**NATIONAL FAITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



The Inter Faith Network for the UK was founded in 1987. Its aims, as set out in its constitution, are “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.”

IFN has four categories of membership[[1]](#footnote-1):

* National faith community representative bodies
* Local inter faith organisations
* National and regional inter faith organisations
* Educational and academic bodies with a focus on inter faith or multi-faith issues

Member bodies are independent organisations that share a commitment to the development of inter faith understanding and co-operation and to working together for this. IFN warmly welcomes applications from eligible bodies which share this commitment.

Applications are submitted on the basis that the applying body has read and agreed to the Membership Admissions Policy (Available at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/about-membership>) including: the adoption by member bodies of the set of principles set out in *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs*, a copy of which can be found at [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/); the support of IFN’s constitutional aims and any statement of aims or values which are in place at the time that their application is to be considered by a general meeting; and abiding by any code of conduct for member bodies in place at the time that their application is to be considered by a general meeting.

A form on which to apply for membership can be found on the last page.

National faith community representative bodies are able to select their own membership fee level from the following options: £250, £500, £750 and £1,000 per year. Bodies with an income or expenditure below £5,000 per year are able to select a lower rate of £125 per year. Fees cover: the cost of IFN Circulars covering topics of interest to those working in the field of inter faith relations; e-bulletins; copies of relevant publications the Network may publish in any given year; up to two people to attend the National Meeting and AGM; servicing the meetings of the Faith Communities Forum in which those in this category of member body share news and discuss issues of common concern.

Information on the application process, including an illustrative flowchart, can be found in the Membership Admission Policy at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/about-membership>

If your organisation wishes to apply for IFN membership in 2022 please complete the application form and return it to the IFN office, along with a short written statement about how you see your organisation meeting the criteria and a copy of your organisation’s constitution (or equivalent). If you have any questions about the process, the IFN office team will be happy to have a conversation with you in person or over the phone.

Please return your completed form to: The Inter Faith Network for the UK, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB or [ifnet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) **by 12 April 2023.** Please do not send a cheque at this stage. If you have any queries, please ring the Inter Faith Network Office on 020 7730 0410.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH. Registered Charity no. 1068934. Company limited by guarantee no. 3443823. Registered in England.

**Eligibility Criteria**

All organisations applying for membership of IFN should:

* 1. support IFN’s charitable aims; be ready to adopt the set of principles set out in *Building good relations with people of different faiths and beliefs,* and any statement of aims or values which is in place at the time that their application is to be considered by a general meeting;
  2. be willing to abide by any Code of Conduct for member bodies in place at the time that their application is to be considered by a general meeting;
  3. be formally structured with a written constitution[[2]](#footnote-2); and
  4. meet the eligibility criteria relating to one of the categories of IFN membership as set out below.

In addition to the general criteria above, a national faith community representative body is eligible to apply to join IFN if it:

1. has an established presence in multiple localities within the UK or its constituent nations;
2. has been in existence for at least 5 years; or is a more recently established national faith umbrella body with a membership that includes a broad spectrum of established individual national faith community bodies;
3. has members / adherents who participate in inter faith activity at local level; and
4. demonstrates either a track record of engagement in inter faith activity or a commitment to the support of inter faith work. [[3]](#footnote-3)

*Note: Such bodies, if eligible under these criteria, may authorise a department or committee to apply for IFN membership where this would be more relevant than the whole organisation itself applying. Where a department or committee of a national faith community representative body joins instead of the organisation as a whole the written constitution of the organisation as a whole shall be required as part of the submitted application, as well as the Terms of Reference (or equivalent) of the department or committee.*

**Thank you for your interest in applying for membership of the**

**Inter Faith Network for the UK**

***Promoting mutual respect and understanding between***

***the faith communities of the UK***

We would like to apply for membership of the Inter Faith Network for the UK and confirm that, in our view, we meet all of the criteria outlined in the Membership Admission Policy.

We attach a copy of our constitution and a statement about how we believe that our organisation meets the criteria for eligibility for membership and gives any additional information we think is helpful.

We confirm that we support IFN’s charitable aims; are ready to adopt the set of principles set out in Building good relations with people of different faiths and beliefs, and any statement of aims or values which is in place at the time that their application is to be considered by a general meeting.

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| **Organisation details** | |
| Organisation Name: |  |
| Date of application: |  |
| Name of person submitting application: |  |
| Contact person’s position in organisation: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contact details** | |
| Correspondence address: |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Telephone number: |  |

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Data protection statement**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (‘IFN’) maintains a register of members, and stores copies of membership application forms for the purposes of accurate record keeping, and compliance with Companies Act 2006 requirements relating to the administering information relating to members of the Company. On this page, information which might be considered ‘personal data’ appears in a separate form headed ‘Contact details’. Information within this section will be stored by IFN for 5 years from the date of receipt and then detached and destroyed. An individual may request that this information is destroyed sooner by contacting the IFN office. Information in the ‘Organisation details’ form on this page will be stored by IFN indefinitely for the reasons outlined above.

1. Note: ‘National’ in this document refers either to the UK as a whole or to any of its constituent nations. ‘Regional’ in this document refers to any area larger than a county within any of the constituent nations of the UK. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A constitution is a written document that establishes the purposes of an organisation and the procedures by which it is governed. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Some bodies which have thus far been ineligible to apply for IFN membership in this category argue this has impacted on their ability to participate in local, regional or other inter faith organisations/ projects. Therefore, a track record of engagement may not be evident, but a demonstrable commitment to inter faith activity could be, for example, having produced publications encouraging their members to engage in inter faith activity and/ or a record of participation in Inter Faith Week, which is open to all. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)