

Welcome to the e-bulletin of the Inter Faith Network for the UK <u>www.interfaith.org.uk</u>. It is published every two months and it highlights primarily new developments, projects and future events. You can read by scrolling through or you can go directly to an individual section or item by clicking on links in the list below.

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• Information on some of the interfaith events taking place around the UK

## A message from the Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Inter Faith Network works in many different ways to support the development of greater inter faith understanding and cooperation. These include:

- Advancing awareness of the different faith communities in the UK, including distinctive features and common ground
- Promoting mutual respect, understanding and cooperation
- Providing a trusted source of information on faith and inter faith issues
- Enabling discussion and common action rooted in shared values
- Encouraging inter faith initiatives at all levels
- Raising the profile of existing inter faith work
- Sharing good practice and producing resources to help inspire and strengthen inter faith initiatives

We encourage you to consider a donation to support IFN's vital work.

You can make a donation at <a href="www.interfaith.org.uk/donate">www.interfaith.org.uk/donate</a>, by PayPal Donate with <a href="PayPal Giving Fund">PayPal Giving Fund</a> or by sending a cheque to: the Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

Thank you very much for your support.

Best wishes,

Canon Hilary Barber and Narendra Waghela, IFN Co-Chairs

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#### **FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES**

## **COVID-19 regulation updates**

There have recently been updates to legal requirements relating to COVID-19 in all four nations of the UK.

#### England

On 21 February the UK Government published its plan for 'Living with COVID-19' in England. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19</a> This includes, from 24 February, an end to most remaining legal

requirements. Some requirements for employers relating to risk assessments remain in place until 1 April.

#### Scotland

It was announced on 22 February that Scotland's COVID passport scheme will end on 28 February, with the legal requirement to wear face masks being lifted on 21 March. https://www.gov.scot/news/living-safely-with-covid/

#### Wales

The latest changes in Wales come into effect on 28 February, with face coverings being required in fewer settings. <a href="https://gov.wales/coronavirus">https://gov.wales/coronavirus</a>

#### Northern Ireland

All remaining legal requirements were removed in Northern Ireland from 15 February. <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-how-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-spread">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-how-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-spread</a>

UK Government information on COVID-19 is at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do</a>.

The NHS guidance can be found at <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a>.

Advice is available on the following websites in the devolved nations:

https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

https://gov.wales/coronavirus

https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus

Guidance for the use of places of worship can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/

https://gov.wales/places-worship-and-funerals-potential-reasonable-measures-action-card-alert-level-0-html

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-places-worship

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#### Faith communities and COVID-19

Faith communities are continuing to put their weight behind the vaccination programme. Many places of worship have been hosting pop-up vaccination clinics, including a church in Stockport, a mosque in Southampton and a Sikh temple in Swindon.

https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/19921514.pop-up-vaccine-clinic-hosted-taqwahmosque-southampton/

https://twitter.com/NHSStockportCCG/status/1493918397167505409

https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/19949777.swindon-sikh-temple-second-place-worship-region-hold-vaccine-pop-up-clinic/

As the pandemic restrictions ease, the need for COVID-19 linked forms of charitable support has lessened but organisations such as Sewa Day continue to carry out their activities and in some areas, the last couple of years have inspired special acts of gratitude. For example in Northampton a chip shop owner teamed up with volunteers from the Sikh Community Centre and Youth Club to donate meals from his shop to people in shelters and sleeping rough on the streets of the town centre.

https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/business/chip-shop-owner-spreads-the-love-on-valentines-day-by-donating-food-to-homeless-3567011

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## Ukraine - inter faith vigils and gatherings

National faith communities have responded in a range of ways to the recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its impacts, including those seeking asylum as a result of the conflict.

A number of faith and inter faith organisations have held vigils and taken part in other actions. For example in Rochdale, a Ukrainian Catholic church served as locus for multi faith participation. <a href="https://twitter.com/mfp">https://twitter.com/mfp</a> rochdale/status/1497615969492955138 In Sunderland, the Sunderland Inter Faith Forum hosted a multi faith gathering, 'A prayer for Ukraine' at Sunderland Minister. <a href="https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2022-02-28/a-prayer-for-ukraine-residents-of-all-faiths-gather-at-sunderland-vigil">https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2022-02-28/a-prayer-for-ukraine-residents-of-all-faiths-gather-at-sunderland-vigil</a> There have also been statements such as from Faith Network for Manchester

 $\underline{https://www.facebook.com/FN4Man/posts/5004002799621918}$ 

and Watford Interfaith Association

https://www.facebook.com/WatfordInterfaithAssociation/videos/236463101943335/

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#### **Hate crime**

There have been a number of recent hate crimes which have been treated as religiously motivated. These include an attack on two Jewish bakers in North London the night before Holocaust Memorial Day <a href="https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/stamford-hill-bakers-anti-semitic-attack-shomrim-b979041.html">https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/stamford-hill-bakers-anti-semitic-attack-shomrim-b979041.html</a> and an attack on a Muslim women near a subway station in Glasgow <a href="https://news.stv.tv/west-central/gang-of-youths-racially-abused-muslim-woman-near-subway-station">https://news.stv.tv/west-central/gang-of-youths-racially-abused-muslim-woman-near-subway-station</a>.

Security has been increased at a Hindu temple in Swindon, following a series of break-ins, during the most recent of which ornamental deities and decorations were damaged. <a href="https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/19879852.council-criticises-burglars-targeting-hindu-temple-search-new-place-worship-continues/">https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/19879852.council-criticises-burglars-targeting-hindu-temple-search-new-place-worship-continues/</a>

In February the Community Security Trust (CST) published its report on Antisemitic Incidents in 2021. CST recorded 2,255 antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2021, the highest total ever reported to CST in a single calendar year. This is an increase of 34% from the 1,684 incidents recorded by CST in 2020. The report notes that "this record figure is due to the volume of anti-Jewish reactions to the escalation of conflict in Israel and Palestine last year." Of the incidents reported, 552 were online, including 16 instances of 'Zoombombing'. <a href="https://cst.org.uk/research/cst-publications">https://cst.org.uk/research/cst-publications</a>

Information on reporting hate crimes can be found below.

