



IFN e-bulletin

July/August 2017

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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 **18 September** 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

London Bridge and Finsbury Park attacks - Faith and inter faith responses

On the evening of Saturday 3 June 8 people were killed and 48 people injured in a terrorist attack on London Bridge and nearby Borough Market. Later, on Monday 19 June, another terrorist attack occurred outside Finsbury Park Mosque in London, in which one person died and a further 10 were injured.

Faith and inter faith organisations played a significant role in responding to both events in a variety of ways.

Around the UK, faith and inter faith bodies offered prayers and messages of support. Vigils were organised following both incidents and ‘services of hope’ were held at Southwark Cathedral on 16 June following the London Bridge attack and at Finsbury Park Mosque on 3 July following the attack nearby.

A list of faith and inter faith responses to both incidents of which IFN is aware can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/london-bridge-attack-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies> and <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/finsbury-park-attack-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies>, respectively.

On 4 June IFN’s Co-Chairs and the Moderators of IFN’s Faith Communities Forum issued the following statement in response to the London Bridge attack:

“We hold in our thoughts and prayers those who have lost their lives or been injured in the attacks at London Bridge, and also their families and friends.

We give thanks for the bravery and commitment of all who went to their assistance.

This was a further brutal attempt to undermine the stability of British society and to sow suspicion and fear – one that must be met by continuing to stand resolutely together as people of all faiths and none to uphold the values of an open democratic society.

We must continue to work together for a respectful and positive society where people feel valued and included and safe and where all can flourish free from fear.

Attacks such as these can bring scapegoating and acts of hatred in their wake. Let us work to try and prevent that and respond together to assist whenever necessary.

We know that, just as following the recent attack in Manchester, inter faith organisations in London will be playing an important role in the days and weeks to come. They are also in our thoughts at this time.

Two weekends from now the anniversary of the murder of the late Jo Cox MP by an extremist of a different kind will be marked by the Great Get Together. People around the UK will be coming together in their communities in a spirit of neighbourliness to highlight and celebrate what unites. Let us seize that moment to strengthen our bonds of friendship and create new relationships and to remember and affirm that we have, in her words, “far more in common with each other than things that divide us”.

On 19 June IFN’s Co-Chairs and the Moderators of the Faith Communities Forum also issued a statement in response to the Finsbury Park attack:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the horrific terrorist attack in the early hours of this morning at Finsbury Park and with their families and all others involved.

The attack took place just outside Muslim Welfare House where, this weekend, a Great Get Together event was held, like other GGT events, “celebrating all that we hold in common”. That event, like the mosque open days, other cross-communal events at Muslim Welfare House and nearby Finsbury Park Mosque and active engagement in the Islington Faiths Forum, has highlights the extensive work of those bodies to create positive links, as well as the good relations that others locally have with them.

Where terrorism seeks to wear the face of religion, or where innocent people connected to mosques or other places of worship are the subject of hatred and

attack because of perceived links to terrorism, we must stand up for their safety and their right to live free from prejudice, suspicion and hatred.

We must continue to stand together, support each other and work together for the common good.

Earlier this year IFN, with Government, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs Council and the National Fire Chiefs Council published short guidelines: Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities. As we say in this “As faith communities we ... have a role in responding to emergency situations and to inter-community tensions, both as individual communities and – very importantly – together. In our shared society we are deeply interconnected. An attack on one is an attack on all.”

We close, as we began, with thoughts and prayers for those affected and remember also those killed, injured and bereaved in other recent attacks.”

These statements can also be found on IFN’s website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/statements-and-messages>.

Statements from the Prime Minister on both attacks can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-following-london-terror-attack-4-june-2017> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-following-terror-attack-in-finsbury-park-19-june-2017>, respectively.

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Battle of Passchendaele - Centenary

Monday 31 July marked the centenary of the beginning of the Battle of Passchendaele in which British soldiers fought alongside soldiers from Australia, Canada, India, pre-partition Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa and from France and Belgium.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were joined by the Prime Minister and many others to mark the occasion with a special service at Menin Gate in Ypres. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40669719>).

The service marked the beginning of a three month-long programme of events linked to the centenary of the Battle, including commemorations to remember forty-three soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the battle. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-remembers-the-heroes-of-passchendaele-with-community-ceremonies>.

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Grenfell Tower Fire - Faith and inter faith responses

In the early hours of 14 June a fire engulfed Grenfell Tower, a residential tower block in Kensington, West London. The Metropolitan Police has estimated that around 80 people died in the fire.

Faith and inter faith bodies have played a major role in responding to the tragic events of the fire. This has included offering prayers and organising services and vigils. It has also included responding on the ground, both in the immediate aftermath of the fire and during the weeks that have followed.

Services and vigils were held in the wake of the fire including a special service of prayer at St Peter's Church Notting Hill and a multi faith vigil at Westway Sports Centre.

A range of local places of worship close to the site of the fire opened their doors to survivors and local residents, providing food, shelter and other urgently needed items, as well as offering emotional and spiritual care (<https://lbfm.org/tag/grenfell-tower-fire/>) and faith based agencies such as Caritas Westminster and local churches and other places of worship played a vital role, as well as faith groups visiting and sending support from further afield.

A number of national faith based bodies launched or supported appeals to aid victims of the fire, such as the Salvation Army (<http://news.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvation-army-grenfell-fire-emergency-response-london>) and the Muslim Council of Britain (www.mcb.org.uk/support-and-donations-needed-for-grenfell-tower-victims).

