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2016/2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

2016–17 has seen the work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK develop and strengthen in many ways. From supporting and encouraging inter faith initiatives, publishing resources, and sharing good practice, to assisting individuals and organisations up and down the country, IFN's work continues to go from strength to strength.

The year also saw IFN's 30th anniversary marked with a special National Meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London. We were delighted to welcome representatives of IFN member bodies, and so many that have made such significant contributions to our work and served over the past three decades. The day was both a celebration of what has been achieved thus far, and a chance to 'move forward together'.

Inter Faith Week has continued to be a key component of IFN's annual work, and 2016 saw the biggest Week yet, with more events held and more people reached than ever before. A new resource, Next Steps, was published to assist participants in Inter Faith Week to build on their experience and get further involved in interfaith activity.

IFN continues to work closely with its member bodies, across all four categories of membership, and their vital work continues. Information about IFN member bodies can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/members.

This was also a year that witnessed many tragic and painful events that tested interfaith relations in the UK. The challenges posed by the rise in hate crime since the EU referendum continued. Terrorist attacks on Westminster Bridge, at the Manchester Arena, in Finsbury Park and London Bridge, were terrible events that shook the nation. The response from faith communities was humbling and inspiring, as people across the country came together to denounce hatred in all its forms.

This Review contains a section on 'responding together', highlighting the many ways in which faith and inter faith bodies did just this. IFN published an updated edition of Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities. These events also reiterated the need for dialogue, and to this end, IFN also published a special dialoguefocused resource, Let's Talk.

The Grenfell tower fire in June was also one of the most terrible disasters in recent times. In the wake of this faith communities individually and collectively worked tirelessly to support those affected. This was a true testament to the power of inter faith cooperation in the most difficult circumstances.

We thank IFN's member bodies, Trustees, staff and volunteers, and our donors and funders, all of whom make IFN's work possible, for all of their hard work throughout the year. We do hope that readers of this review will consider making a donation to IFN to help us build a society where we live and work with a shared commitment to the common good.

We close this message by re-stating our unwavering commitment to building good relations between the faith communities of the UK and holding all those working for this in our thoughts and prayers. As IFN celebrates 30 years of work, we must also look forward to redoubling our efforts to build a society characterised by mutual respect, cooperation and understanding.





Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE Jatinder Singh Birdi

Co-Chairs 2016-17 The Inter Faith Network for the UK

ABOUT 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 interfaith organisations and academic and educational bodies with a focus on interfaith or multi-faith issues and working with them to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation as part of working for the common good.

This Review

This Annual Review highlights the work of the Inter Faith Network between the October 2016 AGM and the July 2017 AGM. It complements the formal Trustees' Report published as part of the Statutory Accounts which are available on the Charity Commission website.

IFN works for the public benefit and its work is wide-ranging, 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 IFN's member bodies makes its own contributions to inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK.

A list of member bodies can be found at the back of this Review and more can be found out about these in the member body section of IFN's website at www.interfaith.org.uk/members.

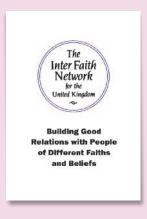
Our Vision

Our vision is of a society where there is understanding of the diversity and richness of the faith communities in the UK and the contribution that they make and where we live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

Our Mission

Working with faith communities, inter faith organisations, educators and others to increase understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and to widen public awareness of the distinctive religious traditions in the UK.

Working to achieve this through: supporting and encouraging interfaith initiatives and sharing good practice between these; helping create opportunities for mutual learning and tackling prejudice; and offering opportunity for engagement between faith communities and Government and other public agencies on relevant issues.



30TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL MEETING – 'MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER'



Participants in plenary discussion at the National Meeting

Photo: Lisa Bedi for IFN

The 2017 National Meeting for IFN member bodies took place in July at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Its theme was 'Moving Forward Together'. The day was chaired by the Co-Chairs of IFN, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Jatinder Singh Birdi.

The meeting celebrated the 30th Anniversary of IFN, which was founded in 1987. It looked forward and outward, and provided a focus for discussion on the future of inter faith relations in the UK and of how we live well together as people of different faiths as well as with people of non-religious beliefs. The meeting used some of the key publications and projects of IFN as a basis for discussion.

The day began with a minute's silence to remember all who lost their lives in recent terrorist attacks, and those working for good inter faith relations.

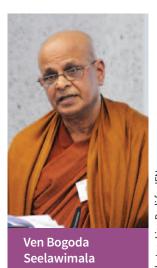
During the plenary session:

• Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director, Inter Faith Network for the UK, spoke on 'Past, present, future', reflecting on the contribution of IFN and its member bodies to interfaith relations in the UK across the last thirty years, in the present and into the future.









Photos: Lisa Bedi for IFN

Participants in workshop discussion at the **National Meeting**



Es Rosen, Barnet Multi Faith Forum, with Jenny Kartupelis MBE, World Congress of Faiths, and Rabbi Mark Solomon, London Society of Jews and Christians



Rajnish Kashyap, Hindu Council UK, with Minister David Bruton, Spiritualists' National Union

- · Rabbi Warren Elf, Development Officer, Faith Network for Manchester, spoke on the theme of 'Extremism, hatred and inter faith relations', reflecting on faith and inter faith responses to the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena in May 2017.
- · Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi, student at the London School of Economics and former committee member, Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship, reflected on the importance of developing skills for playing an active role in a multi faith society.
- Rudi Eliott Lockhart, Chief Executive, Religious **Education Council of England and Wales**, offered reflections on the critical importance of Religious Education in 21st century Britain and spoke about the significance of the long term relationship between the RE Council and the Inter Faith Network for the UK and their mutually strengthening work.
- Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE, Chair, British Muslim Forum and MINAB and IFN Trustee, reflected on the critical importance of inter faith dialogue - both bilateral and multilateral at all levels - and IFN's contribution to encouraging
- Zoe Amar, Director, Zoe Amar Communications, spoke about 'Communicating in the digital world' and how digital communication opens up new possibilities for engagement and why it is important to use it wisely and effectively.
- Vinaya Sharma, General Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK, and Committee member, Redbridge Faith Forum, talked about 'Cooperation for the common good', reflecting from her national and local experience on the importance of faith communities working together on social issues through routes such as Sewa Day.
- Andrzej Wdowiak, Assistant Director, Caritas Westminster, approached the topic of 'Cooperation for the Common Good' through the work of his organisation in promoting parishbased social action in the Catholic Diocese of Westminster, including its response to the Grenfell Tower fire and its Bakhita House programme which provides women escaping from human trafficking with the safety and support to begin the recovery process.

Photo: Lisa Bedi for IFN



Phiroza Gan-Kotwal, Harrow Interfaith, with Sabhira Lakha, World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities

 Reflections on the themes of the day were offered in the afternoon by Ven Bogoda Seelawimala, Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha GB and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; The Revd James Breslin, United Reformed Church and Newcastle Council of Faiths and IFN Trustee; Mohinder Singh Chana, Bradford Concord Interfaith Society and Network of Sikh Organisations and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; and Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland and IFN Trustee.

Closing reflections were given by IFN's Co-Chairs, The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Jatinder Singh Birdi.

