

# START NOW

Dialogue, peace, unity... it begins with me.

A unique and dynamic concert will take place on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm at The Newport Centre, when the International performing arts group **GEN VERDE** presents **START NOW**, a 2-hour performance of song, dance, drama and percussion.

The 21 members of this all-women group form part of the Focolare movement which works for peace and dialogue among people of all faiths, belief systems and cultures. They come from 12 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, South Korea, El Salvador, Ecuador, Northern Ireland, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Spain and the USA and share a lived experience of what it takes for people from all walks of life and cultures to live alongside each other, believing in the ideal that 'all may be one'. This reality is lived out in the groups' everyday life. Since being formed the group has produced 66 albums and has performed in concerts and musicals throughout Europe, Asia and North and South America.

In their autumn tour, Gen Verde will work in **South London, Oxford, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Lanarkshire, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Birmingham** and in **South Wales**.

In **Wales** the concert is part of a five-day project that will see [Gen Verde](#) working with more than 100 young people from three secondary schools in Torfaen. Through a series of workshops, they will explore, through music and the arts, how to deal creatively with difference, learning skills that transfer into the whole of life. The project name **START NOW** comes from the experience that young people can contribute *right now* to building a more peaceful and integrated society. The students will then perform alongside Gen Verde during the concert to an estimated audience of 1000 people. **START NOW** was first created in the Holy Land and involved Jewish, Muslim and Christian young people. Despite the challenging environment the project was a great success and has provided the basis for ongoing dialogue and activity amongst the original group.

*"The project **START NOW** has opened our eyes to things which we don't see normally and which are very important in our lives."* (Marek, START NOW participant, Poland)

Thought provoking and challenging, inspirational and uplifting, the music of Gen Verde explores the many complex issues that exist in our modern world. Their concert repertoire will include songs from [On The Other Side](#), their latest cd, which comprises 47 minutes of rock, pop and world music, filled with passion, strength and energy, each song conveying stories of people dealing with the tragedies and achievements of today's world or of moments that have marked a change or turning point in their lives. The concert has a wide appeal to people of all ages and everyone is welcome.



**Start Now Concert : Tickets £10**

Tickets available online: [www.focolare.org/gb](http://www.focolare.org/gb)  
Facebook: Gen Verde 2015 UK    Twitter: #StartNow2015  
Venue: The Newport Centre, Kingsway, Newport, NP20 1UH