



IFN e-bulletin

January/February 2018

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If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **22 March** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style. The e-bulletin is designed primarily to flag up new developments and projects and future events. If your organisation distributes a programme, newsletter or e-bulletin, please add ifnet@interfaith.org.uk to your mailing list.

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.

Increasingly, IFN is making use of social media, in particular Twitter (www.twitter.com/IFNetUK) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/IFNetUK).

Please take a moment to 'follow' and 'like' IFN and also Inter Faith Week (www.twitter.com/IFWeek and www.facebook.com/IFWeek) and also check in with the IFN website to see new items, which are added on a regular basis.

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FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE UPDATES

Housing, Communities and Local Government

Following Prime Minister Theresa May's Cabinet and Ministerial reshuffle in early January the Department for Communities and Local Government has been renamed the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Its website is <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>.

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP remains the Secretary of State and Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth remains the Minister for Faith.

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BBC Religion and Ethics review

In December the BBC published a review of its Religion and Ethics programming and output, with the aim of re-assessing its role and strategy in this area, and reconsidering how best to deliver its public service mission in this respect. This includes a new commitment to reflect better the diversity and plurality of faith and belief in the UK today. Among its key recommendations are:

- to help the public develop its religious literacy;
- to expand coverage of religion in News output; and
- to broaden the reach of Religion and Ethics content to diverse audiences, including those aged under 45.

The report also says that the BBC will partner with other organisations to host a summit discussing the role that belief plays in British society, to be held every two years, and that it will be designating 2019 'A Year of Beliefs' when special programming and content will be featured.

The full report of the review can be downloaded from http://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/insidethebbc/howwework/reports/religion_and_ethics_2017.

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Holocaust Memorial Day

Many faith and inter bodies around the UK marked Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January with events and projects. This year's theme is 'The Power of Words'.

The UK HMD event took place on 25 January in London with contributions from Holocaust and other genocide survivors, as well as others.

Interfaith Scotland, together with the HMD Trust and Glasgow City Council, organised the national Scottish annual Holocaust Memorial Day event on 24 January at Glasgow Caledonian University.

<http://hmd.org.uk/events/2016/holocaust-memorial-national-event-scotland/thu-11012018-1011>

Representatives of the Inter-faith Council for Wales attended the national commemoration in Wales on 29 January. <https://www.wired.gov.net/wg/news.nsf/print/First+Minister+remembers+victims+of+Holocaust+at+service+27012018071000>

A number of events took place in Northern Ireland including the regional Northern Ireland Commemorative event which this year took place in Derry.

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/events/2016/northern-ireland-regional-commemoration/wed-03012018-1104>.

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Government report on Cathedrals and their communities

In December the then Department for Communities and Local Government published, 'Cathedrals and their Communities: A report on the diverse roles of cathedrals in modern England'. This followed a tour during 2017 of all 42 English Anglican cathedrals by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith and Integration.

The report aims to highlight the positive contributions that cathedrals make to their communities in a range of ways. Inter faith work is among those aspects of cathedrals' contributions prominently highlighted. Examples include the holding of inter faith events, collaboration with other faith communities on social issues, and participation in programmes of inter faith work, such as Inter Faith Week.

The full report can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-report-highlights-english-cathedrals-community-spirit>.

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The Sussex Hate Crime Project – final report

The Sussex Hate Crime Project, carried out by the University of Sussex and funded by the Leverhulme Trust, has published its final report. The project examined the indirect impact of hate crimes, including “how hate attacks on members of a community affect the thoughts, emotions and behaviours of other members of that community.”

Across 2013-2018 the project worked with individuals and organisations from two commonly targeted groups, Muslim people and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people, in an attempt to understand how indirect experiences of hate crimes impact on individuals, communities, and society in general. Among key findings in the report are: an increased sense of vulnerability in communities whose members had been affected by hate crimes; a build-up of anger and frustration; and a distrust of the criminal justice system. It also notes that the effect of hate crime goes beyond those who suffer directly, including in faith communities.

The report can be downloaded at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/sussexhatecrimeproject/>.

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2021 Census

The Office for National Statistics organised a 'Census, Population & Public Policy Forum' on 13 December to gauge views in the areas of ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation ahead of the 2021 Census. Among the topics discussed was whether the question about ethnicity should include tick-box options for Sikhs and/or Jews – with views offered in both directions – and the importance of ethnicity and religion data being collected by service providers across central and local government to ensure that the needs of different communities are met at all levels.

Further information about the forum event can be found in a blog post by Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population and Public Policy, at <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2017/12/14/reflecting-views-on-the-2021-census/>.

