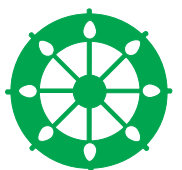
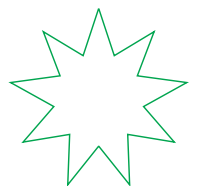
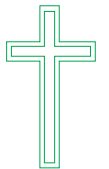
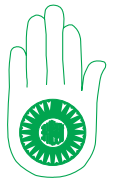




# The Inter Faith Network for the UK

2001-2002 ANNUAL REVIEW







# **The Inter Faith Network for the UK**

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The Inter Faith Network for the UK

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# The Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network for the UK was founded in 1987 to link inter faith activity and to develop good relations between people of different faiths in this country. Its members include the representative bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths; national and local inter faith organisations; and educational and academic bodies specialising in inter faith relations. It is run by Trustees of all the faiths whose representative bodies it links.

Greater awareness about the faith of others is crucial as we enter the 21st century in the UK because ignorance is a major contributor to prejudice and even to conflict. With its member bodies, the Network works 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 of their common ground” and “to promote good relations between persons of different religious faiths”. It does this by:

- Holding meetings of its member bodies where social and religious questions of concern to the different faith communities can be examined together

- Setting up multi faith working groups, seminars and conferences to pursue particular issues in greater depth
- Proceeding by consensus wherever possible and not making statements on behalf of member bodies except after full consultation
- Fostering inter faith co-operation on social issues
- Running an information and advice service
- Publishing materials to help people working in the religious and inter faith sectors
- In consultation with member bodies, helping to provide contacts and participants for inter faith events and projects and for television and radio programmes

Further information about the Inter Faith Network can be found on its website: [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) or by writing to the Network office.



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Each year, the review covers particular events and projects and their contributors. The range of faiths and individuals highlighted varies from year to year. This year's Annual Review covers, for the first time, the most recent AGM and National Meeting rather than running to the period ending just before these. We hope that you like this new pattern. Comments on this and on any other aspect of the Annual Review and of the Network's work are warmly welcomed.





# Message from the Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network



*Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE and Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler*

2002 marks the Network's fifteenth year of working to promote good inter faith relations in the UK. During this period, many new local and national inter faith initiatives have come into being. At the 2002 AGM we were delighted to welcome into membership six new local inter faith bodies and the new Inter Faith Council for Wales. They are symbolic of the increasingly rich inter faith scene in the UK with constructive connections being forged on many fronts. But over the last year we have witnessed last summer's disturbances in town and cities in northern England, the events of 11 September in the US and their aftermath and the damaging impact on inter faith relations of distressing events in the Middle East, Gujarat and elsewhere. All these events have underlined the importance and the extent of the task ahead in many areas to increase communication between

communities, including the different faiths, as both central and local government pursue the current agenda of "community cohesion". The UK's faith communities have a great deal to contribute to this.

Work on the local inter faith front is very much part of this agenda. Over the past year the Network has continued to work closely with central Government and with the Local Government Association to ensure that the importance of work with faith communities and local inter faith groups is understood. In February guidelines were published to help local authorities establish partnerships with these kinds of body. The guidance document, *Faith and Community*, was published by the LGA in association with the Inter Faith Network, the Inner Cities Religious Council and the Active Community Unit of the Home Office.

Our 2002 National Meeting focused on the community cohesion agenda and the significance of this for faith communities and inter faith organisations. Participants from around the country reflected a new stage, we think, in inter faith work in the UK. For perhaps the first time, there was a widespread confidence springing from the fact that the vital nature of the work has at last been recognised, by both central and local Government and in the media. At the same time a due caution is felt about the need for faith communities to maintain their traditional role of providing a spiritual resource to their members and wider society, while responding to these new opportunities for engagement with central and local government on public policy issues and their implementation.

Another reason for the new found confidence this year has been the welcome decision of the Royal Household and the Government to make multi faith involvement and inter faith connection a key part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The Network was involved at an early stage in discussions on this, including the desirability of Royal visits being made in the course of the year to the nation's different faith communities. On 10 June there was a reception at Buckingham Palace for over 700 guests of different faiths and a special Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum at St James's Palace, which brought 80 young people of different faiths from across the UK together to discuss faith and service to the community. The Inter Faith Network was invited, with the faith communities, to help with these two events in particular. This has been a major part of our work in 2002. The Network also assisted on a reception for faith communities at Downing Street in January -

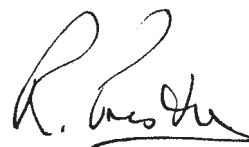
the first time such an event had ever been held there.

As usual, however, the bulk of the Network's work continues to be of a less high profile but equally important kind: responding to many requests for information and assistance, holding regional link meetings for inter faith organisers, attending and being involved in inter faith events held by member bodies; sharing information through its newsletter; and, through quiet behind the scenes conversations, trying to bring about better understanding between different groups.

There have been additional stresses for the Network office in recent months with the possibility that it will need to move from its present office premises where it has been based for the last thirteen years. The Network's financial situation has improved as a result of the very welcome steps towards more structured financial support from the faith communities and the continuing grant from the Home Office, as well as support from Trusts, but, as in recent years, the coming period is again one of financial uncertainty. The commitment of Trustees and staff will, though, we are sure, continue to ensure that the Network's ever more vital work can go forward and we express our profound gratitude to everyone who makes this possible.



Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler, Anglican Bishop of Southwark



Rosalind Preston OBE

# Golden Jubilee

2002 is the Golden Jubilee Year of HM The Queen. Many events have been taking place to celebrate the role that she has played in the affairs of the United Kingdom and of the Commonwealth over the last 50 years and to look forward to the next period of her reign. Religious and inter faith events have been among these: notably, the various services of the Christian Churches and of other faiths, the Royal visits to places linked with particular faith communities, a reception for faith communities at Buckingham Palace and a Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum at St James's Palace.

The Royal Household and the Government were particularly keen that the diversity of faiths within UK society at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century should be reflected in the celebrations. Faith community representatives and staff from the Network office were invited to a meeting at Buckingham Palace in September 2001 to discuss the possible shape of the faith dimensions of the Jubilee celebrations. From this, and subsequent discussions, emerged the pattern of events which took place. The Network was honoured to be invited to assist the Golden Jubilee Office (a Division of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) in its planning for the Palace Reception and the Youth Forum, in consultation with the faith communities.

The reception and the Youth Forum received extensive coverage on the BBC as

well as in faith community papers. A clip of the BBC news can be found on the BBC's website.

## Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum

The Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum took place on 10 June at St James's Palace. Its theme was faith and service to the community. The event was organised for the Golden Jubilee celebrations by the Golden Jubilee Office on behalf of Buckingham Palace, with the assistance of the Network and in consultation with Government Departments and the faith communities.



"It is said that to be a Baha'i is to "serve mankind". To me this doesn't just mean to become a doctor, or a social worker, admirable as that is. Baha'is believe that any work done in a spirit of service is worshipping God."