#### REPORT HATE CRIME AND WORK TOGETHER TO HELP TACKLE IT

Report hate incidents online through True Vision or via 3rd parties eg Community Security Trust (CST), Tell Mama UK and Stop Hate UK; at a police station; or by ringing the police on 101 (non-emergency) or 999.

https://gov.uk/report-hate-crime

https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/report-hate-crime-and-third-party-reporting/https://reporthate.victimsupport.org.uk/hate-crime/

https://www.psni.police.uk/crime/hate-crime/reporting-a-hate-crime/

See also Looking after one another: the safety and security of our faith communities (IFN and partners) which contains practical pointers for working together to counter hate crime. <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017</a>

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#### **Government response to Protect Duty consultation**

On 10 January, the Government published its response to its consultation on the Protect Duty. 2755 individuals or organisations responded. 34% of the responses received were from Places of Worship. The consultation response noted that "When considering specific types of venues, there was a strong response to the consultation from Places of Worship. They, amongst voluntary and smaller organisations, sought exemption due to concerns over financial implications, the burden to operations and in some cases, rural locations."

The full response can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty/outcome/government-response-document">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty/outcome/government-response-document</a>.

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## **Levelling Up**

On 2 February the UK Government published its Levelling Up White Paper. This can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom</a>. There is no dedicated reference to the role of faith communities in this.

The UK Government also published on 2 February a response to Danny Kruger MP's Report: 'Levelling Up Our Communities: Proposals for a New Social Covenant'. This can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-danny-kruger-mps-report-levelling-up-our-communities-proposals-for-a-new-social-covenant/government-response-to-danny-kruger-mps-report-levelling-up-our-communities-proposals-for-a-new-social-covenant.">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-danny-kruger-mps-report-levelling-up-our-covenant/government-response-to-danny-kruger-mps-report-levelling-up-our-communities-proposals-for-a-new-social-covenant.</a>
This includes the following response to Danny Kruger's recommendation that there be a new deal with faith communities, by which government supports a greater role for faith groups in meeting social challenges:

"The government recognises the significant contribution of faith groups and the increase in scale and innovation of their work during the pandemic and beyond. On 9 September 2021, the government announced the Faith New Deal Pilot Fund. Funding is available through a competitive grant programme for faith groups working on community projects in collaboration with local agencies and philanthropy. The fund aims to strengthen engagement between faith groups, national and local government through supporting faith-based initiatives addressing social issues. The fund will serve as a statement of intent to work constructively with faith groups and its delivery will inform a 'Faith Compact' to encourage national and local government to look for opportunities to partner with faith groups. Innovation is a key criterion for applications and each applicant will need to demonstrate they are innovative within their partnerships, new projects and/or expansion to pre-existing projects. The pilot will help determine how the future plans for the Faith New Deal will evolve. In addition, Colin Bloom, the independent Faith Engagement Adviser, has been appointed to lead a review into how the government should engage with faith groups in England. We look forward to seeing his recommendations on how we can further enhance government engagement with our faith groups."

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### Consultation on proposals to reform the Human Rights Act

The last issue of the e-bulletin noted that on 14 December, the report of the Independent Human Rights Act Review Panel was published. This can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/independent-human-rights-act-review">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/independent-human-rights-act-review</a>. The Government's

response, also published on 14 December, sets out its proposals to revise the Human Rights Act 1998 and replace it with a 'Bill of Rights'.

The Government's proposals are accompanied by a public consultation which ends on 8 March. Both can be found at <a href="https://consult.justice.gov.uk/human-rights/human-rights-act-reform/">https://consult.justice.gov.uk/human-rights/human-rights-act-reform/</a>.

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## **EHRC Response to reports of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party**

On 24 January it was announced that the Prime Minister had ordered a Cabinet Office inquiry into allegations made by Conservative MP Nus Ghani that she was discriminated against due to her religion.

On 27 January an EHRC spokesperson said: "Discrimination against public office holders is unacceptable and any suggestions of it should be tackled swiftly. Following the concerning reports about Nusrat Ghani MP, we have today written to the Cabinet Office and the Conservative Party seeking further information. As the regulator for equality and human rights, we take allegations of Islamophobia in any organisation extremely seriously. We are monitoring the Conservative Party's implementation of Professor Swaran Singh's independent investigation and will not hesitate to use our powers if our standards are not met. This is consistent with our approach to investigating any association where we would consider how they address concerns through independent reports and action plans, before taking further action."

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/response-reportsislamophobia-conservative-party

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### Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial Conference

On 5 and 6 July the UK Government will be hosting a Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief. The conference aims to boost global efforts to tackle persecution and "drive collective action in promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities around the world so that everyone, everywhere can practise their own religion or belief freely". <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-international-conference-to-promote-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-next-summer-in-london">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-international-conference-to-promote-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-next-summer-in-london</a>

Planning for the Conference is led by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Fiona Bruce MP is the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and as such is supported by a special team within the FCDO. The Special Envoy: brings together UK efforts to promote religious tolerance abroad, and works on how the UK government can protect and promote this fundamental freedom internationally; works with the members of the International Religious Freedom or Belief

Alliance (<a href="https://www.state.gov/international-religious-freedom-or-belief-alliance">https://www.state.gov/international-religious-freedom-or-belief-alliance</a>) to raise awareness of cases of particular concern, advocating for the rights of people worldwide who are discriminated against or persecuted for their faith or belief; and supports implementing the Bishop of Truro's recommendations on FCDO support for persecuted Christians around the world. Ms Bruce is also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion and Belief, and last November launched a campaign called End the Persecution.

In preparation for the Ministerial Conference, members of the APPG for International FoRB and Fiona Bruce MP's Parliamentary Team are speaking at a number of venues. <a href="https://endthepersecution.uk/endthepersecution-uk-presentations/">https://endthepersecution.uk/endthepersecution-uk-presentations/</a>. There will be a range of 100 events in and around the Ministerial, forming an 'FoRB Fringe "that hopes to capture the need for all young people to advocate for FoRB and ending persecution". The APPG is promoting a FoRB Fringe linked to the Ministerial and encouraging involvement around the UK. An online form for those interested to apply to host an event is at <a href="https://endthepersecution.uk/forb-fringe/">https://endthepersecution.uk/forb-fringe/</a>.