The Office for National Statistics is carrying out a wide range of activity in preparation for the 2021 Census. This includes a range of consultative exercises alongside ongoing meetings of its Census Advisory Groups.

‘Opt-out’ consent for organ donation

People who donate their organs and tissue after they die help save many lives in England each year. However, 3 people die a day because of a lack of suitable organs.

There has been significant work with and by faith communities about organ donation, including development of materials about this and campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of donation.

In 2013 a ‘Faith Action Plan’ was launched <http://www.nbta-uk.org.uk/2013/12/all-major-uk-faiths-come-together-to-promote-new-organ-donation-strategy/> and further work has been done on this issue.

IFN has highlighted the issues in various contexts, most recently the inclusion of a dedicated workshop at its National Meeting last July with Angela Ditchfield, Diversity Lead Nurse, Organ Donation & Transplantation, NHS and Kirit Mistry, Co-Chair, National Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance and NHS Blood and Transplant used Inter Faith Week 2017 to campaign to raise awareness

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk0/news-and-campaigns/news/nhs-blood-and-transplant-encourages-people-to-talk-about-organ-donation-during-interfaith-week/>

Although 8 out of 10 people say they would want to donate their organs and tissue after their death, most people never register to be organ donors. Under current rules in England, a person who has died can only be an organ donor if they have agreed to it when they were alive or has appointed a person to make a decision after their death. This is called giving consent. The government believes that it would increase the number of organs donated and save more lives if the law was changed so that people who do not want to donate their organs after their death would have to opt out. It plans to change the law in England.

On 12 December the Department of Health launched a consultation to find out what people think about proposed changes in which people are considered willing to be an organ donor after their death, unless they have ‘opted out’. It is particularly interested in views on:

- how much say families have in their deceased relative’s decision to donate their organs;
- when exemptions to ‘opt-out’ would be needed, and what safeguards would be necessary; and
- how a new system might affect certain groups depending on age, disability, race or faith.

The consultation notes, at Section 4.3, that the Organ Donation Taskforce considered the attitudes of different faith and belief groups towards an opt-out system of consent and that its work highlighted significant reservations from people of certain faiths about the impact of moving to an opt-out system of consent, particularly for people less comfortable with the prospect of the change. It includes a question about whether the intended change could have a negative impact on people from some religious groups or ethnic backgrounds.

The consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-opt-out-consent-for-organ-and-tissue-donation-in-england>.

The deadline for responses is **6 March**. To submit a response, go to https://engage.dh.gov.uk/organdonation/?utm_source=DHTwitter&utm_content=Launch_tweetwithanimation.

In Wales, an ‘opt out’ system has been in place since 2015. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-42213813>

Scotland is also planning to move to an ‘opt out’ system, with the next step being for the Scottish Parliament to consider legislation in the coming parliamentary year <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-42521772>

Following a detailed examination of all aspects of soft opt-out systems the Northern Ireland Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with specific legislation to introduce a soft opt-out system as a possible means of increasing levels of organ donation in Northern Ireland. However, the Assembly in recognition of the importance of promoting organ donation, passed legislation which places a statutory duty on the relevant Department to promote transplantation and increase awareness about transplantation and the donation of human organs.

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Faith and Mental health

A number of faith and inter faith organisations are also involved in work relating to mental health issues, including dementia. Some examples of this work are included here.

South London Inter Faith Group, with the assistance of Faith in Society, launched a 3 year faith-based mental health project at an event in November. <http://faithinsociety.org.uk/faith-based-mental-health-project/>

FaithAction has collated studies about how faith communities are becoming ‘dementia friendly’ and produced resources for faith communities to use to help support those suffering from dementia. <http://www.faithaction.net/portal/our-projects/dementia/>

Thrive LDN campaign is working with faith communities to improve mental health for all Londoners. It is holding an inter faith event on 15 February to discuss this <http://thrivedn.co.uk/events/thrive-together-interfaith-event/> and has also produced an information pack. <http://thrivedn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Thrive-Together-conversations-information-pack.pdf>

The Dementia Trust has produced a guide to helping people with dementia in local churches, which can also be used by other places of worship. http://dementiatrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/04160-Resource-for-churchgoers-inserts_31.pdf

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Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will take place in London and Windsor in the week of 16 April.

Leaders from more than 50 countries are expected to attend the summit, coming together to reaffirm common values, address global challenges and agree how to work to create a better future for the citizens of the Commonwealth, particularly young people. The Cabinet Office is supporting the meeting. It is in conversation with faith communities about the CHOGM programme and would like to encourage widespread involvement from faith and inter faith bodies as part of the wider involvement across society.

