



ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/2016

RESPECTED EDUCATION DIALOGUE
INTEGRITY COMMUNITY VALUES
COOPERATION DISTINCTIVENESS
COMMON GOOD UNDERSTANDING
NEIGHBOURLINESS FAITH ACTION
BELONGING TACKLING PREJUDICE
RESPECTED EDUCATION DIALOGUE
INTEGRITY COMMUNITY VALUES
COOPERATION DISTINCTIVENESS

The Inter Faith Network for the UK closed in 2024, with outward facing operations ceasing in April.

In order to ensure that the material in IFN's publications remained available to the public, to inter faith practitioners, and to scholars after IFN's closure, the copyright status of publications has been changed.

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ANNUAL REVIEW
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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

2015–16 has seen the Inter Faith Network for the UK grow and develop on many fronts: meetings and resources to support and boost local inter faith engagement and sharing of good practice between faith communities and inter faith organisations to add to the impact of their work; and responding to the need of individuals and organisations across the UK who are looking for advice and information.

Faith and social action, religious literacy, tackling and preventing hate crime, extending the involvement of young people in inter faith activity, using social media to increase inter faith engagement, the role of women in inter faith dialogue and action – just a few of the issues on the agenda this year.

On faith and social action, we were delighted to work in partnership with the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund and Church of England on the *Faiths Working Together: Connecting for the Common Good Toolkit*. This was launched in Inter Faith Week.

Inter Faith Week has continued to be a fast growing area of IFN's work, with more events and more activities. A special section reports on the 2015 Week and also the new *Inter Faith Week Toolkit* published this year.

The year has seen continued challenges, not least the impact of terrorist attacks and the spike in hate crime in some areas, in particular following the European Referendum vote. The Review contains a special section on 'Responding Together'. As has been said by the Officers in statements during the year, it is crucial to stand firm against hatred, work to prevent it and stand together with those affected.

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

We thank IFN's member bodies, fellow Trustees, and IFN's staff and volunteers for their dedicated contribution to its work and also faith groups, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), individual donors and trusts whose support has helped make IFN's work possible. It was very good to welcome to our National Meeting Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith and Integration at DCLG.

2017 will be the 30th Anniversary of the Inter Faith Network and we hope that readers of this Annual Review will consider making a donation to support its work to enable us to continue to help people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good.

We close our message by remembering one of IFN's earliest supporters and continual encouragers across the years, the late Sir Sigmund Sternberg, who died in October. Words of tribute were offered at the National Meeting as news of his death was received. Sir Sigmund's life was a reminder of the difference each person can make to inter faith understanding and cooperation.

+ Richard Bedford. Vivian Wineman

Bishop Richard Atkinson OBE

Vivian Wineman

Co-Chairs 2015–16

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

This Review

This Annual Review highlights the work of the Inter Faith Network between the October 2015 AGM and the October 2016 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 contribution 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.

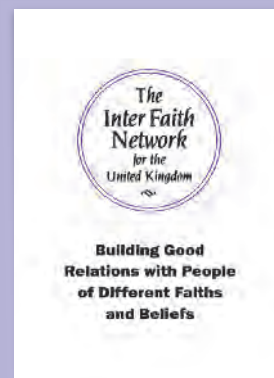
Our Vision

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 inter faith 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.



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 inter faith 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 best be able to help them.

The year saw an increase in enquiries relating to faith and inter faith responses to refugees and asylum seekers; issues relating to marriage between people of different faith backgrounds; and Inter Faith Week.

In a few cases, IFN staff have a longer term involvement with a project where this is seen as fitting with IFN's aims and helping to carry these out. So, for example, this year has seen continued engagement on this basis with the Equality and Diversity Forum, the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England, the ONS Census Advisory Group, the RE Council for England and Wales and One World Week.

E-BULLETIN

An e-bulletin goes out bi-monthly by email, and is available on IFN's website, with links to this from Facebook and Twitter. This is available to anyone who is interested in news about inter faith projects and events and relevant UK, national and local developments.

WEBSITES

People increasingly go online to find the information that they need.

IFN operates two websites: www.interfaith.org.uk, which is its main organisational website, and www.interfaithweek.org for its Inter Faith Week programme. The second half of the year saw extensive work to upgrade the Inter Faith Week website for reasons of security and accessibility.

The IFN website saw a continued increase in users. Visits to it between January and September 2016

were more than double those during the same period in 2015.

SOCIAL MEDIA

IFN runs separate Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Inter Faith Network and for Inter Faith Week. During this period it gradually increased its use of these, particularly the Inter Faith Week account. (See page 21)

ENQUIRIES

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

- I would like to set up an inter faith dialogue group at my university. How might I do that?
- Can you let me know which body to contact about multi faith healthcare chaplaincies?
- Our youth inter faith forum would like some advice on connecting with other groups.
- I would like to get involved in local inter faith activity. Where is my nearest local inter faith group?
- Can you recommend local speakers from faith communities to come and speak to our Cub Scout group?
- I am working as a community liaison officer for the Army. Can you help put me in touch with faith communities in my area?
- Where can we find ideas for events or activities to hold during Inter Faith Week?
- Can you tell us how faith communities are responding to the refugee crisis?
- Do you know of any public buildings that are managed as multi faith spaces?
- Our local police force is organising an inter faith sports event. Please can you offer some advice?
- Is there a body that provides advice about marriages between people of different faiths?

RESPONDING IN SOLIDARITY

During this period a number of events took place which had a significant impact on communities in the UK. These included the terrorist attacks in Paris in November and in Brussels the following March, the murder of Glasgow Shopkeeper Asad Shah in March, a spike in hate crimes following the result of the European Union Referendum in June, the Bastille Day Attacks in Nice in July and the murder of people on a train in Germany and of Fr Jaques Hemel in his place of worship in Normandy the same month.

IFN supported and encouraged a cross-community response of solidarity. As a national body, one important way that it did this was through statements and Co-Chair messages, which conveyed strongly the significance of responding in solidarity, the shared condemnation of atrocities and disavowal of purported religious justification by terrorists and violent extremists. This included standing up for communities who might be scapegoated or targeted in the wake of attacks. In the case of the murder of Asad Shah, religious freedom was at the core of the statement issued.

The full statements and messages can be seen at www.interfaith.org.uk/news/statements-and-messages. Some extracts are reproduced here.

“Such attacks are designed to rupture the fabric of civil society ... to create suspicion, fear and hatred. It is vital that in the UK we continue to work for a society which is marked by commitment to tackle tough issues with honesty and constructiveness and to work peacefully to resolve disagreement. Extreme voices and actions have no part in this. Communities will, and must, continue to reject and stand against brutal violence where it is claimed by perpetrators to be in the name of their religion. It is vital, too, that we support communities that may be rendered vulnerable by events overseas or at home. There must be no room for prejudice which singles out any community because of criminal actions carried out by a few in the name of its religion.”

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING BASTILLE DAY ATTACK IN NICE



Sean Finlay, Wisbech Interfaith Forum

“We are entering a period when the need for bridge building within society will be more important than ever. Faith and inter faith organisations have an extremely important role to play in this as well as in contributing to the debate about future identity of the UK.”

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE EU REFERENDUM RESULT

“Attacks on, or intimidation of, groups and individuals of other beliefs is an extreme form of restriction of the religious freedom of others. We deplore these in the strongest terms. A number of Inter Faith Network for the UK member inter faith bodies have as a key aim the raising of awareness of the importance of religious freedom. All the member bodies of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, through their work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation, make an important contribution to that. One of the key principles of the Inter Faith Network is of respecting other people’s freedom within the law to express their beliefs and convictions <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/code> We must be free to disagree, including in relation to matters of religious belief, but, as the Inter Faith Network code also says, we should work to prevent disagreement leading to conflict and to avoid violence in our relationships. Let us stand firm by these values, speak out against extreme voices and violent actions,



Cllr Saima Mahmud and Canon Steven Saxby, Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Sally Sealey, DCLG, presenting to the Faith Communities Forum

encouraging education and dialogue, and working together on the basis of our common values for increased understanding, cooperation and harmonious coexistence.”

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

[Note: In urgent situations, the Co-Chairs and the Vice Chairs of the Network (at the time covered by this Review) may make a joint statement in their capacity as Officers of IFN, and on their own behalf, which does not then commit IFN member bodies. Statements can be made on events relating to inter faith relations in the UK, or on overseas events when these directly affect relations between faith communities in this country.]

Responding to hate crime

In the weeks and months following the European Union Referendum, held in June 2016, a rise in recorded hate crime incidents was widely reported.