Inter faith organisations such as Faiths Forum for London and the London Boroughs Faiths Network also offered practical support to victims.

Many faith and inter faith organisations also issued statements and messages, such as those that can be seen at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/appeal-and-prayers-after-grenfell-tower-fire>; www.hinducounciluk.org/2017/06/15/hindu-council-uk-statement-on-the-grenfell-tower-fire-in-north-kensington-london/; <http://faithsforum.com/response-grenfell-tower-fire/>; and <http://www.ccj.org.uk/response-from-bishop-michael-to-the-grenfell-tower-fire/>.

Faith communities have also been involved in mediating between local residents and authorities in the weeks since the fire - <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jul/19/grenfell-faith-groups-step-in-to-mediate-between-officials-and-community>.

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Continuing faith and inter faith work with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants

On 19 July a new £1 million funding pot to help community groups support refugees fleeing the war in Syria to settle in the UK was announced. The funding was announced by the Home Secretary to mark the one year anniversary of the Community Sponsorship Scheme. This scheme, which was launched by the Home Secretary at Lambeth Palace last year, enables community groups to take on the role of supporting refugees who have been resettled from the camps in the countries surrounding Syria in the UK.

Since the scheme launched last year, 53 refugees have been welcomed by 10 community groups across the UK. Community sponsors, including charities and faith groups, provide housing for the refugee families, as well as helping them to integrate into life in the UK, access medical and social services, arranging English language tuition and supporting them towards employment and self-sufficiency. The new 2 year £1 million fund will provide training and support for groups signing up to the scheme.

Those responding to the scheme are not just from areas of high diversity. For example the Fishguard Refugee Sponsorship Group was one of the first to respond to the UK scheme: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/message-wales-refugees-people-are-very-keen-help>.

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-1-million-to-help-communities-support-refugees>.

Faith and inter faith organisations and communities are continuing to respond to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), in conjunction with the National Justice and Peace Network and Christians Aware, has produced a leaflet entitled 'Facts about refugees' to assist churches and others in offering responses. The leaflet sets out the 1951 United Nations Convention definition of a refugee, points to the most recent facts and figures about refugees, links to stories of refugees and gives pointers as to action that can be taken, as well as providing follow-up contacts. The leaflet can be downloaded from the CTBI website at <https://ctbi.org.uk/facts-about-refugees-leaflet/>. In April, CTBI also organised a fact-finding trip to Italian refugee projects. For more information about the trip, and CTBI's other work with refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, visit <http://focusonrefugees.org/>.

An Edinburgh Weekend Club for refugees has started. It is based on a successful model run by Interfaith Glasgow (reported on previously) and is run by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. The project tackles social isolation to support integration and is also an opportunity to demonstrate the shared values of different faith traditions. For further information about Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, visit <http://www.sfar.org.uk>.

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees organised an inter faith pilgrimage to the mountain of Ben Ledi near Callander. The pilgrimage was held on the theme of ‘Sanctuary and Refugees’.

The Joseph Interfaith Foundation is running an initiative for young refugees entitled ‘Introduction to the Social Culture of Britain’. As part of its aim to assist young refugees with realising their full potential whilst living in the UK, the Foundation has released nine short videos. The videos are on such themes as ‘Women’s Equality and Domestic Abuse’; ‘The Rule of Law and Equality before the Law’; and ‘Accessing the National Health Service and Mental Health Issues’. The videos contain advice from professionals in these fields. The videos are free to access on the Joseph Interfaith Foundation website at <http://www.josephinterfaithfoundation.org/ongoing.php>. To find out more about the project, or to participate or recommend someone for participation, email info@josephinterfaithfoundation.org.

St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace ‘People of the Earth’ project has a refugee related dimension, reflected in an event it held this month on the theme of ‘People of the Earth: sowing seeds of human connection’. The event brought together refugees, asylum seekers, organisations and Londoners for a day of connection, community and fun. More information about St Ethelburga’s ‘People of the Earth’ project can be found at <https://stethelburgas.org/projects/people-of-the-earth/>.

Locally, faith and inter faith groups continue to raise funds and develop practical forms of support. For example, this month the community at Ealing Liberal Synagogue raised over £5,000 at a special fun day event, with the money going to the Abraham’s Tent Project to turn a former caretaker’s flat at South London Liberal Synagogue into a home for a refugee family. A Faiths in Action showcase, held earlier this month at Bradford’s Faith Centre in Oakwood Court, City Road, aimed to show how faith and non-faith groups are all pitching in to help and encouraging more people to join them. Further information is at http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/local/localbrad/15414303.Refugees_speak_of_their_experiences_as_faith_groups_unite_to_help/.

Migration Exchange has commissioned a piece of work looking at the role of faith networks in service delivery and advocacy for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. The report is due to be launched this Autumn. For further information, contact mike@mikebuckley.org.uk.

Note: Other initiatives have been reported on in earlier issues of the e-bulletin.

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Hate Crime

Figures from the Community Security Trust show an increase in the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents between January and June 2017 by a third compared to the same period in 2016. This reflects the highest number of incidents recorded for a January to

June period since records began in 1984 (<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2017/07/27/cst-antisemitic-incidents-report-reveals-record-number-of-antisemitic-hate-incidents-in-first-six-months-of-2017>).