Suggested activities include:

- Sharing your Commonwealth story with CHOGM. Including family stories, business connections, charitable links or other Commonwealth connections. Upload a 1-2 minute video and email it to commonwealthsummitmedia@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.
- Hosting a Commonwealth Big Lunch. CHOGM is partnering with the Eden Project – founders of the Big Lunch initiative – to launch ‘Commonwealth Bug Lunches’ in February 2018. The lunches will run from Commonwealth Day on 12 March until the end of the summit on 22 April. Interest can be registered at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/youre-invited> or by emailing getinvolved@chogm2018.org.uk.
- Planning a Commonwealth-themed event. The CHOGM website will act as a guide to events taking place across the Commonwealth. If you plan to organise an event, email getinvolved@chogm2018.org.uk for website and social media advertising.

Updates can be found on CHOGM’s dedicated website, www.chogm18.org.uk, on Twitter @Commonwealth18 and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Commonwealth2018/.

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INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

Inter Faith Week

2017

Inter Faith Week 2017 took place between 12 and 19 November, and featured the largest number of events and activities to date. The last edition of this E-bulletin contained a substantial report on the 2017 Week and can be found at

https://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/Inter_Faith_Network_for_the_UK_e-bulletin_-_November-December_2017.pdf#page=11.

An illustrated report on the Week is being produced, timed as usual to also point forward to the coming Week. If you have any photographs or stories from activities you were involved with, please do keep sending these to the IFN office.

2018

Inter Faith Week 2018 will take place from 11 – 18 November.

Last year for the first time, IFN made available Inter Faith Week branded pin badges to buy via the Inter Faith Week website. These proved to be popular, and it is planned to do this again in 2018. If there are other items which you think would be particularly helpful in spreading the word and raising awareness about the Week, please let the IFN office know and we will explore it.

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Connecting across the generations: inter faith engagement of young people

This Inter Faith Network programme was begun in October 2017 and will lead in July 2018 to publication of a new edition of IFN's youth inter faith action guide *Connect: Different Faiths, Shared Values* <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect-different-faiths-shared-values>. It will also feed into a special youth-focused National Meeting of IFN in July.

The programme is being carried out with the help of an Advisory Group, co-facilitated by IFN Trustee Padideh Sabeti and youth co-facilitator, Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi.

The new guide will be full of ideas and case studies to inspire young people wanting to get involved in inter faith activity – or to deepen their existing involvement. It will cover a wide range of activity: from dialogue and social action to sport, arts and culture and more.

Key to the programme will be hearing the views of young people. IFN will be holding small focus group sessions in Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Cardiff and London for young people aged 16-25. If you or someone you know are in that age range and may be interested in

taking part, please contact Ashley Beck at the IFN office for more information (Ashley.beck@interfaith.org.uk). The sessions will take place between 20 February and 31 March.

IFN is also keen to hear from organisations which run inter faith initiatives – large and small – with young people. If you have ideas, best-practice examples or resources to share, please take a moment to complete the short questionnaire at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3556485OWI8> Printable versions can also be provided if helpful for consultation or discussion.

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IFN resources for local inter faith organisations

In recent months IFN has been adding to its website a number of resources for local groups on particular themes. Three are currently listed on IFN’s website:

- Inter faith engagement in social action
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-engagement-in-social-action>
- Standing together
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/standing-together>
- Local inter faith organisations and schools
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/local-inter-faith-organisations-and-schools>

Each resource includes information which local groups may find helpful, including case studies and examples of good practice from existing local inter faith organisations.

A fourth resource on ‘Faith trails and open door days’ will shortly be uploaded and available at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/local-1>.

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INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship

The mission of the Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship is to “forge bridges across boundaries between minority communities in Europe and North America, particularly (but not exclusively) Jewish and Muslim”. Over time, this is being achieved through building a network of entrepreneurs and community leaders invested in empowering pluralistic societies, nurturing wisdom and collaborative leadership. The Fellowship is now open for applications from entrepreneurs, social innovators, or those in business who demonstrate a commitment towards inclusion and forging bridges between communities whilst strengthening the sustainability of their organisation. The Fellowship provides an all-

expenses-paid week at Windsor Castle, St George's House from 29 July to 4 August, to network and work on the fellow's project with other entrepreneurs.

The deadline for applications is Sunday 4 March at midnight EST. For further information and to apply, visit <http://adrfellowship.org/program/application-form/>.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

'Moral and Spiritual Dilemmas in Challenging Times' – a CCJ Resource

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) has published a new resource in collaboration with Cumberland Lodge, 'Moral and Spiritual Dilemmas in Challenging Times'. The resource addresses how faith communities can tackle 'rising extremism, nationalism and populism' in six short chapters.