Discussion groups were held on the following topics:

- 'Engaging faith communities on social issues' with presentations from Kirit Mistry, Co-Chair, National Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance (NBTA) and Angela Ditchfield, Diversity Lead Nurse, Organ Donation and Transplantation,
- · 'Youth and inter faith engagement', with a presentation from Sean Turnbull, ParliaMentors Programme, 3FF.
- 'Opening up difficult dialogues, engaging with tough topics', with a presentation by Dr Justine Huxley, Director, St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.



Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director, IFN

- 'The safety and security of our faith communities', with a presentation from Edit Bori, then Deputy Head of Security and Emergency Planning, Westminster Abbey and Faith Sector Lead, National Counter Terrorism Security Office.
- 'Developing guidance to reflect and support the vital work of local inter faith organisations', with presentations from Sarah Mar, Cheltenham Interfaith; Tarang Shelat, Birmingham Council of Faiths; John Marder, Crawley Interfaith Network; Bessie White, Hounslow Friends of Faith; Elizabeth Chappell, Islington Faiths Forum; and William Duncan, Northampton Inter Faith Forum.
- 'Social media', with a presentation from Zoe Amar, Director, Zoe Amar Communications.



Marie van der Zyl, Board of Deputies of British Jews, with William Duncan, Northampton Inter-Faith Forum; and Vinaya Sharma, Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK



 'Sharing of good practice internationally', with a presentation from Dr Samuel Everett, Co-lead researcher on the Woolf Institute 'Trust in Crisis' research project.

The following facilitated and served as rapporteurs: Patricia Stoat, Nottingham Inter Faith Council; Sabira Lakha, World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Naomi Jacobs, The Druid Network; Malcolm Deboo, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and Co-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; Rabbi David Mason, Board of Deputies of British Jews and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; Mustafa Field MBE, Faiths Forum for London; The Revd Canon Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Forum and IFN Trustee;

Dr Norman Richardson MBE, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and IFN Trustee; Mike Stygal, Vice-President, Pagan Federation and IFN Trustee; Julie Jones, Inter-Faith Council for Wales and IFN Trustee; Vijay Krishnarayan, Director-General, Commonwealth Foundation; and Dr Harshad Sanghrajka MBE, Institute of Jainology.

A full report on the National Meeting can be downloaded at

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/moving-forwardtogether-report-of-the-30th-anniversary-national-m eeting-of-

Feedback from National Meeting participants:

"The day was interesting, informative and very worthwhile - good to meet everybody and share this special anniversary"

SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL UNION

"Celebrating an anniversary is always something to look forward to and the enthusiasm of the speakers for IFN did not disappoint"

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND FAITHS FORUM

"It was a wonderful meeting, well organised, well attended and well managed"

MOSQUES AND IMAMS NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

"A superb day of energy and engagement" **DEVON FAITH AND BELIEF FORUM**









Photos: Lisa Bedi for IFN

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER FAITH **NETWORK FOR THE UK**

As noted previously, the National Meeting in July marked 30 years since the founding of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, in 1987. This was incorporated into the theme of the day, 'Moving Forward Together', and was marked at lunch time with a special presentation. The day celebrated 30 years of IFN and its member bodies working together for inter faith understanding and cooperation, but also looked forward and outward to the future of inter faith relations in the UK.

Formal thanks were first offered to the member bodies of the Inter Faith Network, who ensure that together we are stronger and better able to respond to the needs of our multi faith society by working with one another to build inter faith understanding and cooperation and to strengthen good interfaith relations.

There were a number of specially invited short reflections on behalf of various sections of IFN's membership.

 Dr Norman Richardson MBE, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum – on behalf of the inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations





A special cake to mark the 30th anniversary of the Inter Faith Network for the UK

Photo: Lisa Bedi for IFN



A selection of photographs taken from IFN's work since its launch in 1987



A selection of photographs taken from IFN's work since its launch in 1987

- Dr Ankur Barua, Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme – on behalf of Educational and Academic member bodies
- · Rabbi Mark Solomon, London Society of Jews and Christians – on behalf of National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations
- Sabira Lakha World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League on behalf of National Faith Community Representative Bodies
- Phiroza Gan-Kotwal, Harrow Interfaith, and Chan Parmar, Bolton Inter Faith Council – on behalf of local interfaith organisations

There were then formal thanks offered to:

• The Most Revd Father Olu Abiola OBE, Mr Nitin Palan MBE and Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE on behalf of all past Trustees, including many who had served over a number of years and many of whom continue to make their contribution to good inter faith relations either directly to IFN or through other routes

- Ms Celia Blackden, who was visiting from the Focolare Centre in Rome, on behalf of those Trustees sadly no longer with us, but whose service gave tremendous support to IFN's work over many years. This included the long and valuable service of Bishop Charles Henderson to whom she had been personal assistant
- Mr Brian Pearce OBE as founding Director and on behalf of all past staff, volunteers and supporters, who was thanked for his significant contribution to IFN. Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE was also thanked earlier in the meeting for his contribution as a founding Officer of IFN as he was unable to be present for the presentations. Presentation photographs were given to Mr Pearce and Lord Singh

A special anniversary cake was then cut in celebration by all those who were thanked or offered reflections.

Special display boards featuring photographs from across IFN's three decades of work were also on display during breaks in plenary.

RESPONDING TOGETHER

During the period covered by this review, a number of terrorist attacks took place which had a significant impact on communities in the UK: Westminster Bridge in March; Manchester Arena in May; and London Bridge and Finsbury Park in June.

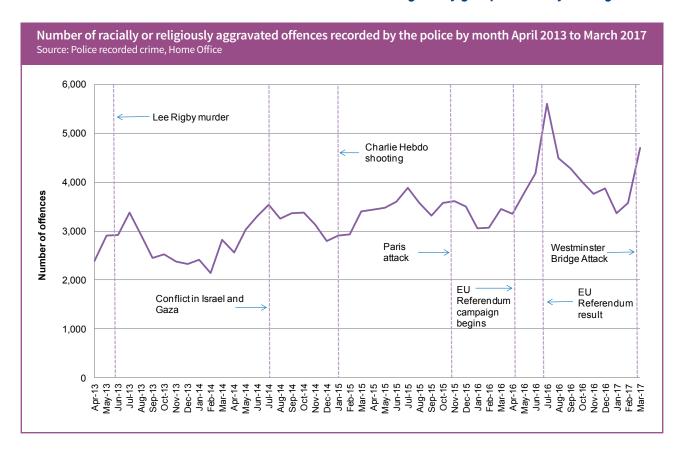
Hate crime linked to religious and racial identity continued to be a major issue during the year. This was against a backdrop of a rise in hate crime. For England and Wales, for example, the number of hate crimes in England and Wales increased by 29%, according to Home Office statistics. The Home Office also noted a spike in hate crime around the time of the EU referendum and rises after the Westminster Bridge, Manchester Arena and London Bridge attacks.

IFN supported and encouraged inter faith and multifaith responses, through being in touch with relevant bodies at key points and making connections to help strengthen the response, making statements, sharing of news, provision of guidance and highlighting relevant programmes such as the Government's fund for places of worship, the recipients of which were announced in November 2016.