*Danielle Pee,  
Baha'i presenter*

"Quoting the Buddha, "To cease from all evil, to do what is good and to cleanse one's mind" is the essence of the Buddhist way of life. Personally, I would like to be known as a Buddhist because of my actions and conduct as opposed to any other quality."

*Manil Subasinghe,  
Buddhist presenter*

"My experience today as a follower of Jesus Christ is of a life of purpose and hope and it is because of this continuing experience of God that I now work for a Welsh language church in Aberystwyth, visiting the elderly, hospitalised and dying and working alongside families and young people. I choose to serve because Jesus first served me."

*Meryl Walters,  
Christian presenter*

At the evening briefing before the Forum, the young people had the chance to meet the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, and faith community leaders who had been consulted in planning the event. They also heard a presentation from Indarjit Singh OBE which focused on shared values as the basis for inter faith co-operation and explained the link between the event and

the Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment by the Faith Communities of the UK which had taken place in January 2000 at the House of Lords.

The Young People's Faith Forum was chaired by James Naughtie of the BBC and Network Co-Chairs Rosalind Preston OBE and Bishop Tom Butler were among the speakers, together with Priya Lukka from



*HRH the Prince of Wales with Youth Forum participants*

"Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa said that 'Service to humanity is service to God'....Hindus believe strongly that we have a duty to respect and care for our parents and grandparents, our local community, our nation, and the wider world, including animals and this is one reason why many Hindus are vegetarian."

*Gaurav Prinja,  
Hindu presenter*

"The cornerstone of Jain belief is Ahimsa, or 'non-violence and reverence for all life'. This means trying not to harm any living thing through action, speech and even thought, and also friendship to all.....Charity plays a major role in every Jain's life – charity not only with your wealth, but also with your time, actions and feelings."

*Viren Mehta,  
Jain presenter*

"There is a story that a famous rabbi called Hillel was challenged to explain the Torah (the five books of Moses) while standing on one foot. Hillel replied simply, "Whatever is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour: this is the whole Law; the rest is mere commentary". For me, this value is at the heart of my religion. To love and care for others as you would expect to be treated by them."

*Ruth Cohen,  
Jewish presenter*

the Institute for Volunteering Research, Andy Ball from the De Paul Trust, and Khalid Almulad from Islamic Relief. Participants included 64 lower-sixth formers from schools nominated by LEAs across England, as well as pupils from independent and faith schools and from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

16 young people aged between 19 and 24 nominated directly by their faith communities, also played a key role in the event, with one of each faith - Danielle Pee (Baha'i), Manil Subasinghe (Buddhist), Meryl Walters (Christian), Gaurav Prinja (Hindu), Viren Mehta (Jain), Ruth Cohen (Jewish), Hafiz Mohammed Naveed (Muslim), Munveen

PA Photos



*Secretary of State Tessa Jowell MP with young participants*

"Every action, no matter how small becomes sacred if done with the view to seek the pleasure of Allah, the Arabic name of God. Harming or despising others is impossible as we all come from God and are His creatures. The Quran also says "Do good and forbid evil" and that means we must help our fellow beings in every way we can."  
*Hafiz Mohammed Naveed,*  
*Muslim presenter*

"Sikhs have a great tradition of serving the community and there are many examples of people helping others in need throughout Sikh history. As Sikhs we are taught from an early age that we are to remember God's name, to work hard and to share what we earn."  
*Munveen Kaur Dhariwal,*  
*Sikh presenter*

"Humakta, Hukta, Hurvesta, Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds. These three words are the backbone of the Zoroastrian faith.....Charity is one of the highest virtues and is commanded by Ahura Mazda the creator God. One of our important prayers tells us that Ahura Mazda's kingdom is for the person who nourishes the poor."  
*Farmeen Sorab,*  
*Zoroastrian Presenter*

Kaur Dhariwal (Sikh), and Farmeen Sorab (Zoroastrian) – giving a short presentation on growing up as a young person of faith in 21st century Britain and on how their faith encourages service to the community.

The day's topics were explored in more depth by the young people in morning and afternoon syndicate discussions facilitated by a specially picked team of RE teachers led

by Lat Blaylock of the Professional Council for Religious Education. At the end of the afternoon The Prince of Wales, who had supplied a video message of support for the day, met each one of the young participants and facilitators who then went on to join 700 people of different faiths at the special reception that evening at Buckingham Palace, hosted by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.



PA Photos

*HRH the Prince of Wales with Youth Forum participants*



*HRH the Prince of Wales with Youth Forum participants*

Many ideas for inter faith projects were suggested by the young people and the Golden Jubilee Office and the Inter Faith Network are looking at ways in which these might be followed up, as well as the

possibilities for building on the Forum to stimulate similar events around the country. A report on the Forum will be available from the Golden Jubilee Office and the Inter Faith Network at the end of September.

Some thoughts from participants on the Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum:

*"The inter faith forum has ... taught me that open and frank discussion of faith issues can be achieved without descent into argument and dispute. Different faiths have a lot to learn from each other."*

*"I hope there will be more opportunities for dialogue, especially at the local level. Maybe schools and places of worship could host such events."*

*"I am definitely more optimistic about inter faith relations and I can only hope that more events like the forum will take place and that the kind of people willing to come to them with an open mind and a desire to cooperate will grow in number."*

*"I hope that all faiths can co-exist and get along the way we participants did over the two days...I was very pleased with the way that despite the difference in our spiritual beliefs, the strength of the commonly held humanitarian aspects of all our faiths was more than enough for us all to be friends and work together."*

## Golden Jubilee reception for the faiths at Buckingham Palace

A special Golden Jubilee reception for representatives of different faiths, hosted by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Buckingham Palace on the evening of 10 June. Over 700 people from the Baha'i, Buddhist,

Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities thronged the State rooms. Towards the end of the event, leaders of the nine faith communities presented a collective message of Loyal Greetings to The Queen. It was read out by Dr Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

PA Photos



*Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh join faith community leaders as the Archbishop of Canterbury reads the message of behalf of the faith communities on the occasion of The Queen's Golden Jubilee*

*On behalf of the faith communities of the United Kingdom gathered here, we present our Loyal Greetings to Your Majesty on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee. We look back with profound appreciation on your fifty years of service to the nation and we look forward to the next period of your reign. We honour your steadfast commitment to your Christian faith and to ensuring that people of all faiths are valued contributors to life in the United Kingdom and in the Commonwealth.*

*We pledge, in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, to pursue increased understanding between our communities. We are united in our desire to work for the common good in ways which reflect the shared values which we affirmed at the outset of this new Millennium: community; personal integrity; the sense of right and wrong; learning; wisdom and love of truth; care and compassion; justice and peace; respect for one another and for the earth and its creatures.*





PA Photos

*Her Majesty The Queen with Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster*



PA Photos

*Her Majesty The Queen with Dorab Mistry of the Zoroastrian Community*

# September 11

On 11 September 2001 the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York collapsed after two hi-jacked commercial aircraft were flown headlong into them. Two further planes were crashed in Washington DC and in Pennsylvania, the first of these hitting the Pentagon. Messages of condolence for the victims, their families and the American people as a whole were sent from around the world. The UK's faith communities were united in their condemnation of these terrorist attacks in the USA.