The resource accompanies a new edition of Amy Buller's 1943 book *Darkness over Germany: A Warning from History*. The resource can be downloaded from the CCJ website at <http://www.ccj.org.uk/moral-and-spiritual-dilemmas-in-challenging-times/>.

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Christian Jewish resources for Holocaust Memorial Day

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland partnered to produce liturgical and homiletic resources for use by Christians when observing Holocaust Memorial Day which took place on 27 January. The resources can still be downloaded from the CCJ website at <http://www.ccj.org.uk/ccj-ctbi-liturgical-and-homiletic-material-for-christians-on-hmd/> or from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website here <http://hmd.org.uk/page/faith-resources>.

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Strengthening Faith Institutions – new website

Strengthening Faith Institutions (SFI) is an organisation which 'professionalises places of worship'. Organisations which join the SFI network receive a free health check with one of SFI's regional consultants as a basis for a bespoke action plan. The individualised action plans "serve to maximise your organisational objectives and provide a course of focused training for your leadership team, trustees, and members in core areas of

safeguarding, security, governance, funding and other areas of need”. The package is provided free of charge to faith institutions.

SFI has recently launched a new website at <https://www.sfitogether.org/> where there is more information about its work and also a library of resources for faith institutions.

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‘Faith, Media and Power’ training

3FF is holding a free two-day training course on ‘Faith, Media and Power’ on Sunday 11 and Sunday 18 March. The training will bring together young people and media experts, and will provide an opportunity to: learn how the news media works and how to challenge misrepresentation; gain skills from DIY media experts, campaigners and journalists; become part of an inter faith movement for media justice. Places are free but limited, and a short application is required. Applications are open to anyone aged 18-30 wanting to tackle misrepresentation in the media alongside people from different faith and belief backgrounds. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.3ff.org.uk/blog/faith-media-power/>.

The closing date for applications is midnight on 2 February.

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Faithful Organisations governance training

St Philip’s Centre Leicester and Near Neighbours Birmingham are running a half day workshop on 8 February on the role of governance in faith based community organisations and places of worship. It is being held at 10am at Balsall Heath Church Centre in Birmingham.

The workshop will explore topics of interest including: What is an Accountable Body; Understanding Organisational Language; Choosing a Legal Structure; The Charitable Context; Ensuring Trust and Credibility; Why Risk Management; Showing Who's Involved; Visionary Thinking; Operational Planning; Policy & Procedure; The Good Committee; Clear Budgeting; and Involving and Sharing Work. It will be supported by examples and good practice handouts using real life experience of a national and local situations from a wide range of organisations and communities. For further information, and to register, contact rabiyah@nearneighbours.com.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

Heritage Lottery Fund Consultation on Strategic Funding Framework 2019-2024

The Heritage Lottery Fund uses money raised by National Lottery to invest in the full breadth of the UK's heritage. It is seeking thoughts on its strategic direction and proposals from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible, to help it set its priorities for how to use National Lottery Good Causes income for the period 2019-2024.

The consultation will opening shortly. For more information, visit <https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/future-funding-heritage-and-people>. For queries about the consultation, contact Alice Ralston at ComRes on 020 7872 8660 or alice.ralston@comresglobal.com.

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Consultation on the Review of the OISC Equality Scheme

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is consulting on its Review of the OISC Equality Scheme, with responses assisting in the development of a revised Equality Scheme. In order to ensure that the OISC provide services that treat people with protected characteristics in a fair and professional manner and show respect and understanding for their particular needs, the OISC would like to obtain views from those who have a protected characteristic themselves and know and understand the issues that affect people with a protected characteristic. Religion or belief is one of the protected characteristics.

The consultation ends on 21 March. For further information and to request a copy of the consultation document, contact Ayodele Odumade, Corporate Support Officer, OISC, at ayodele.odumade@oisc.gov.uk or on 020 7211 1525.

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HMCTS consultation - Fit for the future: transforming the Court and Tribunal Estate

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service began a consultation on 18 January about the transformation of the court system. The consultation is called: Fit for the future: transforming the Court and Tribunal Estate and closes on 29 March.

There are ten questions over all and one that specifically relates to people of religion and belief. Question 9 asks: "What is your view on how these proposals are likely to impact on groups of court and tribunal users with particular protected characteristics as defined in

the Equality Act 2010? Are there any sources of evidence or research that you think we should consider?”.

Communities or individuals may respond to this as part of the wider consultation to ensure that where members of their faith communities have to go to court their religious requirements are met appropriately and with sensitivity. This may include, for example, access to an appropriate Sacred Text when it comes to taking an oath or access to facilities for prayer.