Responding to terrorists' abuse of religion and attempts to divide

The statements by the Co-Chairs and the Moderators of the Faith Communities Forum conveyed strongly the significance of responding together as one, expressing a collective condemnation of violent and hateful acts in the name of religion and disavowing purported religious justification by terrorists, violent extremists and those that commit hate crimes. They were widely shared and used. All statements and messages from the Co-Chairs can be seen at www.interfaith.org.uk/news/statements-andmessages. Some extracts are reproduced here:

"Terrorism is profoundly at odds with the values of our faith traditions and the values at the heart of British society. We deplore and condemn it. Attacks of this kind are designed to disrupt our society and to undermine the relationships within it. Let us resist this at all costs and stand together in unity. Let us also watch out for the wellbeing of any groups who may be targeted





because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them. There is no place for prejudice and hatred of that kind and where it is found, let us redouble efforts to combat it."

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING WESTMINSTER ATTACKS IN LONDON

"We deplore and condemn this wanton, brutal and cowardly taking of the lives of young and old. Let us stand together to oppose terrorism and the ideologies that promote it. Let us also uphold and strengthen the unity of our society and work to ensure that it is a positive and harmonious one where all children and young people can grow up safely and without fear. It is vital that we - of every age and background - work to build bridges and positive relationships and to enable difficult issues to be addressed and worked on always seeking to avoid the use of violence to resolve issues. We know that each time a



terrorist attack occurs, groups within society become the target of abuse or even attack because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them. We must stand, likewise, against this. An attack on one is an attack on all."

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING MANCHESTER ARENA ATTACK

"We must continue to work together for a respectful and positive society where people feel valued and included and safe and where all can flourish free from fear. Attacks such as these can bring scapegoating and acts of hatred in their wake. Let us work to try and prevent that and respond together to assist wherever necessary. We know that, just as following the recent attack in Manchester, inter faith organisations in London will be playing an important role in the days and weeks to come. They are also in our thoughts at this time."

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING LONDON BRIDGE **ATTACK**

"Where terrorism seeks to wear the face of religion, or where innocent people connected to mosques or other places of worship are the subject of hatred and attack because of perceived links to terrorism, we must stand up for their safety and their right to live free from prejudice, suspicion and hatred. We must continue to stand together, support each other and work together for the common good."

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING FINSBURY PARK **ATTACK**

Note: In urgent situations, the Co-Chairs and the Moderators of the Faith Communities Forum may make a joint statement in their capacities as Officers of IFN and representatives of the Faith Communities Forum respectively, and on their own behalf, which does not then commit member bodies. Statements can be made on events that affect inter faith relations in the UK, or on overseas events when these directly affect relations between faith communities in this country.



Guidance

In April IFN published *Looking after one another: The* safety and security of our faith communities in partnership with the then Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs Council.

The document was sent to all member bodies, to local authorities and was also shared on IFN's website and on social media. It contains guidance on:

- responding jointly to attacks on places of worship;
- working for calm at times of tension;
- · how and where to report hate incidents, cyberattacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity;
- · where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and
- · where to find information about working to build - and strengthen - good interfaith relations locally.

"This practical guidance will give people of all faiths confidence to stand up to the perpetrators of hate crime. We need to work together to tackle all forms of prejudice."

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER FOR FAITH

"It is important that Britain's many communities work in partnership, particularly in times of difficulty such as after a terrorist attack - so the Inter Faith Network's timely advice is very welcome."

SARAH NEWTON, THEN MINISTER FOR VULNERABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND COUNTERING EXTREMISM

"Looking After One Another is an excellent guide to ensuring that we all look after each other and all stand together"

CMDR MAK CHISHTY, FORMERLY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL

Looking After One Another can be downloaded on the Inter Faith Network website at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-oneanother-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-comm unities-2017.

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SHARING GOOD **PRACTICE**

An important way that IFN helps to increase awareness of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in the UK and to promote good relations between people of different faiths is through providing information and advice.

During this period IFN continued to act as a key source of advice and information on interfaith issues in the UK, working with its member bodies to do so, and providing contact details to assist in connecting enquirers with those who may be best able to help them. As well as individual members of the public, organisations using this service during the period included Government Departments, local authorities, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, educational institutions and the media.

IFN helps through its telephone helpline and also has an online enquiry form. Increasingly enquiries and requests for help also come in through Facebook and Twitter.

The nature of IFN's work means that a number of its conversations with enquirers are ones where people have rung on a confidential basis because they are seeking advice on handling a particular issue affecting inter faith relations in their area.

In some cases, IFN staff are involved with projects on a longer term basis, where this is seen as fitting with IFN's aims and helping to carry these out. For example, this year has seen continued engagement with the Equality and Diversity Forum, the Near Neighbours Programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England, and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.

Staff visits and attendance at events are also an important part of this work of keeping people in touch and sharing good practice. These included attending the launch of the Great British Chai Party and International Women's Day event at the House of Commons; speaking at an event held by the Inter Faith Forum for Leciestershire; attending an event at the St Ethelburga's Centre on 'Envisioning a post-Brexit future together: an intergenerational dialogue'; and participating in a radio interview on Premier Radio about the attack at Finsbury Park Mosque and interfaith relations.



ENQUIRIES

Here are just a few of the types of enquiries to which IFN has responded this year...

- Can you give me some advice on starting a young peoples' inter faith group in my local area?
- How do I go about setting up a local inter faith organisation where I live?
- Where can I find volunteering opportunities at inter faith organisations?
- Can you provide me with any support or materials to assist with interfaith understanding in the workplace?
- How many local inter faith groups are there in London, and how does this compare to a decade ago?
- What inter faith events are happening in my local area?
- · I regularly organise training for the company I work for. Can you tell me which dates I should avoid due to events linked with religion and belief?
- An opportunity has arisen for us to create a local multi faith space. Can you provide any guidance as to what it should contain?
- Can you let me know how I can contact national faith community bodies to invite speakers to an event?

E-BULLETIN

IFN produces a bi-monthly e-bulletin packed with news about inter faith projects and resources and with updates about key faith and public life developments. It is sent to subscribers and is also available on the IFN website. Readership increased during the year. Members of the public can subscribe to the E-Bulletin on the homepage of the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/#signup.

"What an amazing compendium!"

"Thanks for this wonderful Newsletter, packed with masses of useful information and news."

E-BULLETIN READERS

CIRCULARS

IFN issued Circulars throughout the year to draw member bodies' attention to a wide range of issues and opportunities. They helped to keep members in touch with relevant faith and public life issues, Inter Faith Network news, and the work of other relevant bodies, such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission. 34 circulars were sent during the period covered by this review.

WEBSITES

IFN's websites are a very important way of providing information, advice and sharing good practice. IFN has two websites: www.interfaith.org.uk, which is its main organisational website, and www.interfaithweek.org for its Inter Faith Week programme.

A newly structured and designed Inter Faith Week website was launched in October in time for Inter Faith Week 2016 (see page 30) and a new Inter Faith Network website followed in February 2017. The new websites have many additional features and, at the same time, have been designed for clarity and simplicity of use.

"The website was much easier to use this year both to add events and to see what was going on." INTER FAITH WEEK WEBSITE USER

TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

IFN runs separate Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Inter Faith Network and Inter Faith Week.

Twitter and Facebook are two of the most widely used ways that social media users learn about inter faith news and opportunities. During this period, IFN increased its use of these significantly.

"The Inter Faith Network plays a crucial role in increasing understanding between faith communities and underpinning community cohesion. I hope that it can continue to emphasise the shared values between faith communities which are far greater than differences."