The number of Islamophobic attacks in Manchester went up fivefold in the week after the Arena bombing on 22 May, with 139 incidents reported to Tell Mama, the group recording Islamophobic crimes, compared to 25 incidents the previous week <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jun/20/anti-muslim-hate-surges-after-manchester-and-london-bridge-attacks>. Figures released in June by Greater Manchester Police showed hate crimes linked to religion had leapt from 92 to 366 since the arena attack <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/22/islamophobic-attacks-manchester-increase-arena-attack> There was also a spike in anti-Muslim attacks following the London Bridge and Finsbury Park Mosque attacks.

Members of other faith and ethnic groups also continue to suffer hate attacks.

In this context, the work of faith communities, inter faith organisations and all who work to bring together people of different backgrounds to grow in understanding and build relationships is vital. Issues around hate crime and tackling prejudice have been prominent on the agendas of recent IFN meetings for local inter faith practitioners, meetings of IFN's Faith Communities Forum and on IFN's National Meetings, as well as through highlighting relevant items within e-bulletins.

The Government announced last September funding to support community projects that prevent hate crime. Details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preventing-hate-crime-funding-for-community-projects>. The deadline for applications is 15 September 2017.

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Vulnerable Faith Institutions Scheme

The Home Office announced on 7 July the opening of a new funding scheme for places of worship that require extra security to protect themselves from attacks on racial, religious or ideological grounds. This was announced following the terrorist attack near Muslim Welfare House and Finsbury Park Mosque.

The Vulnerable Faith Institutions Scheme, which is an extension of the Places of Worship Security Scheme, will pay for places of worship to install security measures such as CCTV cameras, alarms, bollards or strengthened fencing. Applications close on 17 August. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vulnerable-faith-institutions-scheme>.

As noted in the March/April e-bulletin, IFN recently published relevant updated and expanded guidance: *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of Our Faith Communities*. This can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after->

[one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017](#) and hard copies are available on request. It was published in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs' Council.

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Extension of public consultation on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law

The public consultation on 'Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law', launched by the Government Equalities Office (GEO) in March was extended, following the General Election for a further 8 weeks until 18 September.

The consultation is described as seeking views on how best to ensure that there is appropriate legal protection against caste discrimination. The consultation website notes that "This ban could be applied: a) by formally making caste an aspect of race in the Equality Act 2010 or b) through developing case law in the courts and employment tribunals. In either case, businesses and public authorities would have to consider caste discrimination in the same way they consider other aspects of race discrimination when dealing with employees, customers or service users." Full details of the consultation and how to respond are at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>.

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Srebrenica Memorial Week

Events took place across the UK between Sunday 9 and Sunday 16 July to mark Srebrenica Memorial Week. The theme for the week, which marked the 22nd Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide, was 'Breaking the Silence: Gender and Genocide'. The theme explored the gendered nature of the genocide in Bosnia and remembered its hidden victims, particularly victims of sexual violence. The week also explored the untold stories of women's acts of courage during and after the Bosnian war and the genocide and the contributions of those women seeking truth and justice for the victims of the genocide, and challenging denial.

An event was held at the Guildhall in London, which included addresses from survivors, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith and Integration at the Department for Communities and Local Government and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland. A National Commemoration for Wales was also held at The Pierhead in Cardiff, as well as a commemoration for Northern Ireland at Belfast City Hall. People of many faiths and beliefs, and many IFN member bodies, were involved in marking the anniversary in some

way. Srebrenica Memorial Week is coordinated by Remembering Srebrenica. To find out more, visit www.screbrenica.org.uk.

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Citizens Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life

The Citizens Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life has published its report and recommendations, *The Missing Muslims – Unlocking British Muslim Potential for the Benefit of All*. Its recommendations are directed primarily to community and faith institutions, but are also for businesses and Government. Further information can be found at http://www.citizensuk.org/missing_muslims.

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Amnesty International paper on tackling hate crime

Amnesty International has produced a background briefing paper called ‘Tackling hate crime in the UK’. The report looks at many aspects of hate crime in the UK, including perceived religion or belief of victims. The report can be found at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/Against-Hate-Briefing-AIUK.pdf>.

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House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement

The House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement published its Call for Evidence in July.

The Committee is keen to hear from a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations in order to “understand the nature of the citizenship challenge for different parts of society; the aim being to identify new ways of building bridges within and between communities, and to support civic engagement”.

The deadline for submitting written evidence is 8 September. Further information is at <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/Citizenship-civic-engagement/Citizenship-civic-engagement-call-for-evidence.pdf>.

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INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS

IFN 30th Anniversary National Meeting

IFN's 30th Anniversary was marked at its National Meeting in London on 5 July. 140 representatives of member bodies from across the UK and of many faiths attended, exploring the theme of 'Moving Forward Together'. The meeting looked forwards and outwards, taking some of the key publications and projects of IFN as a basis for discussion of the future of inter faith relations in the UK and of how we live well together as people of different faiths – as well as with people of non-religious beliefs. It explored questions on what the things are that unite us and how we respect and celebrate difference while building on what we share.

Participants were welcomed to the morning session by IFN's Co-Chair, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and to the afternoon session by Co-Chair Jatinder Singh Birdi. A minute's silence was held to remember all who had lost their lives or been injured in recent terrorist attacks and also to remember the many of different faiths and none who have responded by redoubling their efforts to work for understanding, peace and justice.