More information about the consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/calls-for-views-on-transforming-court-estate> and the online survey at <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-court-tribunal-estate/>.

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Honours nominations

A number of people received Honours in this year’s New Year’s Honours list for services to inter faith work or community cohesion.

<https://www.facebook.com/ifnetuk/posts/1717634661620435>

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government is always keen to ensure that individuals from the full breadth of society who are making a significant contribution to public life are properly recognised through the Honours system. It is particularly keen to recognise individuals who have contributed to building integrated communities and notes that nominees can come from all levels; being in a junior role is not a barrier to a nomination.

All nominations must be made on an official citation form and nominees should not be informed that they have been nominated. Citation forms, as well as further information, can be obtained by emailing integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

IFN’s website lists job and internship opportunities with a significant inter faith dimension with IFN member organisations at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/vacancies/jobs>.

St Ethelburga’s – Stories, Videos and Youth Coordinator

The St Ethelburga’s Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is seeking to recruit a full time Stories, Video and Youth Coordinator to work across all its programmes, combining engaging with story and heritage with supporting its emerging young leaders and

alumni. The role will involve helping to make short videos about how the history of its building relates to its work; hosting events and gatherings for young emerging leaders; supporting and mentoring young Associate Fellows of its leadership programmes; and recruiting and developing 'heritage volunteers' and making exhibition material.

The closing date for applications is 22 February. The job description can be found at <https://stethelburgas.org/get-involved/vacancies-and-volunteering/>. Enquiries can be addressed to Justine Huxley at justine@stethelburgas.org.

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European Network on Religion and Belief – Director

The European Network on Religion and Belief is seeking to appoint a Director to manage and further develop the organisation as the EU Equalities and Anti-Discrimination Network responsible for combating discrimination and hate crime, and promoting mutual understanding in the field of religion and belief. The vacancy is for 3 days per week and is based in Brussels. The deadline for applications is 2 February at 6pm. More information including a full job description and person specification can be found at <http://enorb.eu/job/director/>.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK – Mini Internship

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is advertising a 6-week mini internship. This will be for 4 days per week based at the IFN office in London from mid February to the end of March. For further information, email ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

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Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has regular volunteering opportunities. Further information about these can be found on IFN's website.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office programme Building a Stronger Britain Together has opened its latest call for grant funding. Applications are welcome from those who applied for funding in rounds 1 and 2, and those who have been or who are in receipt of in-kind support. The

application deadline is 5pm on Friday 16 February and applicants are advised that the guidance and application form for grants have changed since the last funding round.

The programme is continuing to offer in-kind support such as social media training, technical assistance to help a group improve their website, or capacity building work to help a group protect more vulnerable individuals. It is open to bodies in England and Wales. Applications for in-kind support can be submitted at any time.

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>.

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Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund continues to be open for applications to its rolling small grants scheme. Small grants of up to £750 are available to faith based anti-poverty projects with an annual turnover of £30,000 or less and can be applied for at any time. For more information call 0141 221 4576 or visit

<https://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/our-grants/smallgrants/>.

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Supermarket grant schemes

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag levy in Tesco stores is being used to fund community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of promoting community participation in the development and use of outdoor spaces. Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork in England and Wales and supported in Scotland by Greenspace Scotland. (It is not available in Northern Ireland where carrier bag money is managed centrally.) Further information is at <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>.

Waitrose supports charities through its Community Matters scheme. Local branches are each given £1,000 to share out between three local good causes each month such as welfare organisations, community groups and schools. To apply, fill in a Community Matters form at a local branch or contact the branch champion for community giving at a local branch, using their branch finder tool at <http://www.waitrose.com/branches/index.aspx>.

Sainsbury's stores each partner with a Local Charity of the Year voted on by the local people. To apply, fill in a nomination form at your local store. More information is at <https://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk/>.

The Asda Foundation offers grants for local community projects which will “make a real long term difference, benefitting the wider community with [its] vision to ‘Transform Communities, improving lives locally.’” Further details are at <https://www.asdafoundation.org/applying-for-funding/significant-local-community-projects>.

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Comic Relief’s Core Strength Grants Programme

This programme offers grants to help cover the day to day costs of small locally led and based voluntary and community sector groups that are doing ‘much needed’ work in their local communities. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 or between £1,000 and £10,000 (depending on the local community foundation) are to be used to support groups that can evidence a sustained beneficial impact on people’s lives who are excluded or disadvantaged. The guidance notes “We recognise that faith-based organisations undertake valuable work in supporting disadvantaged and marginalised communities both in the UK and internationally, and we are able to support their work. We would expect these organisations to be able to evidence the practical implementation of their diversity policy, so that people from all faiths or none can become a member of staff, board member, volunteer, or benefit from the work.” For further information, visit <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-grants/open-grants-initiatives/core-strength-local-communities>.

