



10:00am	<b>Registration</b>	Registration in main foyer
10:30 - 10:45am	<b>Welcome and housekeeping</b>	
10:45am - 12:30pm	<p><b>Resilience, Connection and Trust – the value of social cohesion</b></p> <p><b>Keynote speech - 15 mins</b></p> <p><b>Panel discussion and response - 24 mins</b></p> <p><b>Audience Q&amp;A -30+ minutes</b></p>	<p>The UK continues to experience a succession of events that are having a profound impact on communities, and on our societal relationships. Events such as Brexit, the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis can exacerbate existing divisions in British society and create new ones, or alternatively galvanise people to come together. Often they do both. Our keynote speaker and panel members will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role can social cohesion play in building communities and places that are more resilient to crisis and change?</li> <li>• What are we learning, have we learnt about our social connections and our trust in one another and in our institutions?</li> <li>• How can we ensure that communities are in the lead and that the voices of underrepresented and minority groups and communities are heard?</li> <li>• What have we learnt about how crises influence feelings of belonging or ‘otherness’?</li> <li>• What are the conditions required for social cohesion to flourish in local areas?</li> </ul> <p>The keynote address will be followed by short responses to the questions above from each of our panellists, followed by a panel discussion and audience Q and A</p>
12:15-13:00pm	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Poster sessions</b></p>	Buffet lunch served in venue entrance hall Informal networking and poster displays by Belong Network members
13:00 - 14:35pm	<b>Learn Together: Break Out Sessions</b>	2 X 45 minute sessions + 5 minute room change - 4 sessions each time with two repeated. . (Session 1 and Session 4 are repeated with different speakers but same theme and chair.) Chairs will bring back three reflections/ key ask /challenge identified from their breakout sessions.
	<b>1. Local government leading the way</b>	A number of local authorities are showing innovation and leadership in supporting cohesion and integration work. What can we learn from them about strengthening social cohesion that could be applied at other local authorities and at larger scale?
	<b>2. Demonstrating impact, proving value</b>	Social cohesion is influenced by a number of different local factors and can be difficult to measure. How do we provide local areas with a measurement framework that can support them to develop strategy and utilise resources to build stronger more resilient communities? How do we demonstrate the impact and value of social cohesion work?We will hear from organisations who are developing thinking about how to measure aspects of social cohesion in local areas.
	<b>3. The Power of Sport: how sport can bring us together</b>	Sport can be a collective passion that grips the nation - yet it can also lead to tribalism, othering and violence. The right kind of community or grassroots sport can build trust and connection in local areas. How can sport and physical activity be better used by those who are strengthening social cohesion? This session will explore examples of good practice in using sport to bring people together in local communities. And why these initiatives are more important than ever.
	<b>4. No space for hate crime</b>	Hate crime continues to divide communities through fear and mistrust. What can we learn from best practice examples and the charities, local authorities and community groups working to reduce violence and misinformation? Each speaker identifies a key learning point from a recent project before opening up discussion with the group.
	<b>5. Volunteering and its role in building social connection</b>	Volunteering (both informal and formal volunteering) played an essential role in sustaining local community support networks during the Covid-19 pandemic. In local areas where there had been targeted programmes to improve social cohesion Belong’s research shows people were more than twice as likely to volunteer as elsewhere in the country. But we still don’t know enough about the links between volunteering and social cohesion. This session will explore the links between volunteering and social cohesion giving examples where volunteering has positively impacted social cohesion.
	<b>6. Everybody’s Business</b>	What support does the private sector need to foster social cohesion both within the workplace and the communities they serve? How can effective partnerships between business and community groups flourish and what can the public and charitable sectors learn from a private sector approach? Hear topline findings from Everybody’s Business: The Role Business Can Play in Supporting Cohesive Communities - research carried out by The Belong Network and Intercultural Cities Unit and Network - and the private sector representatives making it happen.
14:35 – 14:55pm	<b>Break</b>	Refreshments served in venue entrance hall
15:10-15:25pm	<b>Summing Up: Reflections from Break Out sessions</b>	Hear back from the chairs of the breakout sessions on the top challenges and key reflections from the breakout sessions
14:55-15:10pm	<p><b>Looking Forward Together</b></p> <p><b>Keynote address</b></p>	How do we build back together?How can we build a story of a socially cohesive UK where places and communities retain a strong identity whilst recognising our interdependence across regions, nations, and between different groups and communities? How can we facilitate less polarising debate and more positive contact to help communities find common ground? Where do we have cause for optimism and on what issues do we have more in common?
15:25-16:00pm	<p><b>Developing a collective voice for social cohesion</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy discussion - keynote speaker, panel and audience</b></p>	As a sector we know the value of social cohesion and its place at the heart of tackling key challenges facing British society. How can we communicate this in a compelling way to policy makers? How can we ensure that appreciation of the value of cohesion and social capital is embedded across all policymaking? In the lead up to the next general election, how do we build attention and consensus around this agenda? What three policy asks could conference convene around to raise the profile of this issue?
16:00 – 16:15pm	<b>Concluding Remarks and close</b>	