Islam and Christianity are religious traditions that promote peace in society. This is informed through sacred texts and teachings ~~religious teachings~~ including the Bible, Qurán and Hadith. Both religions provide guidlines of how to 'live in peace' and develop 'prospects of a better future'.

The Christian understanding of peace comes from its Jewish origins. It is characterised by the state of idyllic peace enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before 'the fall' in Genesis 3. Due to human sin, perfect peace no longer existed on Earth. It is through Jesus and his sacrificial death on the 'cross that humanity could breach their relationship with God and recieve atonement upon death.

Jesus embodied peace and Christians are taught to emulate this example. Jesus said 'in me you may have peace' (John 16:33). He used peace as a greeting, shalom, and referred to it on the Sermon on the Mount, 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God'. Mark's gospel warns against straying from peace in his metaphor of the 'fruitlessness and the message of Jesus

tree'.

Christians are taught ways of achieving inner
and world peace. Jesus prayed for himself
and others and asks his followers to do
the same, 'ask and you shall recieve'. Forgiveness
is taught as a method of averting conflict
and maintaining peaceful relations. Adherents
cannot recieve the supreme forgiveness of God
unless they forgive one another. In contrast to
the Old Testament view of 'eye for an eye' the
the New Testament emphasises the need for submission,
'if he strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him
the other'. Jesus modelled this submission to the
point of death.

Issues arise when freedoms are challenged and
are responded to with self defence. To deal with
this issue, early church father Augustine of
Hippo introduced the concept of a just war: this
combined the traditional abhorrence of war with
acceptance in some circumstances, this concept to correct
grave public evils. The US Catholic conference
of 1993 stated this does not comply 'with
the teachings and message of our Lord Jesus christ'.

Christianity contributes to world peace through its participation in ~~forums~~ interfaith forums such as the Geneva Spiritual Appeal of 1999. Attended by a range of faiths including Islam, Christianity, and Judaism the appeal addressed religious causes of violence and sought support from key religious and political figures. Pope John Paul II delivered a ~~similar message~~ message addressing similar issues at the World Day of Peace stating, 'violence may no longer be justified by appeal to religious motives'.

Islam similarly promotes inner and world peace. They, like Christianity characterise peace by the ~~state~~ perfect state that existed in the Garden of Eden. Due to the sin of humanity, this state of peace dissolved into conflict. It is thought that it is through Allah his compassion he sent prophets into the world to warn humanity of evil sins.

It is thought peace can be found in observance of Shariah Law. Shariah means 'path' and is the way to a 'safe, secure' future. Shariah is a fusion of ideas from the Quran and Hadith

and teaches adherents the importance of submission to Allah. If Muslims live life in accordance to the will of Allah they may recieve eternal peace in his kingdom. It is believed on Judgement Day ~~the good~~ all people ~~this~~ walk across a bridge spanning the abyss of hell (jahannum). The good speed across whilst the wicked are flung into the firey pit below. The perfect peace restored in the kingdom it evident as angels greet those that enter, saying 'peace be upon you, you have done well! Scholars look to the era of Muhammad where sharriah law was implemented and crime rates were negligible despite there being no ~~~~~~ unified police force. ~~~~~~

Islam is often misinterpreted as a promoter of violence. This however is ~~born or~~ a misconception ~~~~~~ of the concept of jihad - struggle against all that ~~there~~ oppose Islam. Moderate Muslims believe jihad is not a blanket justification for war and view those that condone violence as having misinterpreted the sacred texts. The Hadith confirms that all people, irrelevant of race, colour gender or class should be treated with respect as 'all people are as even as the teeth of a comb'.

This agrees with General Peter Cosgrove's statement, 'populations caught up in war naturally want it to stop'.

Islam suggests one may achieve peace by observing the five pillars and the will of God. Regarding salat, Muslims are instructed, 'seek help with prayer... though this is hard, they will meet their Lord'. Although there will still be conflict and suffering, peace comes from the knowledge that Allah is with them and will be eternally in heaven. Hajj the fifth pillar further promotes peace seen in the practice of Ihram as believers remove cultural, gender, class barriers and unite in faith.

Like Christianity, Islam was part of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal of 1999 which sought to overcome inter-religious violence. Furthermore figures such as Fethulla Gullen who was a mentor for an initiative of world peace, promote peaceful co-operation.

Islam and Christianity are two religious traditions striving for peace in contemporary society. They offer means of achieving peace and

instilling this ~~idea~~ motive in others, through

the observance of key teachings and commandments.