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Funding websites

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations offers advice on fundraising and grants on its Knowhow Nonprofit site at <https://knowhownonprofit.org/funding>.

Funding Central - <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx> - is a free website for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in England that provides access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, together with tools and resources for supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. Similar websites for funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at Funding Scotland - <http://www.fundingscotland.com/> - Wales Council for Voluntary Action - <http://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/search> - and Grant Tracker for Northern Ireland - <https://www.grant-tracker.org/>.

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Heritage Lottery Fund grants to commemorate First World War

The Heritage Lottery Fund has £4million of funding available for communities to get involved in projects marking the Centenary of the First World War. Projects applying for funding must be able to meet one of a number of successful outcomes based on heritage, people and communities. Grants can be given between £3,000 and £10,000. There is no current deadline for applications as grants are considered on a monthly basis up to 2019.

Further information can be found at <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/first-world-war-then-and-now>.

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Community foundations

Community foundations are local, grant-making organisations to which local community organisations can apply for funding. There are 46 community foundations in the UK, covering Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and most of England. A map of community foundations across the UK and how to contact them, can be found at

<http://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network> .

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Website and Facebook grants

The Transform Foundation is offering funding to charities to help with new website builds. Grants of £18,000 are available. It is also offering grants towards Facebook advertising of £5,000. For further information and to apply, visit www.transformfoundation.org.uk.

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Google and charities

The internet search engine Google is offering a service to registered charities which brings: Google Ad Grants: Free AdWords advertising to promote your website on Google through keyword targeting; YouTube Nonprofit Programme: Access exclusive resources, features and programs designed to maximise your organisation's impact on YouTube; and Google Apps for Non-profit: Free version of the Google Apps business productivity suite, including Gmail, Docs, Calendar and more. For further information, visit

www.google.co.uk/intl/en/nonprofits/join.

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Subsidised fundraising workshops

The Foundation for Social Improvement offers heavily subsidised training programmes for small charities across the UK. The courses cover a wide range of subjects from event planning to leadership but the majority of their training courses are focused on helping charities learn the skills to raise and earn income. Further information can be found at <http://www.thefsi.org/services/training>.

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Funding for projects improving the outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

The Integration and Faith Division of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is looking for six pilot projects in the areas of community cohesion, educational attainment and health outcomes that will improve the outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. The pilot programme will be run in collaboration with the Department for Education and the Department of Health.

To be eligible for funding, an organisation must be a registered charity or have a charitable purpose, and to be successful bidders will need a demonstrable record in delivering projects, working with Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities and a credible community presence. The deadline for applications is 18 February. All bidders will have the opportunity to receive impartial feedback on one draft application from officials in one of the three Departments if submitted by 4 February. For an application form and the programme specification document, email integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk with 'GRT' in the subject line.

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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

World Interfaith Harmony Week takes place from 1 to 7 February. It is a UN recognised Week which was proposed to the UN General Assembly by HM King Abdullah of Jordan. The first UN World Interfaith Harmony Week took place in February 2011. <http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com>

VisitMyMosque Day 2018 will take place on Sunday 18 February. In 2017 over 150 mosques across the UK held open days to welcome in their neighbours from other communities. For further information, visit www.visitmymosque.org.

Sadaqa Day will take place on Sunday 18 March. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Muslim community. mysadaqaday.org

The Big Lunch 10th anniversary will be held on Sunday 3 June. Across the years millions of people from different faith backgrounds have joined together to take part through street parties, BBQs, iftars and picnics.

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>

The Great Get Together, inspired by the late Jo Cox MP, is taking place from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 June. <https://www.greatgettogether.org/>.

The **European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage**, run by B'nai B'rith UK, will be on Sunday 2 September and from Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 October. The theme for this year will be 'Storytelling'. <http://bnaibrithuk.org/heritage-days/>

Sewa Day will take place this year on Sunday 14 October. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Hindu community. <http://www.sewaday.org/>

Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will take place from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November. It is led by the Inter Faith Network for the UK

www.interfaithweek.org See more [above](#).

Scottish Interfaith Week will take place from Sunday 11 to Sunday 18 November. It is led by Interfaith Scotland. <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Mitzvah Day will take place on Sunday 18 November. It is an annual day of faith-based social action led by the Jewish community. On Mitzvah Day, people give their time, not their money, to make a difference to the community around them. Many events and projects held for the day have an inter faith focus. www.mitzvahday.org.uk/

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

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.

