



# IFN e-bulletin

March/April 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](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **17 May** 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](mailto: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](http://www.twitter.com/IFNetUK)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/IFNetUK](http://www.facebook.com/IFNetUK)).

Please take a moment to 'follow' and 'like' IFN and also Inter Faith Week ([www.twitter.com/IFWeek](http://www.twitter.com/IFWeek) and [www.facebook.com/IFWeek](http://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**

### **Westminster attack and faith and inter faith responses**

On 22 March a terrorist attack took place on Westminster Bridge and at the Houses of Parliament.

A number of faith and inter faith organisations issued statements or came together to hold vigils or ceremonies to remember all those affected by the attack and to show solidarity. A list of a number of these can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/westminster-attacks-responses-by-faith-and-inter-faith-bodies>. Many also took part in We Stand Together events on 29 March which were arranged with the lead of the Metropolitan Police.

On 23 March IFN's Co-Chairs and the Moderators of IFN's Faith Communities Forum issued the following statement in response to the terrorist attack in Westminster the previous day: *"Yesterday's attack at Westminster on police and members of the public exemplified the cowardly and destructive nature of the actions of terrorists. We hold in our prayers all whose lives have been lost or forever changed through the murderous acts of its perpetrator. Terrorism is profoundly at odds with the values of our faith traditions and of the values at the heart of British society. We deplore and condemn it. Attacks of this kind are designed to disrupt our society and to undermine the relationships within it. Let us resist this at all costs and stand together in unity. Let us also watch out for the wellbeing of any groups who may be targeted because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them. There is no place for prejudice and hatred of that kind and where it is found, let us redouble efforts to combat it."*

A copy of the statement is on the IFN website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/westminster-attacks>.

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## Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities

*Looking after one another: the safety and security of our faith communities* has today been published by the Inter Faith Network for the UK in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Fire Chiefs' Council and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

IFN's Co-Chairs, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson and Jatinder Singh Birdi, said "These guidelines give practical guidance to faith communities on preventing and responding to hate motivated attacks and also send a strong signal of faith community solidarity and commitment to mutual support at times of difficulty."

The document contains guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally. These practical pointers for responding in solidarity have particular resonance at the present time when there is a need to watch out for the wellbeing of any groups who may be targeted because of terrorist actions which claim, or are perceived by some, as having a link to them.

Faith and Integration Minister, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, said: "This week we saw people of all faiths make clear in a moving act of solidarity that hate and intolerance is entirely unacceptable in this country. This practical guidance will give people of all faiths confidence to stand up to the perpetrators of hate crime. We need to work together to tackle all forms of prejudice." Cdr Mak Chishti, National Police Chiefs' Council, said: "Looking After One Another is an excellent guide to ensuring that we all look after each other and all stand together."

Sarah Newton, Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism, said: "Hate crime is not and never will be acceptable. It has no place in a Britain that works for everyone, and this Government is determined to stamp it out. Last year we published a new action plan which focuses on reducing hate crime, increasing reporting and improving support for victims, and we have committed £2.4 million to protect places of worship from hate crime attacks. It is important that Britain's many communities work in partnership, particularly in times of difficulty such as after a terrorist attack - so the Inter Faith Network's timely advice is very welcome."

The document can be found at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017>.

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## Development of a new integration strategy

A new integration policy is understood to be in early stages of development, for which Secretary of State for Communities, Sajid Javid MP, has responsibility. Government will be responding to the Casey Review Report as part of that process. Among the questions which officials are advising faith communities to consider are:

- How can faith communities and faith leaders promote shared British values and challenge attitudes and behaviours of those who promote inequality and intolerance?
- How can there be a reaching out through faith to isolated individuals and communities?
- How can Government promote the values of tolerance and equality in a way that is compatible with faith communities' freedom of belief?
- Are there examples of projects, etc which work in helping communities tackle difficult conversations?

These questions were considered by IFN's Faith Communities Forum when it met on 7 March and also by a number of faith leaders at a roundtable on 13 March hosted by Lord Bourne, Minister for Communities and Local Government

<https://twitter.com/lordnickbourne/status/841431319922016258>.