In the days following the events of 11 September over a hundred incidents involving harassment and attacks on individuals and places of worship were reported. These were mainly directed at Muslims and mosques, but there were a number involving Sikhs and a Hindu place of worship was also attacked.

A national day of mourning for those who had died in the attacks on 11 September was held on 14 September. Throughout the UK and elsewhere in Europe, people observed a three minute silence at 11.00 am. Leaders of Britain's faith communities were invited to a National Service of Remembrance held at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Similar events took place around the country in places of worship, community centres and town halls, many of which involved people from different faiths. In some places these were the first occasions on which a multi faith event had ever been held.

*Some of the comments on recent events have suggested that religion is a cause of them. In the view of the Network's Committee, we are not dealing in the present context with an inherent conflict between religions. In the last three weeks, however, in this country as well as elsewhere it has been a situation in which, because of ignorance and racist malice, some Muslims, Sikhs and others are being scapegoated because of their religion or their appearance. There have also been attacks on a number of places of worship. We deplore all harassment and attacks and we ask people of every faith and none to reach out the hand of friendship to one another at this time and to consider whether there are ways that they can offer to help make good the damage to the places of worship.*

Excerpt from press release from Network Executive Committee

A letter was sent on 18 September by the Network to its member bodies and a range of other organisations about the situation, which asked if there were particular steps they wished the Network to take. The Network kept in close touch with them over steps being taken locally to respond to difficulties and also to commemorate the dead. When the Network's Executive Committee met on 1 October it remembered in silence all those who had died in, or had been bereaved through, the tragic events of 11 September and all those suffering in the aftermath. A press release was issued and also a longer document entitled *Reflections on Recent Events*. These can be found at the Network's web site: [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk).

*In our journey together within the Inter Faith Network over the last decade and more, we have learned that our different faiths hold in common simple, but profound, values: compassion, justice and mercy. They also have as common purposes the search for peace and the pursuit of truth and wisdom. The importance of this common ground is not to be underestimated in our damaged world, with its difficult legacies of past history. The application of these values to the problems we face requires discernment, wise judgement and clear vision. These problems, at every level, are deep and complex and we have to address their underlying causes. As people of faith, we know that lasting peace will not be secured without social and economic justice, which requires a fair distribution of the world's resources. There will be legitimate disagreements about what this entails in practice. But of this we are sure: religious people seek justice and peace without stooping to the depths of hatred and violence which destroy humanity itself. In our struggle for the greater well being of our own communities and of society in the UK and the wider world, we cannot hope to be successful unless we base our thoughts, words and actions on the need for mutual understanding and respect, with a determination to pursue the common good. Even when it is most difficult to do so, it is important to remember that we are all part of one common humanity and to hold fast to the values we share.*

Excerpt from Network's Reflection paper on the events of 11 September

## Downing Street reception

The Prime Minister hosted a reception for faith community representatives at 10 Downing Street on 17 January. Guests included Dr Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a number of other leading members of faith communities from around the UK. Guests from overseas, who had come for the Christian-Muslim dialogue meeting taking place that week at Lambeth Palace, included HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan.

In his brief informal address, the Prime Minister mentioned that this was the first such inter faith gathering at No 10 and said how glad he was to host it. He warmly thanked all those who in recent years have been working for inter faith understanding and stressed the vital importance of such work continuing. The Inter Faith Network assisted the Prime Minister's Office with the planning for the reception.

# Faith communities and public life

## Guidelines for local authorities

In February this year, the Local Government Association, in association with the Network, the Inner Cities Religious Council and the Active Community Unit of the Home Office, published guidelines designed to help local authorities work with faith groups and inter faith structures. These were the fruit of extensive consultation and discussion over the previous 18 months. Among the speakers at the launch on 4 February were Cllr Joe Abrahams from the LGA's Equalities Executive, Sally Keeble MP (then Ministerial Chair of the ICRC), Angela Eagle MP (then a Home Office Minister) and Indarjit Singh OBE (Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations (UK), and member of the ICRC and an Inter Faith Network trustee).



*Sally Keeble MP, Cllr Joe Abrahams, Angela Eagle MP and Indarjit Singh at the launch of Faith and Community*

*It gives me great pleasure to send a message of support on the launch of Faith and Community. Recent events mean that the guidance is very timely, but it is the outcome of work that has been in progress for several years. The Inner Cities Religious Council and the Inter Faith Network for the UK explored the role of faith community involvement in public life in publishing The Local Inter Faith Guide and in a national conference. I welcome the Local Government Association's willingness to take this forward in partnership with them and the Active Community Unit at the Home Office.*

*I am sure that local authorities, other public agencies and faith communities themselves will find this practical guide an invaluable resource. It will help to capture the distinctive contribution that faith communities can make to the drive for better places for everyone in our richly diverse society.*

Message from the Prime Minister for the launch of *Faith and Community*

## Religious discrimination

For some years the Network has had on its agenda the wide-ranging issue of religious discrimination and the steps which need to be taken to deal with this. The topic was the main item on the agenda of the meeting of faith community representative bodies in membership of the Network held on 29 May and reported in the following section of this Review.

The Network office has been involved over the past year in continuing discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry and

the Home Office both on implementation of the European Directive on discrimination in employment on a variety of grounds, including “religion or belief”, and also on the case for more general legislation on religious discrimination, and has kept its member bodies in touch with developments on this. The Director has attended a number of meetings of an *ad hoc* Equality and Diversity Forum which brings together a range of organisations with an interest in the different “strands” of discrimination covered by the Directive, together with by representatives of the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Disability Rights Commission.

The Director was asked to make a brief presentation on issues relating to “religion or belief” at a consultative conference organised by the Government on 25 July to discuss its project which is exploring the possibility of setting up a Single Equality Body to cover all the different “equality and discrimination” strands: age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The Government intends to

come forward with its conclusions on this at the end of 2002. The draft legislation to give effect in UK law to the European Directive and associated draft guidance on this is due to be published towards the end of 2002.

The House of Lords has established a Select Committee to consider the case for retaining, amending or abolishing long standing religious offences such as blasphemy and the case for introducing a new offence of inciting religious hatred. The Director gave oral evidence to the Select Committee on 10 July.

### **The Census**

The Network office has been represented in discussions with the Office for National Statistics on the handling of the data collected in the 2001 Census in response to the question included in it, for the first time since 1851, on religious identity. The overall population statistics from the Census are to be published at the end of September. More detailed figures including statistics on religious identity will be published during the course of 2003.