During the plenary session Dr Harriet Crabtree, Executive Director, Inter Faith Network for the UK, spoke on 'Past, present, future' and the contribution of IFN and its member bodies over the last thirty years; Rabbi Warren Elf, Development Officer, Faith Network for Manchester, offered reflections on 'Extremism, hatred and inter faith relations'; Jaskiran Kaur Mehmi, a student at the London School of Economics and Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship, Rudi Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive, RE Council for England and Wales and Maulana M Shahid Raza, Chair, British Muslim Forum and MINAB and IFN Trustee, spoke on the value of 'Education and dialogue' to positive inter faith engagement; Zoe Amar, Zoe Amar Communications, spoke on 'Communicating in the digital world'; Vinaya Sharma, General Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK and Committee member, Redbridge Faith Forum and Andrzej Wdowiak, Assistant Director, Caritas Westminster, offered reflections on 'Cooperation for the common good'; and reflections on the themes of the day were offered by the Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum, the Revd James Breslin, United Reformed Church, Newcastle Council of Faiths and IFN Trustee, Mohinder Singh Chana, Bradford Concord Interfaith Society, Network of Sikh Organisations and Vice-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum and Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland and IFN Trustee.

Discussion groups were held on: 'Engaging faith communities on social issues' with presentations from Kirit Mistry, Co-Chair, National Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance (NBTA) and Angela Ditchfield, Diversity Lead Nurse-Organ Donation and Transplantation, NHS; 'Youth and inter faith engagement', with a presentation from Sean Turnbull, ParliaMentors Programme, 3FF; 'Opening up difficult dialogues, engaging with tough topics', with a presentation by Dr Justine Huxley, Director, St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace; 'The safety and security of our faith communities', with a presentation from Edit Bori, Deputy Head of Security and Emergency Planning,

Westminster Abbey and Faith Sector Lead, National Counter Terrorism Security Office; ‘Developing guidance to reflect and support the vital work of local inter faith organisations’, with presentations from Sarah Mar, Cheltenham Interfaith, Tarang Shelat, Birmingham Council of Faiths, John Marder, Crawley Interfaith Network, Bessie White, Hounslow Friends of Faith, Elizabeth Chappell, Islington Faiths Forum and William Duncan, Northampton Inter Faith Forum; ‘Social media’, with a presentation from Zoe Amar, Zoe Amar Communications; and ‘Sharing of good practice internationally’, with a presentation from Dr Samuel Everett, Co-lead researcher on the Woolf Institute ‘Trust in Crisis’ research project. The groups were facilitated by: Patricia Stoa, Nottingham Inter Faith Council; Ashley Beck, Inter Faith Development Officer, Inter Faith Network for the UK; Dr Justine Huxley, Director, St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace; Rabbi David Mason, Board of Deputies for British Jews and Co-Moderator, IFN Faith Communities Forum; The Revd Canon Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Forum and IFN Trustee; Mike Stygal, Vice President, Pagan Federation and IFN Trustee; and Vijay Krishnarayan, Director, Commonwealth Foundation.

A report on the meeting will be published in due course.

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Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week

Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week 2017 will run from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November.

The activity registration form for Inter Faith Week is now live on the Inter Faith Week website. The map and other events lists are due to go live in late August. If you are organising an Inter Faith Week activity, please do take a moment to register it on the website: www.interfaithweek.org/submit.

IFN has published a short illustrated report on Inter Faith Week 2016, *Stories from 2016, Inspiration for 2017*. It reflects the ways in which participants chose to mark the Week in 2016, and concludes with a section looking forward to the Week in 2017. The report can be downloaded at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/reports.

If you are looking for further activity ideas or other practical pointers, the Inter Faith Week Toolkit is available to download on the Inter Faith Week website at www.interfaithweek.org/resources/toolkit.

You can also connect with the Week on Twitter at www.twitter.com/IFWeek or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IFWeek. IFN will again be using the hashtag #IFWeek across all social platforms it is engaging. Using the hashtag or tagging our accounts helps us to find and share what you are doing.

Scottish Inter Faith Week

Scottish Interfaith Week will also run from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November. It is led by Interfaith Scotland. Its theme this year will be “Creativity and the Arts.” For further information, visit <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/>.

Interfaith Scotland is launching a dedicated Scottish Interfaith Week website and Scottish events can be listed on this. For further information, contact admin@interfaithscotland.org.

Funding

As noted [below](#), grants are available from the Inter Faith Youth Trust for young people aged 11-25 towards Inter Faith Week projects.

The Near Neighbours programme of the Church of England ([below](#)) also makes available relevant funding and encourages its supported projects to participate in Inter Faith Week.

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INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Grand Trunk Project

The Grand Trunk Project, launched on 4 July, seeks inspiration from the Grand Trunk Road, which runs across the Indian subcontinent. 2017 marks 70 years since Indian independence and the partition that led to the creation of Pakistan and later Bangladesh, and the project will also seek to explore the legacy of these events among faith communities in the UK. 11 events will be held across the UK during the summer of 2017 as part of the project, and an exhibition will also tour the country.

The project aims to bring together British Asian faith communities to build bridges and develop lasting inter community relations. It has been developed in partnership with faith leaders and community activists, and is facilitated by the Faiths Forum for London. Other faith organisations, such as the City Sikhs Network, are also involved.