The #Endthepersecution campaign is also running a scheme for Youth Ambassadors for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and an essay competition. <a href="https://endthepersecution.uk/youth-ambassadors/">https://endthepersecution.uk/youth-ambassadors/</a>

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## Northern Ireland Assembly consultation on Fair Employment Bill

In January the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee began its examination of the Fair Employment (School Teachers) Bill, and has launched a public consultation to ask people across Northern Ireland for their views. The Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 outlaws discrimination on the grounds of religious belief and political opinion in a number of areas including employment. Article 71 of the Order exempts school teachers from the legislation. The reason for this is to enable certain schools to maintain a religious ethos. The Bill aims to remove the exemption for school teachers from the Order. The consultation closes on 7 March. Further information is at <a href="https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/committee-for-the-executive-office/fair-employment-school-teachers-bill/">https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/committee-for-the-executive-office/fair-employment-school-teachers-bill/</a>.

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## Religion, Values and Ethics guidance for Wales

In January Education Wales published the statutory Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance for Wales. RVE is being included in the New Curriculum for Wales, which is being implemented from September 2022. The guidance can be found at <a href="https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#religion,-values-and-ethics">https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#religion,-values-and-ethics</a>.

The Welsh Government is working in partnership with the Wales Association of SACREs to create a suite of national online Professional Learning resources to support practitioners in the use of the curriculum guidance.

https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/teachers-to-support-the-development-of-re-resources-for-rve-in-wales

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## **Nationality and Borders Bill**

The Nationality and Borders Bill is currently going through the Report Stage in the House of Lords. <a href="https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023">https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023</a>

1,000 + faith leaders have signed a letter, organised by the Joint Public Issues Team (a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church) asking for concerns about the bill to be addressed. <a href="https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/more-than-1000-faith-leaders-horrified-by-the-nationality-borders-bill-and-urge-the-pm-to-rethink/">https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/more-than-1000-faith-leaders-horrified-by-the-nationality-borders-bill-and-urge-the-pm-to-rethink/</a>.

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## Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill returned to the House of Commons, following a rejection of some aspects of it by the House of Lords. (The majority of the Bill applies to England and Wales, though some provisions apply to Scotland and Northern Ireland.) A factsheet setting out the proposed aims of the Bill can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-overarching-factsheet">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-overarching-factsheet</a>.

A range of national and local faith leaders signed a joint letter to MPs, organised by the Religious Society of Friends, ahead of the Bill returning to the Commons, expressing concerns about the impact that Part 3 of the Bill would have on nonviolent protest, including prayer vigils, public acts of worship, community events and street preaching; and about the impact that Part 4 of the Bill would have on Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities and their way of life. <a href="https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/faith-and-belief-leaders-urge-mps-to-approve-changes-to-policing-bill\_Back to the top">https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/faith-and-belief-leaders-urge-mps-to-approve-changes-to-policing-bill\_Back to the top</a>

## Sewa Charities Forum

In January City Sikhs and Hindu Council UK began development of a new Sewa Charities Forum. The inaugural session explored what it means to be Sikh or Hindu and work or volunteer in the not-for-profit sector, the challenges faced by Sikh and Hindu professionals

and volunteers in non-faith settings, funding biases, complying with regulatory requirements and the current challenges of working in the charitable sector, including safeguarding and mental well-being.

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## **HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

A special 4-day weekend of events to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. More information can be found at <a href="https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend">https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend</a>.

The Co-Chairs of IFN, following consultation with the Board, sent a message on its behalf of greetings to HM The Queen at the time of the 70th Anniversary of the Accession on 6 February. This includes reference to Her Majesty's exemplification of the value of service – a value common to all faiths. It also includes reference to her valued support for the development of inter faith understanding and cooperation.

There are a number of other ways for individuals and communities to take part. Some of these are set out below.

Words of support were offered by the Co-Chairs for the **Jubilee Beacons project**, which will see 1,500 beacons lit throughout the UK (<a href="https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/">https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/</a>): "On behalf of the Trustees of the Inter Faith Network for the UK we are delighted to offer our warm support for The Platinum Jubilee Beacons programme which forms part of the official celebrations of 70 years since the accession of Her Majesty The Queen. Service is a key value in all faith traditions and faith communities throughout the UK come together in many contexts in a spirit of friendship to serve others. The lighting of community beacons as part of the marking of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations provides an opportunity for people of all faith backgrounds to join together in that same spirit in thanks for Her Majesty's own service to this country and the Commonwealth."

The **Queen's Green Canopy** is encouraging the planting of trees to mark the Jubilee. (<a href="https://queensgreencanopy.org/">https://queensgreencanopy.org/</a>) The planting season for trees runs to the end of March. A further planting period will run from October to December. Trees for Cities plans to deliver inter faith Queen's Green Canopy projects in UK cities such as London, Birmingham, Bradford, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. <a href="https://queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/our-partners/trees-for-cities/">https://queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/our-partners/trees-for-cities/</a> February/March is a prime tree-planting time. The Office of the Chief Rabbi and the United Synagogue (US) have launched 'Dorot' (Hebrew for 'generations') - seven separate projects with the lead campaign one by the US to have one tree planted for each of its 37,000 members. <a href="https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/game-changing-environmental-initiative-">https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/game-changing-environmental-initiative-</a>

<u>launched-by-chief-rabbi-us-for-tu-bshevat</u> A planting took place in February at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the Bishop of Norwich. <u>https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/archbishop-plants-tree-lambeth-palace-part-queens-green-canopy</u> Other national faith organisations such as the Buddhist Society have also got involved and are encouraging their members to take part. <u>https://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/page/society-news-1</u>

Other activities include the **Big Jubilee Lunch** on the Sunday where people are encouraged to take part through street parties or picnics, tea and cake or garden barbeques (https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch).

The official Government website for the Platinum Jubilee, with information on how to get involved is at <a href="https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/get-involved-with-the-platinum-jubilee/">https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/get-involved-with-the-platinum-jubilee/</a>.

There is some Lottery Funding available, for grants of up to £10,000. Further information can be found at <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england</a>. Applications for funding for Jubilee projects should be received no later than 31 March.