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## European Court of Justice preliminary rulings on wearing of religious articles of faith

On 14 March, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) issued two judgements concerning the wearing of religious articles of faith. The judgements were made in response to separate requests for preliminary rulings from the national courts of Belgium and France. References for preliminary rulings allow tribunals and courts within EU member states to refer questions to the Court of Justice about the interpretation of EU law or the validity of a European Union act. The ECJ does not decide the cases itself, but the referring court must dispose of the case in accordance with the ECJ's decision, which also binds courts within other member states. The ECJ is an instrument of the European Union, and is distinct from the European Court of Human Rights, which is not.

Both cases involved women who were dismissed from their jobs for wearing a Muslim head scarf. The thrust of the ruling in the Belgian case was that workplace regulations which prohibit the wearing of visible signs of all political, philosophical or religious beliefs are not directly discriminatory as they treat all employees the same, noting that there was no evidence that the employer applied the rule differently to employees of a particular political, philosophical or religious belief. The ruling also noted that such regulations may constitute indirect discrimination if "the apparently neutral obligation it imposes results, in fact, in persons adhering to a particular religion or belief being put at a particular

disadvantage.” Indirect discrimination may be lawful where it is considered an appropriate and necessary means of achieving a legitimate aim, “such as the pursuit by the employer, in its relations with its customers, of a policy of political, philosophical and religious neutrality.” The Belgian court will need to apply these tests when considering the case.

The French case differed in a number of respects, chiefly that the employee was dismissed because a customer of the employer complained that their account had been assigned to an employee who wore a head scarf, and it was unclear to the ECJ whether there was an internal rule which regulated the wearing of visible signs of all forms of political, philosophical or religious beliefs. It noted that if such a rule existed, then the same tests as in the Belgian case would need to be applied by the French court. The ruling also stated “the willingness of an employer to take account of the wishes of a customer no longer to have the services of that employer provided by a worker wearing an Islamic headscarf cannot be considered a genuine and determining occupational requirement within the meaning of the directive.”

A copy of the ECJ press release about both rulings can be seen at <http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-03/cp170030en.pdf> it includes links to the full judgements.

A transcript of the Parliamentary question which took place in the UK Parliament following the ruling can be found at <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2017-03-15c.408.10&s=speaker%3A10958>.

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## **Public consultation on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law**

On 28 March the Government Equalities Office (GEO) launched a public consultation on ‘Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law’.

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>. The consultation closes on 18 July.

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## **UK faith communities celebrate International Women's Day**

A number of faith communities and inter faith organisations across the UK celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March. Examples of events include one at the House of Lords hosted by the Network of Sikh Organisations in aid of the charity Billion Women – ([nsouk.co.uk/2017/03/](http://nsouk.co.uk/2017/03/)), one hosted by the Board of Deputies of British Jews focusing on domestic abuse (<https://www.bod.org.uk/director-of-public-prosecutions-we-are-talking-to-faith-communities-on-domestic-abuse/>), one organised by the Women's Forum of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha at the Swaminarayan Mandir (<http://londonmandir.baps.org/forthcoming-events/international-womens-day/>) and one held by the Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network on Feminine Wisdom for Peace and Security (<https://www.facebook.com/UKWFN/>).

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## **Bank of England consultation on new bank notes**

The November/December issue of the IFN e-bulletin reported that a number of faith communities were concerned that the new polymer £5 bank notes issued by the Bank of England contain a trace of tallow, a product derived from animal fat. On 15 February the Bank of England issued a statement about the matter - <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/news/2017/024.aspx> and a document setting out the key factors behind its decision to continue to use the new £5 notes, and to continue with production of the new £10 note due for release in September - <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/other/polymerassessment.pdf>

The tender for production of the £20 note has been put on hold to accommodate a decision on the future composition of the polymer used. On 30 March the Bank of England launched a consultation on Polymer Additives. The closing date for responses is 12 May. For further information on the consultation, including how to respond, visit <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/polymer/Pages/pc2017.aspx>.

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## **Brexit**

On 30 March, the Prime Minister May wrote formally triggering Article 50, beginning the formal process of withdrawal from the European Union by the UK.

Faith communities and inter faith bodies have been among those encouraging conversation about life 'post Brexit' including 3FF dialogue training on Brexit, faith and identity and St Ethelburga's intergenerational dialogue event on Envisioning a post-Brexit

future together. One example is a recent joint prayer developed by five faith representatives who “are encouraging their communities to love, rather than fear, the differences we find in our country”. This can be found at <http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/interfaith-prayer-brexit-process-begins/> and <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/interfaith-leaders-join-in-sharing-brexit-prayer-for-uks-new-chapter/>.

