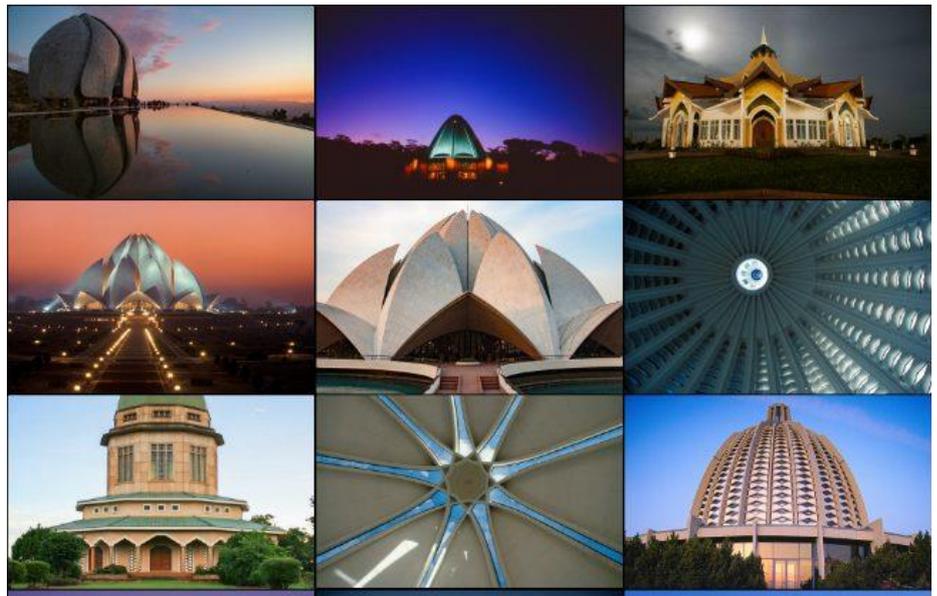
We follow the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh (literally "the Manifestation of God"), which offer the framework for the development of a unifying vision for the future of society.

The name used for temples in the Bahá'i scriptures is Mashriqu'l-Adhkár ("Dawning-place of the Praise of God").

The designs of the temples develop from the local culture.

In India, for example, they are in the shape of a lotus. All temples feature a dome and they are multifaceted.

They are surrounded by gardens, and sometimes by ponds as well.



Important in the **Bahá'i faith** are the respect for nature and the establishing of a harmonious relationship between the individual, the community and those that govern. We take care of each other through organisation of activities revolving around prayer, study and conversation, and education of children and young people. In many countries, this education process gives rise to projects in education, agriculture and medical care.

During the corona crisis we meet each other through Zoom, on the phone or sometimes during a walk.

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## Stop 5

### (Begijnhofkerk Sint- Jan-De-Doper, Groot Begijnhof, Leuven)

14.00u English mass, 16.00u French mass



### *English-Speaking University Parish (EUP)*

**EUP KU Leuven** is part of the University Parish of KU Leuven. Our community is made up of international students, KU Leuven staff and all those who wish to help build an international Catholic faith community in Leuven. We foster an open atmosphere where people from different backgrounds, cultures and countries, of different ages, and walks of life can meet.

In addition, we

welcome families with babies and children in our celebrations.

Although the community mainly speaks English, we also respect the languages and cultures of all the participants.

We invite all to take an active part in our liturgical celebrations,



to participate in ad hoc committees and open community meetings, and to take responsibility for various tasks.

Our liturgy is followed by a reception – a time of hospitality, meeting, sharing and community building. The sacraments are celebrated as community events, with sufficient prior preparation.

We engage in service through solidarity and social aid programmes.

Together we want to work for a more just world.

Contact: [ewelina.konings@kuleuven.be](mailto:ewelina.konings@kuleuven.be)

## Stop 6

(Damiaancentrum, Sint-Antoniussberg 5, Leuven)



### *GrenzenbewegenLeuven*

GrenzenbewegenLeuven was founded as a group in 2011. It is a network of different life-view communities active in Leuven.

We believe that dialogue and cooperation, across the boundaries of different outlooks on life, is very valuable. This contributes to a warm-hearted society. This is what we want to work on.

We want to strengthen that form of dialogue, rooted in the uniqueness of each group.

In this way, we will achieve more connection.



This table serves as a symbol for GrenzenbewegenLeuven.

The table consists of different pieces, which can be moved apart, since every partner of GrenzenbewegenLeuven is unique.

When the pieces are moved towards each other, a beautiful round table is created, where there is room for everyone.