For further information, visit <http://tgtp.co.uk/> or email hello@tgtp.co.uk.

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Sacred Sounds concerts

Throughout the summer and autumn of 2017, Alchemy and South Asian Arts, in association with the Network of Sikh Organisations, are touring the UK with a special concert on the theme of ‘Sacred Sounds: Sikh music traditions and the First World War’. The concert tells some of the stories of Sikh soldiers that fought in the First World War, and

showcases the music that these soldiers took with them to the battlefield. The concert includes vocals, music, spoken word, visuals and animation. A number of seminars and conferences are also being held as part of the project. The final performance will take place in Leeds on Wednesday 15 November.

For more information on the concerts, including tour dates and locations, and for booking information, visit <http://alchemyanew.com/sacred-sounds/>, or email info@saa-uk.org/.

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‘All of us’ film

The Women’s Interfaith Network is developing an educational film aimed at children and young people on the theme of ‘All of us’. The short animated film is being created as a resource for a wide reaching campaign to promote religious and cultural tolerance. The project aims “to create a vision of how different belief systems, cultural and racial diversities could positively co-exist” and will be promoted nationally and internationally to schools, communities and members of the public.

For further information, contact info@wominet.org.uk.

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Inter faith walks

The summer months are a time when many organisations choose to hold faith walks, trails and pilgrimages. These events enable members of the public to visit places of worship in their neighbourhoods, to increase religious literacy, to meet people of different faiths and beliefs, or to unite in support of a common cause, such as expressing solidarity or working for peace.

Examples of recent faith walks, trails or pilgrimages include those held by: Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees <http://www.sfar.org.uk/shoulder-to-shoulder/>; Hounslow Friends of Faith <http://www.hounslowfriendsoffaitth.org/2017/06/walk-of-peace-and-friendship/>; Medway Inter Faith Action <http://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/peace-walk-aiming-to-unite-127969/> Oxford Council of Faiths; [http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/NEWS/15382958.Hundreds unite for interfaith walk with 39 friendship at its heart 39 /](http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/NEWS/15382958.Hundreds_unite_for_interfaith_walk_with_39_friendship_at_its_heart_39_/); and West Cheshire Interfaith Forum (<http://www.chesterchronicle.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/ellesmere-port-stages-historic-walk-13379149>)

Details of upcoming faith walks in London and Luton can be found in the ‘[Diary dates](#)’ section of the E-Bulletin.

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Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Friday, Saturday, Sunday is an architect-led proposal to create a unique building: a single place of worship containing a church, a synagogue and a mosque. Three architects, one Christian, one Jewish and one Muslim – are exploring the possibility of bringing these three faiths together physically, but serving each of them distinctly. The shared space would function as a mosque on a Friday, a synagogue on a Friday evening and Saturday and a church on a Sunday, and would contain all of the practical functions of each.

The architects are exploring whether such a building can be built, and if so, where, along with discussion of the theological, social and aesthetic questions that the project raises. A steering group has been established to discuss how the project might be realised, possibly in the context of a temporary space. For further information, contact Matthew Lloyd at matthew.lloyd@matthewlloyd.co.uk.

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The Great Get Together

From 16 to 18 June the Great Get Together encouraged people around the UK to come together with their neighbours to share food and celebrate all that we hold in common. The Inter Faith Network for the UK was a partner on the project, as were a number of faith bodies and inter faith organisations and the Near Neighbours Programme.

The GGT was widely marked and the organisers are now considering how to build on its success. Stories, comments and ideas welcomed at: <http://www.greatgettogether.org/join-in/>.

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Ethical finance project

The Church of Scotland and the Islamic Finance Council UK are running an ongoing project to produce a financial product which would help to tackle financial exclusion based upon the shared values of faith communities. The creation of ethical financial services will draw on how the Christian and Muslim communities have supported ethical finance in the past. A series of inter faith workshops have taken place, including at the House of Lords, to determine the direction of the project, which is now entering a phase of research and development. The final product will be open to members of all faith communities to use.

The project most recently presented to the 13th Edinburgh Ethical Finance Round Table on 15 June this year, which was held on the theme of faith-based finance and faith-based perspectives on ethical investment. For further information, contact the Islamic Finance Council UK at info@ukifc.com or the Church of Scotland Church and Society Council at churchandsociety@cofscotland.org.uk.

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RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue

Earlier this year IFN published a resource on dialogue: *Let's Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue*. This is available to download at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>. The resource draws on existing IFN materials and contributions from member bodies to provide tips and ideas for productive dialogue and conversation between people of different faiths and beliefs in a range of different contexts. Hard copies can be supplied by the IFN office. If you would like a copy, contact ifnet@interfaith.org.uk.

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Faith and cohesive communities

The report of IFN's 2016 National Meeting on 'Faith and Cohesive Communities' is available to download from <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/publications>. Hard copies are available from the IFN office by contacting ifnet@interfaith.org.uk or telephoning 020 7730 0410.

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Crossing the Threshold

'Crossing the Threshold' is a booklet produced by the Faith Encounter Programme in Birmingham, describing the Faith Guiding course that has now been extended to 5 other cities in addition to Birmingham.

Over 150 people of 8 different faiths have been trained as Faith Guides for their own places of worship, through the 12 week course. Copies of the booklet (price £2.00 plus postage) are available from Nasrin Shah, Co-ordinator, Faith Encounter Programme, 10, Court Rd Birmingham B11 4LX. For further information, email nasrin_faithencounter@post.com.