# Faith and service to the community

"Mahatma Gandhi, possibly one of the more famous faith-inspired volunteers of our time, once said 'True service of society is that whereby society, that is all its members, are uplifted'. For me this sums up what many faith groups are doing in their communities today"

*Priya Lukka, speaking at the Network's national meeting*

"Charity awaits the cry of distress; benevolence anticipates the cry of distress".  
*Jewish saying quoted by Rosalind Preston*

The 2001 National Meeting of the Inter Faith Network took place on 4 July 2001 at the Birmingham City Council House. Its theme was *Faith and Service to the Community* and participants looked at the role of faith communities in giving service to others and the value of different faiths working co-operatively on projects.

Rosalind Preston OBE, Network Co-Chair and Chair of Nightingale, a major residential home for members of the Jewish community, and Mental Health Manager for the Harrow and Hillingdon Community Health Trust, spoke from a Jewish perspective about volunteering in this country. Ravinder Singh, a founder member of Sikh organisation, Khalsa Aid explained how this new organisation was founded and described the international aid work which they have undertaken in places such as Gujarat, Kosovo and Turkey. Priyya Lukka, a young Hindu researcher at the Institute for Volunteering, offered insights from her exploration of the links between faith and volunteering. Sarah Lindsell, Director of the

Catholic Agency for Social Concerns, spoke about the factors which need to be taken into account by a faith community organisation in considering whether to seek government funding for its work.

Four workshop sessions took place on:

*Faith-based social initiatives in the UK* chaired by Jehangir Sarosh, with Lakshman Singh and Ash Sharma from the Bradford



*Ravinder Singh of Khalsa Aid*

Curry Project and Ian Dixon of the Salvation Army in Birmingham.

*Faith-based overseas aid work* chaired by Brian Pearce, with Aflak Suleman of Islamic Relief, Nitin Palan of the Swaminayan Hindu Mission and Mike Hawkes of Christian Aid.

*The community of living beings: service to animals in the natural world* chaired by Peggy Morgan, with Nitin Mehta MBE of

The beginnings of one faith inspired initiative  
Ravinder Singh, founder member of Khalsa Aid:

*In 1999 five or six of us got together, concerned about what was going on in Kosovo. At that time, there were a lot of street processions in the Sikh community all over the country to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa....If you have ever been to a Sikh procession you will know that there is food in abundance at them, given away freely by Sikh families as a gift from their heart.... "Vand Chhakna" is what we Sikhs call it: sharing what we have. This does not just mean food. I may need to lend you my coat if it is raining and you do not have one. So, those of us who got together thought about the way there was so much food available at these Sikh events and within the Sikh gurdwaras where there is a tradition of a "langar" or a community kitchen where anyone, no matter who, can come in and eat. Why did we not offer food to those who really needed it? Which at that time was in Kosovo. None of us had ever done anything like this before. We made an appeal to the Sikh community in particular, asking them to give generously on the basis that this was what the community should do....No one turned us away or said that they would not help because the appeal was for people who were not from the Sikh community itself....We raised at that time between £20,000 and £25,000 in ten days in Southall and Slough alone. This experience was an inspiration for us. Our religious traditions can inspire us in this way.*



*Priya Lukka of the Institute for Volunteering Research speaking at the National Meeting*

Young Indian Vegetarians and Ani Rinchen Khandro of the Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery and Tibetan Buddhist Centre.

*Serving the community through one's profession* chaired by Saraswati Dave, with Kathryn Delpak MBE a Chartered Physiotherapist and Chair of the Baha'i Council for Wales and Noshir Avari a Tax Investigations Consultant and member of the Zoroastrian community.

A full report of the day, including all the main presentations and the key points from the workshops can be ordered from the Network office.

# UK wide and national inter faith developments

## Faith community representative bodies meet

Two meetings were held in 2002 for faith community representative bodies (following the National Meeting's decision in 2000 to inaugurate meetings for particular categories of Network member bodies). The first of these took place on 9 January. Participants discussed the reports published on the previous summer's disturbances in the north of England; the repercussions of the terrorist attacks of 11 September and the subsequent military action in Afghanistan; tension between India and Pakistan and the effect of this on communities here in the UK; and the planned Home Office review of the pattern of Government consultation with faith communities. There was also an extended discussion of practical ways faith community organisations can contribute to inter faith relations.



Rosalind Preston OBE, Ann Gimpel, Dr Elizabeth Harris and Dr Fatma Amer at the faith community representative bodies meeting



Paul Seto and Ayub Laher

A second meeting of faith community representative bodies took place on 29 May. The focus of this was the Government's consultative document, *Towards Equality and Diversity*, published last Autumn, which had set out proposals for implementing the European Directive on discrimination in employment which covers discrimination on grounds of religion or belief. Cathy Rees

The Network has in membership 16 faith community representative bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian traditions. These include both umbrella bodies for the different communities and faith community organisations which represent a particular strand within a tradition or serve a particular constituency within it. They play an important role within their own faith community but also, through their inter faith work, in working for understanding and co-operation between faiths.





*Bimal Krishna das, Dr Manazir Ahsan and Yousuf Bhailok in conversation*

of the Department of Trade and Industry gave the meeting an update on the responses received during the consultation period and explained how the Government now planned to proceed. Neil Frater of the Home Office added an overview of the position which has been reached on

religious discrimination issues more generally and spoke about the Home Office's planned review of patterns of consultation of faith communities by central Government.

It is planned to hold a further meeting towards the end of 2002 to carry forward discussion of the possibility of a more structured faith communities consultative forum being developed on the basis of meetings of this category of Network member bodies.

### **The Inter Faith Council for Wales**

A new Inter Faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru has been set up by the National Assembly of Wales to bring together political and faith community leaders. It was established following a meeting on 4 October to which Rhodri Morgan, the Welsh First Minister, invited religious and community leaders after the events of 11 September last year. The new Council is a sub committee of the Welsh



Andrew James/Western Mail

*Meeting in Cardiff to discuss the setting up of an Inter Faith Council for Wales*

National Assembly and is chaired by the First Minister. The Council became a Network member body at the 2002 AGM.

### **Responding to devolution**

The Network's Executive Committee has endorsed guidelines on the handling of inter faith issues in the light of devolution to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the creation of inter faith bodies there.

### **UK inter faith organisations meet**

On 27 February the Inter Faith Network held a meeting for the national inter faith organisations in its membership. This was the second such meeting for these bodies since the National Meeting in 2000 decided that it would good to inaugurate meetings for particular categories of Network

member bodies so that they could discuss issues of concern to them in greater depth. Representatives discussed the impact of the events of 11 September and reviewed the scope for cooperation between their organisations. They also looked at relationships between national and local inter faith bodies.