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## **INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK NEWS**

### **Let’s Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue**

IFN is publishing a new resource entitled *Let’s Talk: Practical pointers for inter faith dialogue*.

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.

This will be available shortly at [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk).

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### **Meeting of IFN’s Faith Communities Forum**

A meeting of IFN’s Faith Communities Forum was held on 7 March. The main focus was an item hearing from national faith community bodies about their activity in the area of inter faith relations and the variety of ways in which they engage with this. There was discussion of the Casey Review report and a presentation by Dr Karen Jochelson Director, Economy and Employment programme, and Kathleen Jameson, Project Manager, Equality and Human Rights Commission, on the Commission’s workplace guidance on religion or belief (see [below](#)).

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### **Day event for local inter faith practitioners**

On 22 March IFN held a day event in Bristol for local inter faith practitioners from anywhere in the UK. This was an opportunity to share experiences and news; discuss issues of common interest and concern; share tips for developing successful inter faith programmes; hear about some projects being run by local groups and to take part in workshops about using social media to get the message across; resourcing the work; and reviewing work and planning for the future.



The day opened with a presentation from Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair of IFN and Chair of Warwick District Faith Forum, about the importance of local inter faith work and its UK context. This was followed by a team presentation from Canon Dr John Hall, Devon Faith and Belief Group and IFN Trustee; Cllr Chaz Singh, Plymouth Council of Faiths and the Turban Project; and Ravindra Nathwani, Exeter Interfaith and Belief Group schools programme. There were also presentations from Farzana Saker of West Wiltshire Multi Faith Forum and from the Revd Tracey Lewis, Chair of the Bristol Multi Faith Forum and BMFF colleagues. The afternoon included short reports on the use of Inter Faith Week as a platform for cooperation and outreach from the Revd Dr Mark Dimond, South Cardiff Interfaith Network, Sarah Mar, Cheltenham Interfaith, and Michael Berkson, Cambridge Inter Faith Group, and the day ended with reflections from Dr Abdalla Yassin Mohamed OBE, Newport Inter Faith Group and Patricia Stoa, Nottingham InterFaith Council.

A report of the event will be produced. The last three such days were held in Sheffield, London and Coventry. Reports from those events can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications>.

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### **Inter Faith Week and Scottish Interfaith Week**

Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from **Sunday 12 November to Sunday 19 November** – [www.interfaith.org](http://www.interfaith.org). This year, as in 2016, the Week begins on Remembrance Sunday and many people of different faiths and beliefs will be marking that in some way. It is hoped that the additional Sunday will provide the opportunity for other weekend events to take place.

Scottish Interfaith Week will again be taking place on the same dates as Inter Faith Week. For further information, contact [admin@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:admin@interfaithscotland.org).

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## **INTER FAITH PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **The Great Get Together**

The Great Get Together is a project inspired by Jo Cox MP, who was killed on 16 June 2016. It is being organised by the Jo Cox Foundation with the backing of the Big Lunch, the Big Iftar and a number of other organisations. It takes place on 17 and 18 June when communities across the UK are invited to get together with their neighbours to share food and celebrate all that they hold in common. Material for the project notes that “Jo’s killing was meant to divide us and we think the best response is to show how united we are. We believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply

want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance.”

For further information and to take part, visit [www.greatgettogether.org](http://www.greatgettogether.org).

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### **Srebrenica Memorial Day**

This year marks the 22nd year since the genocide took place in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. 11 July is the designated international day that marks the Srebrenica genocide. This year, the UK charitable initiative Remembering Srebrenica is calling upon all those of faiths, to bring their communities together to mark Srebrenica through an inter faith event or faith based service on that date to “remember the victims, honour the continual struggle of the survivors and stand united against hatred and intolerance”.

For further information, visit <http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/information/faith-interfaith-and-multifaith-groups/> and for advice on how to hold an event, contact [events@srebrenica.org.uk](mailto:events@srebrenica.org.uk) or

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### **The Great British Chai Party**

The Great British Chai Party was launched at the House of Lords on 6 March - <http://www.greatbritishchaiparty.org.uk/media-library/launch-of-the-great-british-chai-party/>. The Party, which was founded by Sushma Bhanot and Kiran Bhanaut, aims to address loneliness and social isolation amongst the elderly by arranging regular tea parties of small groups of elderly people in different areas; and to enhance social cohesion between people of different communities by ensuring elderly people from all communities are invited. Further information can be found at [www.greatbritishchaiparty.org.uk](http://www.greatbritishchaiparty.org.uk).