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Woolf Institute 'Trust in Crisis' report

The Woolf Institute has released the report of a project 'Trust in Crisis – The Emergence of the Quiet Citizen'. The report is the conclusion of a two year ethnographic research project across London, Berlin, Paris and Rome. The report examines civil society initiatives across

the four cities, in particular where faith and minority communities have responded to crisis situations, whether social, political or economic.

The report includes a series of recommendations, primarily to faith communities and institutions themselves, as well as a call to local government to play a “more important role in building social cohesion”, and some “key areas for action” by central Government.

The executive summary of the report can be downloaded at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/uploads/Trust%20in%20Crisis%20Exec%20Summary.pdf>, and the full report can be downloaded at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/uploads/Trust%20in%20Crisis%20Report.pdf>.

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Faith Action Progress Tour

Faith Action is running a series of ‘Progress Tour’ events to provide networking opportunities for local faith-based and community organisations. The events are designed to help bring groups in local communities together to identify solutions to issues of common concern.

If your organisation is interested in hosting one of these events, Faith Action is able to help arrange the day and to facilitate discussion. For further information contact Emily Yillah at emily.yillah@faithaction.net.

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Woolf Institute online courses

The Woolf Institute is currently accepting applications for two online courses. ‘Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges’ begins on 4 September and ‘Representations of Jewish-Christian Relations in Literature’ begins on 16 October.

Further information is at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/e-learning/rjcl.asp> and the closing date for applications is 18 September. For further information on either course, contact Dr Emma Harris at eth22@cam.ac.uk.

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CALLS FOR INFORMATION, COMPETITIONS, AND NOMINATIONS

New local inter faith initiatives

Local inter faith initiatives continue to come into existence in new areas. Most recently, for example, a new inter faith forum in Epsom and Ewell held its first meeting.

[http://www.epsomguardian.co.uk/news/15382318.First Epsom and Ewell interfaith forum meets this weekend/](http://www.epsomguardian.co.uk/news/15382318.First_Epsom_and_Ewell_interfaith_forum_meets_this_weekend/).

IFN carries listings for known local inter faith bodies on its website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/groups>. If you are involved in a local inter faith body, do take a look to see if it is listed and let us know if you hear of any new ones emerging that we might not already know about.

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Involvement of faith communities in World War One and Remembrance Sunday

IFN's Board of Trustees agreed earlier this year that Inter Faith Week will continue to begin on Remembrance Sunday and run for 8 days, finishing on the following Sunday, until agreed otherwise. The overlap with Remembrance Sunday enables greater coming together of people of different faiths to remember at that time.

It is planned to prepare some materials about faith communities' involvement in World War One and in Remembrance Sunday. Links to relevant materials or initiatives would be welcomed. Please send to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk marked 'WW1 and Remembrance'.

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Faith Togetherness Photography Competition

Faiths Together in Croydon is holding a photography competition on the theme of 'Faith Togetherness'. The competition will be judged by a panel of professional photographers and all of the photographs will feature in an exhibition during Inter Faith Week in November. The best twelve will feature in a calendar for 2018. There will be three age categories; 5-10 years; 11-18 years; 19 years upwards.

Photographs should be submitted to fticroydon@gmail.com with the subject line *FTiC photography competition* and should include your name, age and address. The deadline for submissions is 30 September.

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World Congress of Faiths Essay competition

The World Congress of Faiths is inviting students to submit entries for its 2017 essay competition.

The title of the essay is 'If one faith is true, does this mean all others are false?'. The text should be approximately 3,000 words, and:

- discuss how the question arises through experience/encounter
- make some reference to the literature on the topic
- engage in analysis and state a clear conclusion

The winner will receive £300 in cash and publication of their winning entry in *Interreligious Insight*. Entrants must be undergraduate or postgraduate students of a UK university at the time of submission.

The closing date for submissions is 29 August. For further information, visit <http://www.worldfaiths.org/2017-essay-award/>. Enquiries can be addressed to Jenny Kartupelis at jenny@worldfaiths.org.

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Blogging Carnival for Nonviolence

The Blogging Carnival for Nonviolence will be held from 15 October to 23 October as part of the Week of Nonviolence hosted by Black Women for Positive Change. Organisers are inviting submissions to the festival of blog posts relating to experience of using nonviolence, particularly from an inter faith perspective. The deadline for submissions is 11 September.

For further information, go to <http://blognonviolence.weebly.com/about.html> or contact email zhana635@gmail.com.

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Mayor of London's vision for a diverse and inclusive city

The Mayor of London has published in draft 'The Mayor's vision for a diverse and inclusive city' as a basis for consultation. The document looks at many areas of diversity and inclusion, including those relating to religion and belief. Responses to the consultation are welcomed from individuals and organisations until the closing date of 11 September. Further information can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/consultation-mayors-vision-diverse-and-inclusive-city>.

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Inter faith sports projects

IFN is collecting examples of how member bodies or others are using sport to help people develop inter faith understanding and cooperation. This is part of the 'Play Together' strand of IFN's work.

If you have examples of a project or event involving sport which has taken place within the last two years or is ongoing we would love to hear from you. Examples of inter faith projects involving sport can be emailed to David Hampshire at david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk.