The Network has 16 national inter faith bodies in membership. These include bilateral dialogue organisations, such as the Council of Christians and Jews and the Maimonides Foundation, trilateral dialogue bodies such as the Three Faiths Forum, and multi faith bodies such as the World Congress of Faiths and the World Conference on Religion and Peace and the national inter faith bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each kind of initiative makes a distinctive and important contribution to the process of inter faith understanding.

# Local inter faith bridge building

The Network holds “link” meetings to bring together those involved in local inter faith activity in different localities, including representatives from groups not in membership of the Network. During 2001-02, link meetings were held for representatives of local inter faith initiatives from South West England in Taunton on 12 January; for representatives from the Greater London area in London on 5 March; for representatives from Yorkshire and Humberside in Leeds on

17 April; and for representatives from South East England in London on 19 June. Reports on these meetings are available from the Network office.

*The Local Inter Faith Guide*, which the Network published in 1999 in association with the Inner Cities Religious Council, continues to be a widely used source of advice for those setting up or carrying forward local inter faith initiatives.

45 local inter faith associations, councils and groups are now member bodies of the Network. These are bodies, meeting Network membership criteria, that have been in existence for a minimum of two years; are formally structured with an agreed constitution; are genuinely “multi-faith” in participation and “ownership”, with representation on the governing committee from the main faiths in the area; are directed, like the Network, primarily at relationships between mainstream religious groups; are located in a “multi-faith” catchment area, with the opportunity to develop inter faith relations on a community footing, (which relates more directly to the Network’s primary aims); and have a regular programme of activities. The Network also keeps in touch with a further nearly 50 local inter faith initiatives.



Sarah Thorley

*Members of South London Inter Faith group on their annual inter faith walk*

# Community cohesion: a new agenda for inter faith relations?

Last summer's disturbances in some of northern England's towns and cities have made many people realise - some for the first time - how tremendously important it is to work to increase connections between communities, including the different faiths. This is a key part of what has come to be known as the "community cohesion" agenda. The Network's 2002 National Meeting which took place on 15 July in London focused on community cohesion and discussed whether this concept suggested a new agenda for inter faith relations. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to explore the contribution which faith communities and inter faith organisations



Rev Baroness Kathleen Richardson of Calow

at a national and local level can make to this new agenda, as well as to explore some of the pitfalls to be avoided.

- Alan Smith, Team Leader, the Community Cohesion Unit of the Home Office, outlined the approach to "community cohesion" which the Government is now taking, with particular reference to the contribution which faith communities and inter faith structures at national and local level can make to this.
- Councillor Laura Willoughby, Equalities Executive, Local Government Association offered an overview of the LGA's work, and that of local authorities, in taking forward the approach set out in *Faith and Community* and described the aims and content of the LGA's guidance on community cohesion, of which a consultative draft had been published in May.
- Indarjit Singh OBE, of the Network of Sikh Organisations (UK) and the Inner Cities Religious Council, reflected on how faith communities and inter faith organisations can contribute to community cohesion at a national level.
- Charu Ainscough, Gujarat Hindu Centre, Preston and Equal Opportunities Officer (Race), Lancashire County Council

examined the impact of the community cohesion agenda on faith communities and the response that needs to be made at a local level, including the developing role of women.

- Rev Philip Sumner, Chair, Oldham Inter Faith Forum and Basit Shah, Vice-Chair Oldham Inter Faith Forum discussed the new Forum that has been set up in the wake of the disturbances in Oldham last summer.
- Alan Schwartz, Inter Faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru talked about the Council which has come into being following an initiative by the First Minister of the Welsh National Assembly in the aftermath of the events of 11 September last year.

There were four workshops on different aspects of inter faith work and community cohesion:

*Government and faith communities – partners working towards greater community cohesion*

Facilitator: Smita Shah, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Office, Leicester City Council and Jain member of Leicester Council of Faiths  
Presenters: Hon Barnabas Leith, Secretary General, Baha'i Community of the UK and Deepak Naik MBE, West Midlands Regional Faiths Forum, Development Officer.

*Local inter faith councils and groups and community cohesion*

Facilitator: Dr Harriet Crabtree, Inter Faith Network  
Presenters: Rev David Randolph-Horn, Secretary, Leeds Faith Communities Liaison Forum and Resham Singh Sandhu MBE, Chairman, Leicester Council of Faiths and Chairman of Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society, Leicester.

*Interfaith education and community cohesion*

Facilitator: Dr Ataullah Siddiqui, Head of Inter Faith Unit, Islamic Foundation  
Presenters: Jane Clements, Council of Christians and Jews and Ramona Kauth, Buddhist Trustee, Birmingham Council of Faiths and Counsellor, St Philip's Sixth Form College.

*Young people and the interfaith dimension of community cohesion*

Facilitator: Rev Anthony Aris, New Testament Church of God  
Presenters: Carmel Heaney, Project Manager of "Respect" (a project of the Prince of Wales' Trust and Timebank) and young presenters from the Glasgow Unity and Diversity Project: Yasmine Chaudhry, Karamjeet Singh Bhogal.

In the final plenary session, closing reflections were offered by the Revd Baroness Richardson of Calow, Moderator, Churches' Commission on Inter Faith Relations.

A full report on the meeting is available from the Network office.



Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra

# Information and advice

## Enquiries

The Network office in central London provides information and advice to a wide range of organisations and individuals. The organisations using this service during 2001-02 included Government Departments, local authorities, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, educational institutions and the media. The adjacent table shows a breakdown of the types of enquiries by letter, telephone and email over the past year.

Enquiries from individuals	22%
Faith community organisations	19%
Inter faith organisations	14%
Schools, universities and academic bodies	13%
Central and local Government	8%
Television, radio and media	8%
Commercial organisations/employers	5%
Health related organisations	3%
Others (including charities, emergency services and prisons)	8%

Some examples of this year's enquiries:

*I have just started a job that involves promoting links between faith communities in my area. Are there any resources you can suggest that would be helpful?*

- Inter faith development worker, North West England

*Our faith community is holding a special event and would like to invite leading members of other faith communities to this. Can you give us contact details?*

- Faith community national office

*Can you suggest appropriate wording for a question on religious identity to be included in a staff questionnaire?*

-Fire Services Department, Central London

*We are producing a programme on fasting and abstinence and are looking for suitable people to interview. Who can we contact?*

-BBC Regional Television

*My employer has refused me leave to celebrate a religious festival. Can I take any action?*

-Individual enquirer, West Midlands

*Where can we access religious symbols for use in a booklet on faith for managers within our company?*

-National retail chain

*I am involved in setting up an inter faith fellowship in our area. Do you have any advice?*

- Individual enquirer, Wales

*I am starting a PGCE in Religious Studies in September, can you offer any information on inter faith groups in my area?*

-Student, South East

*We are looking to hold a discussion on faith based schools- can you suggest a speaker?*

-Local inter faith group, North East England

*I am doing some research into the Bill on incitement to religious hatred. Where can I find out more about this?*

-Law student, Scotland

## Network web site

The Network web site at [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk) is an important resource for enquirers seeking basic information about the work of the Network. As use of the internet is generally increasing so too is the number of visitors to the Network web site. In particular there was significant interest in the section on the responses of faith communities and the Network to the terrorist attacks on 11 September in the US.