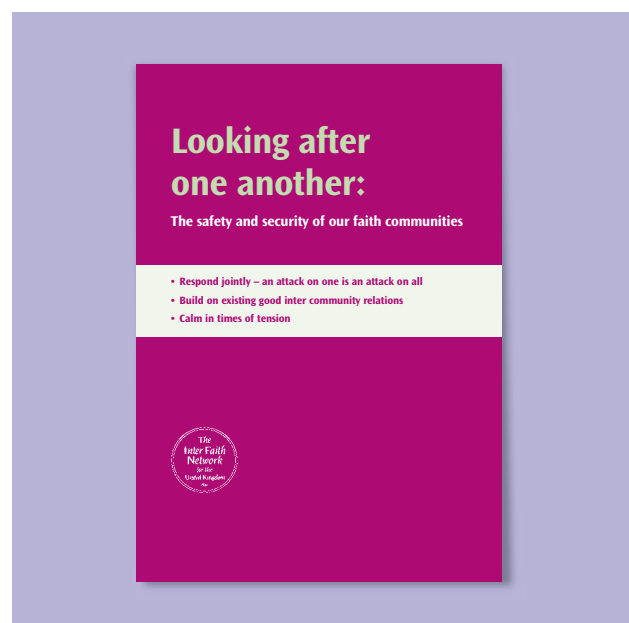
IFN convened a special meeting of the Faith Communities Forum (FCF) in September with a presentation by Sally Sealey, Senior Policy Advisor on Hate Crime, Faith and Integration Directorate, Department for Communities and Local Government, who discussed the Government's response. An issue raised at that meeting was the absence of recognition of the impact that hate crime had on communities other than Jewish and Muslim. The impact, for example, on Hindus and Sikhs of hate crime needed to be considered.

Ms Sealey also spoke about hate crime at the IFN day event for local inter faith practitioners, held in

Coventry in July 2016, which heard, too, from Narendra Waghela of Leicester Council of Faiths about responses to hate crime in Leicester. One of the workshops for that day was on the theme of 'Working for united communities – tackling prejudice, tensions and hate crime'.

At the 2016 National Meeting Councillor Saima Mahmud and Canon Steven Saxby spoke about how Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum was responding to hate crime in its area, partly as a member of the local Hate Crime Strategy Group.

In the course of the year, work began to update IFN's publication *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities* for publication shortly after the time covered by this Review.



FAITH COMMUNITIES, DIALOGUE AND COMMON ACTION

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. 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, February, June and September. The June meeting

of FCF was a joint one with IFN member Educational and Academic Bodies.

Each meeting included sharing of news and information about member bodies' own work and particular issues of concern. One such session included a brief opening reflection from Canon John O'Toole, National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary to the Department for Dialogue and Unity of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, on recent activities that had taken place to mark the anniversary of Nostra Aetate which continues to inform Catholic inter religious engagement. Another included a contribution from Malcolm Deboo of Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and Nitin Palan of the BAPS Swaminaryan Sanstha about an event at the Zoroastrian Centre during Inter Faith Week to remember the immense contribution made by the countless volunteers from the Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities



Discussion at the September FCF meeting



Above: Participants in dialogue at the November FCF meeting. Below: June meeting of the Faith Communities Forum



from the British Empire (later Commonwealth) countries who served in World War I.

Other topics of discussion included:

- Religious literacy, with a special focus on Religious Education, with Professor Adam Dinham of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London and Rudolf Elliott Lockhart of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales
- Responding to hate crime, including discussion of the Government's then recently published document *Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime*, with Sally Sealey, Senior Policy Advisor on Hate Crime, Integration and Faith Directorate, Department for Communities and Local Government and Lord Singh of Wimbledon.
- Faith communities and mutual support in times of tension, with Inspector Andy Burton of the National Police Chiefs' Council
- Integration and 'British Values'
- Safety and security, extremism and radicalisation
- Chaplaincy in the context of the criminal justice system, particularly in prisons, with the Revd Canon Michael Kavanagh, Chaplain-General and Head of Chaplaincy and Faith Service for the National Offender Management Service and Mohinder Singh Chana, Network of Sikh Organisations and Sikh Chaplaincy Services UK
- Inter Faith Network matters, including governance and communication

Members of the Forum expressed a desire for more opportunity to learn about each other's faiths and the year saw the beginning of a pattern of including

at each meeting a short reflection on the bases in a particular faith for engaging with one of the main agenda items. Meetings included reflections from Acharya Modgala Duguid, Interfaith Officer of the Network of Buddhist Organisations UK, on the Buddhist bases for responding to crimes motivated by hate; from Satya Minhas, Co-Chair of Hindu Council UK and then Deputy Chair, Metropolitan Police Hindu Association, on Hindu bases for responding in solidarity; and from Mike Stygal, Vice-President of the Pagan Federation, about the importance of religious literacy from his faith tradition's perspective.



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATIONS



Jackie Goymour of the Women's Interfaith Network addressing colleagues

Among IFN's member bodies are inter faith organisations and programmes whose work is carried out at UK or national level or which, while mainly 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 Christian Muslim Forum, work primarily with particular religious traditions; others, such as the World Congress of Faiths, work with people of any religion or belief. Some of the organisations have a particular area of focus for their work: Religions for Peace UK, for example, has a particular peace and justice focus. A few, such as the London Interfaith Centre, are initiatives which are run by particular faith

traditions 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 seeks to add value to the work of these organisations and help exchange of good practice, information and ideas through its meetings and its e-bulletin and social media.

Meeting of national and regional inter faith organisations

A meeting for member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations took place in London in September. The morning session had a special focus on women's inter faith engagement, with presentations from Jackie Goymour of the Women's Interfaith Network and from Dr Maureen Sier of Interfaith Scotland. A presentation from the Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network was circulated in the absence of the invited presenter due to illness. Topics of discussion in the afternoon session included issues of common concern, the relevance to inter faith engagement of the vote to leave the European Union, and IFN matters.



Jamie Cresswell, Religions for Peace (UK), and Martin Weightman, All Faiths Network



Jenny Kartupelis MBE, World Congress of Faiths, the Revd Laurence Hillel, London Interfaith Centre, and Dr Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland

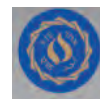
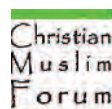
Meeting of the national inter faith linking bodies

The member body category of National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations includes the national inter faith linking bodies of the devolved nations: Interfaith Scotland; the Inter-Faith Council for Wales; and the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum. IFN works closely with these and each year convenes a meeting of IFN with them to enable cross-national sharing of news and good practice.

The yearly meeting took place in May, kindly hosted by the Inter-Faith Council for Wales at the City United Reformed Church in Cardiff. Issues on the agenda included the development of local inter faith activity; integration and inter faith work in the different nations; tackling extremism; Inter Faith Week; and IFN's governance, including Trustee nominations from the devolved nations and the appointment process.



National linking bodies meeting in Cardiff

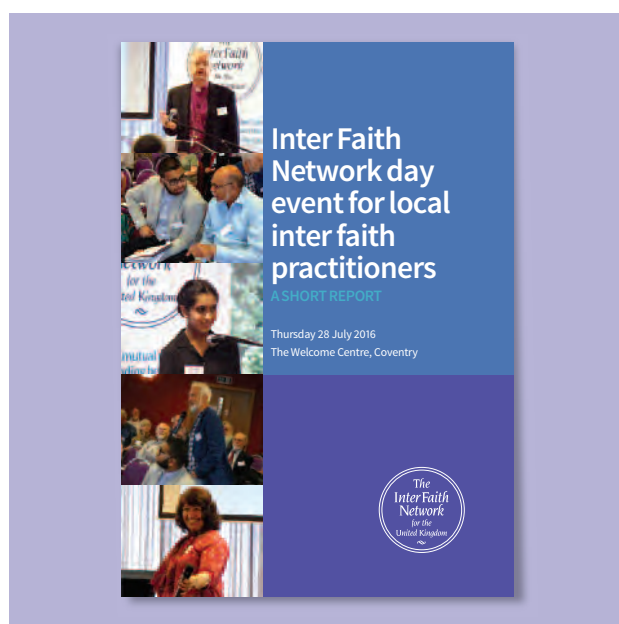


SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT BY LOCAL INTER FAITH BODIES

What does it mean to say that we ‘get on’ or have ‘good inter faith relations’?

First and foremost it 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.