Last July a 'Thank You Day' was held, led by the Together Coalition. This is being held again. It is a UK-wide initiative inviting people to get together to say thank you to one another, to family members, key workers, good neighbours and volunteers. It has a particular link to the pandemic and how people have responded. This year the Together Coalition announced that the TYD will be held again and, given the Platinum Jubilee, in collaboration with the Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5 June. It will encourage people to say thank you to Her Majesty The Queen as well as to one another. <a href="https://thankyouday.org.uk/">https://thankyouday.org.uk/</a>

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#### INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

#### **IFN Faith Communities Forum**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK Faith Communities Forum (FCF) brings together national faith community bodies in IFN membership for regular discussion of issues of common concern. <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/about/faith-communities-forum">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/about/faith-communities-forum</a>

The FCF met on 15 February. On the Agenda were: COVID-19 and faith communities; Inter faith engagement of faith communities, with a presentation by Dr Natubhai Shah MBE of the Jain Network about how Jain values of care for the wellbeing of all and its principle of 'Anekantavada' (multiplicity of viewpoints) underpin its inter faith engagement and the planned Multi Faith Space at the Jain Centre that will shortly be opening in London;

Reducing Parental Conflict Programme – engaging with faith communities, with a presentation by an official from the Department for Work and Pensions; Issues of current interest and concern; The Platinum Jubilee and faith communities, with a presentation by an official form the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and a number of IFN matters.

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## Meeting for member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic bodies

A joint meeting for IFN member National and Regional Inter Faith Organisations and Educational and Academic Bodies was held on 24 January. Items on the Agenda included: COP26 and the climate change agenda; Exchange of information on projects, key news, current concerns and interests; Training for those working in the field of inter faith understanding and cooperation; the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Inter Faith Week 2022; and a number of IFN matters.

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## IFN link meetings for local inter faith groups in the East Midlands and the North East

IFN holds meetings for local inter faith groups to share news and good practice and learn from each other's work to strengthen their own and benefit their local areas. Some are for groups from across the UK. Others are for groups within a particular region or a county. They provide an opportunity for sharing of news or programmes and projects being run by each group, including opportunities and challenges. Minutes of previous link meetings can be found at <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/about/local-inter-faith-linking">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/about/local-inter-faith-linking</a>.

The most recent meetings were held on 20 January for local inter faith organisations in the North East and on 8 February for local inter faith organisations in the East Midlands. The following items were on the Agenda for both meetings: Round table sharing of news, information and ideas; News from IFN including Inter Faith Week, a project looking at women's local inter faith initiatives and the *Local Inter Faith Guide*. The North East meeting also had a special agenda item on 'Working in partnership for the common good'.

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#### **Inter Faith Week**

Inter Faith Week 2022

Inter Faith Week 2022 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, will be held from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. There are lots of ideas on how to take part at <a href="https://www.interfaithweek.org/">https://www.interfaithweek.org/</a>.

It's never too early to start planning for Inter Faith Week! It is a great opportunity to highlight the contribution of faith groups to society, and to encourage understanding, cooperation and dialogue between those of different religious and non-religious beliefs.

Resources such as the Inter Faith Week Toolkit, lists of activity ideas, and guidance on activity arranging can be found on the Inter Faith Week website: <a href="https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources">https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources</a>. Reports of previous years, as well as full lists of past activities, can be found here: <a href="https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports">https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports</a>.

Or why not try the Inter Faith Buddies scheme this year? Inter Faith Buddies is an Inter Faith Network for the UK scheme designed to bring individuals together to engage in dialogue, and can be used year-round or to mark Inter Faith Week. If you are interested in taking up this initiative, visit <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-buddies">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-buddies</a> for more information and practical pointers.

Scottish Inter Faith Week 2022

Scottish Interfaith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland and will this year be held from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. <a href="https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/">https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/</a> 2022 has been designated Scotland's Year of Stories and the theme for Scottish Inter Faith Week will be linked to this.

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### **IFN office arrangements**

IFN will be moving from its present office premises at the end of April. It is currently exploring options for future office arrangements.

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#### **INTER FAITH PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### Research project on older people in faith communities

Interfaith Scotland has commissioned a new piece of Scotland-wide research about the roles that older people play both within their faith community and in the wider community. This research will look deeply at how older people are perceived in the faith communities they are part of; what activities they are involved in; and the impacts these result in. The research will be carried out by Faith in Older People and Simon Jaquet Consultancy Services. For further information on the project, email Simon Jaquet at <a href="mailto:simon@simonjaquet.com">simon@simonjaquet.com</a>.

## **Surrey Interfaith Forum**

A new Surrey Interfaith Forum, inaugurated in the Autumn, held its first meeting in January. The new Forum was formed to harness and build on the work carried out during the pandemic with faith leaders and partners to support the communities of Surrey. The first meeting focused on faith and climate change, with presentations from Katie Sargant of Surrey Greener Future Group and Peter Harwood of the Guildford Diocesan Net Zero Working Group. More information about the new Forum can be found at <a href="https://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/surrey-interfaith-forum/">https://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/surrey-interfaith-forum/</a> and <a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/surrey-interfaith-forum">https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/surrey-interfaith-forum</a>.

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## **Faith Full Fridays**

Edinburgh Interfaith Association has launched a series of programmes called 'Faith Full Fridays', featuring conversations with faith leaders as well as mindfulness exercises. These are being posted on the final Friday of each month on the EIFA YouTube channel. The first episode can be found at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqaDMvesBbg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqaDMvesBbg</a>.

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## Forgiveness and future-building project

The Woolf Institute (which focuses its work on Jews, Christians and Muslims) is beginning a new project on forgiveness and future-building. The project will focus on three societies post-conflict which have significant variation in terms of their political and religious backgrounds: Bosnia, Northern Ireland and South Sudan. Its goal is to provide materials for constructive practical application for policymakers and 'mid-level' religious and community leaders. Through collaboration with researchers from Norway and US the project will develop FORCAST (FORgiveness and Conflict Analysis Simulation Tool). This system will utilise a multi-agent AI system designed for studying the escalation and deescalation of inter-group conflict, particularly where complex religious and ethnic identities are involved. This AI system will allow policymakers to experiment on different policy outcomes before they are implemented in the real world. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/forgiveness-and-future-building">https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/forgiveness-and-future-building</a>.