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Honours List nominations

The Department for Communities and Local Government is 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 from Abdul Ghaffar 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>.

Inter Faith Network for the UK - Volunteers and interns

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

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Inter Faith Week grants

As in previous years, the Inter Faith Youth Trust will be making available a special programme of grants for Inter Faith Week 2017. The Trust will be awarding grants of up to £500 for organisations running events or projects.

Grants are awarded to successful “proposals for inter-faith activities by children and young people from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other faiths and those of no formal faith in understanding and co-operation”. The age range for young people is 11-25 years. Priority will be given to projects which:

- actively involve young people in planning, running, and evaluation of the project;
- promote positive action ie young people from different backgrounds coming together to address shared problems like improving green spaces; and
- are run by non-statutory organisations, such as youth clubs, scout/guide groups, local voluntary and community organisations.

The application form can be downloaded at www.ifyouthtrust.org.uk/. The deadline for the submission of forms is 15 September.

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Vulnerable Faith Institutions Scheme

The Home Office has announced the opening of a new funding scheme for places of worship that require extra security to protect themselves from attacks on racial, religious or ideological grounds.

The Vulnerable Faith Institutions Scheme, which is an extension of the Places of Worship Security Scheme, will pay for places of worship to install security measures such as CCTV cameras, alarms, bollards or strengthened fencing.

The scheme is considering bids from places of worship in England and Wales, such as mosques, gurdwaras, temples, churches and associated faith community centres. Faith schools, educational institutions, general community centres, NHS establishments (including chapels and prayer rooms) are not eligible to apply. The Jewish community will be exempt from this scheme as a similar commitment was made to fund Jewish community sites through a grant administered by the [Community Security Trust](#).

Applications close on 17 August. For further information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vulnerable-faith-institutions-scheme>.

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Near Neighbours grants programme

The [Near Neighbours](#) programme offers small grants of between £250 and £5,000, as seed funding for local groups and organisations working to bring together neighbours, and to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities to improve their communities.

As part of the criteria, projects should:

- Bring together peoples of two or more different faiths and/or ethnicities, to build friendships and develop relationships of trust.
- Work locally. We want to see people who are living very locally (ie in the same street, estate or neighbourhood) come together.
- Work sustainably. We want to see long term and natural relationships grow, that will last beyond the period of funding.
- Work to improve the community. We want to see people working to make their communities a better place to live.
- Involve diverse people in planning and implementation. People from more than one faith group and/or ethnicity are involved in planning and implementing the proposal.

The closing date for applications is 17 November. The full criteria, information on areas in which the grants are available and information on how to apply can be found at <http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours-grants>. For general enquiries, contact near.neighbours@cuf.org.uk.

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Building a Stronger Britain Together programme

The Home Office programme Building a Stronger Britain Together 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. 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 awards grants to support Scotland's most fragile urban and rural communities. Its 2017 grants will focus exclusively on projects focusing on work with children and young adults and it is calling for applications from faith-based registered charities, which either work with, or aim to begin working with people under the age of 18. It is offering awards for one year of up to £5,000 and all funds must be spent within 12 months of the Award Date.

The next deadline is 29 September. It is open to all charities which meet its criteria and have never received funding from the STV Children's Appeal. For more information call Chris on 0141 221 4544 or visit <http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/>.

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Tesco Bags of Help

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.)

Three local community projects will be voted on in Tesco stores each month across Tesco regions throughout England, Scotland and Wales. In each region, the project that received the most votes from all stores in their region will receive a grant of up to £5,000. The second placed project receives up to £2,000 and third placed up to £1,000. Every year, over 7,000 projects will receive funding through this scheme.

Grants are awarded to voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), schools, health bodies (eg Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers. For detailed information on criteria and how to apply, visit <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>.

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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 made an additional £4million of funding available so that more communities can 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.

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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Transform Foundation

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

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Google, Microsoft 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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SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

Peace One Day takes place on 21 September www.peaceoneday.org

Sewa Day will take place on 1 October www.sewaday.org

One World Week will take place from 22 to 29 October. Its theme this year is ‘Good Neighbours: My world depends on us’. www.oneworldweek.org

National Inter Faith Week in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be an ‘8 day week’ this year taking place from 12 to 19 November. www.interfaithweek.org

Scottish Interfaith Week will take place from 12 to 19 November www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/

See more [above](#).

Mitzvah Day will take place on 19 November www.mitzvahday.org.uk/

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

We need your help to ensure that the Inter Faith Network for the UK's work to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation continues and grows, helping people of all backgrounds to live and work together with mutual respect and shared commitment to the common good. Please consider making a gift today to support the work of the Inter Faith Network. Gifts at all levels are valued and make a difference. You can donate on our website at www.interfaith.org.uk/donate or via PayPal or JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/interfaithnetwork-uk> or by sending a cheque to The Inter Faith Network for the UK, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

REMEMBERING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

From time to time we receive an 'in memoriam' gift after an individual has passed away, funded from a collection following their death or through a donation from their heirs. Such gifts provide a living memorial to a loved one, supporting inter faith understanding in this country – for now and for the future. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, please get in touch by emailing remember@interfaith.org.uk or call us on 0207 730 0410.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

By leaving a gift in your will to the Inter Faith Network for the UK, you can leave a living inheritance to help deepen and strengthen inter faith understanding and cooperation in this country – for now and for the future. If you are thinking about making a will, the best thing to do is to get in touch with a professional will writer, such as a solicitor or advocate; they can help to ensure it is legally correct and that your wishes are met. If you have already made a will, you can still make an addition or amendment in the form of a codicil. If you would like to pledge a gift, please provide our name and address, along with our registered charity number 1068934.