One of the key roles of IFN is to offer support and advice. It does that through phone and email and visits and by enabling practitioners to share their insights and their practical learning through meetings and resources. This helps strengthen their programmes and, through this, local communities.



There are currently around 250 local inter faith organisations spread across all four nations of the UK, as shown on the map opposite. Some link many faiths; others, such as local branches of the Council of Christians and Jews, have a focus on a particular dialogue relationship.

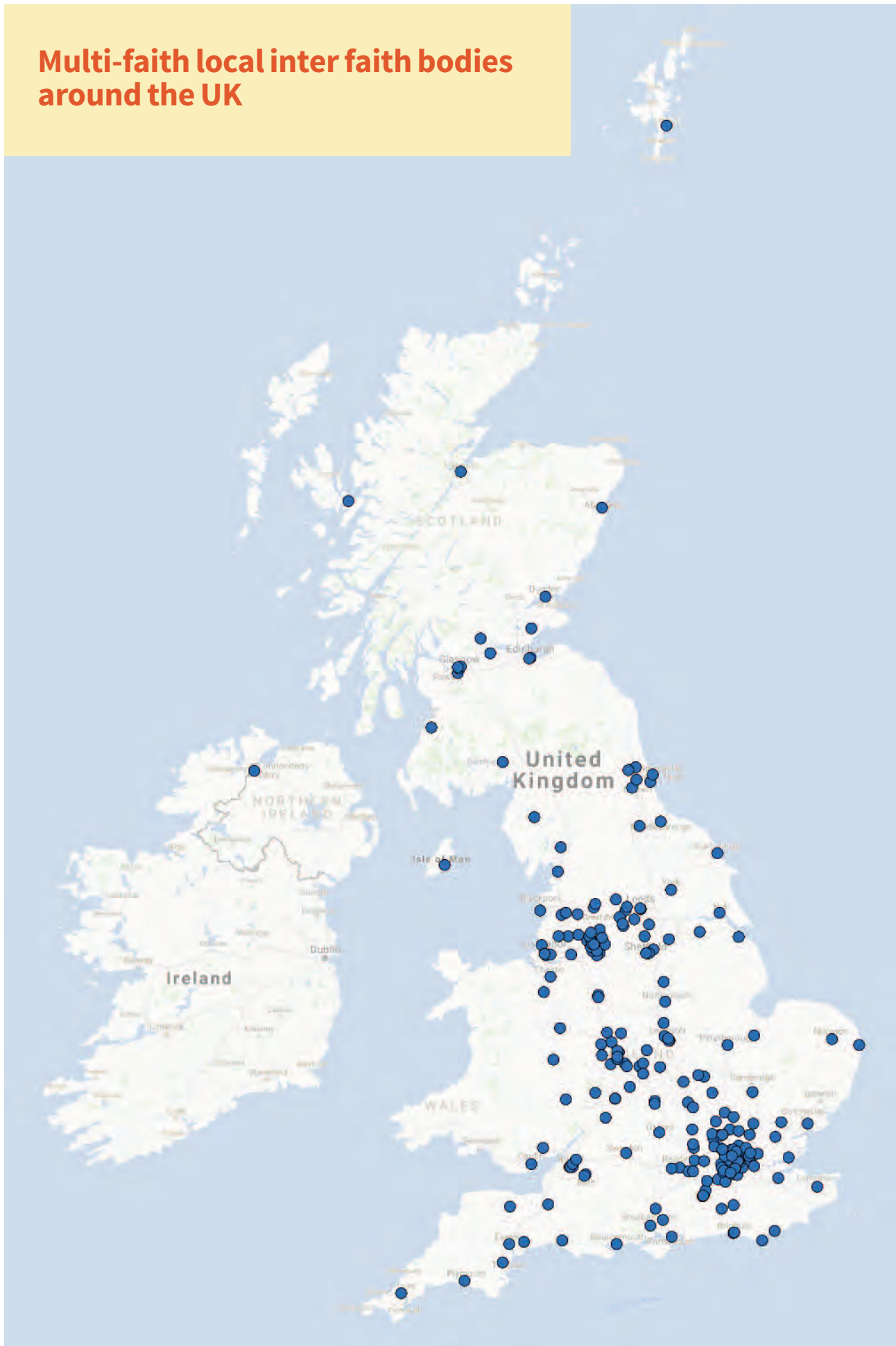
Interfaith groups in Scotland are linked by Interfaith Scotland. Further information is available at www.interfaithscotland.org

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
- arranging visits to places of worship
- faith trails and multi faith walks or pilgrimages
- organising educational events and exhibitions
- sending speakers to help school children learn about different faiths from practitioners as part of Religious Education
- helping 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
- assisting on multi faith civic ceremonies
- Shared meals
- Inter Faith Week events

Multi-faith local inter faith bodies around the UK



Local inter faith practitioner day in Coventry

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

Some topics discussed:

- Tackling of hate crime
- Promoting understanding and raising awareness and religious literacy
- Working in partnership for the common good, including through multi faith social action projects
- Using social media and other forms of digital communication
- Funding and resourcing local inter faith work
- Reaching out and growing involvement

FEEDBACK

IFN asked participants to provide feedback on the day through an online survey.

100% of respondents said that they thought attending the day had been interesting and worthwhile.

“An excellent and very thought provoking event”

“So well organised and meticulously managed”

“I came yesterday with some mixed up feelings as to where we were going as a society. Hearing the many stories of hope and commitment gave me heart.”

“I feel as though I learnt a lot and have lots of take back to my group”

The day took place in the month after spikes in hate crime in a number of areas following the EU membership referendum and included a presentation from Sally Sealey, Senior Policy Advisor at DCLG. See the longer piece on tackling hate crime under ‘Responding in solidarity’ at pages 6–7.

Responding to refugees continued to be a concern during the year and this was highlighted in a



Patricia Stevens, Harrow Interfaith and Ustadh Adam Aslam, Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship

contribution by Mohamed Omar of Interfaith Glasgow.

The day was facilitated by IFN’s Executive Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree.

Presenters and contributors:

A welcome to Coventry was given by Mehru Fitter MBE, Coventry Multi Faith Forum. Presenters and facilitators included: The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE, Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Narendra Waghela, Leicester Council of Faiths and IFN Trustee; Sally Sealey OBE, Senior Policy Advisor on Hate Crime, Integration and Faith Directorate, Department for Communities and Local Government; Mohamed Omar, Interfaith Glasgow; Rabbi Dr Robert Ash, Preston Faiths Forum; the Revd Andy Williams, Faith Network for Manchester; Sean Finlay, Wisbech Interfaith Forum; Jaskiran



Canon Bede Gerrard, South East England Faiths Forum



Lunchtime networking at the IFN Coventry day event



Mehru Fitter, Coventry Multi Faith Forum



Narendra Waghela, Leicester Council of Faiths



'Dialogue on the Spot' at the IFN Coventry day event



Kaur Mehmi, Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship; Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Alistair Beattie, Bristol Multi Faith Forum; Duncan Struthers,

Bristol Multi Faith Forum and Hillingdon Inter Faith Network; Chaudry Shafique MBE, Council for Christian Muslim Relations in High Wycombe; Dr Peter Rookes, Birmingham Council of Faiths; Amy Hobbs, SocialB; David Hampshire, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Jatinder Singh Birdi, Warwick District Faiths Forum; Patricia Stevens, Harrow Interfaith; Canon Andrew Pratt, Lancashire Forum of Faiths; Reynold Rosenberg and Valerie Skottowe, Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group; and Simon Batten, Coventry Voluntary Action.

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/uploads/IFN_Local_day_event_Coventry_2016.pdf.

EDUCATING FOR RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND INTER FAITH UNDERSTANDING

IFN's member bodies include a number of educational and academic organisations which, in different ways, promote understanding between and about different religions in the UK. Some are specialist centres or units within academic institutions or faith communities, and others are national bodies with a focus on a particular area such as Religious Education in schools.

Exploring religious literacy

As noted on page 8, a combined meeting for National Faith Community Representative Bodies and Educational and Academic Bodies took place in June. The main focus of that meeting was religious literacy, both in general and within schools. Professor Adam Dinham spoke about the need for religious literacy to enable people to understand the place of faith and religion in the public space. He also talked about the challenges of increasing religious literacy throughout the general population.

Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, spoke about the aims and process of the shortly to be established RE Commission, which would be looking across two years at the nature and purpose of RE in English schools.



The Revd Prebendary Michael Metcalf, NASACRE



Katharina Smith-Müller, CBCEW, and Karl Wightman, Baha'i Community of the UK, at June FCF meeting

Emphasising the importance of RE

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.