We organise actions for the vulnerable groups in society: a peace picnic to support the refugee centre in Leuven; having dinner together in one of the mosques; a musical evening to support the children's cancer fund; silence exercises; taking part in the Heritage Day on rituals; actions revolving around solidarity ... This is how we take care of each other.

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## Stop 7

(Bruulpark, entrance via Dirk Boutslaan, Leuven, right on the lawn on the entrance)



### *Hindu community in Leuven*

The Hindu community in Leuven is very diverse. It consists of people with Nepalese and Indian backgrounds. Also a number of Belgians without a migrant background belong to this community.

At present, the Hindu community in Leuven is not yet firmly organised as an urban faith community. Yet the various groups, like the Nepalese “Bhajan” group and Artofliving, organise their own initiatives.

In addition, the Indian Students Association of Leuven (ISAL) – in itself not a Hindu organisation – organises activities around Hindu festivals (Diwali and Holi). Hindus believe that Brahman (God) is present in everything and everyone around us.

An important Hindu value is servitude. Helping others is showing servitude to Brahman. Through Bhajan gatherings (sessions with devotional songs), yoga and/or meditation sessions, and collective meals

(Prasads), we keep in touch with each other and support one another in difficult times.

We distribute food packages to Poverello. We collect second-hand clothes and donate them to the Calais Fund for Refugees. Last but not least, we organise youth activities about spiritual values.

The world is one family. That is how we take care of each other, and of wider society.



Contact: [markusfobelets@hotmail.com](mailto:markusfobelets@hotmail.com)

## Stop 8

(Huis van de Tolerantie, Brusselsestraat 332, Leuven)



### **HuisvandeMens**

Huisvandemens is a division of the Union of Freethinking Associations, the umbrella body of freethinking Flanders.

It has been officially recognised as a non-confessional life-view since 2002.

There are currently 32 houses in Flanders and Brussels, where anyone can drop in for a no-obligation talk or a sympathetic ear. Talks and information, for example, on topics like a dignified end to life, living wills, life-view subjects and the values of freethinking humanism.

We help to organise all kinds of ceremonies including weddings, funerals, births, spring festivals for six-year-olds, freethinking youth festivals for twelve-year-olds, ...

In addition, we find it important to participate in local cultural and social actions, since we strive for a humane and inclusive society.

We are 'freethinking' because we do not accept any absolute truths, and we are 'humanists' because we believe that every individual is capable of determining for her/himself what constitutes a meaningful life.

Our moral frame of reference is the strict equality of all human beings without any exceptions.



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## Stop 9

(Rijschoolstraat 23, Leuven)



### *IMSAL (KULEuven Students Mosque)*

The International Muslim Students Association of Leuven (IMSAL) was established in 1984. We form a very diverse community of Muslim students. More than 20 different nationalities are represented, including Belgians. The students study at the KU Leuven or other educational institutions. We help new students to get familiar with the student life in Leuven: we help them in their studies, provide recreational opportunities, and support them in learning and practicing their religion. Moreover, we help international students with their integration into Belgian society.



Our primary objectives are: ● Creating the right atmosphere for the fulfilment of Islamic living and fostering and promoting a spiritually uplifting lifestyle through an Islamic lens ● Encouraging the members to participate in broader activities that are in line with Islamic values (f.e. hikes, sports ...) ● Encouraging and helping members to observe prayers, conduct lectures and discussions. This year, during the holy month Ramadan, together with the other mosques of Leuven and JET vzw, we organise a daily iftar distribution for students and disadvantaged people in Leuven. We also organize a session for students who have to spend this month alone, a buddy system, book clubs and many other online activities. In this way, we want to support our students and the Leuven community during these difficult times, and let them know that we care about them.

Contact: [alison.ahern@imsal.be](mailto:alison.ahern@imsal.be)

## Stop 10

(Hal 5, Kessel-Lo)



### *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

We call each other “brothers” and “sisters”, as children of Our Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and He calls His Prophets and Apostles also in our time, just as in earlier days. They lead the Church under the force of inspiration and revelation.

The current prophet is President Nelson.

Family life is central.

In the temples, after civil marriage, family members are “sealed” to each other so that they remain “eternally” connected.

The prayer houses are multifunctional. They serve as kitchens, classrooms and places of relaxation. They are completely financially independent, through voluntary monthly contributions.

We believe that doing good for our fellow human beings

is a service to God. Honesty, faithfulness, virtuous living, doing good for ALL people, are important core values.

We run a worldwide welfare programme.

We fast every month, and the money thus saved is donated to people who are struggling financially.

Each family of the District (church community) is assigned a couple of sisters/brothers, who watch over them and whom they can always count on.

This is how we take care of each other.



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