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### **Faiths in Tune Inter Faith Music Festival**

The 6th London Interfaith Music Festival, organised by Faiths in Tune, is being held at the British Museum on 21 May. The festival will feature a diverse stage music and dance programme as well as an inter faith community fair where visitors can learn about and get in touch with various faith and cultural communities from all over London. The Interfaith Music Festival encourages visitors “to look at the museum's exhibition not just in terms of cultural diversity and archaeology, but through the glasses of faith and inter faith traditions. At the same time, the festival's main objective remains, as in previous years, the promotion of interfaith understanding, respect and dialogue by bringing people of all different faith backgrounds together through the universal language of music.” For further information, visit <http://www.faithsintune.org/london-2017-british-museum>.

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## RESOURCES AND STUDY/TRAINING

### National Faith Community Representative Body profiles

The January/February issue of IFN's e-bulletin included profiles of the Educational and Academic Bodies in IFN membership to give readers an idea of their work and the resource that they offer.

In March and early April IFN has been profiling the work of the National Faith Community Representative Bodies in its membership. Each profile includes a brief description of the body's overall role and work and of its inter faith engagement. The profiles are being posted on IFN's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/IFNetUK](http://www.facebook.com/IFNetUK) each day.

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### Interfaith Scotland blog

Interfaith Scotland has a new blog on which you can read stories from its staff and volunteers - <https://interfaithscotland.wordpress.com/>.

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### Equality and Human Rights Commission materials on Religion or Belief

As noted above, at the meeting of IFN's Faith Communities Forum on 7 March there was a presentation from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on its workplace guidance on religion or belief. Details of the guidance were included in the January/February issue of IFN's e-bulletin. The EHRC is keen for them to be distributed to faith and inter faith organisations and they are therefore included again here for ease of reference.

The report, 'Religion or belief: is the law working?' looks at how well the law in Great Britain protects individuals with a religion or belief, or lack of religion or belief. It focuses on four areas: definitions of religion or belief; exceptions in the Equality Act; the law protecting employees; and the law protecting service users and service providers. It can be found at <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/religion-or-belief-frequently-asked-questions>.

The religion or belief guidance material includes 'Religion or Belief: A guide to the law', which provides an overview of the protections offered by the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998 of people with or without a religion or belief. It answers commonly asked questions such as those about what is indirect discrimination and can it ever be

justified, and how much employers are expected to know about religion or belief in order to fulfil their legal obligations. The guidance can be found at [www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/religion-or-belief](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/religion-or-belief).

There is also a section on ‘Religion or belief: how do I handle employee requests?’ which provides a decision-making tool for employers; and a section on ‘Frequently asked questions’ which focuses on some of the common questions facing employers today.

The EHRC has also produced a training module for line managers, which can be found at <https://elearning.acas.org.uk/course/> and a training course for trade union representatives, which can be found at <https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=51438>.

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### **FaithAction and LGA report on faith and health**

FaithAction and the Local Government Association have jointly produced a report entitled *Working with faith groups to promote health and wellbeing*. The report website notes that “Faith groups make an important contribution to this work through their commitment to service, both with their own members and with wider communities. In particular, faith groups are often able to utilise the enthusiasm of their members as volunteers. Also, some faith groups have members who face health inequalities through a higher risk of some diseases or through difficulties in accessing healthcare. These groups are, therefore, well placed to have an active role in tackling health problems in the communities they serve.”

A copy of the report can be downloaded from [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/8220302/PUBLICATION](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/8220302/PUBLICATION).

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### **Mitzvah Day report and video**

Mitzvah Day has published an Impact Report on its activities in 2016 - <http://mitzvahday.org.uk/vision-mission/annual-reports/> and also created a video about the Day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLwlZeQOTFA>.

This year’s Mitzvah Day takes place on 19 November.