“The ability to inquire and reflect, and the opportunity to acquire accurate knowledge about one another’s religious traditions, concerns and values are important in the development of constructive inter-religious relations. The education system has an important role in challenging prejudice and providing accurate information. We affirm the special part which religious education and religious studies, at all levels, can play in this.”
IFN Statement on Inter Religious Relations in the UK, 1991

In their submission to the Commission On Religion And Belief In British Public Life, whose report *Living with Difference: community, diversity and the common good* was published in December 2015, the Board underlined the importance of this.

In a submission to the enquiry on religious literacy of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE they said: “Religious Education is of the highest



Lynsey Wilkinson, Young Ambassadors for RE programme, and RE Ambassadors Laura Norris and Qaa'Sim Uhuru at IFN National Meeting (Photo: Myles Fisher)

importance and the provision of high quality RE is vital in our society. That includes ensuring that all children – no matter what their school context – have the opportunity for this education.”

Highlighting religious literacy

A dedicated workshop at the local inter faith practitioner day in Coventry in July, led by Jatinder Singh Birdi, Warwick District Faith Forum, and Patricia Stevens, Harrow Interfaith, explored questions about how local inter faith organisations do and can contribute to religious literacy in society, along with bodies such as schools and SACREs.

Building on this, the National Meeting in July included two workshops. The first featured Lynsey Wilkinson, Redhill Academy Nottingham and Coordinator of the the Young Ambassadors for RE programme of the RE Council of England and Wales, and Qaa'Sim Uhuru and Laura Norris, RE Ambassadors and students at Redhill Academy. They offered reflections on the Ambassadors Programme and its potential for enabling skills development and also cross-generational learning. The second workshop included a presentation by Dr Avijit Datta, of York Interfaith Group and explored how learning can be promoted through a structured inter faith programme across a year. Dr Jane Clements, Director, Council of Christians and Jews, offered reflections on the importance of learning and dialogue from the perspective of the UK's longest-standing national inter faith organisation.

Inter Faith Week and education and learning

The importance of education and learning was also highlighted in the Inter Faith Week Toolkit, published in May 2016, with special sections for universities and colleges of further education, schools and youth organisations.



Prof Adam Dinham, Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London

INTER FAITH WEEK

“Inter Faith Week is a marvellous platform for the ever wider variety of inter faith projects and initiatives taking place at local level and for highlighting the many ways that faith communities work together – and with others – for the wellbeing of society at every level. At a time when negative voices sometimes seem to be speaking ever louder, it is a reminder of our shared conviction of the importance of the common good and of peaceful and respectful coexistence.”

CO-CHAIRS OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK

Background and introduction

Inter Faith Week helps increase the numbers of people and organisations involved in inter faith activity – to get more people of all ages and backgrounds talking and working together. This major 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, and IFN works closely with the national inter faith bodies of these nations on the Week.

Scottish Inter Faith Week has taken place since 2004 and is led by Interfaith Scotland.

Inter Faith Week takes place in November each year. Its aims 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

Top row:
Interfaith Summit, 3FF (Photo: 3FF); Sharing food with passers-by in Leeds (Photo: Leeds Faiths Forum); A welcome from Royal Holloway, University of London (Photo: Royal Holloway); Meeting of clergy and imams, Halifax Minster (Photo: Diocese of Leeds); Signing of a Faith Covenant between Calderdale Interfaith Council and Calderdale Council, Halifax Town Hall (Photo: Calderdale Council); Students at University of Bradford handing out flowers for peace (Photo: UoB Chaplain)

Bottom row:
Caldmore Faith Walk (Photo: Walsall Faiths Together); Pupils learning about Diwali at St Brendan’s RC Primary School, Bolton (St Brendan’s RC Primary School); Launch of IFW in Wales at the historic YrHen Gapel Llwynrhydowen, Pontsian, Llandysul, Ceredigion (Photo: Unitarians Wales); Interfaith Task Force food bank (Photo: Leicester City Council)



Inter Faith Week 2015

Inter Faith Week 2015 ran from Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 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.

Baroness Williams of Trafford, then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with responsibility for Faith and Integration at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), offered the following advance message of encouragement:

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

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

BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD, THEN PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAITH AND INTEGRATION AT THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG)





Launch of the Near Neighbours and IFN Faiths Working Together Toolkit

Social action and 'living well together'

Inter Faith Week 2015 included a special focus on social action and the theme of 'living well together'. Participants were encouraged to organise or take part in a hands-on social action project, or to hold a discussion about living well together as people of different faiths and beliefs in a shared society.

As part of this, a special event was held during the Week to launch a joint publication of Near Neighbours with IFN, the *Faiths Working Together Toolkit*. The resource has been widely shared.

The toolkit was an important piece of collaborative work between IFN and the Near Neighbours programme of the Church Urban Fund and the Church of England. It aims to:

- reach out and engage with people of different faiths in their local area;
- create a successful project that engages people of different religious backgrounds;
- develop and deepen cross-faith understanding and relationships; and
- support people of different faiths as they engage in social action for the good of their neighbourhoods.

The toolkit includes practical pointers for making contact and for planning and publicising initiatives, as well as advice on key principles to consider, such as the importance of looking for shared values and experiences while working well with difference. It can be viewed at www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/faiths-working-together-toolkit



Baroness Eaton of Near Neighbours and IFN Co-Chairs

Communities standing together

On Friday 13 November – two days before the Week began – a series of terrorist attacks were carried out in the Saint-Denis commune in Northern Paris. Responsibility for the attacks was claimed by so-called Islamic State.

The attacks added a sense of urgency to the Week, and additional activities such as peace and solidarity vigils were held in many areas. Significant numbers of Inter Faith Week events also incorporated times of silent prayer and reflection for those in Paris.



Faith leaders' observance in Newcastle following terrorist attacks in Paris (Photo: Newcastle Chronicle)

The Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of IFN issued a statement (<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/the-terrorist-attacks-in-paris-and-inter-faith-relations-in-the-uk>) which included the following:

"Tomorrow Inter Faith Week gets under way in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. One of its themes this year is 'Living Well Together'. The events that the Week will see are a reminder of the reality and the importance of a positive coexistence. Tackling tough issues is part of this and on the agenda are those such as extremism, freedom of expression and responding to social ills such as poverty. Inter faith discussion and engagement does not just focus on easy issues; it is not just the province of those who agree. It is a challenging and vital process that needs, increasingly, to be part of the common discourse of our society."



Media and social media

Inter Faith Week 2015 was covered in a variety of national, regional and local media platforms, including faith and cultural news coverage, as well as on social media. National news outlets such as the BBC, ITV and the Huffington Post covered the Week, along with faith and cultural news organisations such as the Jewish News. Many local newspapers covered the Week, with the Newcastle Chronicle, the York Press, and Lancashire Telegraph and the Sunderland Echo being just a few. The Week was also covered by several BBC local radio stations and others such as Inspire FM, Luton.

In addition, there was a high volume of traffic on Twitter and Facebook, with many people choosing to publicise and cover their events, or the events of others, through social media. The Week was publicised on social media by DCLG and Inter Faith Week was on Twitter using the channel @IFWeek, and encouraged use of the hashtag #ifweek. Tweets about the Week had a potential reach of 3.4 million unique Twitter users, with 11.5 million potential impressions. Posts on the Inter Faith Week Facebook page reached over 42,000 users.



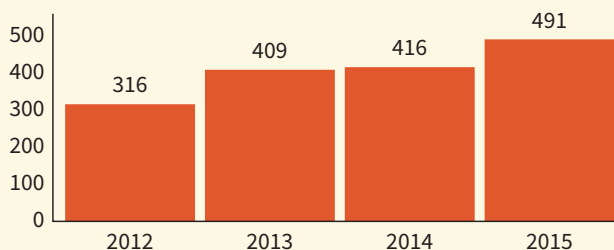
Events and activities

Just over 490 events are known to have taken place across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to mark Inter Faith Week 2015. This was an increase of 75 when compared to the 2014 Week, and builds on steady growth over recent years.

A wide variety of events took place, including walks and faith trails; dialogues and discussions; a range of social action projects, including those linked to Mitzvah Day and Near Neighbours; celebrations; civic receptions; services and much more. 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.

GROWTH IN EVENTS



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.