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### **Warwickshire Cricket Multifaith Charter**

Warwickshire County Cricket Club has worked with local faith groups to devise a Multifaith Charter which defines how the Club will welcome and serve the multi-cultural communities of Birmingham, the West Midlands and Warwickshire when visiting, playing or working at Edgbaston Stadium, the Indoor Cricket Centre or Portland Road.

https://edgbaston.com/news/warwickshire-launch-first-multifaith-charter-through-new-edi-programme/

The Charter was launched on 16 February as part of Warwickshire's Edgbaston for Everyone initiative and is "a tangible commitment to making sure that the Club understands the needs of different faiths and creates a safe, welcoming environment for players, staff and visitors, ensuring Edgbaston can be supportive in helping people practice their faith". The Charter can be found at <a href="https://assets.edgbaston.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Our-Multifaith-Charter-2022.pdf">https://assets.edgbaston.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Our-Multifaith-Charter-2022.pdf</a>.

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## **Wrexham multi-faith community forum**

A new multi-faith community forum has been launched in Wrexham. North Wales Police led on the community engagement initiative and hosted the first meeting of the forum. <a href="https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/19925361.wrexham-sergeant-hosts-forum-community-faith-leaders/">https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/19925361.wrexham-sergeant-hosts-forum-community-faith-leaders/</a> Anyone with connections to local faith groups within Wrexham and who wishes to attend future meetings can email <a href="mailto:david.smith4@northwales.police.uk">david.smith4@northwales.police.uk</a>.

<a href="mailto:Back to the top">Back to the top</a>

## **Sharing Faith through Food**

The Touchstone Centre in Bradford is running a project called 'Food Stories – Sharing Faith through Food' which brings together women from different faiths and cultures to share stories, cook collectively and share what they have made together. <a href="https://faithfulfood863021319.wordpress.com/">https://faithfulfood863021319.wordpress.com/</a>

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## Southend City status multi faith gathering

In October last year, Sir David Amess MP was murdered. A few weeks later, it was announced that Her Majesty The Queen has accorded Southend-on-Sea city status – something for which he had worked energetically for many years. A number of special events are being held linked to that. One with special resonance, given Sir David's faith and good relations with different faith groups in Southend was a multi-faith event in February. Called Unite in Light, it was a celebration of hope and light for Southend's City year. People gathered from Southend's diverse faith communities at the Maritime Room, Cliffs Pavilion, to share their hopes for the City of Southend and explore what light symbolises in their faith. The event was supported by Southend.City, Citizens Essex and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/2498/unite-in-light-brings-southend-s-diverse-faith-groups-together

## **RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING**

#### Resources

#### **Inter Faith Buddies**

Inter Faith Buddies is a scheme designed by IFN to bring individuals together to engage in dialogue.

- The scheme involves two people of different faiths or beliefs keeping in touch on a weekly basis for 6 weeks;
- choosing or developing questions on which to share their thoughts and experiences; and
- if they wish, sharing at an in-person or online event, in an agreed way, some reflections on what they have gained from the experience.

It is an opportunity for sharing and learning, on a one-to-one basis across a limited period of time, about what is important to us, in the context of our wider community. The process may, of course, lead to longer term conversations and new forms of practical co-operation.

This video clip from Surrey Faith Links gives a flavour of the experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHgNwAQsJyk.

Interested in taking up the idea within your organisation?

If you are an organisation interested in taking up the Inter Faith Buddies idea, visit <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-buddies">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-buddies</a> for more information and practical pointers.

Interfaith Scotland has used the scheme in a number of contexts, for example <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzmbmtn175s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzmbmtn175s</a>.

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## Resilience, Trauma and Pastoral Recovery: A briefing for faith communities

FaithAction, in partnership with the Guild of Health and St Raphael, has launched a report on 'Resilience, Trauma, and Pastoral Recovery: A briefing for faith communities'. This is based on research about the impact of the pandemic on church leaders. Further information and the full report can be found at <a href="https://www.faithaction.net/blog/covid-19/2022/02/09/resilience-trauma-and-pastoral-recovery-why-we-commissioned-this-paper/">https://www.faithaction.net/blog/covid-19/2022/02/09/resilience-trauma-and-pastoral-recovery-why-we-commissioned-this-paper/</a>.

## **Podcast - In Pursuit of Understanding: Religion**

A new podcast has been released, created by Fortune Hill, called 'In Pursuit of Understanding: Religion'. The podcast "aims to help our community better understand the differences and the similarities between people from a broad variety of backgrounds and ways of life. In season one we're understanding religion: we discover more, hearing about the day-to-day customs and practices and how these impact the working life." The Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala of the Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB and Lord Singh of Wimbledon of the Network of Sikh Organisations are among those interviewed. Episodes can be found at <a href="https://anchor.fm/fortune-hill/episodes/Ep-1-Sikhism---Lord-Indarjit-Singh-CBE-e1ckksm">https://anchor.fm/fortune-hill/episodes/Ep-1-Sikhism---Lord-Indarjit-Singh-CBE-e1ckksm</a>.

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## **The Licoricia Project**

A sculpture by Ian Rank-Broadley was recently unveiled of Licoricia: a thirteenth century Jewish woman who lived in Winchester. Many faith leaders attended the unveiling and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis spoke at the event. A project has been established the aims of which will include promoting tolerance and the value of diversity in the community and educating people about England's and Winchester's important but little-known medieval Jewish Community. Lesson plans about Licoricia have been developed with Hampshire County Council. <a href="https://licoricia.org/">https://licoricia.org/</a> <a href="ht

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### Study/Training

### IFN 'Digital surgery' slots for local inter faith organisations

IFN is continuing to make available free half hour digital 'surgery' slots for local inter faith organisations who would like a chance to talk about how their group might strengthen their use of digital communications. Any local inter faith group interested in booking a slot can email IFN Project Director, Ashley Beck, at <a href="mailto:ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk">ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk</a>.