FACEBOOK REVIEW, APRIL 2017

Some significant tweets from this period included:



LET'S TALK: PRACTICAL POINTERS FOR INTER FAITH DIALOGUE



Part of living well together in a diverse society is being able to mix and to have conversations about what matters to us – including about difficult issues. In the course of the year, IFN worked with its member bodies to create a special resource to encourage fruitful dialogue.

Let's Talk - Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue contains sections on:

- · Why dialogue?
- An overview of dialogue in the UK, and its varieties
- The practicalities of dialogue
- How to approach difficult issues
- · Widening the circle of dialogue

The resource is designed for people wanting to get involved in inter faith dialogue for the first time as well as those working to develop or deepen particular forms of dialogue on behalf of an organisation or community. It includes short reflections and practical examples to inspire and encourage further discussion and engagement.

Let's Talk can be downloaded on the IFN website at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/lets-talk-practicalpointers-for-inter-faith-dialogue.

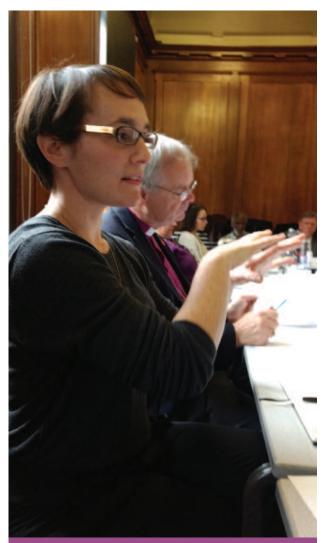


Buddhist Organisations, and Dr Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland, promoting Let's Talk

"The Inter Faith Network's recent publication Let's Talk has been produced as a practical guide for those wanting to get involved in inter faith dialogue. It is the fruit of this organisation's experience in engaging across over 200 member bodies. Though it shares short reflections and practical examples, I believe the heart of this publication touches on why dialogue is important."

MAULANA M SHAHID RAZA OBF

FAITH COMMUNITIES AND COMMON ACTION



Hannah Gregory, then Head of Partnership Team, Resettlement Programme, Home Office, presenting at the November FCF meeting





Rabbi David Mason, Board of Deputies of British Jews and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; and Dr Shuja Shafi, Muslim Council of Britain

National Faith Community Representative Bodies in membership of IFN share a commitment to working for the wellbeing of wider society and to developing inter faith understanding and cooperation. All such bodies have their own programmes of work and patterns of engagement with other communities, as well as with Government and other agencies.































































Daniela Pears, Mitzvah Day, presenting to the **November FCF meeting**

Multi faith engagement on these issues is not a substitute for these. At the same time, there is great value in the faith communities discussing collectively, on a regular basis, issues of common concern and exchanging information about their programmes of work. The Faith Communities Forum (FCF) is the IFN framework which provides the opportunity for this form of engagement on inter faith and faith and public life issues.

Meetings of the Forum took place in November 2016 and in March and May 2017. Each meeting included sharing of news and information about National Faith Community Representative Bodies' own work and particular issues of concern.

On the agenda were a wide range of issues including:

Participants in dialogue at the November FCF meeting

- The inter faith activity of national faith community representative bodies.
- The Government's response to the refugee crisis, including a presentation from Hannah Gregory, then Head of Partnership Team, Resettlement Programmes, Home Office, on the Government's response to the Syrian refugee crisis and the development of a community sponsorship programme.
- Special social action days, with presentations from Vinaya Sharma, General Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK, on Sewa Day; and Daniella Pears, Interfaith Chair, Mitzvah Day, on Mitzvah Day and Mitzvah 365.
- Discussion of the Casey Review report with a presentation from Dr Karen Jochelson, Director, Economy and Employment Programme, Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- Discussion of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance on religion and belief in the workplace, with a presentation from Kathleen Jameson, Project Manager, Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- Guidance for faith communities on hustings and canvassing for the General Election.
- The Government's consultation on 'Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law'.
- The Great Get Together, with a presentation from Mike Buckley, Head of Faith Engagement, The Jo Cox Foundation.

Following a request from members of the Forum last year to learn more about different faith perspectives, IFN continued building into FCF Agenda Items a short reflection, relating to the Agenda theme, from a representative of a different faith community member body about its bases for engaging. The meetings across the period covered by this review included reflections from Rabbi David Mason, Board of Deputies for British Jews, on bases within the Jewish tradition for responding to the refugee crisis; from Karl Wightman, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i's of the United Kingdom, on bases within the Baha'i tradition for inter faith engagement; and from Bessie White, Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations, on bases within the Quaker tradition for working for a just and peaceful world.

ADDING VALUE TO THE IMPORTANT WORK OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH **ORGANISATIONS**





































































Among IFN's member bodies are interfaith organisations and programmes whose work is carried out at UK or national level or which, while regionally focused, are used by people across the country. They are important resources for people who want to get involved in inter faith activity.

A number of these, such as the Joseph Interfaith Foundation, work primarily with particular religious traditions; others, such as Religions for Peace UK, work with people of any religion or belief. Some of the organisations have a particular area of focus for their work such as the Women's Interfaith Network. Others, such as Christians Aware Faith Awareness Programme, are initiatives run by a particular faith tradition and have a focus on the engagement of these with wider society but seek also to increase understanding between and about faiths beyond their tradition.

IFN adds value to the work of these organisations through making it known and through sharing information and ideas through its meetings and its e-bulletin and social media.

A meeting for member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations took place in London in June. This was for both these bodies and IFN member bodies in the Educational and Academic Bodies category to discuss their use of arts and culture for inter faith engagement. A presentation on this topic was given by Barbara Bennett from Cambridge Inter-faith Programme. Other topics of discussion included updates on member bodies' current inter faith work, including key projects and responses to recent terrorist attacks: and IFN matters such as Inter Faith Week and the update of the Connect youth inter faith action guide.

INTER FAITH LINKING BODIES

The Inter Faith Network links in membership the national interfaith linking bodies of the devolved nations: Interfaith Scotland; the Inter-Faith Council for Wales; and the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum. These are represented on IFN's Board. IFN works closely with these bodies and each year convenes a meeting with them to enable sharing of news and good practice.

The annual meetings rotate between Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The 2017 meeting took place in June, hosted by the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum at Clonard Monastery in Belfast. Clonard has an important place in the history of the peace process in Northern Ireland and a member of its Peace and Reconciliation Mission gave participants a special guided tour.

Issues on the agenda included security and hate crime; how to involve young people in inter faith activity; and using Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week in 2017 as a platform for interfaith dialogue.



Inter Faith Network UK meeting today with @InterfaithScot @ IF Council Wales and Northern Ireland IF Forum at @ClonardMBelfast #interfaith



Great to be at the National Interfaith Organisations annual meeting - good relations being discussed for all UK



Above: Participants in discussion at the Belfast meeting of national interfaith linking bodies

Below: A Jewish News article about the meeting of national inter faith linking bodies in Belfast

Interfaith leaders meet at Northern Ireland monastary known for peace building



Participants at the June link meeting at the Clonard Monastery in Belfast

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT

'Good inter faith relations' is about people. It is about how all of us get on with our neighbours and contribute to shaping the world around us. For people of different faiths that includes expressing their faith through their day to day life and finding ways to live well with those of other faiths and beliefs. Local inter faith groups play a significant role in helping this happen at grassroots level.