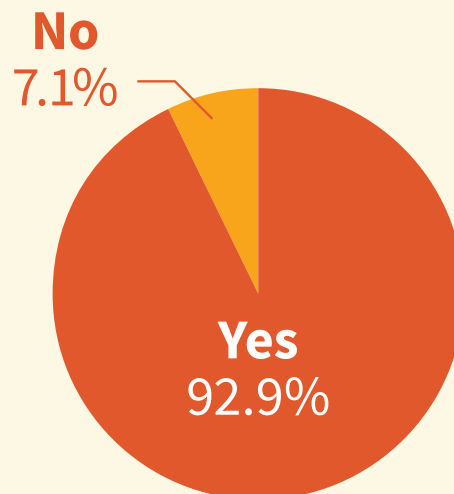
A full list of events can be found at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-2015-event-list

The Week was marked by at nearly 560 organisations, including local faith communities; local, national and regional inter faith 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.

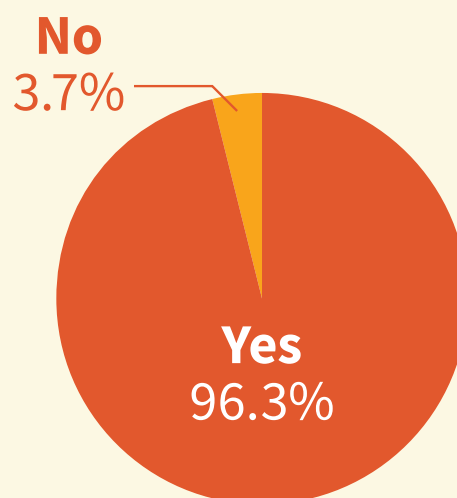
As shown in the chart at the bottom of the next page, the organisations varied widely by type. The figure

only includes named organisations that IFN is certain took part in the arrangements of an event/activity. Events run jointly by several organisations were a common feature of the Week.

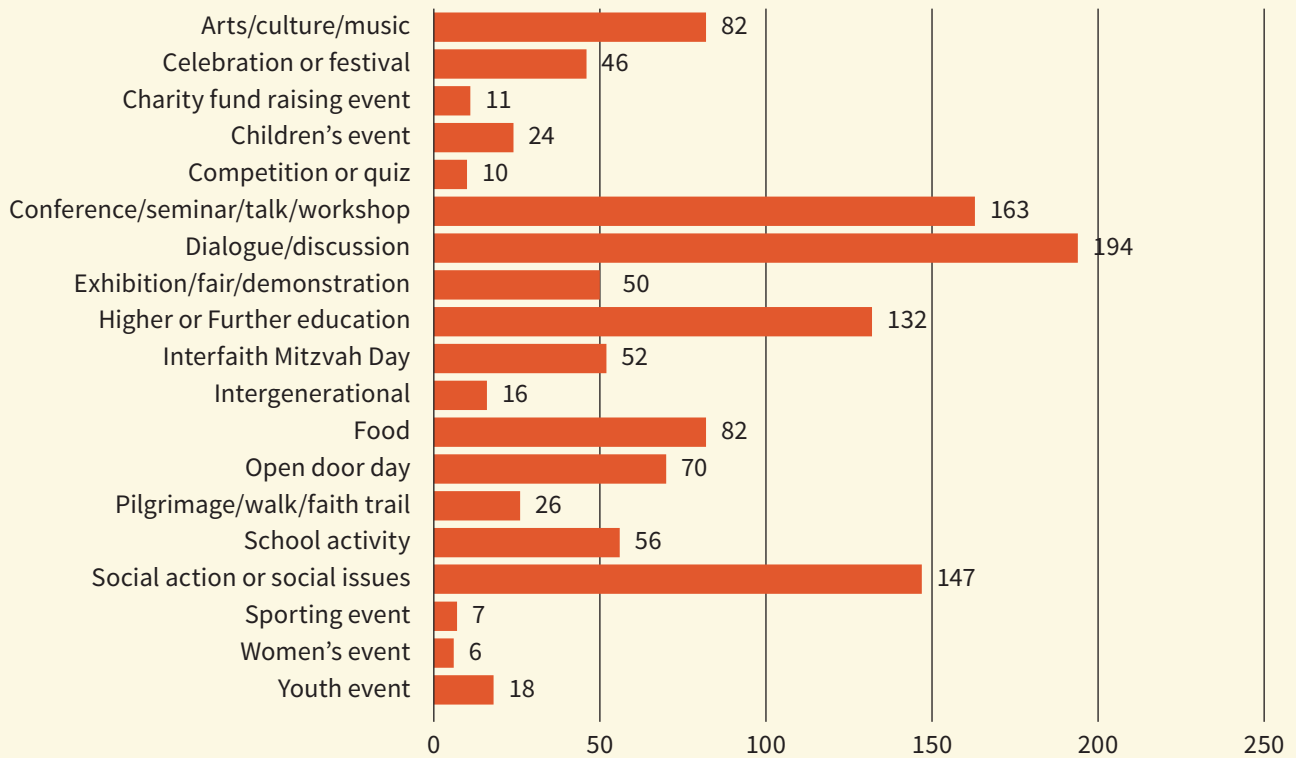
SURVEY Q: DID YOUR INTER FAITH WEEK ACTIVITY HELP YOU TO ENGAGE NEW PEOPLE?



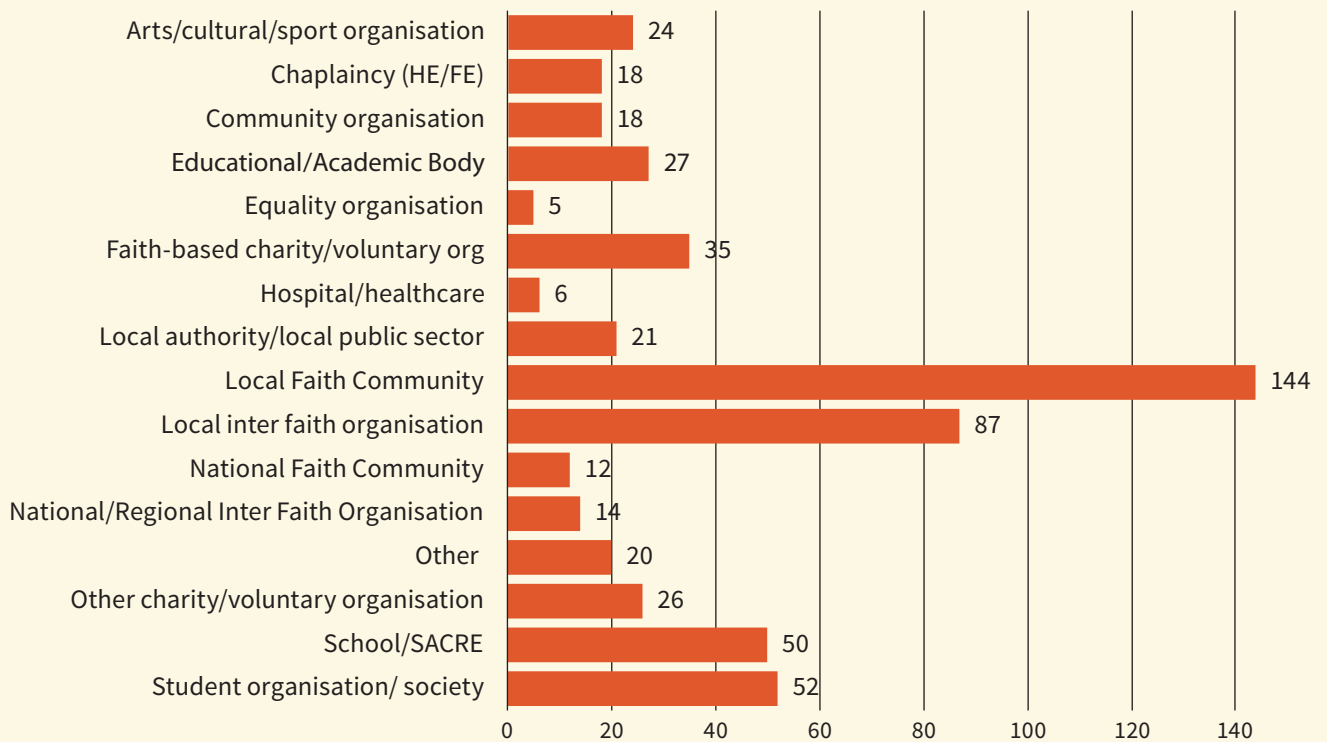
SURVEY Q: DOES INTER FAITH WEEK ADD VALUE TO YOUR WORK?



