

ANNUAL REVIEW **2014/2015** 

RESPECTEDUCATIONDIALOGUE INTEGRITYCOMMUNITY VALUES COOPERATIONDISTINCTIVENESS COMMON GOOD UNDERSTANDING NEIGHBOURLINESS FAITHACTION BELONGING TACKLING PREJUDICE RESPECTEDUCATION DIALOGUE INTEGRITYCOMMUNITY VALUES COOPERATION DISTINCTIVENESS

# The Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) was founded in 1987 to "advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain, including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths."

IFN's role is unique: linking national faith community representative bodies, local, regional and national inter faith bodies, academic and educational bodies with a focus on inter faith or multi-faith issues and working with them to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation as part of working for the common good.

IFN carries out its work through raising awareness within wider society of the importance of inter faith issues, creating opportunities for linking and sharing of good practice, providing advice and information to help the development of new inter faith initiatives and the strengthening of existing ones.

IFN works for the public benefit and its work is wideranging, touching the lives of many thousands of people directly and through the organisations and initiatives with which it engages. Working with its member bodies is an important part of this. Each of those makes its own contribution to inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. A list of member bodies can be found at the back of the Review and more can be found out about these on the member body section of IFN's website at www.interfaith.org.uk/members.

This Annual Review highlights the work of the Inter Faith Network between the September 2014 AGM and the October 2015 AGM.

Published 2016 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK Registered charity no 1068934. Company limited by guarantee no 3443823 registered in England.

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ISBN 1902906624

Designed by Tattersall Hammarling & Silk Ltd.



**2014/2015** 

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Unless otherwise stated, photographs included were taken by IFN staff. Photographs in the Inter Faith Week section were supplied by participating organisations. Those on pages 3, 14, 15, 16, 17, 28 and 34 were taken by Myles Fisher for IFN.

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Company limited by guarantee no 3443823 registered in England. 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH ifnet@interfaith.org.uk www.interfaith.org.uk www.twitter.com/IFNetUK www.facebook.com/IFNetUK ISBN 1 902906 62 4

### MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



There is a desperate need, not just in our society but in our world, for an alternative narrative - a narrative where people work together, and relate honestly and with integrity. Inter faith activity provides part of that narrative - of the power of shared action in a divided world.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has a 25+ year track record of working to promote understanding and cooperation between different faiths in the UK bringing organisations, practitioners and others together to share good practice, learn from each other and become even more effective.

The work of building understanding and trust between different faiths has never been more important: responding to challenges affecting the UK and its local communities and also seizing the opportunities in our diverse society for contributing to general positive change. The theme 'Living Well Together' has been a thread running throughout the year, given special focus at our National Meeting in Birmingham in October.

The UK can be proud of its recent history of good relations between different faiths. Yet there is a great deal to do to maintain and build on these. Extreme voices and the impact of some events abroad - and at home - cannot be allowed to drive a wedge of distrust between our communities. Nor can divisive approaches which isolate or segregate in ways which can undercut an integrated and flourishing society. This year these issues were addressed by IFN in a number of different contexts, from the Faith Communities Forum and the national day events for local inter faith practitioners to Officer messages and statements about interfaith relations in the UK in the wake of terrorist attacks in Europe, such as the Charlie Hebdo and Hypercachet

murders in France; the attacks in Copenhagen; and further afield.

The threats currently faced are real and present and need to be addressed through many different routes, including that of inter faith dialogue and multi faith cooperation. They should not, however, draw attention away from the positive potential of the UK today, including the diversity of its citizens. In an increasingly connected world, this is a great strength.

These positive dimensions have been strongly to the fore in our work this year: from discussions on responding well to refugees and asylum seekers, to the innovative and exciting youth inter faith event, 'Young Voices: Young Agents for Change'; the presentations and discussions in national interfaith and educational IFN member body meetings; and Inter Faith Week.

Local inter faith activity is at the heart of inter faith engagement in the four nations of the UK. IFN's two day events for inter faith practitioners from across the UK - one in Sheffield and one in London - were among the high points of the year.

Inter Faith Week 2014 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was marked by over 400 organisations with a tremendous range of activities - drawing in many thousands of people of different ages. For many of them this will have been their first encounter with people of particular faiths and beliefs. Increased social media presence helped boost the Week's impact further.

IFN's advice and information service has continued during this period to help a wide range of individuals and organisations, giving them contacts to assist in their activities and sharing know-how and ideas. As the breadth of enquiries reminds us, it is not just faith groups and interfaith practitioners who are important to the development of inter faith understanding and cooperation. Many different types of organisation are now working to gain a better understanding of religion and belief issues and to play their part in the development of a harmonious and just, diverse society. We have been delighted this year to have had input from the Equality and Human Rights Commission at the Faith Communities Forum and National Meeting and that

IFN's Director has played a part in its Advisory Group looking at materials about religion and belief in the workplace. Likewise, it has been excellent hearing from different types of chaplaincies in health, prisons and HE and FE. Through Inter Faith Week, too, IFN is developing ever wider networks.

Continued work to develop a form of governance which both honours the breadth of IFN's membership and faith diversity and at the same time has nimbleness and effectiveness to serve the public well has also been important this year. Governance is not exciting. It is not newsworthy. But it is crucial to the longer term success of an organisation in meeting its charitable aims.

IFN's member bodies have continued to carry out their own important programmes of work through the year. Information about them and links to their websites can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/members.

We thank IFN's member bodies, fellow Trustees, and IFN's staff and volunteers for their dedicated contribution to its work. We thank, too, faith groups, individual donors, trusts and the Department for Communities and Local Government who have helped, through their financial support, to enable IFN's work to go forward.

Towards the end of this Review you will find a page called 'Looking Ahead'. It outlines the way forward for IFN's work for the coming period. Our ability to continue and build on IFN's work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation very much depends on raising the remaining funding needed to do so. This is an urgent task.

We very much hope that you will consider making a gift today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. More details can be found on the final page of this Review.

We hope that through this, you will help us continue to add value to the interfaith initiatives of all whom we work with and support and to help people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

+ Richar Bedfow.

**Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE Vivian Wineman** 

Co-Chairs, The Inter Faith Network for the UK



Participants in a discussion group at IFN National Meeting

# CONNECTING, COMMUNICATING FOR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING

We live our lives today in an increasingly diverse world. One very important aspect of that is religious diversity.

The last Census figures show a United Kingdom that has a wide range of religions and beliefs.

The ways in which we interact with each other are of profound importance to how our society develops. Inter religious understanding and cooperation is a vital part of shaping this interaction.

To connect and to interact, there is a need to be in touch - to have opportunities to meet and learn; to discuss both commonalities and areas of disagreement; and to find ways to make common cause and work together for the common good.

For nearly 30 years now, the Inter Faith Network has been connecting organisations and individuals to help them build relationships of trust and understanding and find ways in which they can cooperate, live well together, and contribute to our shared society. It does this by providing information and advice, and sharing good practice - including through its publications and on-line resources, through responding to enquiries, and through holding meetings where people can come together to learn from one another.

Religion and belief self-identification in the UK compiled from data in 2011 Census releases from England and Wales; Northern Ireland and Scotland<sup>‡</sup>

	% of URP*	Number
Christian	59.49	37,583,962
Muslim	4.41	2,786,635
Hindu	1.32	835,342
Sikh	0.68	432,429
Jewish	0.43	269,568
Buddhist	0.41	261,584
No religion	25.67	16,221,509
Religion not stated	7.17	4,528,323
Other religion: Total	0.42	262,826
*Usual Resident Population		63,182,178

‡ All 3 Censuses take a different approach to the question and grouping data. 'Other religion' includes a number of faith communities which have bodies in IFN membership: Baha'i, Druid, Jain, Pagan, Spiritualist and Zoroastrian.



IFN helps in a variety of ways – from putting enquirers in touch with member and other relevant bodies, to letting them know about relevant resources and guidance. A high proportion of enquiries during the year were from local inter faith practitioners or people who would like to get involved with local initiatives, and from public agencies and other organisations seeking to engage well with people of different religions and beliefs. Inter Faith Week continues to grow and many enquiries were also related to that.

IFN also receives enquiries from the media, often looking for faith or inter faith contacts who can assist or advise on news stories and entertainment programming.