There are currently around 250 local inter faith organisations spread across all four nations of the UK. Some link many faiths; others, such as local branches of the Council of Christians and Jews, have a focus on building good relations between particular faiths in a local area.1

IFN supports this grassroots activity through support and advice. It does that through responding to enquiries, visiting and speaking with groups and by enabling practitioners to share insights and practical learning through attending meetings and contributing to resources. This helps strengthen their programmes and, through this, the local communities in which they operate.





What are local inter faith organisations?

Local inter faith organisations bring people of different faiths together in a specific area or locality. They vary in their makeup and programmes but their work usually includes some or all of the following activities:

- · Promoting inter faith understanding through discussion/dialogue
- Joint social action projects
- Visits to places of worship
- · Faith trails and multi faith walks or pilgrimages
- Educational events or exhibitions
- Assisting on multi faith civic ceremonies
- Shared meals
- Inter Faith Week events
- Providing speakers to help school children learn about different faiths from practitioners as part of **Religious Education**
- · Working to prevent community tensions and also to respond to these when necessary
- · Enabling and supporting joint responses to major events
- Diversity training
- · Providing advice and assistance to public bodies





Sharing good practice person to person

IFN held a day event in Bristol in March for local inter faith practitioners from anywhere in the UK to share experiences, discuss issues of common interest and have focused learning opportunities about practical aspects of developing successful inter faith programmes. Topics included:

- the importance of local inter faith work
- work in schools to increase religious literacy
- use of Inter Faith Week for cooperation and outreach
- funding and resourcing local inter faith work
- reaching out and growing involvement
- using social media and digital communication for greater impact







FEEDBACK

100% of respondents who gave feedback on the day said that they had found the day to be interesting and worthwhile.

"...every presentation was different, they were all excellent"

"Very well run with time for everyone to participate and contribute"

"It was a good event and very encouraging..."

The day was facilitated by IFN's Executive Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree. Presenters and facilitators included: Michael Berkson, Cambridge Inter-Faith Group; Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network for the UK and Warwick District Faiths Forum; The Revd Dr Mark Dimond, South Cardiff Interfaith Network; The Revd Canon Dr John Hall,



Paul Hazelden, Bristol Multi Faith Forum and Cllr Chaz Singh, Plymouth Council of Faiths and The



Mohamed Yousuf Parekh, Stafford and District Friends of Faith; and Kate Hannan, Devon Faith and Belief Forum



Representatives of Devon Faith and Belief Forum, Exeter Faith and Belief Group and Plymouth Council of Faiths presenting at IFN day event



Devon Faith and Belief Forum and IFN Trustee; The Revd Tracey Lewis, Bristol Multi Faith Forum; Sarah Mar, Cheltenham Interfaith; Dr Abdalla Yassin Mohamed OBE, Newport Interfaith Group; Ravindra Nathwani, Exeter Faith and Belief Group; Bernard Omar, Bristol Inter Faith Group; Farzana Saker, West Wiltshire Multi Faith Forum; Cllr Chaz Singh, Plymouth Council of Faiths and the Turban Project; and Patricia Stoat, Nottingham Inter Faith Council.

IFN encouraged the use of social media throughout the event, with participants using the hashtag #IFNlocal.

A full report of the event is available for download on the IFN website at

www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/ifn-day-event-forlocal-inter-faith-practitioners-a-short-report-bristolmarch-2017

Sharing local inter faith experience and good practice: An event to mark Inter Faith Week

During Inter Faith Week 2016 (see page 30) the All Party Parliamentary Interfaith Group, with IFN, held a special event at the Houses of Parliament on the theme of 'Sharing local inter faith experience and good practice'.

Inter faith engagement at local level is increasingly important. It is of many kinds: from one off initiatives to organisations which work across the years to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation in their areas. Discussion at this event



Mike Stygal, Pagan Federation and Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi

highlighted the work of local inter faith bodies, with three examples of very different groups working with people of many backgrounds on issues from youth, to refugee support, hate crime and mental health, as well as increasing religious literacy.

The meeting was opened by the Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Interfaith Group, Lord Harries of Pentregarth and Sir Peter Bottomley MP, with a welcome to all present. Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network for the UK, also offered some opening reflections.

Presenters from three local inter faith organisations offered reflections on their work and its importance. These were:

- Rabbi Warren Elf and the Revd Andy Williams, Faith Network for Manchester
- Jacquie Grieve and Vinaya Sharma, Redbridge Faiths Forum
- Lynnda Wardle and Mohamed Omar, Interfaith Glasgow



Jacquie Grieve and Vinaya Sharma, Redbridge **Faiths Forum**



Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network for the UK in discussion with parliamentarians

The event was attended by a wide range of parliamentarians, from both Houses of Parliament, and local inter faith practitioners from across the UK.

"Supporting, encouraging and advocating for local inter faith groups is a key part of the work of the Inter Faith Network. We do this not just through Inter Faith Week but year round."

JATINDER SINGH BIRDI, CO-CHAIR, INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK



Presentations at All Party Parliamentary Interfaith Group and Inter Faith Network for the UK Inter Faith Week

EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS LITERACY

IFN's member bodies include a number of educational and academic bodies which, in different ways, work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. Some are specialist academic institutions researching aspects of inter faith relations and others are educational bodies with a focus on particular areas, such as Religious Education in schools.

Meeting of Educational and Academic Bodies

As noted on p 21, the Educational and Academic Bodies in membership of IFN met with National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations in June. The focus of the meeting was on the role of arts and culture in promoting inter faith learning and engagement.

Barbara Bennett, Cambridge Inter Faith Programme (CIP) spoke about the work being done in conjunction with Southbank Centre's programme of activity called Belief and Beyond Belief. The programme looked at what it is to be human and the role of belief through art. Rudolf Eliott Lockhart, RE Council of England and Wales, updated members on the work of the Commission on RE which is an independent commission set up by the RE Council to review the legal and policy frameworks for RE, and the academisation programme's impact on RE in England.





















Inter Faith Week

The meeting also included an opportunity for updates on member bodies' current inter faith work, including key projects and responses to recent terrorist attacks; and IFN matters such as Inter Faith Week and the update of the Connect youth inter faith action guide.

Learning Together resources

In 2016-17 a special strand of IFN's work was 'Learning Together'. During the year IFN added a new section to its website, entitled 'Education', which includes information about the contours of Religious Education provision in the UK, including



information about different types of schools and about Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs). This was developed in consultation with bodies in IFN's Educational and Academic category of membership which work in the field of RE. It can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/education and includes the following sections:

- Religious Education across the UK
- Types of schools and their Religious Education across the UK
- Understanding SACREs

Emphasising the importance of RE and highlighting religious literacy

The importance of Religious Education as part of developing a society marked by mutual understanding and religious literacy has always been recognised strongly by IFN.

At IFN's 30th Anniversary National Meeting in July Rudolf Eliott Lockhart, Chief Executive, Religious Education Council of England and Wales, offered plenary reflections on the critical importance of Religious Education in 21st century Britain and spoke about the significance of the long term relationship between the RE Council and the Inter Faith Network for the UK and their mutually strengthening work.