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### **Brighton and Hove Interfaith Service DVD**

Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group has released a DVD of its Annual Interfaith Service, at which speakers included Caroline Lucas MP, Cllr Peter West, Mayor of Brighton

and Hove and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Marion Shepherd. Anyone interested in a DVD should contact Anthea Ballam at [admin@interfaithcontactgroup.com](mailto:admin@interfaithcontactgroup.com). Clips of the speakers are also available on the Group's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMEwt4RM5nGmb0ePYsESM2Q>.

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### **Directory of Social Change publications**

The Directory of Social Change supports charities by providing training courses, publications, online funding databases and other resources. More information about its work can be found at <https://www.dsc.org.uk/>. It is currently offering two of its publications, *The Charity Trustee's Handbook* and *The Guide to New Trusts*, at half price. To claim the offer, quote OFFER50.

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

### **Faith Initiative magazine**

*Faith Initiative* magazine ([www.faithinitiative.co.uk](http://www.faithinitiative.co.uk)) is currently collating materials for the next issue of its magazine which will be giving focus to the rise in racism and religious discrimination in the UK by asking inter faith groups, religious communities and people in workplaces what action they are taking to counter such threats to peace.

The copy deadline is 20 May and pieces should be between 600 and 800 words. Anyone interested in contributing should contact Heather Wells at [hf\\_wells@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hf_wells@yahoo.co.uk).

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### **World Congress of Faiths Essay competition**

The World Congress of Faiths Essay competition is now open to UK students. Entries must be on the topic 'If one faith is true, does that mean all others are false?' and should be approximately 3,000 words. The closing date for entries is 31 July.

The winner will be awarded £300 and their work will be published in the *Interreligious Insight* journal. All entrants will get a year's free membership of the World Congress of Faiths. For full details visit [www.worldfaiths.org/2017-Essay-Award](http://www.worldfaiths.org/2017-Essay-Award).

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## **National Diversity Awards**

Nominations are now open for the National Diversity Awards which celebrate “the excellent achievements of grass- root communities that tackle the issues in today’s society, giving them recognition for their dedication and hard work”. The Awards include Positive Role Model and Community Organisation in the category of ‘Race/faith/religion’. For further information, visit <https://nominate.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/>.

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## **JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING**

### **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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### **Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby**

The Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby is seeking to recruit to three roles: a Project Officer for the Survive and Thrive project; a Youth Worker; and a Sessional Youth Worker. The deadline for applications is 28 April. For further information, visit <http://multifaithcentre.org/2017/03/job-opportunities-at-the-mfc/>.

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### **Beyond the Ordinary RE Teacher recruitment campaign**

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales is in the third year of its Beyond the Ordinary RE Teacher recruitment campaign.

It has posted on its website five ways that people can get involved in supporting RE teacher recruitment <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/public-engagement/news/2017-01-18/five-ways-you-can-support-re-teacher-recruitment>; and also created a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzvZTFmp6qc>. The Teach RE website gives more information about the campaign and about RE teaching as a career - <http://www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/>.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### 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 7 April (and there will also be one on 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](http://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](http://www.google.co.uk/intl/en/nonprofits/join).

Google is one among a number of companies and some others also have programmes to work with charities. See, for example, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/about/charities-communities/charity-support/>.

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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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## **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 by credit card or PayPal online at [www.interfaith.org.uk/donate](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/donate) 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](mailto:remember@interfaith.org.uk) or call us on 0207 730 0410.

### **A GIFT IN YOUR WILL**

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

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries. You can call Hannah Cassidy, on 0207 730 0410 or contact us at [remember@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:remember@interfaith.org.uk).

Every gift, however large or small, makes a difference.

*Thank you!*

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## SPECIAL WEEKS/DAYS

**Islam Awareness Week** is taking place from 27 March to 2 April [www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk)

**Srebrenica Memorial Day** will take place on 11 July [www.srebrenica.org.uk](http://www.srebrenica.org.uk)

**Peace One Day** takes place on 21 September [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org)

**Sewa Day** will take place on 1 October [www.sewaday.org](http://www.sewaday.org)

**One World Week** will take place from 22 to 29 October [www.oneworldweek.org](http://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](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

**Scottish Interfaith Week** will also take place from 12 to 19 November [www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/](http://www.interfaithscotland.org/scottish-interfaith-week/)

See more [above](#).

**Mitzvah Day** will take place on 19 November [www.mitzvahday.org.uk/](http://www.mitzvahday.org.uk/)

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## DIARY DATES

This section includes some of the events taking place around the UK. IFN includes information on diary dates between e-bulletins on its website at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/take-part/events>.