The website has now become a first point of information for many enquirers. Phone, email and written enquiries dipped by 10% this year from last year to approximately 900 while hits on the website increased during the same period by 40% to about 500 hits per month.

## Publications

In the autumn of 2001, the third edition of *Religions in the UK* was published by the Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby in association with the Inter Faith Network, under a new title: *Religions in the UK: A Directory 2001-2003*. The publication was marked by a launch event at the University of Derby organised by its Multi Faith Centre, which has taken over the University's interest in the Directory project from its Religious Resource and Research Centre. Peggy Morgan gave a lecture at the event.

In December *Religions in the UK: A Directory 2001-2003* was awarded the annual Shap Award by the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education for its "significant contribution to education and the study of religion".

University of Derby



*l to r: Brian Pearce, Peggy Morgan, Bhupinder Singh, Michele Wolfe, Paul Weller, Eileen Fry and Jonathan Powers at the launch of the Directory*

The report of the consultative seminar on *Inter Faith Issues in the RE Curriculum* was published in autumn 2001. A significant number of these were sold through a special marketing leaflet primarily to schools and RE teachers.

### Newsletter

The Network's newsletter, *Inter Faith Update*, is published three times a year and is

sent to a steadily increasing subscriber base as well as to member bodies and funders. Some member bodies also take copies of the newsletter in bulk for distribution to their members.

### Visits

Network staff attended and spoke at a variety of events and meetings through the year.

## Lambeth Palace inter faith meeting

On 30 October at Lambeth Palace Dr Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, invited leading members of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faith traditions to contribute to a discussion on 'Setting Things Right: Religious Responses to the Human Predicament'. The Inter Faith Network and Rev Canon Michael Ipgrave, the Church of England's Secretary for Inter Faith Relations, assisted with the arrangements for the meeting. Participants explored, from their own faith perspective, two questions: What, if anything, is wrong with human beings and with the world? What response to

this situation does your faith offer? Formal presentations and responses were offered by Bishop Tom Butler; Vinod Kapashi; Dr Kishan Manocha; Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra; Swami Nirliptananda Maharaj; Indarjit Singh OBE; Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon; Most Venerable Dr M Vajiragnana; and Farrokh Vajifdar.

Dr Carey has also launched an initiative to explore ways in which to develop Muslim/Christian relations in this country. The Network's Director has been attending, by invitation, in a consultative capacity meetings of the Reference Group for this.



# Education

## **Inter faith issues and the RE curriculum**

The Network held a meeting on 14 February to discuss follow up to the seminar on Inter Faith Issues and the RE Curriculum held in association with the National Association of SACREs in June 2001. As well as representatives from NASACRE, those present included representatives from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the RE Council for England and Wales, the Welsh Association of SACREs, the Professional Council for RE, the Association of RE Inspectors and Consultants and the Council of Christians and Jews. The relevance of the current study by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority of the possibilities for a national non-statutory framework for RE and of NASACRE's project to study SACREs' annual reports to gather examples of good practice for a database

was noted. A range of other steps were also discussed. It is intended to carry these issues further forward in the course of the coming year.

## **Educational and academic membership of the Network**

During the year informal discussions took place about possible changes to the pattern of Network membership by educational and academic bodies. It is planned to hold a formal review of this category during 2002-3.

The Network has 9 educational and academic body members with an interest in inter faith and multi faith issues. Some, such as the Islamic Foundation and the Institute of Jainology, serve particular faith communities. Others, such as the RE Council, the National Association of SACRE's and the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education, have as their focus religious education in schools and other educational contexts.

# Officers and Executive Committee 2001-02

The change in the coverage of the Annual Review this year means that decisions taken at the 2002 AGM as well as the 2001 AGM are recorded in this year's review.

All the Network's Officers and other Executive Committee members serve as Charity Trustees and Company Directors of the Inter Faith Network.

## Officers and Executive Committee 2001-02

At the 2001 AGM held in Birmingham on 4 July the following were elected to serve as the Network's Officers for 2001-02:

Co-Chairs: Rt Revd Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark; Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE.

Vice-Chairs: Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE; Mrs Saraswati Dave; Mr Jehangir Sarosh; Mr Jagjiwan Singh. Treasurer: Mr Ramesh Shah.

Thanks were recorded to Dr Ahsan for having served as Co-Chair and to Most Venerable Dr Vajiragana who had just completed a one year term of office as a Vice-Chair on behalf of the Buddhist community. By agreement the Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain and Zoroastrian communities hold the officership in rotation for one year .

Special appreciation was recorded to Mr Indarjit Singh OBE and Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE, who stood down as Vice-Chairs having both served as both Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs and been Officers since the



*Jehangir Sarosh, Bishop Charles Henderson and Jean Potter*

Network was founded. Both agreed to continue serving as Trustees.

The following were elected to serve as other members of the Network's Executive Committee for 2001-02:

Dr Fatma Amer  
Mr Jaswant Singh Heera  
Rt Rev Charles Henderson  
Rev Canon Dr Michael Ipgrave  
Mr Ayub Laher  
Hon Barnabas Leith  
Mr Bipin Mehta  
Mr Neville Nagler  
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar  
Mr Nitin Palan  
Rabbi Alan Plancey  
Rev Simon Reynolds  
Shaunaka Rishi das  
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid  
Mr Alan Schwartz  
Mr Paul Seto  
Dr Natubhai K Shah  
Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE  
Sr Margaret Shepherd nds  
Mr Indarjit Singh OBE  
Sister Isabel Smyth  
Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick  
Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana  
Miss Gillian Wood

Bimal Krishna das was subsequently co-opted as an additional Committee member.

The following stood down at the AGM and were thanked for their contribution to the work of the Committee: Mrs Bhupinder Kaur Bagga; Mrs Angela Jagger; Mrs Saroj Lal; Mrs Jean Potter; and Moulana Shahid Raza, who had been a member of the Committee since the founding of the Network.

## **New member bodies 2001**

At the 2001 AGM applications for membership were accepted from the Interfaith Foundation; The United Religions Initiative (Britain and Ireland); South London Inter Faith Group; and Watford Inter-Faith Group.

It was noted that the Edinburgh Interfaith Association had decided, following the establishment of the Scottish Inter Faith Council of which it is a member and which is itself now a member body of the Network, to withdraw from separate membership of the Network.

# Officers and Executive Committee 2002-03

At the 2002 AGM held in London on 15 July, the following were elected to serve as the Network's Officers for 2002-03:

Co-Chairs: Rt Revd Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark; Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE.

Vice-Chairs: Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE; Mrs Saraswati Dave; Hon Barnabas Leith; Mr Jagjiwan Singh. Treasurer: Mr Ramesh Shah.

