

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

16 March, 2019

## LOCAL HUMANITARIAN GROUP AWARDED SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

Local humanitarian group PEACE (Positive Empathy and Community Engagement) has been awarded the 2018 Social Justice Award given by the Toowoomba Social Justice Commission. The Social Justice Awards first started in 2004. PEACE is in just it's second year of operation and has made enormous achievements in promoting respect, trust and support amongst people of various backgrounds. PEACE provide a range of activities and programs that have helped new arrivals from a refugee background. Women from Syria and Iraq who have endured the most horrific abuse have been given the power of language and art as a way of rediscovering and recovering their humanity.

"Each year, the Social Justice Commission makes a particular effort to recognise the efforts of local individuals, groups and organisations in working towards justice across the Toowoomba region.

PEACE is an organisation that is achieving just this, all without government funding," said Liam Holcombe, currently the Chair of the Social Justice Commission.

Bishop Robert McGuckin presented the award to Genevieve Allpass, founder of PEACE at a ceremony on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Social Justice Commission Office.

Bishop McGuckin commented it was important to support and recognise the work of groups like PEACE, especially in light of the tragic events in Christchurch.

The Award ceremony was well attended by friends and members of PEACE and the Social Justice Commission.

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