### Can you put me in touch with...

Many of the enquiries that we have responded to this year have been from people seeking to get involved or develop an inter faith dimension to their organisation's work:

- "What is my nearest inter faith group?"
- "Where can I find out about different youth inter faith initiatives?"
- "I work for a hospice. How can we make contact with local faith communities so we can let them know about our work and also develop a more diverse volunteering base?"
- "A rather complicated issue has come up within our local inter faith group. Can I talk it through and find out if any other groups have had a similar issue that we might be put in touch with?"
- "My workplace is thinking of developing a staff inter faith group or network. Are there any pointers we should bear in mind?"
- "We are a police force in the South East of England looking to establish further relations with faith communities in our area. Can you put us in touch with the local inter faith groups?"
- "Please can you give me contact details for the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum?"
- "Our local inter faith group in the West Midlands is working on plans for a multi-faith quiet space in our local shopping centre. Can you put us in touch with any similar initiatives that we might learn from?"
- "Our national inter faith organisation is running a programme for students throughout the UK. Can you help to publicise this?"
- "I am a student working on a dissertation on inter faith relations in the UK. Can you let me have some information on the history of this?"
- "I would like to volunteer to support work to develop good inter faith relations. Can you put me in touch with local inter faith groups in the East of England?"

In a few cases, IFN staff have a longer term involvement in external programmes or structures, where this is seen as fitting with IFN's aims and helping to carry these out. So, for example, 2014-15 saw continued engagement with the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, the Equality and Diversity Forum, and the Near Neighbours initiative of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England. There was also engagement with the Equality and Human Rights Commission through its Advisory Group on guidance relating to religion and the workplace.

Staff visits, talks, and participation in the events of others are also an important part of keeping people in touch and sharing good practice. This included, this year, an input by the Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree, to a residential weekend as part of the process leading to the publication of the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life.

### Communicating...

When the Inter Faith Network was founded back in 1987, it was an era when communications were periodic, usually typed on a typewriter with carbon copies. Very few people had computers, the World Wide Web was several years away, and social media far into the future. A very different world from today!

The Inter Faith Network now communicates and helps people connect through several different routes.

Although most of our communication is now electronic, we remain mindful that many people still value hard copy of some materials such as Annual Reviews and publications. Responding to this is part of the Integrated Communications Strategy that was adopted this year.

#### E-BULLETIN WITH INTER FAITH UPDATES

An e-bulletin goes out bi-monthly by email, and is available on IFN's website, with links to this from Facebook and Twitter. This is available to anyone who is interested in news about interfaith projects and events and relevant UK, national and local developments. The e-bulletin also carries occasional special-focus pieces. This year, two very different ones were about interfaith responses to the refugee crisis and inter faith cricket.

#### ▶ BECOME AN E-BULLETIN SUBSCRIBER!

You can see past issues of IFN's e-bulletin at www.interfaith.org.uk/e-bulletin . If you do not already receive the e-bulletin, why not sign up online or drop us a line and join the mailing list: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

#### ON LINE RESOURCES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

#### Website

These days when people want information they tend to go either to an information source known to them or to the internet. Websites are key sources of information.

IFN has two websites: the Inter Faith Network website: www.interfaith.org.uk and the Inter Faith Week website: www.interfaithweek.org. Both are optimised to ensure that they are easy to find by users of search engines, such as Google and Bing. They are also optimised for use on a wide range of browsers, including Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox and Safari and use responsive templates for tablets and smartphones.

The IFN website, www.interfaith.org.uk, carries a number of resources to help those working to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation.





During 2014–15 it was upgraded to the latest version of its content management system (CMS), for additional security and functionality. Work was also done to make all IFN's publications on the website even easier to access and to ensure that search engines pick up on their content.

The Inter Faith Network website received an increasing number of visitors across the year, with over 20,000 more visits between January and September 2015 than the same period in 2014.

The Inter Faith Week website carries resources for event organisers and listings for IFW events.

### Social media

As part of IFN's 'Go Digital' project, the office stepped up its use of social media across 2014-15, focusing on Facebook and Twitter as the key

### **STAY IN TOUCH**

There are many ways to stay in touch, so do follow, like, visit and subscribe!

- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- (a) ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
- www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- @IFNetUK



networks of which the majority of its member bodies are a part and which are particularly widely used by the general public.

IFN sent a Circular to all its member bodies in February, setting out information on IFN's use of websites and social media and also providing information and links to guidance on how member bodies can set up their own websites and encourage use of social media. It also wrote to all member bodies in March to let them know where to find advice on cyber security and how to stay safe online.

As part of IFN's use of Twitter and Facebook, IFN 'follows' and 'likes' Twitter accounts and Facebook pages run by member bodies. A similar approach is taken during Inter Faith Week, where IFN also monitors activity using keywords linked to the Week and follows accounts which are actively engaging, including some re-tweeting and sharing of stories.

IFN's Inter Faith Development Officer, Ashley Beck, ran a workshop for local inter faith practitioners on communications, including social media, at the two day events for local inter faith practitioners in Sheffield and in London (meetings described further on page 25).

Summer intern Amber Dillon worked on proposals to increase further the impact of IFN's use of social media as well as assisting on a number of aspects of website development.

#### MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Email is used to share information of particular relevance to member bodies through Circulars. 37 Circulars were sent during the year.

### FAITH COMMUNITIES IN COOPERATION



Faith communities have a strong commitment to working for the common good. This is expressed through their own individual programmes and, increasingly, through working side by side in consultative and social action contexts.

Discussions at all levels between members of

faith groups are part of this. IFN links in membership a broad range of national faith community representative bodies and its Faith Communities Forum is one important place for their discussion. It is a place where there is frank exchange about challenging issues as well as the making of connections that help enable shared endeavours.

The FCF is also a forum where these bodies can be consulted by Government and other agencies on a broad range of relevant issues.

The first of this year's meetings, in January, was kindly hosted by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations at Friends House in Euston, London and the second, in May, by the

"The Inter Faith Network for the UK provides a uniquely important forum in which religious communities and inter faith groups can both meet together and engage with wider society."

THE MOST REVD JUSTIN WELBY, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Faith Centre and Chaplaincy at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Wide-ranging discussion at these meetings covered such topics and issues as:

- sharing of news and reflections on the work which national faith communities are carrying out or supporting through their programmes and involvement of their members in these;
- · the impact on inter faith relations in the UK of recent events in France and Germany (the Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cachet attacks and Pegida marches);
- Faith and Belief chaplaincy in a public health care context (with presentations from the Revd Debbie Hodge, Chief Officer, and Hon Barnabas Leith





OBE, Chair, of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group);

- Chaplaincy in Higher Education (with presentations from the Revd Dr James Walters, Chaplain and Interfaith Adviser, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ismail, Multi Faith Chaplaincy, University of Sheffield);
- the Government's integration approach and priorities (with a presentation from Mr Paul Downie, Deputy Director, Integration and Faith Division, Integration and Community Rights, Department for Communities and Local Government):

### **FINDING OUT MORE**

Are you interested in learning more about a particular faith community's work with other faith communities? Contact the IFN office for details of national faith community representative bodies.

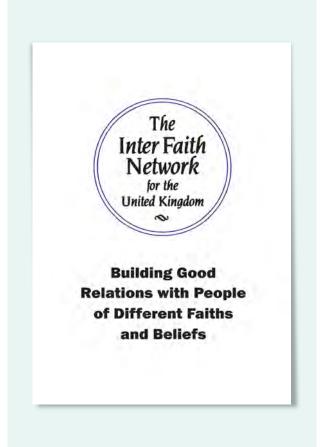
- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
- www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- @IFNetUK

- the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Call for Evidence on religion and belief in the workplace (with a presentation from Dr Karen Jochelson, Director, Economy and Employment programme, Equality and Human Rights Commission).
- · Inter Faith Network matters, including review of governance and Inter Faith Week.

Note: the third meeting was held over until early November after the AGM and will be covered in the 2015–16 Annual Review.

### **Developing a new resource**

In the course of the early Autumn work began on a joint Near Neighbours and Inter Faith Network toolkit on 'Faiths Working Together', with input from Faith Communities Forum member bodies.



Building good relations with people of different faiths and beliefs www.interfaith.org.uk/code Widely used short guidelines for engagement produced by the Inter Faith Network for the UK

# THE COMMON GOOD: LIVING WELL **TOGETHER**



The 2015 National Meeting for IFN member bodies took place in Birmingham in October. It was on the theme of 'Living Well Together'. At its heart was how we live and contribute together to the common good.

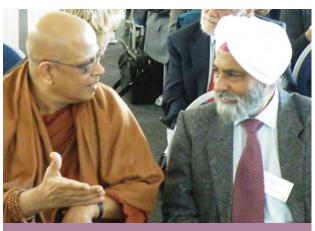
'Living well together' is an ongoing project: a journey. Learning from one another along the way is part of this. The meeting was a chance to explore many different dimensions of this and how inter faith cooperation can contribute.

During the plenary session:

• Mustafa Field MBE, Director, Faiths Forum for London, opened the session. He spoke on 'Interconnecting in inter faith contexts for the common good', reflecting on some of the different dimensions of living together well and







Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala and **Mohinder Singh Chana** 

ways that people of different faiths are seeking to do so. He gave special focus in his reflections to how faith communities are responding to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

• Dr Karen Jochelson, Director, Economy and **Employment programme, Equality and Human** Rights Commission, responsible for delivering the EHRC's work on Religion and Belief, talked about the equality and diversity aspects of living well together, including in the workplace, where many people spend much of their lives. The EHRC recently held a major 'Call for Evidence' on how people of different religions and beliefs experience their treatment in the workplace. It is









now developing guidance to help with some of the key issues such as dress, catering and religious holidays. Dr Jochelson gave a brief overview of this and there was a linked discussion group exploring the issues in greater depth.