Mr Jehangir Sarosh stood down, having completed his one year term of office as a Vice-Chair on behalf of the Zoroastrian community. He was thanked for his contribution in this post. As noted earlier, by agreement the Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain and Zoroastrian communities hold the officership in rotation for one year.

The following were elected to serve as other members of the Executive Committee for 2002-03:

Dr Fatma Amer  
Dr Elizabeth Harris  
Mr Jaswant Singh Heera  
Rt Rev Charles Henderson  
Rev Canon Dr Michael Ipgrave  
Mr Ramesh Kallidai  
Mr Ayub Laher  
Mr Shabbir Lakha  
Mr Abdur Rauf Mustafai  
Mr Neville Nagler  
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar  
Mr Nitin Palan

Rabbi Alan Plancey  
Rev Simon Reynolds  
Shaunaka Rishi das  
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid  
Mr Jehangir Sarosh  
Mr Alan Schwartz  
Mr Paul Seto  
Dr Natubhai K Shah  
Ms Priti Shah  
Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE  
Sr Margaret Shepherd nds  
Mr Indarjit Singh OBE  
Sister Isabel Smyth  
Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick  
Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana  
Miss Gillian Wood

Bimal Krishna das and Bipin Mehta, who stood down at the AGM, were thanked for their contribution to the work of the Committee.



*Hon Barnabas Leith, a new Vice-Chair, with Brian Pearce*

## New Member Bodies 2002

At the 2002 AGM, applications for membership were accepted from: Inter Faith Council for Wales/ Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru; Blackburn with Darwen Inter Faith Council; Leeds Faith Community Liaison Forum; Manchester Inter Faith Forum; Merseyside Council of Faiths; Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes); and Southampton Council of Faiths.

## Network's Treasurer

Thanks were recorded at both the 2001 and 2002 AGMs to Ramesh Shah for his much appreciated voluntary work as Network Treasurer.

## Network staff

During 2001-2002 Brian Pearce continued to serve as Director of the Network, Harriet Crabtree as the Deputy Director, Bhupinder Singh as Information Officer and Henny Rolan as part-time Clerical Assistant. Henny

Rolan completed her studies at Westminster University in the summer and returned to Indonesia. The Network is grateful to her for all her assistance in her two years at the Network.

In April Clare Lyons joined the staff as Administrative Assistant. Clare read history at Warwick University and worked for a year in Australia before coming to work at the Network.



*Ramesh Shah. Network Treasurer*

# The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2001	Total 2000
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	£	£	£	£
Grants and Donations	9,850	146,253	156,103	98,921
Membership Fees	-	4,110	4,110	4,030
Publication Sales	-	1,812	1,812	1,965
Income from Multifaith Directory	-	925	925	3,447
Intangible Income	-	33,895	33,895	32,910
Bank Interest and Other Income	-	2,923	2,923	4,097
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b><u>9,850</u></b>	<b><u>189,918</u></b>	<b><u>199,768</u></b>	<b><u>145,370</u></b>
<i>Direct Charitable Expenditure</i>				
Core Work, Including General Information and Advice Service	8,657	88,107	96,764	80,812
Local Inter Faith Programme	-	14,917	14,917	21,498
Multi-Faith Directory Project	-	10,148	10,148	12,252
Education Projects	2,350	10,279	12,629	4,779
Millennium Project	-	-	-	2,596
Golden Jubilee Project	-	1,452	1,452	-
	<u>11,007</u>	<u>124,903</u>	<u>135,910</u>	<u>121,937</u>
<i>Other Expenditure</i>				
Fundraising and Publicity	-	5,011	5,011	4,136
Management and Administration	-	24,496	24,496	27,217
Database Project	2,890	-	2,890	5,845
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b><u>13,897</u></b>	<b><u>154,410</u></b>	<b><u>168,307</u></b>	<b><u>159,135</u></b>
<b>Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(4,047)</b>	<b>32,080</b>	<b>31,461</b>	<b>(13,765)</b>
<b>Funds at 1 January</b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>20,480</b>	<b>24,732</b>	<b>38,497</b>
<b>Funds at 31 December</b>	<b><u>205</u></b>	<b><u>52,560</u></b>	<b><u>56,193</u></b>	<b><u>24,732</u></b>

All the charity's operations are classed as continuing. Movements on reserves and all recognised gains or losses are shown above.

# The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	£	2001 £	2000 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>		2,988	3,982
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments	1,068		977
Cash at Bank and In Hand	55,446		26,395
	<u>56,514</u>		<u>27,372</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year</b>	(3,309)		(6,622)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		53,205	20,750
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>56,193</u>	<u>24,732</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted Funds		205	4,252
Unrestricted Funds		55,988	20,480
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>56,193</u>	<u>24,732</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 9 July 2002 and signed on their behalf by Mr Ramesh Shah - Treasurer

Copies of the full accounts, including the Notes to the Financial Statements, audited by the MAP Partnership, are available on request from the Network office.

# Supporters in 2001

The Inter Faith Network's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through grants and donations from Trusts, organisations and individuals supportive of its work, including its member faith communities, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies.

The Trustees of the Network thank all those who have given financial support to its work during the year and also those who have given the gift of time to help work for good relations between the faiths in the UK.

Accounts for the Inter Faith Network are on a calendar basis from January to December. The following trusts, organisations and individuals helped support the Network financially during the calendar year 2001.

## Major Supporters

### Trusts and organisations

Barrow Cadbury Trust  
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust  
Friday Charitable Trust  
Home Office  
ICIC Foundation  
M E Pearce Trust  
Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust  
Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education  
Sternberg Charitable Foundation  
Thompson Fund  
Tolkien Trust  
Wates Foundation  
West London Synagogue Charitable Fund

## Funding from member faith communities

It was agreed in the autumn of 2000 that the Network's member faith communities would in future provide funding towards the Network's budget on a more structured basis, with contributions varying in amount with some reference to the relative sizes of the different communities. The pattern of contributions received in 2001 has varied from community to community. In some cases these have included donations from individuals, who are included in the lists of that category of donor.