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### RfP UK Leadership Training Programme for Young People

Religions for Peace UK's Interfaith Youth Network (RfP UKIYN) is launching a new 'Leadership Training Programme for Young People of Faith and None'. This has been designed to provide "a free and immersive educational experience for young people aged 18-25". It consists of 10 training sessions, which will run in-person (and live online) from London. The deadline for applications is 20 March. For further information, including how

to apply, contact Eda Molla Chosein, RfP UK's Interfaith Youth Network Coordinator at <a href="mailto:youth.coordinator@rfpuk.org">youth.coordinator@rfpuk.org</a>.

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### **CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS**

#### **Nominations**

#### **Honours nominations**

Each year a number of people receive Honours for services to inter faith work or community cohesion.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is looking for nominations for people who work or volunteer in a number of areas. They are particularly keen to recognise individuals who have contributed to building integrated communities. All nominations must be made on an official citation form and nominees should not be informed that they have been nominated. The deadline for the next round of nominations is 4 April. For more information, email <a href="mailto:honours@communities.gsi.gov.uk">honours@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>.

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## **JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING**

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

#### Honorary Treasurer

IFN invites expressions of interest in the post of Honorary Treasurer. The work of IFN is overseen by a board of Trustees. All IFN Trustees hold their posts on a voluntary basis. The gift of Trustees' time and skill is vital to the wellbeing of the organisation's work and is greatly valued. Among the Trustees are 2 Co-Chairs and 1 Honorary Treasurer. The closing date for expressions of interest is 23 March. For the role description and expression of interest form, contact <a href="mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk">ifnet@interfaith.org.uk</a>.

#### **Volunteers**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK currently has an opportunity for online volunteers with good desk research and writing skills who would like to offer 4-8 hours a week to help on different aspects of IFN's work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. To express an interest in volunteering, please complete the application form at <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/volunteering</a>.

## **Council of Christians and Jews - Operations Manager**

The Council of Christians and Jews is seeking to appoint an Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will act as first point of contact for members and the general public, and assist the CCJ Director (or Co-Directors) as they shape the future of the charity together with the Trustees. This role is full-time, but could be scaled back to 4 days/week if appropriate. The role is based at CCJ's Westminster office and is not compatible with home-working. To apply, send a CV and a covering letter of no more than one side of A4 to CCJ Operations Manager Rob Wadsworth on <a href="mailto:cjrelations@ccj.org.uk">cjrelations@ccj.org.uk</a> by noon on Monday 14 March. Interviews will be scheduled in the following week.

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## Religions for Peace (UK) - Women's Project Coordinator

Religions for Peace (UK) Women of Faith Network is seeking a Women's Project Coordinator to deliver a series of small and medium size projects related to the training and empowerment of women of faith, religious literacy, and religion's role in responding to the climate emergency. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of project implementation and management, including monitoring and evaluation and reporting. They will also provide support for the UK Women of Faith network. It is envisioned that the role and responsibilities will develop over time as the organisation grows. This is a part-time, freelance role. The deadline for applications is 10 April. For further information, visit <a href="https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/view/807545?tsId=8">https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/view/807545?tsId=8</a>.

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### **University of Cambridge - Research Associate Inter faith relations**

The Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge is seeking to appoint a new Research Associate in the field of inter faith relations for one year from 1 April 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate will be a Research Associate to Professor Esra Özyürek, Academic Director of Cambridge Interfaith Programme. The appointee will be expected to help write grant applications that broadly relate to the field of inter faith relations. The successful candidate will also have time to develop and pursue their own research. The deadline for application is midnight on 28 February. For further information, visit <a href="https://www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk/news/vacancy-research-associate-interfaith-relations-12-months-april-2022">https://www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk/news/vacancy-research-associate-interfaith-relations-12-months-april-2022</a>.

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#### Good Faith Foundation - Chair of Trustees and Treasurer

The Good Faith Foundation promotes social inclusion for the public benefit, by preventing people from becoming socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. It is

currently seeking to recruit a Chair of Trustees and a Treasurer. More information on the roles and responsibilities can be found at <a href="https://goodfaith.org.uk/careers">https://goodfaith.org.uk/careers</a>. To apply, send a CV and cover letter to <a href="mailto:foundation@goodfaith.org.uk">foundation@goodfaith.org.uk</a>. The deadline for applications is 9 March.

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## **Edinburgh Interfaith Association - Interns**

Edinburgh Interfaith Association are seeking volunteer student interns. Opportunities include research, community engagement and media. The deadline for applications is 10 March. For more information, see

https://www.facebook.com/EIFA.page/posts/4946797225379226.

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#### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

## Help to shape a new pilot grants service

The Grants Applicant Programme (GAP) is being delivered by the Government Grants Management Function in the Cabinet Office. This aims to make applying for and finding government grants simpler, faster and fairer.

https://grantscommunity.blog.gov.uk/2021/12/08/government-grants-a-simpler-faster-and-fairer-way/ Anyone interested in helping to co-create a new, pilot grants service with government, can get involved by signing up <a href="here">here</a>. Over the next year they will be co-creating, testing and developing a Find a Grant and Apply for a Grant service. It will be available on gov.uk during March.

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### **Lottery Funding for Platinum Jubilee projects**

There is some Lottery Funding available, for grants of up to £10,000, for Platinum Jubilee projects. Applications should be received no later than 31 March. Further information can be found at <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england</a>.

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### **Funding websites**

My Funding Central is a database of grant funding and social investment sources. This service is available to organisations with an annual income below £1m and is free for organisations under £30k. <a href="https://www.myfundingcentral.co.uk/">https://www.myfundingcentral.co.uk/</a> Similar websites for funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at Funding Scotland - <a href="https://funding.scot/">https://funding.scot/</a>, Wales Council for Voluntary Action -

http://www.wcva.cymru./funding and Grant Tracker for Northern Ireland - https://www.grant-tracker.org/.