INTER FAITH WEEK 2015 EVENT TYPES



TYPES OF ORGANISATION MARKING INTER FAITH WEEK 2015





Member bodies launch the IFW Toolkit

Inter Faith Week 2016

Work continued through the year in preparation for Inter Faith Week 2016, 13–20 November. Preparation included the development of a new Inter Faith Week website, and mailings to local authorities, chaplaincies, youth organisations, sports bodies, HE and FE organisations and many others. Organisers began registering events for the Week on the website in July, and the Week was promoted regularly in IFN's E-Bulletin, online and on social media. Full details of Inter Faith Week 2016 will be published in a dedicated report, along with coverage in the next Annual Review.



Ashley Beck and Sofi Hersher





Ben Shapiro, 3FF



Suzanne Kochanowski, DCLG

The Revd Alan Bayes,
Inter-faith Council for
WalesDr Maureen Sier,
Interfaith Scotland

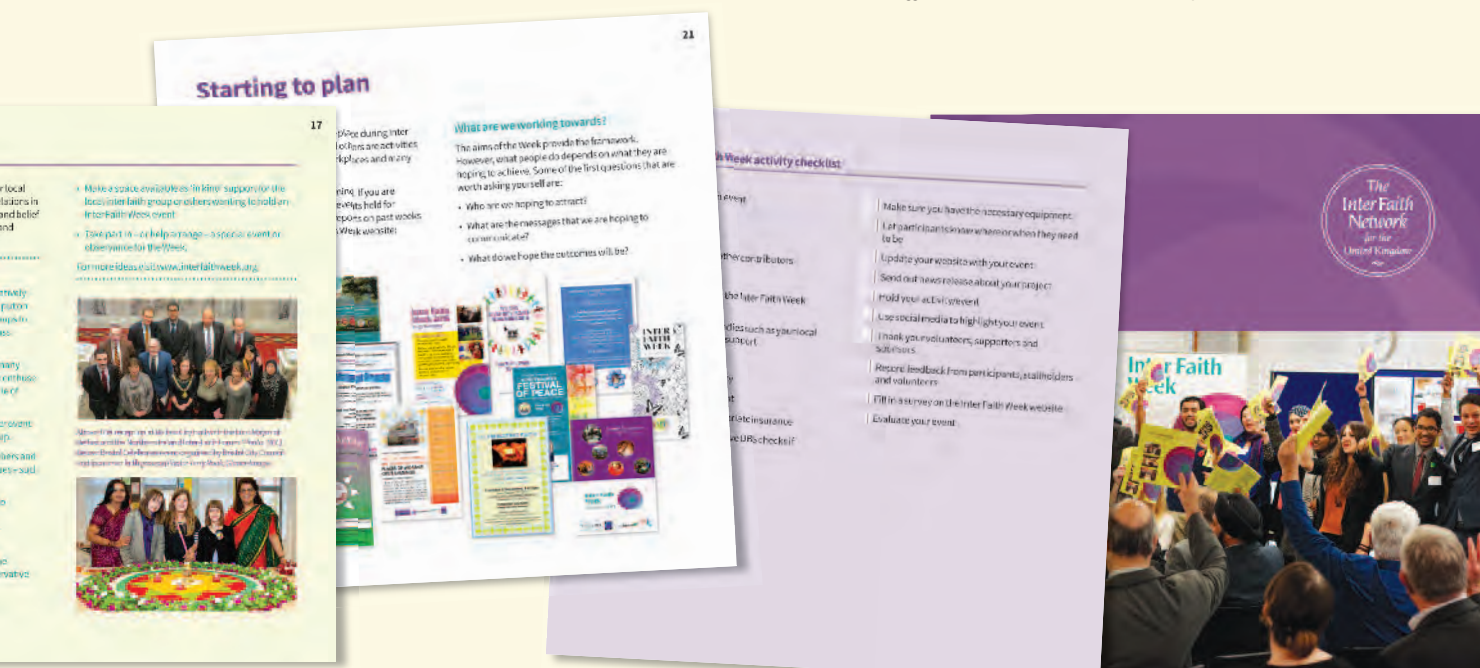
INTER FAITH WEEK TOOLKIT LAUNCHED

Interest in Inter Faith Week grows continually. This year a dedicated Inter Faith Week Toolkit was developed, packed with ideas to help people mark the Week and use it to further its aims. The various sections draw on examples from events including those held for the 2015 Week and it also includes handy check lists for event planning.

The Toolkit was launched at the 2016 EGM with presentations from Chan Parmar Strategic Officer and Youth Inter Faith Ambassador Meera Solanki of Bolton Inter Faith Council; Minou Cortazzi of Leicester Council of Faiths and Riaz Ravat BEM, Deputy Directory of the St Philip's Centre, Leicester; Ben Shapiro of 3FF on behalf of the Parliamentors programme; the Revd Andy Williams of FN4M; and Suzanne Kochanowski of the Race Equality and Faith Engagement, Integration and Faith Division, DCLG. A special tribute was paid on behalf of the

Meera Solanki and Chan Parmar, Bolton Interfaith
Council

Board of IFN by the Revd Alan Bayes, then Chair of the Inter Faith Council for Wales, to the pioneering Scottish Interfaith Week. This was received by Dr Maureen Sier of Interfaith Scotland, who made mention in her remarks of the work of Ravinder Kaur Nijjar and Sister Isabel Smyth OBE.



NATIONAL MEETING

Faith and Cohesive Communities

The 2016 National Meeting for IFN member bodies took place in October at the DeafBlind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough. Its theme was 'Faith and Cohesive Communities'. The day was chaired by the Co-Chairs of IFN, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Vivian Wineman.

The meeting explored the ways in which people of faith contribute to community cohesion and integration, and how faith and inter faith bodies are working towards these ends.

Participants received a welcome and introduction from Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network for the UK, and a welcome to Peterborough from Jaspal Singh, Chair, Peterborough Inter-Faith Council.

IFN was delighted to welcome Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Faith and Integration at the Department for Communities and Local Government who gave a presentation.

During the plenary session:

- **Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, Multicultural and Pentecostal Relations, Churches Together in England**, spoke on 'What are the signs of a 'cohesive community' and what role do faith communities play in this?', reflecting on the



Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Gillian Merron, Board of Deputies of British Jews (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Bishop Dr Joe Aldred (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Trupti Patel, Hindu Forum of Britain (Photo: Myles Fisher)

meaning of the terms 'cohesion' and 'unity' from a Christian perspective from within his own experience of ecumenical and inter faith work.

- **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Faith and Integration, Department for Communities and Local Government**, talked about 'Inter faith dialogue and understanding community cohesion', discussing the contribution that inter faith work makes to cohesive communities. He explained how the Government was supporting inter faith work in the UK, and offered reflections on the importance of inter faith work and effective responses to hate crime.
- **Councillor Saima Mahmud and Canon Steven Saxby of Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum**, reflected on its work in the context of the theme of the day, discussing work with young

people, assisting refugees and responses to hate crime, the importance of work to bring people together and the emphasis of the Forum on harmony and cohesion.

- **Gillian Merron, Chief Executive, Board of Deputies of British Jews**, spoke on 'Supporting a faith community in creating and contributing to cohesive communities', reflecting on the work of the Board in this respect and the current rise in hate crime incidents, particularly in the context of anti-Semitism and the European Union Referendum. She also spoke of the Board's educational work to tackle hate crime, building bridges between communities and security at schools and places of worship.
- **Trupti Patel, President, Hindu Forum of Britain**, spoke on 'Mutual respect and understanding as a keystone of cohesive communities', in national



Neil Pitchford, Druid Network (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Pandit Madhu Shastri, National Council of Hindu Temples (UK), and Resham Singh Sandhu MBE, Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Fazal Rahim, Oldham Inter Faith Forum with Ngakma Nor'dzin Pamo, Inter-faith Council for Wales



Charanjit Ajit Singh, Hounslow Friends of Faith and International Interfaith Centre

and local contexts. She reflected on why understanding and respecting each other's traditions is of vital importance and provided an insight, based on her experience at the Hindu Forum of Britain and from her local context, into how Hindus are contributing to cohesive communities.

- Reflections on the themes of the day were offered in the afternoon by **Dr Norman Richardson MBE, Executive Member, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum**; and **Abid Khan, Chair, North Lincolnshire Multi Faith Partnership**.

Closing reflections were given by Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE and Vivian Wineman, Co-Chairs, Inter Faith Network for the UK.