A presentation was included at the local inter faith practitioners day in Bristol in March on 'Working to increase religious literacy and counter prejudice'. This highlighted the important part that local inter faith initiatives play in countering prejudice and increasing understanding about different faiths and beliefs. A joint presentation was made by Canon Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Group and Trustee, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Ravindra Nathwani, Exeter Faith and Belief Group; and Cllr Chaz Singh, Plymouth Council of Faiths and the Turban Project.







INTER FAITH WEEK

THE AIMS OF INTER FAITH WEEK ARE TO:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase 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
- · Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

Inter Faith Week takes place each year in November.

Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK.

Having a special Week provides a focal point, helping to open inter faith activity up to a wider audience so that more and more people are made aware of the importance of this vital work and are able to participate in it.

The Inter Faith Week programme is a key part of IFN's work.

The Week was first held in England and Wales during 2009, with Northern Ireland participating for the first time in 2010. IFN works closely with the national inter faith linking bodies of these nations on the Week. The pioneering Scottish Interfaith Week has taken place since 2004 and is led by Interfaith Scotland. More information can be found at www.scottishinterfaithweek.org.

Inter Faith Week 2016 ran from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November.





The preparation, support and promotion of the Week was an important part of IFN's work in the months leading up to the Week including publicity, research, posting events to the event map on the Inter Faith Week website, and encouraging media interest.

Messages of encouragement were offered in advance of the week by The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister; The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; and Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with responsibility for Faith and Integration at the then Department for Communities and Local Government.



Top row:

School pupils light candles at the launch of Inter Faith Week in Birmingham

(Photo: Birmingham Council of Faiths)

Organisers at the 'Indian Soldiers' event held by Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and the Golden **Tours Foundation in Harrow** (Photo: V Kumar Photography)

Participants at the 3FF ParliaMentors' Interfaith **Summit**

(Photo: 3FF)

Discussion on Faith and Health in Tower Hamlets (Photo: Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum)

Awards ceremony of the annual 'Faith Through a Lens' photography competition (Photo: Faith Through a Lens/Congregational Insurance)

Bottom row:

Multi faith football tournament organised by Shapla Sports and Sporting Equals in Bradford (Photo: Shapla Sports)

Noor-ul-Islam and Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum's 'Interfaith Friends Dinner' (Photo: IFN)

A 'Speed Faithing' event organised by Leeds **University Student Union**

(Photo: Leeds University Interfaith)

Stafford and District Friends of Faith 'Festival of Peace'

(Photo: Stafford and District Friends of Faith)

A tour of Bristol Progressive Synagogue during Bristol Multi Faith Forum's 'Faith Walk' (Photo: IFN)





Students from Bradford University on a Faith Walk

"Inter Faith Week is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the incredible diversity and richness of faith communities in Britain. It is also a chance for people of all faiths to come together and to highlight the invaluable contribution they collectively make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society".

THE RT HON THERESA MAY MP, PRIME MINISTER

"Inter Faith Week is all about bringing people together to help improve understanding of different faiths and to share what we have in common. I hope lots of people will get involved and celebrate the different faiths that make up British life".

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP. THEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"We are greatly enriched by the diversity of faiths that call our country home, all of whom play an integral part in their local communities. Inter Faith Week is a terrific way for people to learn from one another and celebrate the tremendous amount we have in common".

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH, MINISTER FOR FAITH AT THE THEN DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL **GOVERNMENT**



Photo: Bolton Muslim Girls' School

Interfaith Council

More events were held to mark the Week than ever before. It was a time for finding out more about each other's faiths and beliefs, getting involved in multi faith social action projects and enjoying many cultural and social events.

A full colour, illustrated report on Inter Faith Week 2016 can be downloaded from the Inter Faith Week website at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/interfaith-week-stories-from-2016-inspiration-for-2017.

New for 2016

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit, developed and published in the earlier part of 2016, was available to participants in the Week for the first time. The Toolkit was widely used to assist with planning events, and provided inspiration to people and organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds. The Toolkit can be downloaded on the Inter Faith Week website at

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit.

In October 2016 a new Inter Faith Week website was also launched. The new website was designed to a higher security specification and to be more attractive and easier to use. Feedback on the latter has been positive.

Also in 2016, by agreement, Scottish Interfaith Week events were listed on the events map of the Inter Faith Week website for the first time.

Remembering Together

For the first time, the Inter Faith Network for the UK Board of Trustees decided that Inter Faith Week 2016 would begin on Remembrance Sunday, encouraging people of different backgrounds to mark it together, particularly at this time of commemorating the centenary of the First World War in which people of many faiths and beliefs served.

A number of remembrance events took place to mark the Week, some in places of worship, some at war memorials and in other public spaces. Many organisations were involved. There were also events that focused on particular aspects of remembrance,



such as the historic contribution of ethnic minority

Some events were also organised with a focus on peace or non-violence through services and vigils or celebrations and festivals.

Events and activities

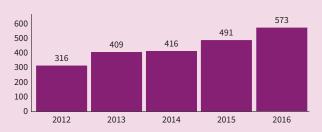
573 events are known to have taken place across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to mark Inter Faith Week 2016. This was the biggest Week to date, and builds on steady growth over recent years.

A wide variety of events took place, including multi faith Remembrance events; peace and non-violence events; activities highlighting the arts, culture and music of the UK's faith communities: celebrations and festivals; pilgrimages, walks, faith trails and open door days; dialogues and discussions; events at higher and further educations institutions; those promoting increased religious literacy; school activities; social action projects; sporting activities; women's events; those held by local authorities and public agencies; national events and initiatives; and special projects in the media, online and on social media. Week-long programmes of events were held in many towns and cities.

IFN continued to serve as an associate, alongside Churches Together in England, for the 'Faith Through a Lens' photography competition run by Congregational Insurance, the awards ceremony for which was held during the Week.

The chart at the top of the next page shows a breakdown of events held during the Week by type. The Inter Faith Week website also included events by category for those interested in specific types of event. Many events fall into multiple categories, so the numbers on the chart do not add up to the total number of events. Some examples of events in these categories can be found at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/2016-snapshots.

GROWTH IN EVENTS



A full list of events can be found at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faithweek-2016-list-of-events-and-activities.

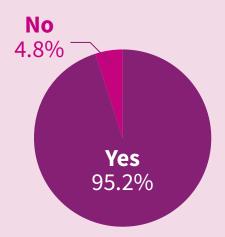
The Week was marked by over 560 organisations of many kinds, including local faith communities; local, national and regional interfaith organisations; chaplaincies; schools, HE and FE organisations; and many more. Event organisers did not always list every partner, so it is likely that more organisations took part than are listed.

As shown in the chart at the bottom of the next page, the organisations varied widely by type. (The figure only includes named organisations that IFN is certain took part in the arrangement of an event/activity.) Events run jointly by several organisations were a common feature of the Week.

"Inter Faith Week encourages you to link with other faith based organisations to jointly work on a project and organise activities. It bonds people of different faiths together for the common good."