- · Nädine Daniel, Project Manager of Hope+ and Merseyside Council of Faiths, spoke on 'Reaching out at times of need'. Social justice and compassionate action are at the heart of the teachings of religious communities. As one part of this, their members respond to urgent need with support and widen the circle of community to offer strength at times of great vulnerability. Hope+ is a community outreach programme founded by Liverpool's Catholic and Anglican cathedrals and run in partnership with the city centre faith communities. Nädine talked about its outreach to support those in food poverty in Liverpool and how staff and volunteers of many faiths are helping to make a difference to the lives of many in need.
- Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland, spoke on 'Appreciating diversity; negotiating

difference'. She highlighted some of the ways that in Scotland dialogue and interaction are being developed as part of living well together in a shared society, including the 'Belief in Dialogue' Scottish Government publication, on which Interfaith Scotland assisted, and the kind of discussions about values and vision for living together that have been at the heart of faith community discussion in Scotland, including in the run up to the 2014 Referendum.

 Reflections on themes of the day were offered in the afternoon by Acharya Krishan Kant Attri MBE of Newcastle Council of Faiths and Hindu Chaplain to the Armed Forces; Julie Jones of the Inter-faith Council for Wales and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Dr Norman Richardson MBE of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum; and Jatinder Singh Birdi of Warwick District Faiths Forum.

Discussion groups were held on:

 'Living well together: cooperating for community benefit', with a presentation by Mgr Daniel McHugh, Khalid Mohammed and Mauricio

"... Thus far we have responded to people from 77 countries and nationalities. The largest numbers have been from Eritrea. Then there is Iran, Sudan, Iraq and of course Syria. We currently have people from 15 nationalities volunteering with us. They represent pretty much all the major faiths. We are supported by all the major faiths. At the end of Ramadan I received a huge donation from two of the major mosques in the city and we work with them on a weekly basis. At the moment I am doing the rounds of the synagogues to collect the Sukkot donations..."

NÄDINE DANIEL, HOPE+



"I'm from the Hindu faith background where we believe Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam 'the whole world is my family'. Regardless of whatever circumstances around you, respect others, have some tolerance... Whatever faith you belong to, share with others, respect others, whether you have refugees around you, or people who just arrived in this country there, include them in as friends..."

ACHARYA KRISHAN KANT ATTRI MBE

Silva from the Communitas Wellbeing Project at BIRINUS Birmingham and partners;

- 'Living well together as neighbours', with a presentation from the Revd Mark Poulson of the Church of England and Near Neighbours;
- 'Living well together: faith communities and responding well to refugees and asylum seekers as part of our shared life', with presentations from the Revd Fleur Houston of the Churches' Refugee Network and David Walsh of the Board of Deputies of British Jews;
- 'Living well together: snapshot from campus', with a presentation from Sukhi Kainth of the National Union of Students:
- 'Living well together within the workplace', with a presentation from Dr David Perfect of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and reflections from Dr Shuja Shafi of the Muslim Council of Britain; and
- 'Equipping us to live together well: religious literacy and chaplaincy', with presentations from

Prudence Jones of the East of England Faiths Agency and the Revd Prebendary Michael Metcalf of the National Association of SACREs and Stafford and District Friends of Faith.

The day was chaired by the Co-Chairs of IFN, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Vivian Wineman.

The following facilitated and served as rapporteurs: Ashley Beck, IFN; Michael Berkson, Cambridge Inter Faith Group; Mohinder Singh Chana, Vice-Chair, IFN; Dr Harriet Crabtree, IFN; Canon Bede Gerrard, South East England Faiths Forum; Dr Joyce Miller, Religious Education Council of England and Wales; Moulana M Shahid Raza OBE, Vice-Chair, IFN; Dr Peter Rookes, Birmingham Council of Faiths; Dr Harshad Sanghrajka, Institute of Jainology; Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Vice-Chair, IFN; Cllr Manjula Sood MBE, Leicester Council of Faiths Leicester City Council; and Robin Taylor, Pagan Federation.

A full report on the Meeting will be available on the IFN website.

"If we look at drug abuse, alcohol abuse, gang culture, hate crime, domestic abuse, can we say they only affect one community, or one faith? No, they are problems across all society and it is when we come together and talk to people from different communities that we can actually find ways of resolving those issues.... As people of faith it's our responsibility to bring these issues to the fore and tackle the difficult issues."

JATINDER SINGH BIRDI



### WIDENING THE CIRCLE

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works continuously to increase involvement in activity which strengthens inter faith understanding and cooperation.

Social media is playing a part in widening the circle of those who learn about this area of engagement and so are targeted initiatives. In particular, in 2014-15, IFN focused on the issue of involvement of young people in interfaith initiatives.

### **Young Voices, Young Agents** for Change

Over time, there has been a substantial increase in inter faith activity by and with young people, but very little opportunity for sharing of good practice or discussion about how to build on this growth. IFN therefore decided that, as part of the special focus of Inter Faith Week 2014 on this area (see page 17) and harnessing the energy of the Week, an event should be held to address this.

The event brought together over 80 participants from 35 organisations working in this field. It built on IFN's past experience of working to encourage the involvement of young people in interfaith activity and education and drew on the expertise and good practice of IFN's member bodies and other organisations. It aimed to:

- profile some of the excellent inter faith youth activity that is already happening and stimulate more;
- give practitioners a chance to share good practice



and to discuss ways to encourage more organisations and individuals to become involved; and

• open the door to further cooperative working which will benefit young people in local communities and also in schools, and institutions of Further Education and Higher Education.

The event was shaped to bring together a mix of practitioners from different contexts such as:

- · national inter faith bodies with youth programmes
- local inter faith group youth initiatives
- · community-focused national faith-based initiatives with an interfaith dimension
- Religious Education and schools-related bodies which contribute to pupils' interfaith learning and



Jyothi Ramaiah and Kuldeep Basudev, Sri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple and Elliot Steinberg, Mitzvah Day



Aamna Alam, Bolton Inter Faith Young Ambas



Dr Peter and Jean Rookes, Faiths for Fun Day, Birmingham Council of Faiths and Scouts in West Midlands

development of skills for dialogue and shared citizenship

- Further and Higher Education bodies, including students, chaplaincy and policy bodies at national level
- national youth organisations which have developed programmes of work for young people to engage with religion and belief issues through both dialogue and cooperative social projects
- cultural initiatives which have a youth inter faith dimension
- relevant national initiatives linked to Government (such as National Citizen Service)

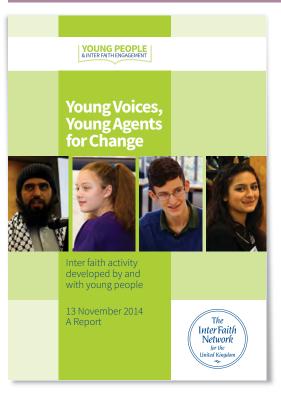
Invitees were selected with the twin aims of ensuring this diverse range of types of body but also keeping the meeting compact enough to enable indepth conversation and sharing of good practice. Many were adult professionals or committed volunteers working for the kinds of organisation listed above. But the day was about interfaith interaction between young people and, as would be expected, featured a number of young presenters and other participants.

A list of participating organisations can be found in the report on the day at http://youth.interfaith.org.uk/background

The event was supported by the Church Urban Fund, Golden Tours Foundation, National Association of SACREs, the Inter Faith Youth Trust and Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe as well as supported through DCLG's strategic support of IFN. IFN is most grateful to them for their support.



Diversity Faisal Masoud, Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource



### **Special on-line resource**

An online resource was created from the event on a dedicated microsite within the IFN website, highlighting the initiatives that took part in the event, as well as ideas emerging from the good practice examples shared on the day and in the discussion. Its purpose is to encourage local communities and organisations to develop inter faith activity and education with and for young people, and to do so in ways which draw on good practice within the field.

An illustrated report on the day, key points, and a range of videos of presentations and special interviews on the day can be found there: (http://youth.interfaith.org.uk).

Videoing of the event and interviews was done by Brett Lesage and photography at the event was by Myles Fisher.

#### **FEEDBACK**

"[We] thoroughly enjoyed the event and meeting many like minded colleagues interested in interfaith work and the importance of youth involvement."

"This is possibly one of the best conferences I have attended."

### YOUNG PEOPLE AND INTER FAITH **ACTIVITY**

Are you interested in inter faith engagement involving young people? Contact the IFN office if you are looking to get involved and create or host an inter faith programme or event with young people. If you are already running an initiative we'd love to hear about it!

- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- (a) ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
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Harriet Ackunson, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Revd Tim Clapton, Near Neighbours East London

"All of the presentations were informative and would have been useful to different people depending on their individual needs."

"The young people who spoke were immensely inspiring and made an excellent contribution we need more of them!"

"Thank you and congratulations on the launch of the http://youth.interfaith.org.uk/ for engagement with young people. This is an excellent new dimension to your good work which will be beneficial to groups and the community."



Charlotte Connell, Bolton Inter Faith Young Ambassadors



### **Inter Faith Week**

### INTRODUCTION

A key route through which IFN helps expand engagement with dialogue, learning and practical cooperation is Inter Faith Week. In 2009 IFN launched, in partnership with the Government for that first year, a national Inter Faith Week in England and Wales. It did so to help to broaden knowledge about, and involvement in, interfaith activity and cooperation as well as to increase knowledge about the different faith communities and their contribution to society. Northern Ireland has joined in the Week since 2010. A separate, very successful, Inter Faith Week has run in Scotland since 2004.

Inter Faith Week has become one of IFN's best known programmes. It helps groups to profile their work and widen participation in interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Its aims are:

- strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels;
- increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and
- · increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

### PREPARATION AND SUPPORT

Inter Faith Week 2014 ran from Sunday 16–Saturday 22 November. Preparing for and supporting it was a major part of IFN's work during the Autumn. This built upon the extensive preparation work earlier in 2014, which fell during the period of the last Annual Review. Preparation included helping to ensure that a high proportion of the 400+ events were registered through the website and encouraging media interest. Following the Week, the office

"Inter Faith Week is now a well regarded fixture in the faith calendar and I am delighted it is going from strength to strength."

RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP, PRIME MINISTER

continued the work of double-checking event details, researching any which had not been registered and gathering information on media coverage. A survey was sent out, and information was analysed. More about this is on pages 19-21.

### YOUNG PEOPLE AND INTERGENERATIONAL **ENGAGEMENT**

Inter Faith Week 2014 included a special focus on young people and intergenerational engagement. The Week was officially launched as part of an IFN

event, Young Voices, Young Agents for Change, which is described further above, and a photo from this was used as the main publicity photo for the Week. The photo was widely used, including by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

#### **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

At least 416 events are known to have taken place across England, Northern Ireland and Wales to mark Inter Faith Week 2014. There were week-long programmes in a number of places which had not held such programmes before.

Events were very varied – from clergy exchanges, to classroom inter faith dialogues, quizzes, suppers for the homeless, tree-plantings, faith trails, and much more. Some tough issues were taken as discussion subjects, from international political and religious divides to child protection.

As in previous years, the Inter Faith Week website included event type categories. The first chart opposite shows the number of events assigned to each type. Events can be assigned to multiple categories, so the total is not equal to the total number of events.

The Week saw an increase in overall number of events on the previous year, with a higher number of social action/social issues events; intergenerational events; and arts/cultural events.





Space for Peace event at Vedic Society Hindu Temple, Southampton (Photo: Bhasker Dave)



Council's Muslim Support Group and Christian Fellowship digging up a community allotment (Photo: Leicester City Council)

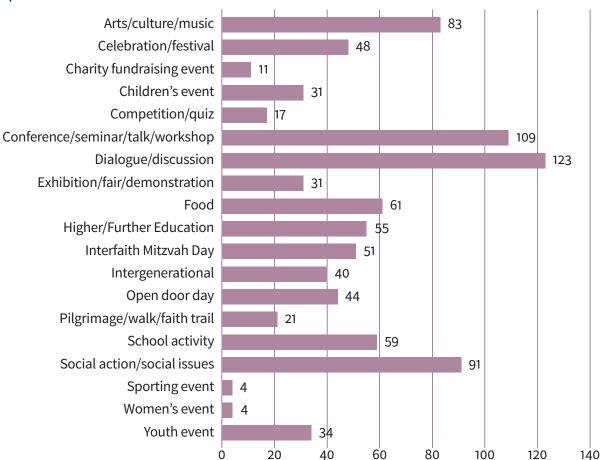
### A full list of events can be found at www.interfaithweek.org/2014list

The Week was marked by at least 470 organisations from across all sectors. Some, such as the National Union of Students, marked both Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week (within a 'Faith and Belief Fortnight'). Event organisers did not always list every partner, and it is believed that more organisations took part.

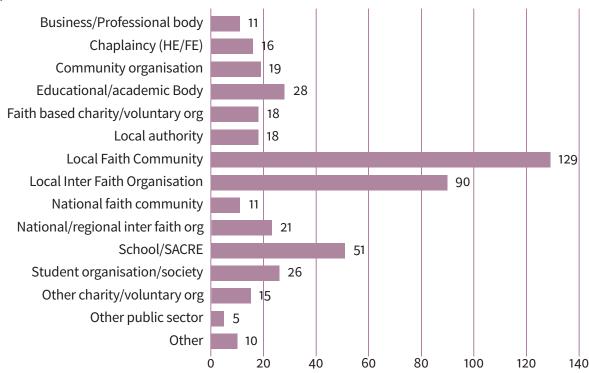
The second chart opposite shows the number of organisations taking part in the Week by type. Events run in partnership by several organisations were once again a common feature of the Week. Many events were held jointly for Mitzvah Day and Inter Faith Week. The Muslim Council of Wales hosted an early Inter Faith Week event with involvement from bodies such as the Interfaith Council for Wales, with Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Ephraim Mirvis, and other speakers.

IFN was again an associate in the 'Faith Through a Lens' competition run by Congregational and General Insurance in association with Churches Together in England and IFN. The awards garnered high media coverage this year.

### 1) IFW 2014 - TYPES OF EVENT









#### MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

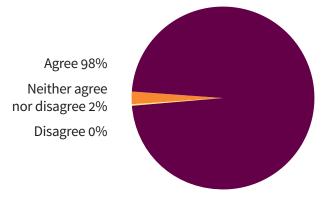
Nationally, Inter Faith Week was picked up by the Times, the BBC and a number of local, religious and community papers and channels. A high profile launch of a new 'interfaith channel' by the Jewish News at the House of Commons was featured in a DCLG press release on behalf of then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP. This carried IFN's main Inter Faith Week launch photograph to illustrate the release and included material about IFN and the Week. IFN's Director wrote a piece for the launch issue of this channel about IFN's Young Voices, Young Agents for Change event. There was a high volume of traffic on Twitter during the Week about events taking place and the Twitter feed was placed on the Inter Faith Week website. Tweets about the Week were widely re-tweeted.

Youth organisation, The Feast, used the Week as an opportunity to run a social media campaign, and encouraged people to tweet and post photos of themselves with a friend of another faith using the hashtag #FaithFriends. This proved to be very popular. There were also some web-based events such as an Inter Faith Week webchat with the Mayor of Camden and a podcast competition.



Faith Through a Lens 2014 winning entry 'Circle of Faith' with judge Don McCullin (left), winning photographer Merryn Fawssett, judge Paresh Solanki for IFN, and IFN Co-Chair Vivian Wineman.

SURVEY Q: "We think that Inter Faith Week is an important tool for raising the profile of work to promote inter faith understanding and co-operation"



#### **FEEDBACK**

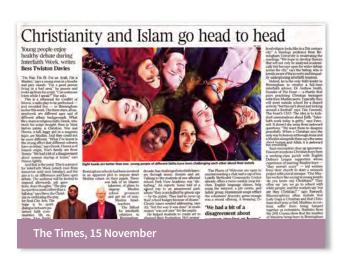
"National Inter Faith Week is very important as it helps us all to cement the work we do on a daily basis. [The Week] helps to raise the profile not just locally but nationally too."

(LOCAL INTER FAITH BODY, NORTH WEST ENGLAND)

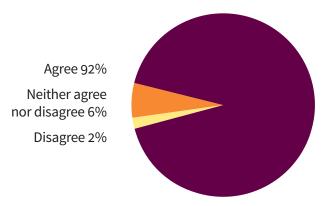
"We saw [our event] as a first step. We will not wait for interfaith week but are looking at holding another event in the first part of 2015."

(HUMANIST GROUP, SOUTH EAST ENGLAND)

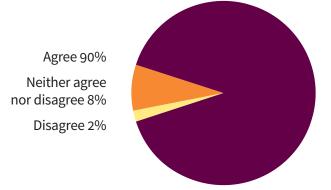
"Years ago, when we started, people were suspicious and very much defending their faiths. Over the years this has greatly changed and we have experienced greater and warmer welcome everywhere... During the pilgrimage, there was an atmosphere of interest, respect and openness. It is heart warming and encouraging to see so many people taking the time on an Autumn Sunday afternoon to participate in the Pilgrimage, all very willing to understand people



SURVEY Q: "We think that Inter Faith Week is an important tool for raising awareness about the contribution which faith communities make, singly and together, to the wellbeing of society"



SURVEY Q: "We think that Inter Faith Week is an important tool for encouraging dialogue between those of religious beliefs and those of nonreligious beliefs"



from other faiths and have fellowship with others."