Discussion groups were held on the following topics:

- 'Cohesive Communities: Compassion and Social Action', with presentations from Jaspal Singh, Sajjad Jivraj and Rajni Reddi, Chair and colleagues, Peterborough Inter-Faith Council; and Keith Bishop, Interfaith Advisor, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints;
- 'Cohesive Communities: a place for those of all abilities and disabilities', with presentations from Christine Hardy, Advocacy, Rights and Awareness Manager, DeafBlind UK; and Dr Dale Dishon, Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas, Historic England;
- 'Cohesive Communities: Creating Connections Across Generations', with presentations from Aishah Mehmood, Graduate of Near Neighbours' Catalyst Programme and Communications and Media Officer, Near Neighbours; and Lynsey Wilkinson, Redhill Academy Nottingham and Coordinator of the RE Ambassadors Programme



Dr Harriet Crabtree, IFN (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Abid Khan, North Lincolnshire Multi Faith Partnership (Photo: Myles Fisher)



Mike Stygal, Pagan Federation (Photo: Myles Fisher)

of the RE Council of England and Wales with Laura Norris and Qaa'Sim Uhuru, RE Ambassadors and students at Redhill Academy;

- 'Cohesive Communities: equality within society as a vital dimension', with a presentation from Jamie Spurway, Religious Equality Officer, Interfaith Scotland;
- 'Cohesive Communities: diversity and commonality', with presentations from Ngakma Nor'dzin Pamo, Buddhist member, Inter Faith Council for Wales; and Fazal Rahim, Project Coordinator, Oldham Inter Faith Forum;
- 'Cohesive Communities: the importance of learning and dialogue', with presentations from Dr Avijit Datta, Chair, York Interfaith Group; and Dr Jane Clements, Director, Council of Christians and Jews; and
- 'Cohesive communities: the impact of the web and social media on cohesion', with presentations

from Natasha Blank, More Tea Less Hate campaign (a virtual presentation); and Dr Harshad Sanghrajka MBE, Deputy Chairman, Institute of Jainology.

The following facilitated and served as rapporteurs: The Revd David Musgrave, the Methodist Church in Britain; Malcolm Deboo, President, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe; Minister David Hopkins, Spiritualists' National Union; Narendra Waghela, Leicester Council of Faiths; Bhupinder Singh Bhasin, Interfaith Youth Trust; Zac Lloyd, Intern, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Rabbi Maurice Michaels, Trustee, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Acharya Modgala Duguid, Interfaith Officer, Network of Buddhist Organisations UK; Dr Harriet Crabtree, Executive Director, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Sean Finlay, Wisbech Interfaith Forum; Karl Wightman, Baha'i Community of the UK; Mike Stygal, Vice-President, Pagan Federation; David Hampshire, Assistant Director, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, Inter Faith Network for the UK; and Jenny Kartupelis MBE, World Congress of Faiths.

A full report of the meeting is now available on the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>

“The examples we have heard today suggest a healthy balance and commitment to looking outwards. I will take away with me some very striking models of inclusive activity, some cited in plenary sessions and some from the workshops. These include accounts of the work of the Hindu Forum of Britain and work in Oldham; or the creative co-operation between faith and inter faith groups together with local councillors in places like Peterborough and Waltham Forest; the welcome presence and example of sixth formers representing the Religious Education Council’s Young Ambassadors programme; the unexpected welcome given by members of a York mosque to an antagonistic right-wing group which actually undermined their protest; and the striking account shared by Rabbi Maurice Michaels of a Holocaust Memorial Day event in a mosque and an Iftar meal in a synagogue. There were many others for us to take and share back in our own places.”

DR NORMAN RICHARDSON MBE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER,
NORTHERN IRELAND INTER FAITH FORUM

THE UK AND THE WIDER WORLD


A number of IFN’s member bodies, such as UK branches of international inter faith 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.

One example from this year was a delegation from the Swedish Commission for state support to Faith Communities, exploring this area of work in light of the growth in religious diversity in Sweden. In May IFN’s Executive Director spoke to visitors from Danube University Krems, Austria, on inter faith relations in the UK.


STAY IN TOUCH


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GOVERNANCE

NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL

The Board of Trustees began discussion in the Autumn of 2014 of possible ways to strengthen further the governance structures of IFN.

These issues were discussed by member bodies at both the 2015 EGM and 2015 AGM and a new governance model was adopted at the 2016 EGM in May. The model was implemented at the 2016 AGM in October.

The new governance model retains the same overall pattern of General Meetings, Board meetings and member body category link meetings but with the following changes:

- a) **Member bodies in General Meeting** There continues to be an AGM as at present. A second general meeting will be held when needed/ desired. Member bodies in general meeting continue to have the same powers as at present, as conferred by the Companies Act, Articles of Association, Bye-laws and IFN policies, although the process for the nomination and election of Trustees is different.
- b) **The Board of Trustees** (new name for Executive Committee) continues to exercise roles required under Charity and Companies Law of prudent management, policy, and strategy, doing so in consultation with the member bodies in general meeting and consultation as necessary/ appropriate with the categories through correspondence and through their link meetings.



Bishop Richard Atkinson, Co-Chair, with retiring Co-Chair Vivian Wineman and newly elected Co-Chair Jatinder Singh Birdi



Hon Treasurer Rabbi Maurice Michaels with FCF Vice-Moderator Ven Bogoda Seelawimala

Trustees are also, as previously, Company Directors of IFN as an incorporated charity. The Board:

- continues to reflect different categories of membership and faith diversity but is focused even more sharply on the work of Trustees/Directors under charity/companies law such as strategy, policy, and management of resources;
 - has become smaller: 22 Trustees (down from 35);
 - continues to have two Co-Chairs, but: one from the national faith community representative body category and one from another member body category (ie no longer having 6 faith community Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs); the Co-Chairs are not of the same faith background;
 - has a more strongly articulated skills basis, with all candidates selected with an expectation that they bring skills to the Board; and
 - has a new process governing nomination and election/appointment.
- c) **Subcommittees** continue to be used but the intervals at which they meet is being kept under review in the light of experience with the functioning of the new style Board. Power to establish or dissolve Subcommittees and to

define their make-up and scope continues to rest with the Board.

d) **Ad hoc and temporary working groups** continue to be used for particular areas which need more in depth exploration or action.

e) **Co-Chair meetings** continue to be needed. Vice-Chairs no longer exist.

f) **Member body category link meetings:**

- continue to serve as sounding boards for issues, alongside their other functions, such as enabling networking and sharing of good practice.
- **The Faith Communities Forum** has been given the ability to:
 - pursue areas of work, subject to resources and clearance by the Board of Trustees
 - appoint its own ‘Moderators’ and ‘Vice-Moderators’ from the different faith communities.

The Moderators may make statements in the name of the FCF on faith and public life issues, subject to clearance by the Co-Chairs of the Board and one other Trustee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IFN is an incorporated charity. Those elected to the Board serve both as Trustees and Directors. They do so in an individual capacity. They work to enable IFN to continue to carry out its duties for public benefit, in compliance with its governing documents and the law. In addition to this published Review, each year the Trustees provide a formal report with the detailed Statutory Accounts to the Charity Commission and Companies House. During the 2015–16 year the Trustees met seven times. (This included six meetings and one virtual meeting.)

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee (FGPS) met five times during the period. The Membership Subcommittee met four times during the period. (This included three meetings and one virtual meeting.) The Urgent Matters Subcommittee (UMS), composed of the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, continued to handle urgent business as required until the 2016 AGM. Under the new governance model the UMS no longer exists as the role of Vice-

Chair has been discontinued. Going forward any urgent matters will be handled by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Chair of the FGPS and Honorary Treasurer where necessary. Details of Trustees elected at the 2016 AGM are on page 33.

MEMBERSHIP

The 2016 AGM, in Peterborough on 19 October, accepted into provisional membership the following organisations:

National Faith Community Representative Bodies

- Interfaith Working Group of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Local inter faith organisations

- Cornwall Faith Forum
- Solihull Faiths Forum
- Wakefield Interfaith Group

The AGM also affirmed the full membership of the six bodies which had been admitted into provisional membership in 2014: the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Druid Network; North Lincolnshire Multi Faith Partnership; Pagan Federation; Spiritualists’ National Union; and Stratford-on-Avon Interfaith Forum.

The AGM noted the withdrawal from IFN membership of the following organisations, which had ceased to operate: Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Group and the West Midlands Faiths Forum; the withdrawal from membership of the Society for Dialogue and Action in accordance with Article 10 of IFN’s Articles of Association; and the withdrawal from membership of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation due to a change in focus of its work.