During 2001 donations were received on behalf of member faith communities, from the following organisations and trusts under this new arrangement:

Baha'i Community of the UK  
Buddhist Society  
Church of England  
Church of Scotland  
Community Security Trust  
Sidney and Elizabeth Corob Charitable Trust  
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches  
East Midlands Buddhist Association  
Independent Methodist Association  
Institute of Jainology  
International Ministerial Council of GB  
Islamic Cultural Centre, Regent's Park  
Islamic Welfare Trust  
Jain Academy  
Jain Association of the UK  
Jain Samaj Europe



Jain Vishva Bharati  
Karuna Trust  
Lutheran Council of GB  
Methodist Church  
Moravian Union  
Muslim Council of Britain  
National Council of Hindu Temples  
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)  
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain  
Religious Society of Friends  
Roman Catholic Church in England and  
Wales  
Rubin Foundation Charitable Trust  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Salvation Army  
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of G.B  
Thames Meditation Society  
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches  
United Jewish Israel Appeal  
United Reformed Church  
United Synagogue  
Yorkshire Jain Foundation  
Young Jains  
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

**Individual Donors**

Mrs Kamlesh Bahl CBE  
Mr Anil and Dr Santosh Bhanot  
Mr Rajinder Singh Bhasin  
His Honour Judge Crabtree  
Rt Rev Kenneth Cragg  
Mr Tom Gulliver  
Mr S J Jaiswal  
Rt Rev Graham James  
Mr Mahendra Mehta  
Mr Neville Nagler  
Miss Beryl Pearce  
Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE  
Mr Neville Sassienie  
Dr M M Shah  
Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana  
Mr John Woodcock

**The Inter Faith Network is also grateful for donations during 2001 from the following organisations and individual donors:**

SJ Addhin, Mrs Lorna Barbour, Professor S N Bharadwaj, Mrs Sandy and Mr Jael Bharat, Mr David Birmingham, Rev Chris Boxley, Ms Patricia Brims, Canterbury Preparative Meeting, Community of Reconciliation of St Francis, Dr Martin Conway, Mrs G E Cotterill, Sri Akhandadhi Das, Mr Michael Davis, Rev Richard Davison, I Deane, A D Dias, Ari Dissanayake, Mr Barry Durrant, Rev F C Evans, Mr J A Ewan, Mrs Lalage Fair, Mrs Pam Fawcett, Elnora Ferguson, Mr Kingsley Fernando, Mr M S Fernando, Mrs Eileen Forrester, Mr Jonathan Foster, Mr A C Fyvie, Dr Hugh Goddard, Mr Rawdon Goodier, Miss Olive Grant, Mr Max Greenwood, Hall Green Methodist Church, P Hapugoda, Mrs Rosemary Harley, Mrs Shiela Hayes, D P Hettiaratchi, Mr M P Hettiaratchi, Ms Jessamine Hoskins, Professor John Hull, Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain, Mr David and Mrs Sheila Jeffrey, Ms Mary Jean Kenyon, Mr Dermot Killingley, K S Kodituwakku, A Kottarachchi, Rev Canon Dr Christopher Lamb, Mr Andy Lie, Ms Alison Macho, Mr H A Makalanda, Rev Susan McIvor, Miss Sheila Moss, Mrs Jan Mughrabi, Mrs Karima B Mustafa, Mrs L S Mutucumarana, D Gamini Nanayakkara, Nottingham Inter-Faith Council, Mr Nitin Palan, Mrs L Pandita, Mary Pimm, Mr Nigel Pounce, Mrs M Ratnasiri, Mr Robin Richardson, St Thomas' Church, Huddersfield  
Mr Geoff Robson, M D S Saparamadu, N Samarasinghe, Dr Natubhai Shah, Sheffield Interfaith, Dharma Shaky, Rev Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron, Ms Sarah Thorley, Rev Geoffrey Usher, Dr Stephen Vickers, Mr Mike Ward, Mr H Weerasekara, Mr H A Weerasinghe, L Wehalle, West Somerset Inter Faith Group, Mrs I Wickramaratna, Dr H C Wijewardena, Rt Rev Roy Williamson

# Member organisations of the Inter Faith Network for the UK 2002-03

## Faith community representative bodies

Afro West Indian United Council of Churches  
Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (UK)  
Baha'i Community of the United Kingdom  
Board of Deputies of British Jews  
Buddhist Society  
Churches' Agency for Inter Faith Relations in Scotland  
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations  
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK)  
Friends of the Western Buddhist Order  
Hindu Council (UK)  
Imams and Mosques Council (UK)  
Islamic Cultural Centre, Regents Park, London  
Jain Samaj Europe  
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars)  
Muslim Council of Britain  
National Council of Hindu Temples  
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)  
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)  
Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations  
Roman Catholic Committee for Other Faiths,  
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Sikh Missionary Society (UK)  
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of G.B  
Swaminarayan Hindu Mission  
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches  
Interfaith Subcommittee  
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)  
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League  
World Islamic Mission (UK)  
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

## Inter faith organisations

Inter Faith Council for Wales/Cyngor Cyd-Ffydd Cymru  
Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum  
Scottish Inter Faith Council\*  
Calamus Foundation  
Christians Aware Interfaith Programme  
Council of Christians and Jews  
International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter)  
International Interfaith Centre  
London Society of Jews and Christians  
Maimonides Foundation  
The Interfaith Foundation  
Three Faiths Forum  
United Religions Initiative (Britain and Ireland)  
Westminster Interfaith  
World Conference on Religion and Peace (UK Chapter)  
World Congress of Faiths

## Local inter faith groups

Bedford Council of Faiths  
Birmingham Council of Faiths

Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council  
Bolton Interfaith Council  
Bradford Concord Interfaith Society  
Brent Inter Faith  
Brighton and Hove Inter Faith Contact Group  
Bristol Inter Faith Group  
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group  
Cardiff Interfaith Association  
Cleveland Interfaith Group  
Coventry Inter Faith Group  
Derby Open Centre Multi-Faith Group  
Dudley Council of Faiths  
Gloucestershire Inter Faith Action  
Harrow Inter Faith Council  
Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)  
Kirklees and Calderdale Interfaith Fellowship  
Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship  
Leeds Faith Communities Liaison Forum  
Leicester Council of Faiths  
Loughborough Council of Faiths  
Luton Council of Faiths  
Manchester Interfaith Forum  
Merseyside Council of Faiths  
Merseyside Inter-Faith Group  
Newham Association of Faiths  
Nottingham Inter-Faith Council  
Oxford Round Table of Religions  
Peterborough Inter-Faith Council  
Reading Inter-Faith Group  
Redbridge Council of Faiths  
Richmond Interfaith Group  
Rochdale Interfaith Action  
Sheffield Interfaith  
South London Inter Faith Group  
Southampton Council of Faiths  
Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource  
Tyne and Wear Racial Equality Council  
Inter Faith Panel  
Watford Inter Faith Association  
Wellingborough Multi-Faith Group  
Whalley Range (Manchester) Inter Faith Group  
Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group  
Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

## Educational and academic bodies

Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations  
Community Religions Project, University of Leeds  
Institute of Jainology  
Islamic Foundation  
Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby  
National Association of SACRE's  
Religious Education Council for England and Wales  
Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education  
Study Centre for Christian-Jewish Relations (Sisters of Sion)

\*The Scottish Inter Faith Council links faith community, inter faith and educational bodies in Scotland.



The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom  
Promotes understanding and respect between the  
faith communities in the UK.

We are working towards a Britain in which people of  
different faiths can draw on their spiritual  
heritage, with integrity, to help create a society  
rooted in shared values and characterised by  
mutual respect and understanding.