(LOCAL INTER FAITH BODY, ENGLAND)

One of the questions asked in the survey was "In a nutshell, what did you think was the best thing about Inter Faith Week this year?" Responses included:

"Emphasising that faith can 'build bridges?" (CVS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND)

"The opportunity for faith groups to come together to develop a shared understanding of each other's religion."

(NATIONAL FAITH COMMUNITY BODY)

"Seeing people from different faiths sharing in meaningful dialogue about things which were important to them and important to society..." (LOCAL INTER FAITH BODY, SOUTH WEST ENGLAND)

"It was an opportunity to promote interfaith activity to the wider public and provide a catalyst for groups to engage together for an event." (LOCAL INTER FAITH BODY, LONDON).

### **INTER FAITH WEEK 2015**

Work continued through the year to prepare for Inter Faith Week 2015, including mailings to faith and inter faith organisations, as well as targeted mailings to local authorities, chaplaincies, sport and youth organisations, emergency services, HE and FE and other bodies. A special advance message for the 2015 week was kindly provided by the Minister with Responsibility for Integration and Faith at DCLG:

"Inter Faith Week helps to bridge gaps in understanding and encourage dialogue between the different faith communities. It plays a pivotal role in bringing together people of faith and of none in a range of events.

"I would encourage all faith groups and institutions up and down the country to support this year's Inter Faith Week activities and help make it a Week that truly celebrates the rich diversity of the communities we serve."

BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD, DCLG

#### **INTER FAITH WEEK**

If you're inspired to get involved, why not hold an event for Inter Faith Week?

To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate

To find out about Inter Faith Week, visit www.interfaithweek.org

ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

Telephone 020 7730 0410

www.facebook.com/IFWeek

@IFWeek

### ADDING VALUE AND RAISING PROFILE

The National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations category of IFN's membership includes national inter faith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and special focus national and regional inter faith bodies. Their sharing of information and ideas through IFN - and IFN's profiling of their work - helps to add value to their work and to enrich the pattern of inter faith initiatives in the UK.

2014–15 saw a number of meetings for these important types of organisation.

### **National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations**

In April, the national interfaith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales held their annual meeting with IFN. This was facilitated by IFN and hosted by Interfaith Scotland at Pollokshields Church of Scotland in Glasgow. Issues discussed included:

- sharing of updates and issues of concern, including an England interfaith update from IFN;
- supporting and learning from grassroots inter faith activity, including: general support and

### **FIND OUT MORE!**

Interested in a particular dialogue such as Hindu-Christian or Jewish-Muslim? Take a look at the IFN website member pages and find out about the organisations that are helping provide opportunities to get involved. www.interfaith.org.uk/members

- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
- www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- @IFNetUK



Tamanda Walker, 3FF

learning issues; responding at times of tension; social action and dialogue; and issues of evaluation and funding; and

· the Review of IFN's structure, governance and operation, including its UK linking role.

A combined meeting for National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic bodies in membership of IFN took place in London in September. The meeting included discussion on some of the outcomes of the November 2014 Young Voices, Young Agents for Change event; and the question of 'religious literacy' and different programmes that are being developed to address



Dr Norman Richardson, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum



Mark Phillips and other participants at day event for local inter faith practitioners in London

this (at all ages) as part of increasing understanding about and between faiths.

"An excellent opportunity for networking and hearing about the work of organisations that one does not often encounter."

"As ever, the networking and introductions were particularly valuable."

"It was very inclusive of the range of organisations and individuals present and everyone had a chance to contribute."

"Starting the meeting with an open discussion was a great way to engage everyone from the beginning. There was a good balance between this and the later, organisation-specific discussions."



Participants at combined meeting for National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic bodies

### **Local inter faith organisations**

There are currently around 250 multi-faith local inter faith bodies in the UK. The map overleaf gives an idea of their spread. There are also several dozen more groups for dialogue and action between two or three particular faiths, including branches of the Council of Christians and Jews.

Local inter faith initiatives draw together people from different faith traditions in a particular area. They play a very important role in creating opportunities for learning and cooperation in their local communities. They vary considerably in their makeup and focus. There is no one set model. They may be:

- groups with a wide range of activities such as education, social events and civic engagement
- dialogue groups, bringing people together from different communities to discuss and share ideas related to their various faith traditions, on a formal or informal basis
- forums established to provide faith representation to local authorities or other agencies with a formalised structure and recognised voice in a particular local authority area, often with membership on a representative basis
- · faith leaders' groups
- social action initiatives, working together across different faiths on practical projects relating to their local community





### LOCAL INTER FAITH GROUPS SHARING GOOD **PRACTICE**

This year, IFN held two national day events for local inter faith practitioners: one in Sheffield at St Mary's Conference Centre on 26 March and one in London at NCVO on 30 July. 90 people from 68 local inter faith bodies attended these.

The days provided an opportunity for local inter faith practitioners from anywhere in the UK to share their experiences, discuss issues of common interest and concern and have focused learning opportunities about practical aspects of developing successful inter faith programmes. They were chaired by IFN's Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree.

Reports of these two events are available on the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/docs. The reports are packed with tips and ideas, as well as points from practitioners about tackling some of the challenges at grassroots level - and the joys.





Participants at day event for local inter faith practitioners in Sheffield (Photo: Mark Cosens)

Many topics were discussed at the events:

- local inter faith relations and cooperation
- the contribution of local interfaith organisations to our shared society
- developing programmes with impact
- · dialogue, friendship and trust
- inter faith cooperation, social action and social justice
- · communicating the message well
- using Inter Faith Week to raise profile and widen engagement
- · women and local interfaith activity
- active involvement of young people
- responding together at times of tension, including impacts of overseas events on community relations





Nisha Mejer, Northampton Inter Faith Forum and Northampton Borough Council





Cllr Chauhdry Shafique, Canon Cynthia Dowdle and the Revd Judy Edwards



- the value of different approaches from grassroots dialogue and community projects to consultation and partnership with public agencies and other bodies
- extremist voices and local inter faith work
- the importance of initiatives that work with many faiths and also of those working with two faiths or three
- funding and resourcing the work
- the future of local inter faith possibilities and challenges
- the vital importance of the work

Presenters and facilitators included: James Banks, Social Profit Solutions; Aamna Alam, Bolton Inter Faith Council Young Ambassadors; Ashley Beck, IFN; the Revd James Breslin, Council of Christians and Jews North East and Newcastle Council of Faiths; Becky Brookman, Near Neighbours West London; Dr Harriet Crabtree, IFN; the Revd Andrew Crowley, Sheffield Interfaith; Dr Rose Drew, Interfaith Glasgow; Mark Cosens, York Interfaith; Mustafa Field MBE, Faiths Forum for London; Julie Harrald, Loughborough Council of Faiths; Mehru Fitter MBE, Coventry Multi Faith Forum; The Revd Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Forum and Exeter Faith and Belief Group; the Revd Monsignor Vincent Harvey, Southampton Council of Faiths and Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Inter-religious group; the Revd Gareth Jones, Sheffield Interfaith; Charulata Joshi, Hertfordshire County Council/Herts Faiths

nter Faith

Forum; Sumayya Kovariwala, Preston Faith Forum; Nisha Mejer, Northampton Inter Faith Forum, and Northampton Borough Council; Roz Miller, Islington Faiths Forum; Daniel Mohammed, Doncaster Interfaith; Chan Parmar, Bolton Inter Faith Council; Tania Robinson, Equality and Community Relations Team, Croydon Council; Esmond Rosen, Barnet Multi Faith Forum; Reynold Rosenberg, Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group; Shahida Siddique, Doncaster Faiths Together and Sheffield Faiths Together and Faithstar; Dr Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland; Charanjit Ajit Singh, Hounslow Friends of Faith; Manjit Singh Bhogal, Dudley Borough Interfaith Network; Kaye Smith, Fit4Funding; Ashwin Soni, Crawley Interfaith Network; Patricia Stoat, Nottingham Inter Faith Council, the Revd Richard Tetlow, Highgate and Moseley Inter Faith Groups; Jonny Wineberg, Faith Network 4 Manchester and Manchester Jewish-Muslim Forum; and Bessie White, Hounslow Friends of Faith.

Catriona Robertson Top ideas fr @beckygrace @nearneighbours on young ppl & interfaith engagement -start with shared interests #IFNlocal

### **FEEDBACK**

- "Important and morale boosting to hear what others are doing well - and what their struggles are. Excellent day - thanks to all who organised."
- "The speakers/facilitators were simply amazing. I was pleasantly surprised to learn about the sterling inter faith work being undertaken all over the country. The message of solidarity is a key message attendees will pass on to their respective organisations."
- "I found the presentations really useful and they gave me lots of food for thought!"
- "All the presentations were helpful and informative... A very important session was the penultimate one on inter-faith engagement in challenging times..."