The AGM formally noted that Harrow Inter Faith Council had changed its name to Harrow Interfaith.

Following the AGM IFN had 186 bodies in membership.

TRUSTEES

At the 2016 AGM the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi were elected as Co-Chairs.

The following Trustees retired at the 2016 AGM: Ms Sughra Ahmed; Bishop Dr Joe Aldred; Dr Joy Barrow; The Revd Alan Bayes; Dr Jane Clements; Ms Varsha Dodhia; Rabbi Yisroel Fine; Ms Helen Harrison; Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ismail; Ms Prudence Jones; Ms Sabira Lakha; Dr Kishan Manocha; Ms Ravinder Kaur Nijjar; Ms Trupti Patel; the Revd Mark Poulson; Dr V P Narayan Rao; Mrs Fakhera Rehman; Ms Shenaz Sadri; The Ven Bogoda Seelawimala; Pandit Satish K Sharma; and the Revd Andy Williams.

Retiring Trustees were warmly thanked for their contribution to IFN. Particular thanks were offered to three Trustees of long standing or who had carried successive roles of responsibility on subcommittees: Dr Narayan Rao; Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala and Mohinder Singh Chana. Special thanks were also given to: Dr Natubhai Shah who stood down as a Trustee after over 25 years of service, serving for the first time as a Vice-Chair in 1999 and, most recently, across the last operating year; and to Mr Vivian Wineman who stood down as Co-Chair and as a Trustee, having served since 2006, including as a Vice-Chair from 2007–2013 and Co-Chair from 2013.

Among those elected as ordinary members of the Board for 2016–17 were a number of people who were newly elected to the Board: Mr David Arnold, Mr Manjit Singh Bhogal, Mr Keith Bishop, the Revd



Presentation to Dr Natubhai Shah MBE

Canon Dr John Hall, Dr Stephen Herman, Minister David Hopkins, Ms Julie Jones, Mr Mike Stygal and Ms Marie van der Zyl.



Trustee Acharya Modgala Duguid with Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Photo: Myles Fisher)

Board of Trustees as elected at 2016 AGM

CO-CHAIRS

The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE
Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi

HONORARY TREASURER

Rabbi Maurice Michaels

Mr David Arnold
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 Nitin Palan
Maulana M Shahid Raza OBE
Dr Norman Richardson MBE
Ms Padideh Sabeti
Dr Maureen Sier
Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE
Mr Mike Stygal
Mr Narendra Waghela
Ms Marie van der Zyl

IFN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Miss Juwayriyah Badrudin, Clerical Assistant p/t [0.2 FTE]
Mr Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer
Mrs Hannah Cassidy, PA/Administrator p/t [0.8 FTE]
Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE, Executive Director
Mr David Hampshire, Assistant Director (from June 2016)
Mr Zac Lloyd, Intern (from September 2016)
Mr Md Alinur Rahman, Bookkeeper, p/t [0.4 FTE]

VOLUNTEERS

Miss Melissa King, Volunteer (October to December)
Miss Shmailish (Mai) Anwar, Volunteer (October to March)
Ms Sofi Hersher, Volunteer (January to June); and Intern (June to August)
Miss Otilie Williams, Volunteer (July to August)

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 39).

JOINING THE INTER FAITH NETWORK

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

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

i For more information, visit www.interfaith.org.uk

@ ifnet@interfaith.org.uk

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Otilie Williams,
Volunteer



Mai Anwar, Volunteer



Zac Lloyd, Intern



David Hampshire,
Assistant Director

LOOKING AHEAD

STRATEGIC AIMS 2015–17

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

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

The 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 inter faith impact
- Connecting across the UK – strengthening the learning
- 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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>2015 Total</i>	<i>2016 Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	16,021	267,718	283,739	293,843
Charitable Activities	—	389	389	1,074
Investment Income	—	658	658	650
Total	16,021	268,765	284,786	295,567
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	990	17,242	18,232	21,473
Charitable Activities				
Information, Advice and Comms	3,951	67,993	71,944	74,758
Meetings and Events	3,449	74,900	78,349	95,895
Publications and Research	2,731	37,329	40,060	39,413
Increasing Awareness & Engagement	4,900	71,320	76,220	65,842
Total	<u>16,021</u>	<u>268,784</u>	<u>284,805</u>	<u>297,381</u>
Net expenditure/				
Net loss for the year	—	(19)	(19)	(1,814)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at beginning of the year	—	<u>57,736</u>	<u>57,736</u>	<u>59,550</u>
Funds at the end of the year	—	<u>57,717</u>	<u>57,717</u>	<u>57,736</u>

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing.

All the charitable company's recognised gains and losses are shown above.

The movement on reserves is shown above.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets		4,542		6,169
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	17,285		22,946	
Cash at bank	<u>108,760</u>		<u>106,412</u>	
	126,045		129,358	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	<u>(72,870)</u>		<u>(77,791)</u>	
Net Current Assets		53,175		51,567
Net Assets		<u>57,717</u>		<u>57,736</u>
Funds				
Restricted Funds		—		—
Unrestricted Funds		57,717		57,736
Total Funds		<u>57,717</u>		<u>57,736</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to Small Companies. They were approved by the Executive Committee on 19 August 2016 and signed on their behalf by Rabbi Maurice Michaels, Honorary Treasurer.

Note: the full Statutory Accounts and Trustee Report for 2015 can be accessed on the Charity Commission website.

SUPPORTERS IN 2015

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 2015 and also those who have given the gifts of time, skills, and other in-kind support

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND COMPANIES

Golden Tours Foundation
M E Pearce Charitable Trust
Westminster Foundation

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

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



FAITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Church Urban Fund
Zoroastrian Trust Fund of Europe

OTHER DONORS

International Interfaith Centre
Wisbech Interfaith Forum
Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree
Mr Ludwig Deglmann
Miss Mehru Fitter
Mr William Hopkinson
Major (Retd) Rashid Laher
Ms Clare Salters
Mr Rashid Siddiqui
Mr David Stevens
The Revd Richard Tetlow
Dr 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 2016 will be noted in the 2016-17 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 group, 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 previous 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 inter faith initiative. IFN's e-bulletin includes information on volunteering opportunities.

MULTI FAITH SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

- take part in – or organise – a multi-faith social action project, such as one linked to Inter Faith Week, Mitzvah Day, Sewa Day, 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 group 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 <http://youth.interfaith.org.uk>
- get involved in an inter faith society on campus – your Students' Union will be able to tell you if there is one. If there is not, you might like to help set one up. Helpful pointers can be found in Good Inter Faith Relations on Campus: A Toolkit at <http://nussl.ukmsl.net/news/article/faith/1834/>

START AN INITIATIVE

- start a local inter faith 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 <https://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 at <https://www.justgiving.com/interfaithnetwork-uk> or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

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

Thank You!

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK 2016–17

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-Ulama 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 (UK)
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 BODIES

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

Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter
Wales Association of SACREs
Woolf Institute

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER FAITH ORGANISATIONS

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum
Interfaith Scotland
Inter-faith Council for Wales/Cyngor
Cyd-Ffydd Cymru

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

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
Muslim-Christian Forum (Bury)
Calderdale Interfaith Council
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group
Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action
Cheltenham Inter Faith
Cherwell Faith Forum
Cleveland and Tees Valley Inter Faith Group
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
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
Oxford Round Table of Religions
Building Bridges Pendle - Interfaith Community Project
Peterborough Inter-Faith Council
Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity
Portsmouth Inter Faith Forum
Preston Faith Forum
Redbridge Faith Forum
Rochdale Multi Faith Partnership
Rugby Inter Faith Forum
Sheffield 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
Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
Faiths United (Tameside)
Torbay Interfaith Forum
Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum
Wakefield Interfaith Group
Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum
Wandsworth Multi-Faith Network
Warwick District Faiths Forum
Watford Inter Faith Association
Wellingborough Inter Faith Group
Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group
Westminster Faith Exchange
William Campbell-Taylor (City of London Interfaith)
Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum
Wisbech Interfaith Forum
Interfaith Wolverhampton
Worcestershire Inter-Faith Forum
Wycombe Sharing of Faiths
York Interfaith Group

List as at end of 2016 AGM



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RESPECT EDUCATION DIALOGUE
INTEGRITY COMMUNITY VALUES
COOPERATION DISTINCTIVENESS
COMMON GOOD UNDERSTANDING
NEIGHBOURLINESS FAITH ACTION
BELONGING TACKLING PREJUDICE
RESPECT EDUCATION DIALOGUE
INTEGRITY COMMUNITY VALUES
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