Gifts at all levels are much valued and make a real difference. You can donate directly at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or via PayPal or JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/interfaithnetwork-uk>

Donations can also be made by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

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 us on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at remember@interfaith.org.uk

Thank you!

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DIARY DATES

This section includes some of the events taking place around the UK during February. We also include information on diary dates between e-bulletins on the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/events>.

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme is holding a seminar on Thursday 1 February. This will be the first in its new Senior Seminar series in Inter-Religious Relations. The speaker, Dr Holger Zellentin, will be speaking on "Divine Law and Human Intervention: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the US Constitutional Debate". Responses will be given by Dr Daniel Weiss and Dr Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe. The seminar will take place from 11am to 1pm in the Lightfoot Room, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge and will be followed by an informal lunch. All are welcome. Anyone interested in attending, should email team@interfaith.cam.ac.uk.

Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum is holding its next meeting on Thursday 1 February. This will be a discussion between Rabbi David Singer and Sheikh Anwar Mady, facilitated by Peter Osborne of the NI Community Relations Council. In their four overlapping years in Belfast Rabbi Singer and Sheikh Anwar have built a positive relationship at a time when religious intolerance has been on the increase. This meeting provides an opportunity to hear them reflect on their experiences of Belfast and the contribution that interfaith dialogue has made to their lives. It is being held from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and is being hosted by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs at their offices in Belfast: 29 Notting Hill (off the Malone Road), Belfast BT9 5NS. To register attendance, email edwin.graham21@gmail.com.

Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum is holding a peace vigil to mark UN Interfaith Harmony Week on Thursday 1 February. The vigil will be held at St Joseph's Church, 12 Eastgate Gardens, Guildford, GU1 4AZ and attendees are invited to arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. For further information, contact Carolyn Neogi on 01483 415773 or Bernard Jones on 01483 424257.

Interfaith MK is holding its next monthly meeting on Thursday 1 February when Wendi Momen will be speaking on 'The Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah and an introduction to the Baha'i Faith'. The meeting is being held from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St. Michael's Priory (formerly The Well), Newport Road, Willen, Milton Keynes MK15 9AA. Tea and refreshments will be provided at the end of the event. For further information, contact interfaithmk@gmail.com.

Woking People of Faith is hosting a members' tea party on Saturday 3 February for those interested in helping the group with events. The tea will be held at 3pm at St Dunstan's Church, Shaftesbury Road, Woking, GU22 7DT. For more information, contact Marian Nash at secretary@wpof.org.uk or visit www.wpof.org.uk.

The **Gandhi Foundation** is organising a Multifaith Celebration for Mahatma Gandhi on Saturday 3 February from 6pm to 8pm at the Bhavan, 4A Castletown Road, West Kensington, W14 9HE. The theme will be music, art and drama and more information is

available here: <https://gandhifoundation.org/2017/12/17/gandhi-foundation-multi-faith-celebration-2018/>.

The **Multifaith Chapel and Library at Burngreave Ashram** is hosting monthly informal sharing, lunch and seminar events on the first (occasionally second) Monday of the month. The next event is on Monday 5 February when Ruth Bird will be speaking on the theme of the seminars, which is 'My difficulties with faiths and cultures'. The programme is: 12 Noon informal sharing; 12.30pm bring and share lunch; 1.15pm Seminar. The Chapel is at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LG. For further information contact 07932 017 929 or 0114 243 6688 or email BAMCL@outlook.com.

Interfaith Glasgow is holding a dialogue event on Monday 5 February entitled 'Scriptural Reasoning: Why should Jews, Christians and Muslims engage in Interfaith Dialogue?' to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week. The event will take place between 6pm and 8.30pm at the Interfaith Scotland Dialogue Centre, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, G21 4BF. This is a dialogue specifically for Muslims, Jews and Christians to explore together texts from their scriptures and shared heritage – attendees need not be experts in their tradition, just enthusiastic and willing to learn more about their own faith and those of others. The event is free and light refreshments will be provided. For further information, contact info@interfaithglasgow.org.

Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum is hosting its Manifesto Launch on Tuesday 6 February. Confirmed speakers include the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, and the Deputy Young Mayor, Sadia Ahmed. The launch takes place from 3pm to 6pm at Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre, 229 Bethnal Green Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 6AB. For further information, email info@faithintowerhamlets.org or visit www.faithintowerhamlets.org.

Faith in Lancaster is holding its next Faithshare on Tuesday 6 February on the theme of 'Order and Structure in our living'. It is being held from 7.30pm to 9pm at Room 2, Friends Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster. Teas and other hot drinks will be available and donations will be accepted towards the cost of the room. For further information, email info@faithinlancaster.org.uk.