IFN also encouraged the use of Twitter during both events. Short social media round-ups of both can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/sheffield15 and www.interfaith.org.uk/london15



### FIND A LOCAL INTER FAITH **ORGANISATION NEAR YOU!**

Use the interfaith locator to find and contact an inter faith organisation near you at www.interfaith.org.uk/locator or give the IFN office a call on 020 7730 0410

- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
  - www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- @IFNetUK

### LEARNING AND LITERACY

As noted on page 22, a combined meeting for National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic Bodies took place in September.

On an ongoing basis during the year, the IFN office engaged with member bodies in the Educational and Academic Bodies category through event attendance and response on particular projects.

2014–15 was a time of great change on the RE front and with considerable pressures on schools, teachers and pupils. The importance of RE has always been recognised strongly by IFN as part of developing a society marked by mutual understanding and religious literacy.



Sukhi Kainth, National Union of Students







### THE UK AND THE WIDER WORLD

A number of IFN's member bodies, such as UK branches of international interfaith organisations, have a particular focus on inter faith activity and cross-faith work globally.

The focus of IFN's own work is the UK. However, IFN's work - and inter faith work in the UK more generally – is increasingly of interest to practitioners in other countries who contact it as part of sharing and exploring good practice around the world.

The year saw enquires from within Europe as well as from other countries, such as Malaysia and Morocco. IFN's Director spoke at a meeting in Vienna in July on 'Freedom of Religion and Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding' organised by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The operating year saw interfaith relations in the UK affected by a number of events in Europe and globally and a key theme has been one of 'standing together'. IFN's policy on making statements limits comment on overseas events to contexts where there is, or is a strong likelihood of, impact on inter faith relations within the UK.

Overleaf is a message issued by the Officers of IFN in June. A Statement was issued in January, and also messages in January and February. These can all be

http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statement s-and-messages

Note: This Annual Review covers the period until October 2015. The response to the November 2015 terrorist murders in Paris will be reflected in the following Annual Review.



A copy of the Inter Faith Network's policy on The Making of Network Statements can be found at http://interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages.

### Message from IFN Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs to member bodies 30 June 2015

30 June 2015

Dear Inter Faith Network member bodies,

Next week sees the marking of ten years since the 7/7 bombings in London. This is the anniversary of a profoundly disturbing moment in our recent history in the UK.

As that anniversary approaches, many will be gathering to remember those who died and pray for understanding, justice and peace.

On Friday, many British people were among those who met an appalling death in Tunisia, with others left seriously injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families and friends.

These attacks have in common with the murders of 7/7, the attempted justification of appalling acts in the name of Islam by their perpetrators. Despite their condemnation by Muslim organisations and individuals, this is an anxious time for many in the UK - not just because of the impact of overseas events on interfaith relations here but also because of the wider issues of extremism and radicalisation.

It is not just Muslims who suffer the impact of hatred and ignorance. Last week white supremacist Zack Davies was convicted of attempting to murder Dr Sarandev Bhambra of the Sikh community in Mold last year. And this coming weekend, a neo-Nazi rally is planned in Golders Green, on the Sabbath, in one of the areas with a very large Jewish community.

Inter faith initiatives at every level have an important role to play in offering reassurance and friendship at times of anxiety and solidarity where people feel under threat, in sustaining dialogue and also enabling discussions about the tough issues we face.

A one-day national meeting for local inter faith groups is being held on 30 July in London by IFN, following a similar day in Sheffield earlier this year. Responding to extreme voices will be among the topics. But so, too, will faith trails, working with local government, religious literacy, developing successful inter faith programmes and many other topics. That is a reminder that inter faith engagement is not just about responding to tension and difficulty or solidarity – vital though this is. It is also about continuing to plan, vision and act for a harmonious and peaceful present and future in the UK.

Best wishes,

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE, Co-Chair Vivian Wineman, Co-Chair Dr Girdari L Bhan, Vice-Chair

**Mohinder Singh Chana, Vice-Chair** Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE, Vice-Chair The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Vice-Chair

### GOVERNANCE

### **GOVERNANCE AND EGM**

The Committee began discussion in the Autumn of 2014 of possible ways to strengthen further the governance structures of IFN, drawing on recommendations and observations made by the Strategic Review Working Group (SRWG). The SRWG had not looked extensively at IFN's governance structures, but had noted that its recommendations on membership policy would have implications for governance, in addition to making two specific recommendations: "We recommend that, whatever governance structure IFN adopts, it not include an increase in the size of the Executive Committee and that consideration be given to a reduction in size" and "We recommend that further thought be given to encouraging the active involvement of women as Trustees and Officers of IFN."

The Executive Committee took these points into account, as well as discussion of these issues by member bodies at both the 2015 EGM and AGM, in formulating a suggested way forward including streamlining of the Executive Committee (Board of Trustees). The review of governance is due to conclude in 2015-16.

An EGM took place on 16 June in London to enable consideration of a draft proposed governance model. Preparation for this and helping service the Committee's work on the governance review was an important part of the work of the office during this period.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

IFN is an incorporated charity. Those elected to the Executive Committee serve both as Trustees and Directors. They do so in an individual capacity. They work to enable IFN to continue to carry out its duties for public benefit, in compliance with its governing documents and the law. In addition to this published Review, each year the Trustees provide a formal report with the detailed Statutory Accounts to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

The 2014–15 Executive Committee met nine times during the period. (This included an away day, six meetings and two virtual meetings.)



### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

The Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee met five times during the period. (This included three meetings and two virtual meetings.)

The Membership Subcommittee met three times during the period.

A small group of Trustees were convened at the Committee's agreement for an *ad hoc* 'Governance Working Group' meeting on 16 April.

The work of the Media and Communications Working Group drew to a close and this has been dissolved.

The Urgent Matters Subcommittee, composed of the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, continued to handle urgent business as required.

Details of Trustees elected at the 2015 AGM are on page 33.



**Executive Committee away day** 

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The 2015 AGM, in Birmingham on 14 October, accepted into provisional membership the following organisations:

National Faith Community Representative **Bodies** 

· United Reformed Church in the UK

National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations

- All Faiths Network for the UK
- London Boroughs Faith Network
- London Inter Faith Centre

Local inter faith organisations

- · Cherwell Faith Forum
- Faith Links (Bournemouth and Poole)
- Mansfield Interfaith Group

The AGM noted the withdrawal from IFN membership of the following organisations, which had ceased to operate: Brent Interfaith; Forum of Faiths for Derby; Interfaith Action; Northwest Forum of Faiths; and Valleys Faiths Forum. It also noted the withdrawal from membership of Warrington Council of Faiths because of the new Membership Admission Policy adopted by IFN in 2014; and the withdrawal from membership of Sandwell Multi Faith Network in accordance with Article 10 of IFN's Articles of Association

#### **JOINING THE INTER FAITH NETWORK**

If your faith community, inter faith or educational body is interested in becoming a member of IFN, information about the application process, eligibility and the benefits of membership can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/membership

- To make a donation, please visit www.interfaith.org.uk/donate
- For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk
- ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
- Telephone 020 7730 0410
- www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- @IFNetUK

### **TRUSTEES**

At the 2015 AGM the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Vivian Wineman were re-elected as Co-Chairs. Maulana Shahid Raza OBE was re-elected as a Vice-Chair for the coming year. Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE was elected as Vice-Chair from the Sikh community in succession to Mr Mohinder Singh Chana; and Dr Natubhai Shah MBE of the Jain community was elected as Vice-Chair in succession to Ven Bogoda Seelawimala of the Buddhist community (in pursuance of the current relevant requirement for a Vice-Chair appointment to be drawn in rotation from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain and Zoroastrian communities, being the smaller communities represented within IFN prior to 2014).

A nomination following the process outlined in the relevant Bye-law was not received by the Executive Committee in time for it to nominate through the slate a candidate for the role of Vice-Chair from the Hindu Community. Possibilities for enabling a Vice-Chair to come into post ahead of the 2016 AGM are being explored by the Committee.

The following Committee members retired at the 2015 AGM and did not seek re-election: Ms Neelam Aggarwal Singh MBE, Dr Girdari Lal Bhan, Rabbi Dr Moshe Freedman, Mr Ayub Laher, Mr Shabbir Lakha, Dr Joyce Miller, Mr Dorab Mistry OBE, the Revd Daniel Otieno-Ndale, Mr Nitin Palan, Mr Ramesh Pattni, Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE and Bessie White. The Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth resigned in the course of 2014-15 following his resignation as Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury in order to take up post as Bishop of Bradford.