**Wisbech Interfaith Forum** and **Peterborough Inter Faith Council** are organising their second inter-faith pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 1 April. The day runs from 11.30am to 4pm starting at the Roman Catholic Shrine (at Houghton St Giles, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6AL) and includes a pilgrim mass, walk and blessing. Refreshments are provided and coach seats can be booked by contacting Zahid Akbar at [zakbarq@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zakbarq@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07711 31178. For further information, visit [www.wisbechinterfaith.btck.co.uk](http://www.wisbechinterfaith.btck.co.uk).

**Inverness Interfaith Group** is holding its AGM on Saturday 1 April. There will be a topical presentation at the beginning of the meeting. This is being held at 3pm at the Crown Church in Inverness. For further information, email [invernessinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:invernessinterfaith@gmail.com).

**North Kent Council for Inter-Faith Relations** is holding a training day for faith communities on Saturday 1 April on Mental Health Awareness and Guidance. The event takes place from 9.30am to 12 noon and will be led by psychiatrist Dr Saliha Nazir and Mental Health Care Chaplain the Revd Ruth Bierbaum. It is being held in Asda's

Community Room, Thames Way, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 0DQ. For further information, contact 01622 722180.

**Burngreave Ashram Multifaith Chapel & Library** is hosting its next Meditation/Prayer lunch and seminar on Monday 3 April from 12pm to 2.30pm. The meditation will be led by Shelly Hinson and the seminar on 'Methodism and Buddhism' will be led by Nirmal Fernando. It is being held at 86 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG. For further information, contact on [BAMCL@outlook.com](mailto:BAMCL@outlook.com) or call 07932017929 or 01142436688.

**London Inter Faith Centre** is holding the next meeting of its Abrahamic Texts Group on Monday 3 April. There will be a discussion of texts from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Quran on the subject of 'What is Prayer?' The presenters are Rabbi Janet Burden, Father Kevin Mowbray and Sayed Jaffer Milani. This is being held from 10.15am to 12pm at the London Inter Faith Centre, St Anne's & St Andrew's Church, 125 Salusbury Rd, London NW6 6RG. For further information, contact Reverend Laurence Hillel at [laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk](mailto:laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk).

**Interfaith North-West** is holding its next open meeting on Tuesday 4 April at 7pm. The theme of the meeting will be 'Seeing Islam – Muslims in a Diverse Community'. The guest speaker is Dr Chris Hewer, a theologian with a background in Christian-Muslim relations and dialogue. This is being held at the Playhouse, 5-7 Artillery St, Londonderry, Northern Ireland BT48 6RG. For further information, visit [www.interfaith-nw.org.uk/](http://www.interfaith-nw.org.uk/).

**University of Winchester and Religions for Peace** is hosting the Inaugural Lecture by Professor Anna King on Wednesday 5 April at 6pm. Professor King, Professor of Religious Studies and Social Anthropology, will be focusing on 'Sacred Violence, Sacred Peace: Religion in an Age of Conflict'. She will be evaluating the impact of the University of Winchester's collaborative projects that bring together religious leaders, politicians, academics, civil society organisations and both victims and perpetrators of violence, as part of ongoing peace processes. Booking is essential. It is being held at the Stripe Auditorium, King Alfred Campus, The University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR. To book a place, or for further information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sacred-violence-sacred-peace-religion-in-an-age-of-conflict-lecture-tickets-32255523138> or <https://winchester.hobsonsradius.com/ssc/eform/Max68GzC67020x670c0xK.ssc>.

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith** is holding its next meeting on Tuesday 4 April at 5pm (refreshments from 4.30pm). There will be a debate about populism, its appeal and the risks it entails. This will be held at The Guildhall, 77 Lowgate, Hull HU1 2AA Lowgate, Hull HU1 2AA. For further information, contact Jackie on 01482 445728 or email Kath at [Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk](mailto:Kath.Beal@heri.org.uk).

**York Interfaith Group** is holding an event on Tuesday 4 April. 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 Pilgrimage. It is being held at the York Medical

Society Rooms, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW. For further information, contact [yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com](mailto:yorkinterfaithgroup@gmail.com).