Epsom and Ewell Inter Faith Forum is holding its Annual General Meeting and an Inter faith lunch on Wednesday 7 February at All Saints Church, West Ewell, from 12.30-2pm. For more information or to confirm your attendance, email lynescholefield@gmail.com.

Faith for the Climate is holding its next inter faith symposium on Wednesday 7 February entitled 'From Local to Global'. This will include workshops and talks to explore how faith traditions in the UK can help to tackle an issue that affects millions worldwide. Speakers include Ashok Sinha of the London Sustainability Commission, Lord Deben of the UK Committee on Climate Change, Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra of the Muslim Council of Britain and the Rt Revd Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston and Rabbi Alexandra Wright of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. It is being held at 5.30pm at The

Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA. Further information and ticket booking at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/FDIMDM>.

Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group is holding a day event on Saturday 10 February. This is being called 'Angel Day' and will be an opportunity to hear, see and learn about angels in many faiths and cultures and also those to be found in Brighton. It will be a free family drop-in day with art, music, workshops, storytelling, poetry, an angel trail and more. It is being held from 11am to 4pm at Brighton Museum, Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton BN1 1EE. For further information, visit www.interfaithcontactgroup.com.

Interfaith Glasgow, in partnership with St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, is holding the last of a monthly dialogue series on the theme of 'Faith to Faith' on Sunday 11 February from 2 to 4pm. The dialogue is on the theme of 'Faith and activism'. The event will feature keynote speakers, dialogue and a question and answer session. The event will be held at St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, 2 Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0RH. For further information, contact development@interfaithglasgow.org.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is holding an event on the theme of 'Faith in Elderly People: The Leeds Experience' on Monday 12 February at 7.30pm. Speakers include The Rev Dr Albert Jewell and the Revd Canon Alan Griggs. The event is being held at the Friends' Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9DX. For more information contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email chair@concord-leeds.org.uk.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum continues its dialogue series on Tuesday 13 February at 7pm with the theme 'What is True Strength?'. The event will end with refreshments at 8.30pm and will take place at Dedworth Green Baptist Church, Smiths Lane, Windsor, SL4 5PE. The full programme of upcoming dialogues is available at <http://www.wamcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/WAMCF-2018-DIALOGUES.pdf>.

York Interfaith Group is holding its next monthly meeting on Tuesday 13 February. The theme will be 'What people most misunderstand about my faith'. Speakers will be Imam Abid Salik, Mark Cosens and Dr Avtar Matharu and the evening is being chaired by Dr Harriet Crabtree, Executive Director of IFN. It is being held at 7.30pm at The Hudson Room, City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6HT. For further information, contact Mark Cosens on 07796095152 or email yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

Woking People of Faith, in partnership with **Surrey Faith Links**, **Woking Action for Peace** and others, is organising the 'Woking Debates 2018'. The second debate will be held on Saturday 17 February from 11am to 12.30pm on the theme of 'Is our democracy breaking down?'. The debates are held at Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG. For further information, email Keith Scott at keithsc_2000@yahoo.com.

Sheffield Interfaith is holding a seminar on Tuesday 20 February at 6.00pm when Daryoush Mehrshahi will be speaking about Zoroastrianism. The meeting is being held at Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL and refreshments will be provided. The

event is open to all faiths and everybody. For further information, contact office@standrewspalterlane.org.uk or telephone 0114 267 8289.

The **London Inter Faith Centre** is beginning a new occasional series on food and festivals in world religions at 2pm on Wednesday 21 February. The first talk is by Anne Sardeson on 'Lent and Fasting in the Christian tradition'. For more information, visit http://londoninterfaith.org.uk/event/food-and-festivals-in-religious-traditions-lent-and-fasting/?instance_id=3446.

Bristol Multi-Faith Forum is holding its annual Diverse Doors Open Day on Sunday 25 February. Attendees will be able to visit a range of places of worship and discover the different faith communities that exist in Bristol. There will also be a 'Faith Trail'. For more information about what is planned for the day or to book tickets for the mini-bus 'Faith Trail', contact Lily Khandker on 07789 040 267 or email info@bristolmultifaithforum.org.uk.

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For more information on events and projects in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales see:

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

Interfaith Scotland: www.interfaithscotland.org

Inter-faith Council for Wales: www.interfaithwales.org.uk

If you have items which you would like considered for inclusion in the next e-bulletin please email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk by **22 March** with 'e-bulletin' in the subject line. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

Disclaimer: Information in this 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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