Retiring Committee members were warmly thanked for their contribution to IFN. Particular thanks were offered to Mr Ayub Laher, Mr Shabbir Lakha and Mr Resham Singh Sandhu who had each served as IFN Trustees for over 10 years, in the case of the first and last, serving in a national faith community capacity before later being re-elected in a local inter faith capacity.

Special thanks were also extended to Mr Dorab Mistry, who had served as a Committee member since 2006 and as Honorary Treasurer since 2013, making a very significant contribution to IFN's work, including through chairing its Appeal during 2013-14; and to Dr Girdari Lal Bhan who stood down as Vice-Chair from the Hindu community and as a



Trustee, in which role he had made an important contribution to IFN's work on a number of fronts during this and a previous term as Trustee and Officer.

Among those elected as ordinary members of the Committee for 2015–16 were a number of people who were newly elected to the Committee: Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi, Rabbi Yisroel Fine, Mrs Helen Harrison, Ms Sabira Lakha, the Revd Mark Poulson, Ms Fakhera Rehman, Mrs Shenaz Sadri, and Mr Narendra Waghela. The Revd Andy Williams was co-opted following the AGM.



FGPS Chair, the Revd James Breslin, and Bessie White helping on welcoming at the National Meeting

### **Trustees for 2015–16**

#### **CO-CHAIRS**

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE Mr Vivian Wineman

#### **VICE-CHAIRS**

Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE Dr Natubhai Shah MBE Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

#### **TREASURER**

Rabbi Maurice Michaels

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ms Sughra Ahmed Bishop Dr Joe Aldred Dr Joy Barrow The Revd Alan Bayes Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi The Revd James Breslin Mr Mohinder Singh Chana Dr Jane Clements Ms Varsha Dodhia Acharya Modgala Duguid Rabbi Yisroel Fine Ms Helen Harrison Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ismail Ms Prudence Jones Ms Sabira Lakha Dr Kishan Manocha Ms Ravinder Kaur Nijjar Ms Trupti Patel The Revd Mark Poulson Dr V P Narayan Rao Mrs Fakhera Rehman Dr Norman Richardson MBE Ms Padideh Sabeti Ms Shenaz Sadri The Ven Bogoda Seelawimala Pandit Satish K Sharma Dr Maureen Sier Mr Narendra Waghela The Revd Andy Williams



Ashley Beck, M. Ali Rahman and Hannah Cassidy

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Miss Honor Bulmer Ms Mona Matharu Ms Grace Cartwright

Volunteers make a very important contribution to the work of IFN. Some help on a one-off basis at events. Others, like those listed here, have volunteered for longer periods. Honor, Mona and Grace contributed to Inter Faith Week and to the Young Voices, Young Agents for Change event. If you are interested in volunteering, see Get Involved, p39.

### **STAFF**

Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Director.

Mr Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer. Mrs Hannah Cassidy, PA/Administrator p/t (four days per week).

Miss Juwayriyah Badrudin, Clerical Assistant p/t (one day per week).

Mr Md Alinur Rahman, Bookkeeper (p/t from June 2015) (two days per week).

Part time bookkeeping assistance was provided through a personnel agency (until June).

Miss Amber Dillon, Intern (p/t four days per week for six weeks during the Summer).



Juwayriyah Badrudin, IFN Clerical Assistant and Amber Dillon, IFN Intern



Mona Matharu, IFN Volunteer, with Gateshead Inter Faith Forum's display at the Young Voices, Young Agents for Change

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

### STRATEGIC AIMS 2015-17

IFN will be continuing to structure its core work around the current Strategic Aims which are to:

- 1. Raise awareness of the importance of inter faith engagement, cooperation and dialogue and be a trusted source of information about this.
- 2. Help strengthen and increase opportunities for inter faith learning, dialogue and engagement at every level and help widen participation in these.
- 3. Continue to develop IFN's unique linking role and work towards new ways of engaging, including across the nations and regions.
- 4. Support faith communities' engagement on relevant matters on a multi faith basis, both with each other and in the public square, and develop opportunities for engagement with issues of living well together in a multi faith society, including with contentious and challenging issues.
- 5. Help raise awareness about the different faith communities in the UK, including their contribution to society.
- **6. Ensure that IFN is sustainable, effective, and able to respond quickly to challenges and change.**

The Executive Committee adopted a workplan for 2016 to early 2017, subject to funding, which will put the Strategic Aims into action within the following framework of themes:

#### 1. TOGETHER

- Stand together
- Serve together
- Talk together
- Work together
- Learn together
- Play together

### 2. CONNECT AND **STRENGTHEN**

- Connecting and strengthening grassroots local initiatives
- Connecting national faith communities and adding value to their work

- Connecting national inter faith practitioners
- Connecting educators for increased interfaith impact
- Connecting across the UK strengthening the learning
- · Connecting across the generations
- Connecting and strengthening: membership and more
- · Connecting and integrating virtual community

### 3. NATIONAL INTER FAITH WEEK

 Running a Successful Inter Faith Week event toolkit

- An Inter Faith Week 'Next Steps' resource
- General support and promotion of Inter Faith Week

#### 4. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Ensuring sustainability
- Funding and human resources
- · Developing volunteering opportunities
- Strengthening effectiveness and security of IT
- Compliance

Strands 1–3 interconnect and all will be taken forward with increased use of social media.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2014 Total	2013 Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income	40,336	243,993	284,329	300,329
Investment Income	_	650	650	734
Incoming resources from charitable activities	<u>_</u>	10,588	10,588	7,823
Total incoming resources	40,336	255,231	295,567	308,886
Resources expended				
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	661	12,031	12,692	14,579
Charitable Activities				
Information, Advice and Comms	2,340	42,601	44,941	87,497
Meetings and Events	16,890	67,426	84,316	72,779
Publications and Research	3,564	25,298	28,862	21,408
Increasing Awareness & Engagement	12,327	26,797	39,124	33,043
Governance Costs	4,554	82,892	87,446	104,357
Total resources expended	40,336	257,045	297,381	333,663
<b>Net outgoing resources</b> being net loss for the year	_	(1,814)	(1,814)	(24,777)
Funds brought forward	=	59,550	59,550	84,327
Total funds carried forward	=	<u>57,736</u>	<u>57,736</u>	<u>59,550</u>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing. All the charitable company's recognised gains and losses are shown above. The movement on reserves is shown above.

### **BALANCE SHEET** AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets		6,169		6,880
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	22,946		2,376	
Cash at bank	106,412		114,829	
	129,358		117,205	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	77,791		64,535	
Net Current Assets		<u>51,567</u>		52,670
Net Assets		<u>57,736</u>		59,550
Funds				
Restricted Funds		_		_
Unrestricted Funds		57,736		59,550
Total Funds		57,736		<u>59,550</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to Small Companies. They were approved by the Executive Committee on 3 December 2015 and signed on their behalf by Rabbi Maurice Michaels, Honorary Treasurer.

Note: The full Statutory Accounts and Trustee Report for 2014 can be accessed on the Charity Commission website.

### **SUPPORTERS IN 2014**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through support from faith communities, Government, trusts and individuals supportive of its work, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies.

The Trustees of IFN thank most warmly all those who have given financial support during the calendar year 2014 and also those who have given the gifts of time, skills, and other in-kind support.

### TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND COMPANIES

Alma Royalton Kisch Trust (Inter Faith Youth Trust) Church Urban Fund Golden Tours Foundation Westminster Foundation

#### **GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

The Inter Faith Network received strategic funding support from the Department for Communities and Local Government.



### **FAITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England Baha'i Community of the UK Board of Deputies of British Jews **Golden Tours Foundation** (on behalf of the Hindu community) Institute of Jainology Islamic Welfare Trust Jain Samaj Europe **Network of Buddhist Organisations** Network of Sikh Organisations Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB Yorkshire Jain Foundation Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

#### **OTHER DONORS**

Cheltenham Interfaith National Association of SACRES South London Interfaith Group Wisbech Interfaith Forum

Mrs Lorna Barbour Ms Alice Cockburn Mr Maurice Irfan Coles Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree The Revd Peter Godfrey Mr Vernon Griffiths & the late Mrs Margaret Griffiths Mr William Hopkinson Major (Retd) Rashid Laher Mrs Reyhana Laher Mr Dorab Mistry OBE Mrs Jenny Nicholson Mr Bernard Omar Mr Brian Pearce OBE

Ms Clare Salters Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon Mr David Stevens Mr John Stubbs Mr Joe Upton The Revd Canon Michael Wolfe

As well as those who have given but prefer to remain anonymous.

Note: IFN's accounts are on a calendar year basis and the support of those who have kindly given in 2015 will be noted in the 2015–16 Annual Review.

# SUPPORT THE INTER FAITH NETWORK'S **WORK TO INCREASE INTER FAITH** UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

We need your help to ensure that the Inter Faith Network for the UK's work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation continues and grows, helping people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

### **MAKE A DONATION**

Please consider making a gift today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. Gifts at all levels are valued and make a difference.