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries.

You can call 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 August and September. IFN includes information on diary dates between e-bulletins on its website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/events>.

Sheffield Interfaith is supporting a Hiroshima Day Remembrance Event and Peace Picnic on Sunday 6 August. This annual event remembers all victims of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The event will include a ceremony and the signing of a declaration by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, and will conclude with a peace picnic. The event is organised by Sheffield Creative Action for Peace, Sheffield Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Meersbrook Park Users Trust. The day is being held at the walled garden in Meersbrook Park, S8 9FL. For further information, contact Hilary on 07818040982 or email scraptridentnow@gmail.com.

Burngreave Ashram Multifaith Chapel and Library is hosting its next Meditation/Prayer lunch and seminar on Monday 7 August from 12pm to 2.30pm. The meditation and prayer will be led by John Vincent. It is being held at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, contact on BAMCL@outlook.com or call on 07932017929 or 01142436688.

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship is holding a talk and discussion on 'Baha'i Ethics in Contemporary Society' on Wednesday 9 August. The speaker will be Dr Shahin Fatheazam. This is being held at 7.30pm at the Leeds Language Academy, 14A Woodsley Road, LS3 1DT. For further information, contact John Summerwill on 01132697895 or email on membership@concord-leeds.org.uk.

The **London Peace Pagoda** is organising an 'Interfaith Peace Walk' on Wednesday 9 August. The walk will begin at the Crypt Chapel, Westminster Cathedral, and end at the London Peace pagoda in Battersea Park where there will be a floating lantern ceremony. The ceremony will commemorate victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs and all wars in the 72nd Anniversary of these events. The event will be preceded by an ecumenical service organised by **Pax Christi** from 6.30pm to 7.30 pm, in memory of the 74th Anniversary of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter's execution. The service will take place at the Crypt Chapel, Westminster Cathedral, 42 Francis St, Westminster, London SW1P 1QW. For further information, contact Nipponzan Myohoji on 020 7228 9620.

Faiths Together in Croydon is holding an event on the theme of 'Friendship First: Promoting cohesion between interfaith groups in Croydon' on Thursday 17 August at 6pm. The event is an opportunity to share news and build relationships. There will be exhibitions, talks and music. The event is being organised by Fr Lee at Croydon Minster and the Lighthouse Educational Society, and will be held in the Church Hall at Croydon Minster, Church Street, Croydon, CR0 1RN. For more information, contact enquiries@croydonminster.org.

Interfaith Scotland is holding a local interfaith groups networking seminar on Thursday 21 August. Registration is open to any members of a local interfaith group. This is being held from 11am to 4.30pm at The Interfaith Scotland Dialogue Centre, Flemington House,

110 Flemington Street, Glasgow G21 4TD. To book a place or for further information, contact on frances@interfaithscotland.org.

York Interfaith Group is holding an event on Tuesday 5 September. It will begin with a 'Bring and Share' Meal with Music from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and will then be followed at 7.30pm by its Monthly Meeting, for which the theme is From Hermits to Fanatics: religious loners. It is being held from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the York Medical Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW. For further information, contact yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com.

World Congress of Faith will be holding a conference entitled 'Familiarity and alienation: interfaith encounter under a different spotlight' on Thursday 7 September. This will be a full day cross-disciplinary conference with several presentations and discussions. There will be an exploration of difficult questions of interfaith theory and practice, seeking fresh insights from practitioners and academics in the fields of behavioural and social studies; psychology; reconciliation and intra-faith as well as interfaith work. This is being held at Goldsmiths University of London, 8 Lewisham Way, New Cross, London SE14 6NW. For further information, contact Jenny Kartupelis on jenny@worldfaith.org.

Westminster Interfaith is holding the 10th Brother Daniel Faivre Memorial Service on Saturday 9 September. For further information, contact Jon Dal Din on 02079316028.

Nottingham InterFaith Council is holding its Annual Meeting on Tuesday 19 September. The meeting will include a report of activities over the last year, and will include light refreshments and a discussion on the theme of 'Peace and Diversity'. For further information, contact Mel Gotheridge at melgotheridge39@aol.com.

Blackpool Faith Forum will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 19 September which will include the launch of its local Partnership Agreement. It is being held at 11am in the Discovery Room at the Solaris Centre in Blackpool. Local civic leaders and representatives from the All Party Parliamentary group on Faith and Society will also be present. For further information, contact Andy Divall at andy.divall@blackpool.gov.uk.

Luton Council of Faiths is holding its annual Peace Walk on Saturday 23 September from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. The walk will visit four places of worship in Luton and will begin with the launch of a new peace garden at High Town Methodist Church. There will also be a number of other events and activities throughout the afternoon. The walk begins at High Town Methodist Church, 47 High Town Road, Luton, LU2 0BW. For more information, call 01582 416946 or email info@lutonfaiths.org.

Voices of Faith is holding an event on Wednesday 27 September on 'Faith and Care in Mental Health' from 6pm to 8.30pm. For further information, and to confirm attendance, contact Josie Pinnegar on 0191 270 4142 or at j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org.

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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 **18 September** 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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