ZOROASTRIAN TRUST FUNDS OF EUROPE

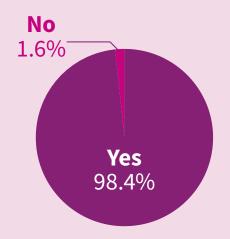
SURVEY O: DID YOUR INTER FAITH WEEK **ACTIVITY HELP YOU TO ENGAGE NEW PEOPLE?**



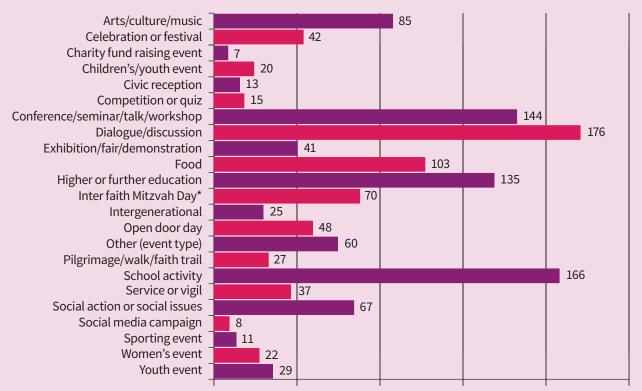
SURVEY Q: DID YOUR INTER FAITH WEEK ACTIVITY HELP YOU TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT/INTERACTION BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT **BACKGROUNDS?**



SURVEY Q: DOES INTER FAITH WEEK ADD VALUE TO THE WORK THAT YOU DO?



INTER FAITH WEEK 2016 EVENT TYPES



^{*}Mitzvah Day 2016 took place on Sunday 27 November. Because this year it fell a week after Inter Faith Week, its many events with an inter faith dimension are not included (as they were in previous years). However, a small number of Mitzvah Day events which were held early, during Inter Faith Week, are reflected in the chart above.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION MARKING INTER FAITH WEEK 2016



Inter faith learning, dialogue and cooperation: Next steps

A new resource was developed during the autumn of 2016, published at the end of Inter Faith Week: Inter faith learning, dialogue and cooperation: Next

The resource was developed in the context of Inter Faith Week. Every year thousands of people meet and take part in projects with people of different faiths and beliefs - many for the first time. This resource points to the 'next steps' that people can take after Inter Faith Week – or at any time – if they are interested in interfaith dialogue, learning and multi faith cooperation.

The resource provides information about the various ways in which someone might get involved in inter faith conversation, learning or multi faith

social action, as well as the kinds of bodies that might be helpful to contact, and the activities and resources they are likely to provide. A list of IFN's member National Faith Community Representative Bodies, and their web addresses, is included in the final section, along with short profiles and contact details for its member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic bodies. Details of how to get in touch with local inter faith organisations are also included. The resource concludes with a chart providing an overview of aspects of inter faith activity covered by IFN's member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic bodies, to help the reader to find out who to contact depending on their interest.

Next Steps can be downloaded from the Inter Faith Week website at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/next-steps.





Media and social media

Inter Faith Week 2016 was covered in a variety of national, regional and local media platforms, including faith and cultural news coverage. National news outlets such as the Huffington Post covered the Week, along with faith and cultural news outlets, such as the Jewish News or the Mormon Newsroom. Many local newspapers also covered the Week, with the Sunderland Echo, the Ely Standard, the



Warrington Guardian and the Yorkshire Post being just a few. The Week was also covered by several BBC Local Radio stations and others, such as Premier Christian Radio.

Inter Faith Week 2016 was also marked by a high social media buzz. Inter Faith Week was active on Twitter and Facebook in the build up to the Week and throughout the Week itself. Inter Faith Week is on Twitter at @IFWeek and is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ifweek. On Twitter, use of the hashtag #ifweek was encouraged. In total, tweets about the Week reached 5.9 million Twitter users, the most to date, registering around 19.7 million impressions. On Facebook, people were encouraged to 'like' the Inter Faith Week page.

Inter Faith Week 2017

A report on the 2016 Week with a section looking forward to the 2017 Week was published in July: Stories from 2016, Inspiration for 2017 can be downloaded at

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faithweek-stories-from-2016-inspiration-for-2017.

THE UK AND THE WIDER WORLD



Steve Miller, London Boroughs Faiths Network; and Vijay Krishnarayan, Commonwealth Foundation, at IFN **National Meeting**

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 of interest to governments, researchers, students and inter faith practitioners in other countries. Many make contact as part of exploring good practice around the world.

In October IFN's Assistant Director attended a conference organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on the theme of 'Tolerance and Diversity'. Over the course of the year IFN's Executive Director also received visitors from Osaka University, Japan and the Universities of Amsterdam and Groningen, both in the Netherlands, to discuss inter faith relations in the UK. IFN's Executive Director also met with Mr Pekka Metso,

Ambassador at large for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Processes from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and with the Assistant Director, met with Mr Elias Carlberb, Support Officer to the Swedish Interfaith Council. The Inter Faith Development Officer attended a reception organised by the London Boroughs Faiths Network to meet with visitors from Berlin as part of the 'Interfaith, Cities and Government' project of the European Council of Religious Leaders.

At the National Meeting in July a discussion group was included on the theme of 'Sharing good practice internationally', facilitated by Vijay Krishnarayan, Director-General, Commonwealth Foundation, and included a presentation from Dr Samuel (Sami) Everett, Co-lead researcher on the Woolf Institute 'Trust in Crisis' international research project.

TRUSTEES

At the 2017 AGM the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi were elected as Co-Chairs.

Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE; and Dr Norman Richardson MBE retired at the AGM. Dr Richardson had served as a Trustee since 2009 and was warmly thanked for his service. Special thanks were given to Maulana Raza who was one of IFN's founding Trustees in 1987 and had since then served as a Trustee for 26 years, most recently since 2006, including as a Vice-Chair from 2013 to 2016.

Among those elected as ordinary members of the Board for 2017–18 were three people newly elected to the Board: Dr Sandra Baillie; Mr Pejman Khojasteh; and Ms Sabira Lakha.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS ELECTED AT 2017 AGM

CO-CHAIRS

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi

HONORARY TREASURER Rabbi Maurice Michaels

TRUSTEES

Dr Sandra Baillie Mr Manjit Singh Bhogal Mr Keith Bishop The Revd James Breslin Acharya Modgala Duguid Professor Brian Gates MBE The Revd Canon Dr John Hall Dr Stephen Herman Minister David Hopkins Ms Julie Jones Mr Peiman Khoiasteh Ms Sabira Lakha



Trustees and IFN's Assistant Director in conversation



IFN Trustees promoting Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

Mr Nitin Palan Ms Padideh Sabeti Dr Maureen Sier Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE Mr Mike Stygal Mr Narendra Waghela Ms Marie van der Zyl

MEMBERSHIP

The 2017 AGM, in London on 5 July, accepted into provisional membership the following organisations:

Local inter faith organisations

- Hull and East Riding Interfaith
- Salford Interfaith Network

The AGM also affirmed the full membership of the seven bodies which had been admitted into provisional membership in 2015: All Faiths Network; Cherwell Faiths Forum; Faith Links (Bournemouth and Poole); London Boroughs Faiths Network; London Inter Faith Centre: Mansfield Interfaith Group; and the United Reformed Church in the UK.

The AGM noted the withdrawal from IFN membership of the following organisations, which had ceased to operate: Oxford Round Table of Religions, Suffolk Inter Faith Resource and Wandsworth Multi Faith Network: and the withdrawal from membership of the Muslim-Christian Forum (Bury) for financial reasons.