You will find a gift form enclosed with this Annual Review. You can also donate by credit card or PayPal online at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate

#### REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

From time to time we receive an 'in memoriam' gift after an individual has passed away, funded from a collection following their death or through a donation from their heirs. Such gifts provide a living memorial to a loved one, supporting inter faith understanding in this country – for now and for the future.

If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, please get in touch by emailing remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 0207 730 0410.

#### A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

By leaving a gift in your will to the Inter Faith Network for the UK, you can leave a living inheritance to help deepen and strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation in this country – for now and for the future.

If you are thinking about making a will, the best thing to do is to get in touch with a professional will writer, such as a solicitor or advocate; they can help to ensure it is legally correct and that your wishes are met. If you have already made a will, you can still make an addition or amendment in the form of a codicil. If you would like to pledge a gift, please provide our name and address, along with our registered charity number 1068934.

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries. You can call Hannah Cassidy, on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk.

Thank You!

### **GET INVOLVED: MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

There are many different ways to find out more, keep in touch, and get involved in helping create inter faith cooperation and understanding:

#### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

- sign up to receive IFN's E-bulletin (www.interfaith.org.uk/e-bulletin)
- like us at www.facebook.com/IFNetUK
- Follow us at www.twitter.com/IFNetUK
- keep an eye on our regularly updated website at www.interfaith.org.uk

#### TAKE PART IN INTER FAITH WEEK

• take part in – or organise – an Inter Faith Week event in your local area, workplace or place of study (www.interfaithweek.org)

#### GIFT YOUR TIME AND SKILLS OR MAKE A DONATION

- make a donation to support the work of your local inter faith group, a national inter faith initiative or other inter faith project. If you would like to support the Inter Faith Network's work, details on how to do so are on the previous page.
- volunteer at the Inter Faith Network office find out more at http://www.interfaith.org.uk/takepart/volunteering-with-ifn
- volunteer your services and skills to help a national or local interfaith initiative. IFN's e-bulletin includes information on volunteering opportunities.

### **MULTI FAITH SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS**

• take part in – or organise – a multi-faith social action project, such as one linked to Inter Faith Week, Mitzvah Day, Sewa Day, Near Neighbours, or Faith Action

### JOIN AN INTER FAITH GROUP OR INITIATIVE

- get involved through your own faith community if you belong to one (those in membership of IFN can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/NFCRBs)
- find out about the nearest local inter faith group to you and take part in its activities (www.interfaith.org.uk/locator)
- join a national inter faith initiative which promotes inter faith understanding between particular faiths or works for a goal such as peace or social justice. You can find details at www.interfaith.org.uk/NRIFOs
- get involved in school or youth interfaith initiatives take a look at http://youth.interfaith.org.uk
- get involved in an inter faith society on campus your Students' Union will be able to tell you if there is one. If there is not, you might like to help set one up. Helpful pointers can be found in Good inter faith relations on campus at http://nussl.ukmsl.net/news/article/faith/1834/

### START AN INITIATIVE

• start a local interfaith initiative by reaching out to others in your local community. You might find the IFN/Near Neighbours Faiths Working Together Toolkit and the Local Inter Faith Guide helpful – both can be downloaded from www.interfaith.org.uk/docs

# MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK 2014–15

### FAITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Baha'i Community of the UK BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Board of Deputies of British Lews British Muslim Forum **Buddhist Society** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Churches Together in England Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK) **Druid Network** General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Hindu Council (UK) Hindu Forum of Britain Islamic Cultural Centre Jain Network Jain Samaj Europe Jamiat-e-Ülama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars) Methodist Church in Britain Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board Muslim Council of Britain National Council of Hindu Temples (UK) Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK) **Network of Sikh Organisations** 

Pagan Federation Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations

Spiritualists' National Union Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB United Reformed Church in the

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK) World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League World Islamic Mission (UK)

World Islamic Mission (UK) Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

### EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC BODIES

Cambridge Inter-Faith
Programme
Community Religions Project,
University of Leeds
Institute of Jainology
Islamic Foundation
National Association of SACREs
Religious Education Council of
England and Wales
Shap Working Party on World
Religions in Education
Sion Centre for Dialogue and
Encounter
Wales Association of SACREs
Woolf Institute

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATIONS

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum Interfaith Scotland Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru Faiths Forum for London North East Regional Faiths Network South East England Faith Forum West Midlands Faiths Forum

All Faiths Network for the UK Children of Abraham (Imams and Rabbis Council of the United Kingdom) Christian Muslim Forum Christians Aware Interfaith Programme Coexist Foundation Council of Christians and Jews

Council of Dharmic Faiths East of England Faiths Agency Hindu Christian Forum Interfaith Alliance UK International Association for

Religious Freedom (British Chapter) International Interfaith Centre

International Interfaith Centre Joseph Interfaith Foundation Lokahi Foundation

London Boroughs Faiths Network

London Inter Faith Centre London Society of Jews and Christians

Maimonides Interfaith Foundation

Multi-Faith Centre at the
University of Derby
Religions for Peace (UK)
Scriptural Reasoning
Society for Dialogue and Action
St Ethelburga's Centre for
Reconciliation and Peace

St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement in a Multi Faith Society

Three Faiths Forum
Tony Blair Faith Foundation
United Religions Initiative (UK)
Westminster Interfaith
Women's Interfaith Network
World Congress of Faiths

#### LOCAL INTER FAITH GROUPS

Altrincham Inter Faith Group Learning Together, Living in Harmony (Aylesbury) Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum Barnet Multi-Faith Forum Bedford Council of Faiths Birmingham Council of Faiths Blackpool Faith Forum Bolton Inter Faith Council Faith Links (Bournemouth and Poole) **Bradford Concord Interfaith** Society Brent Multi-Faith Forum Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group Bristol Inter Faith Group Bristol Multi-Faith Forum **Building Bridges in Burnley** Muslim-Christian Forum (Bury) Calderdale Interfaith Council Cambridge Inter-Faith Group Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action Cheltenham Inter Faith Cherwell Faith Forum Cleveland and Tees Valley Inter Faith Group Coventry Multi-Faith Forum

Coventry Multi-Faith Forum Crawley Interfaith Network Faiths Together in Croydon Cumbria Interfaith Forum Devon Faith and Belief Forum Doncaster Interfaith Dudley Borough Interfaith Network

Eastbourne Faiths Forum Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum Exeter Faith and Belief Group Gateshead Inter Faith Forum Hampshire Interfaith Network Harrow Interfaith

Hastings and District Interfaith Forum

Hillingdon Inter Faith Network Horsham Interfaith Forum Hounslow Friends of Faith Huddersfield Inter Faith Council Inter Faith Isle of Man

Inter-faith North/West (Northern Ireland) Islington Faiths Forum Keighley Interfaith Group Kingston Inter Faith Forum Kirklees Faiths Forum Faiths Together in Lambeth Lancashire Forum of Faiths Faith in Lancaster Leeds Concord Interfaith

Fellowship Leeds Faiths Forum Leicester Council of Faiths Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire

Loughborough Council of Faiths Luton Council of Faiths

Faith Network for Manchester Mansfield Interfaith Group Medway Inter Faith Action Forum

Forum
Merseyside Council of Faiths
Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)
Milton Keynes Council of Faiths
Newcastle Council of Faiths
Newham Association of Faiths
North Herts Faith Forum
North Kirklees Inter-Faith
Council

North Lincolnshire Multi Faith Partnership North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths

Northampton Inter Faith Forum Norwich InterFaith Link Nottingham Inter Faith Council Oldham Inter Faith Forum Oxford Round Table of Religions

Building Bridges Pendle
– Interfaith Community
Project

Peterborough Inter-Faith Council

Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity Portsmouth Inter Faith Forum Preston Faith Forum Redbridge Faith Forum Rochdale Multi Faith

Partnership Rugby Inter Faith Forum Sheffield Interfaith South London Inter Faith

South London Inter Faith Group

South Shropshire Interfaith Forum

Southampton Council of Faiths Southwark Multi Faith Forum Stafford and District Friends of Faith

Stratford-on-Avon Interfaith Forum

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource Faiths United (Tameside) Telford and Wrekin Interfaith

Torbay Interfaith Forum Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum

Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum Wandsworth Multi-Faith Network

Warwick District Faiths Forum Watford Inter Faith Association Wellingborough Inter Faith Group

Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group

Westminster Faith Exchange William Campbell-Taylor (City of London Interfaith) Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum

Wisbech Interfaith Forum Wolverhampton Inter Faith and Regeneration Network Worcestershire Inter-Faith

Forum
Wycombe Sharing of Faiths
York Interfaith Group

List as at the close of the 2015 AGM



Published 2016 by the Inter Faith Network for the UK (registered charity no 1068934 and company limited by guarantee no 3443823 registered in England)

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ISBN 1902906 62 4



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