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## **COVID-19 related funding**

The Charities Aid Foundation has collated a list of organisations which are supporting charities and voluntary groups at this time. <a href="https://www.cafonline.org/covid-19-support/help-for-charities#tab1">https://www.cafonline.org/covid-19-support/help-for-charities#tab1</a>

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## **Listed Places of Worship grant scheme**

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme gives grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs. The Grant Scheme is run by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and administered by Topmark. The Government has recently confirmed that funding through the scheme will be available until March 2025. <a href="http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/">http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/</a>

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## **FCC Community Action Fund**

The FCC Communities Foundation is offering grants between £2,000 and £100,000 for projects which involve the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities including community spaces in places of worship, which are registered charities. Projects must be based within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility. The current round closes on 2 March. The following round closes on 8 June.

https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund

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## **Subsidised fundraising workshops**

The Foundation for Social Improvement offers subsidised training programmes for small charities across the UK. The courses cover a wide range of subjects from event planning to leadership. Many of the courses focus on fundraising and sustainability skills in particular. Further information and dates for upcoming courses, now being held online, can be found at <a href="http://www.thefsi.org/services/training">http://www.thefsi.org/services/training</a>.

#### **SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS/MONTHS**

**Fairtrade Fortnight** runs from Monday 21 February to Sunday 6 March. Many places of worship take part. <a href="https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/">https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/</a>

International Women's Day falls on 8 March. Its theme this year is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. Many faith and inter faith bodies mark the day. <a href="https://www.internationalwomensday.com/">https://www.internationalwomensday.com/</a> See Diary Dates for some inter faith events taking place in the UK.

**Great British Spring Clean** Keep Britain Tidy runs an annual Great British Spring Clean campaign, which this year runs from Friday 25 March to Sunday 10 April. Every year lots of faith and inter faith groups take part. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean">https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean</a>.

**The Big Lunch** this year is an official part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. Across the years millions of people from different backgrounds have joined together to take part through street parties, BBQs, iftars and picnics. https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/get-involved

**Refugee Week** will take place from Monday 20 to Sunday 26 June. Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities. The theme for the 2022 Week is 'Healing'. <a href="https://refugeeweek.org.uk/">https://refugeeweek.org.uk/</a>

**The Great Get Together**, inspired by the late Jo Cox MP, is taking place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 June. <a href="https://www.greatgettogether.org/">https://www.greatgettogether.org/</a>

**Srebrenica Memorial Day** takes place each year on 11 July. This year's theme is 'Combatting Denial: Challenging Hatred'. It is organised by Remembering Srebrenica. http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/

**National Hate Crime Awareness Week** takes place from Saturday 8 October to Saturday 15 October. <a href="https://nationalhcaw.uk/">https://nationalhcaw.uk/</a>

**One World Week** will take place from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 October. www.oneworldweek.org

**Scottish Interfaith Week** Scottish Interfaith Week is led by Interfaith Scotland. It will be held from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. <a href="https://www.scottishinterfaithweek.org">www.scottishinterfaithweek.org</a>

**Inter Faith Week**, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, will take place from Sunday 13 to Sunday 20 November. <a href="www.interfaithweek.org">www.interfaithweek.org</a>

**Mitzvah Day** will take place on Sunday 20 November. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Jewish community where people give their time to make a difference to the community around them. Many events and projects held for the day have an inter faith focus. <a href="https://www.mitzvahday.org.uk/">www.mitzvahday.org.uk/</a>

**Sewa Day** is a day of faith-based social action led by the Hindu community. It normally takes place on 4 dates across the year. Due to COVID there are currently no fixed days; rather, 'every day is Sewa day' and volunteers are helping people continually as they are able. <a href="https://sewaday.org/">https://sewaday.org/</a>

**VisitMyMosque Day** is a national campaign facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) that encourages mosques across the UK to hold an open day to welcome in their neighbours from all faiths and none. <a href="https://www.visitmymosque.org/">https://www.visitmymosque.org/</a>

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#### **DIARY DATES**

A few examples of forthcoming events are listed below. Those listed are all virtual, except where noted. Events are also listed on the IFN website at <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/events">https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/events</a>.

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith** is holding its next meeting on <u>Tuesday 1 March</u>. The theme will be 'Spirituality and the Pandemic'. It will begin at 7pm. For more information, email mapliener@pliener.karoo.co.uk.

**Faiths Together in Lambeth** is holding its next meeting with Lambeth Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove, on <u>Tuesday 1 March</u>. This will be held from 2.30pm to 4pm. For more information, contact <u>ftil@hotmail.co.uk</u>.

York Interfaith Group is holding its next meeting on <u>Tuesday 1 March</u>. The theme will be 'Women in Faith' and Canon Maggie McLean from York Minster, Sarah Hubbard from York Liberal Jewish Synagogue, and Amina Surve from York Mosque will speak about their experience as women in the community life and worship of their particular faith. The meeting begins at 7.30pm. For more information, email <u>yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com</u>.

Community Cohesion North Wales, Chaplains Connecting Communities, Glendwr Chaplaincy and Wrexham Council are holding an event on Friday 4 March. 'Finding Agreement: An Interfaith Cultural Evening' will be held from 6.30pm to 8pm at the Wrexham Islamic Centre, Wrexham, 6 Grosvenor Road, LL1 1DN. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/476761774025049/">https://www.facebook.com/events/476761774025049/</a> For further information, email gareth.hall@wrexham.gov.uk.

**Birmingham Conversations/Church of England Diocese of Birmingham** is holding a conference on Monday 7 March at the Shree Geeta Bhawan Mandir in Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1HL on 'The One Life or Many?'. Speakers of different faiths will help participants reflect on how our beliefs on whether we have one life or many affect our ideas on life, death and how we treat one another. For further information, and to register, visit <a href="http://www.dio.org.uk/OneLifeOrMany">http://www.dio.org.uk/OneLifeOrMany</a>.

**Redbridge Faith Forum is holding its next** Women's Interfaith Workshop at 1pm on Wednesday 9 March. The topic will be 'Celebrating Our Grandmothers'. This will include celebrating memories of participants' grandmothers, exploring roles and relationships of grandmothers in different cultures and faiths, 'food your grandmothers used to make, how your grandmothers have influenced your beliefs, life skills learnt from your grandmothers & advice given, phrases you associate with your grandmothers and what you remember your grandmothers most for'. For more information, visit <a href="https://redbridgefaithforum.org/womens-interfaith-workshop-Wednesday-9-march-at-1-pm/">https://redbridgefaithforum.org/womens-interfaith-workshop-Wednesday-9-march-at-1-pm/</a>.