The AGM noted that Wakefield Interfaith Group had changed its name to Wakefield Interfaith Network.

Following the AGM IFN had 184 bodies in membership.

IFN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Miss Juwayriyah Badrudin, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE] (until June 2017) Mr Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer Mrs Hannah Cassidy, PA/Administrator p/t [0.9 FTE] Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director Mr David Hampshire, Assistant Director Mr Zac Lloyd, Intern Mr Md Alinur Rahman, Bookkeeper, p/t [0.4 FTE] (until May 2017) Mrs Keetha Singam, Finance Assistant p/t [0.5 FTE] (from June 2017)

VOLUNTEERS

Miss Alia Bakar (from December 2016) Ms Natasha Blank (from February 2017) Ms Caroline Elliker (from November 2016) Mr Franco Manni (from April 2017) Miss Katie Pusey (from December 2016)

Volunteers make a very important contribution to IFN's work. Some help on a one-off basis, others have volunteered for longer periods. IFN is grateful to them all for their contribution. If you are interested in volunteering, see Get Involved (page 45).





LOOKING AHEAD

STRATEGIC AIMS 2015-2018

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

- 1 Raise awareness of the importance of interfaith engagement, cooperation and dialogue and be a trusted source of information about this.
- 2 Help strengthen and increase opportunities for interfaith 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 Board of Trustees has adopted a Work Plan for 2017–18 which puts the Strategic Aims into action within the following framework of themes:

1. CONNECT, REACH OUT AND STRENGTHEN

- Connecting and strengthening grassroots local initiatives
- Connecting national faith communities and adding value to their work
- Connecting national inter faith practitioners for increased impact
- Connecting educators for increased interfaith impact
- Connecting and strengthening learning across the UK
- Connecting across the generations – engagement of young people
- · Reaching out

2. TOGETHER

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

3. NATIONAL INTER FAITH **WEEK**

- Growing Inter Faith Week including events involving young people and events with a social action focus
- · General support and promotion of Inter Faith Week
- Increasing social media reach

· Reporting, evaluating and disseminating

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Ensuring sustainability
- 30th Anniversary Appeal
- · Human resources including training
- · Developing volunteering opportunities
- Governance
- Continuing to strengthen effectiveness and security of IT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2016 Total	2015 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	34,499	316,093	350,592	283,739
Charitable Activities	_	184	184	389
Investment Income	_	226	226	658
Total	34,499	316,503	351,002	284,786
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	3,938	36,813	40,751	18,232
Charitable Activities				
Information, Advice and Comms	6,424	60,058	66,482	71,944
Meetings and Events	8,714	77,340	86,054	78,349
Publications and Research	8,113	75,844	83,957	40,060
Increasing Awareness & Engagement	7,310	68,342	75,652	76,220
Total	34,449	318,397	352,896	284,805
Net expenditure/ Net loss for the year	_	(1,894)	(1,894)	(19)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at beginning of the year	=	57,717	57,717	57,736
Funds at the end of the year	=	55,823	55,823	57,714

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 2016

	2016			2015	
	£	£	£	£	
Tangible Fixed Assets		3,582		4,542	
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	18,313		17,285		
Cash at bank	79,088		108,760		
	97,401		126,045		
Creditors: amounts due within one year	(45,160)		(72,870)		
Net Current Assets		52,241		53,175	
Net Assets		55,823		57,717	
Funds					
Restricted Funds		_		_	
Unrestricted Funds		55,823		57,717	
Total Funds		55,823		57,717	

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 Board of Trustees on 18 May 2017 and signed on its behalf by Rabbi Maurice Michaels, Honorary Treasurer.

Note: the full Statutory Accounts and Trustee Report for 2016 can be accessed on the Charity Commission website.

SUPPORTERS IN 2016

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 2016 and also those who have given the gifts of time, skills, and other in-kind support.

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND COMPANIES

Nordev Trust Westminster Foundation

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Inter Faith Network received funding support from the then Department for Communities and Local Government, now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

FAITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England Islamic Welfare Trust Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Yorkshire Jain Foundation

OTHER DONORS

Cheltenham Inter Faith Wisbech Interfaith Forum Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE Ms Lorna Barbour

Mr Bhupinder Singh Bhasin

The late Mr Syd Bill

Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree

Mrs Jill Dawson

Mr J A Ewan

Miss Mehru Fitter

The Revd Peter B Godfrey

Dr Rosalind Henderson

Mr William Hopkinson

Mr David Kelf

Dr Ed Kessler MBE

Cllr Gerald Lee

Dr Anthony McCaffry

Mr Brian Pearce OBE

Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE

Ms Clare Salters

Mr Rashid Siddiqui

Mr David Stevens

The Revd Richard Tetlow

Mr Stephen Vickers

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 2017 will be noted in the 2017-18 Annual Review.

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/news/ifn-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 organisation, a national inter faith initiative or other inter faith project or to support the work of the Inter Faith Network (details on how to do so are on the next page)
- volunteer at the Inter Faith Network office find out more at https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering
- volunteer your services and skills to help a national or local interfaith initiative. IFN's e-bulletin includes information on volunteering opportunities. More information can also be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering

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, Sadaqa 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 https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list)
- find out about the nearest local inter faith organisation to you and take part in its activities (https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/groups)
- 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 https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/find-a-national-initiative
- get involved in school or youth inter faith initiatives take a look at https://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/youth
- 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: A Toolkit at https://www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/Good_inter_faith_relations_on_campus_toolkit.pdf

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/resources/publications

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.

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 can donate on our website at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or via PayPal or JustGiving or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

Thank You!

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.

Every gift, however large or small, makes a difference.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK 2017–18

FAITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Baha'i Community of the UK BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Board of Deputies of British Jews. 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 Inter Faith Working Group of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Islamic Cultural Centre Jain Network Jain Samaj Europe Jamiat-e-Úlama 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 UK

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

World Islamic Mission (UK) Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC

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 Interfaith Scotland Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru

Faiths Forum for London North East Regional Faiths Network South East England Faith

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 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 St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace

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

Three Faiths Forum 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 Interfaith 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** 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

Cornwall Faiths 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

Hull and East Riding Interfaith 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

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 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 Salford Interfaith Network Sheffield Inter Faith Solihull Faiths Forum 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

Faiths United (Tameside) Torbay Interfaith Forum Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum

Wakefield Interfaith Network Waltham Forest Faith

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

Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group

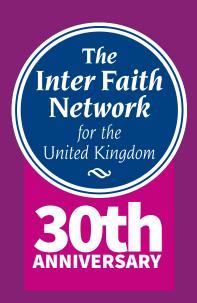
Westminster Faith Exchange William Campbell-Taylor (City of London Interfaith)

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum Wisbech Interfaith Forum Interfaith Wolverhampton

Worcestershire Inter-Faith

Wycombe Sharing of Faiths York Interfaith Group

Correct as after 2017 AGM



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RESPECTEDUCATIONDIALOGUE INTEGRITYCOMMUNITY VALUES COOPERATIONDISTINCTIVENESS COMMON GOOD UNDERSTANDING NEIGHBOURLINESS FAITHACTION BELONGINGTACKLING PREJUDICE RESPECTEDUCATIONDIALOGUE INTEGRITYCOMMUNITY VALUES COOPERATIONDISTINCTIVENESS