The **Women's Interfaith Network** is holding on Thursday 10 March from 4pm to 5pm an International Women's Day Member's Coffee and Catch Up. For questions or to find out more about membership or how to become a member, please email: <a href="mailto:tara@wominet.org.uk">tara@wominet.org.uk</a>

Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network in partnership with Edinburgh Interfaith Association is holding an event on <a href="Thursday 10 March">Thursday 10 March</a> for International Women's Day. The speakers will be Debora Kayembe, first black female Rector of Edinburgh University, Lama Zangmo, Tibetan Buddhist Nun and Head Teacher of Kagyu Samye Dzong and Olivia Marks-Goldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. It is being held from 6pm to 7.30pm. To register, visit <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_TDqFu0d3RkO1BsXd56Y3Ow">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_TDqFu0d3RkO1BsXd56Y3Ow</a>.

Woking Action for Peace, Churches Together in Woking, Surrey Faith Links, Woking Environment Action, Woking People of Faith, Woking Soroptimists and Woking Quakers are holding the next Woking Debate on Saturday 12 March. The topic is 'Disunited kingdom: How much longer will the UK hold together?'. The event will take place from 11am to 12.30pm. For more information, including whether this will be in person or online, visit <a href="https://www.wokingdebates.com">www.wokingdebates.com</a>.

**Touchstone Centre Bradford and Methodist Women in Britain** are holding an online conference from 10am to 1pm on <u>Saturday 12 March</u> on 'Interfaith perspectives on the environment'. There will be women speakers from EcoSynagogue, EcoSikh, JPIT, The Green Deen Tribe and Hindu Climate Action. The conference is part of Whose Bag is it Anyway which aims to encourage faith-based learning around environmental issues and climate change; empowering women to lead the change. For further information and to

register, visit <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/interfaith-perspectives-on-the-environment-tickets-256870425357">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/interfaith-perspectives-on-the-environment-tickets-256870425357</a>.

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** is holding an event on <u>Tuesday 15 March</u> on 'Holy Places in Buddhism'. This will be presented by David Midgley. It is being held at 7.30pm at the Jamyang Buddhist Centre, Ingram Road, Leeds LS11 9RQ and also on Zoom. For more information, email <u>chair@concord-leeds.org.uk</u>.

**The Zemel Choir** is holding an Interfaith Song Festival for London from <u>Sunday 20 to Sunday 27 March</u> On <u>Sunday 20 March</u> it will be holding an afternoon of workshops from 1pm to 5pm on: Gospel Singing, Contemporary Song for Jewish Worship, Vedic Chanting and Kirtan. Each workshop lasts for 50 minutes. Participants will take part in all four workshops over the course of the afternoon. The workshops will be followed by an open Evensong. Participants in the workshops should come to St-Martin-in-the-Fields from 12.30pm for registration and to find their workshop group. For more information, visit https://www.zemelchoir.org.

**Strengthening Faith Institutions** is running Designated Safeguarding Lead training for Faith Centres on Monday 21 March. It begins at 7pm. For more information, and to register, visit <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_EDzNTnTLRsygxAfcv3DpGA">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_EDzNTnTLRsygxAfcv3DpGA</a>.

Herefordshire InterFaith Group is holding a 'Springtime evening' on <u>Tuesday 22 March</u>. Participants are invited to offer a meditation, poem, chant or piece of prose on the theme of light, renewal and looking forward, either self-written or from a meaningful source. For more information, contact Lama Choesang at <u>choesang@the-hermit-online.co.uk</u>, copying in Mike at hello@herefordshireinterfaith.org.uk.

**The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester** is holding its next event on <u>Sunday 27 March</u>. This will be a 'pub quiz without a pub!' It is being held from 7.30pm at Swinton Masonic Hall, Hospital Road, Pendlebury M27 4EY. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, and to book, visit <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/muslim-jewish-forum-quiz-tickets-272869599317">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/muslim-jewish-forum-quiz-tickets-272869599317</a>.

**Woking People of Faith** will be holding its annual Interfaith Football Tournament on <u>Saturday 21 May</u>. Book your six-a-side team now by emailing <u>treasurer@wpof.org.uk</u>. The tournament will be held from 9am to 4pm at the Winston Churchill Sports Centre, Hermitage Road, St John's, GU21 8TL. There will be medals for all players as well as a trophy for the winning team. Lunch will be served. More details to follow.

## More information on events and projects in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum: www.niinterfaithforum.org

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

Inter-faith Council for Wales: https://www.interfaithcouncilwales.cymru/

IFN also carries news and information at <a href="www.twitter.com/IFNetUK">www.facebook.com/IFNetUK</a> and, about Inter Faith Week, at <a href="https://twitter.com/IFweek">https://twitter.com/IFweek</a> and <a href="www.facebook.com/IFWeek">www.facebook.com/IFWeek</a>.

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

The Inter Faith Network for the UK works for inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. Please help us grow this vital work by making a donation at: <a href="https://interfaith.org.uk/donate">https://interfaith.org.uk/donate</a> (including Paypal option). Donations can also be made by sending a cheque payable to 'The Inter Faith Network' to: The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

Donations are used with care to make a real difference.

Thank you!

## MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT THE INTER FAITH NETWORK'S WORK IN REMEMBRANCE OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND OR THROUGH A LEGACY

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

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 us on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at <a href="mailto:remember@interfaith.org.uk">remember@interfaith.org.uk</a>.

Remember a Charity has produced a helpful resource called 'Making a Will - your complete guide'. This can be found at <a href="https://www.rememberacharity.org.uk/making-a-will/">https://www.rememberacharity.org.uk/making-a-will/</a>.

You can sign up to IFN mailings at any time by using the form on IFN's website at: <a href="https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/gdpr">www.interfaith.org.uk/news/gdpr</a> or let us know that you would like to unsubscribe by emailing ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

#### **Submissions for next issue**

If you have items about inter faith projects or future events which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to <a href="mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk">ifnet@interfaith.org.uk</a> by 22 April with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

Disclaimer: Information in this e-bulletin has been sourced and compiled with care. IFN does not take responsibility for accuracy of information supplied by external organisations and inclusion of items within this e-bulletin does not imply endorsement or validation by IFN of the events, publications or the bodies which have produced these.

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