The **Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter** is running a Study Day Series on Jewish Feasts. The next one, on Pesach, will be held on Thursday 6 April. The day runs from 11am to 3.15pm and the speaker will be Rabbi Mark Solomon, Edinburgh and Leicester Progressive Jewish Communities, Interfaith Consultant, Liberal Judaism. There is a suggested donation. This is being held at the Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter, 34 Chepstow Villas, London, W11 2QZ. For further information, visit <https://sioncentre.org/> or email [sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com](mailto:sioncentrefordialogue@gmail.com).

**Interfaith Milton Keynes** is holding a meeting on Thursday 6 April. There will be a presentation given by Mr Bob White of St Michael's Priory on the topic of 'The Crescent and the Crown: the Muslim Presence in the UK'. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting. This is being held at 7.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St Paul's School Campus, Moorgate, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes MK6 5EN. For further information, email [interfaithmk@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithmk@gmail.com).

**Fife Interfaith Group** and **The Baha'is of Edinburgh** are holding a talk on Friday 7 April. The theme of the talk is 'Christianity and Islam – Points of Unity and Misunderstanding' and the guest speaker will be Dr Lameh Fananapazir. This is being held at 7pm at the Baha'i Centre, 44 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QR. For further information, contact on [fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk](mailto:fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk).

The **Southbank Centre** is running a festival throughout 2017 entitled 'Belief and Beyond Belief'. The festival aims to question "what it means to be human by exploring the outpouring of music, art, science, philosophy and ritual stimulated by religion". The fourth section of the festival, running from 8 to 30 April, focuses on 'Prophets, Visionaries and Power'. For further information, visit <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/belief-and-beyond-belief>.

**Torbay Interfaith Forum** is holding a series of talks on every second Wednesday of the month. The next talk is on Wednesday 12 April at 7.30pm entitled 'Stolen Images – Pagan Symbolism and Christianity' and will be followed by refreshments. The speaker will be Peter Knight. This is being held at the Friends' Meeting House, 48 Tor Hill Road, Torquay, TQ2 SRT. For further information, email [moiraptatem@gmail.com](mailto:moiraptatem@gmail.com).

**St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace** is holding a participatory dialogue event on Wednesday 12 April from 6pm to 8.30pm. The event will investigate and challenge the understanding of a post-Brexit future together. There will be an opportunity to join in, listen, share and understand diverse perspectives through a generational lens. This is being held at the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG. For further information, contact Claire Chou Doran on 020 74961612 or at [Claire.doran@stethelburgas.org](mailto:Claire.doran@stethelburgas.org).

**Faith in Lancaster** is holding its next Faithshare meeting on Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm. The theme for the meeting will be 'Nationalism, Patriotism and Faith'. This meeting provides an opportunity to meet together in a safe and respectful space in which to share and learn about each other's beliefs, understandings, experiences, traditions and practices. This is being held in the William Stout Room, Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster, LA1 1TX. For further information, email [info@faithinlancaster.org.uk](mailto:info@faithinlancaster.org.uk) or visit [www.faithinlancaster.org.uk](http://www.faithinlancaster.org.uk).

**World Congress of Faith** and **The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe** are jointly organising a talk on Sunday 23 April from 3pm to 7pm. The speakers are religious practitioners and scientists in the field of natural or social sciences. They will be exploring insights into existential questions based on science and religion (including their relationships), through the talks and answering questions. There is an opportunity to hear a talk on the Zoroastrian religion and have a tour of the centre as a pre-event from 2pm to 3pm. This is being held at the Zoroastrian Centre, Zartoshty Brothers Hall, 440 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9TL. For registration and further information, contact Pejman Khojasteh on [pejman\\_khojasteh@btinternet.com](mailto:pejman_khojasteh@btinternet.com).

**Waveney Interfaith Circle** is holding themed 'talking' meetings every month for anyone interested in learning about the beliefs and traditions of other faiths through friendly informal contact with those who are familiar with them. The next meeting is on Monday 24 April at 7.30pm. The theme of the meeting is on 'Where do you turn for Spiritual sustenance?' and members will share a prayer, poem, music or reading that feeds their soul. This is being held at St Margaret's Church Centre, 147 Hollingsworth Rd, Lowestoft NR32 4BW. For further information, contact Rose Norgate on 01502712369.

**Interfaith Scotland** is holding a members' dialogue event entitled 'Spiritual Care for People Living with Dementia in Scotland' on Wednesday 26 April. Lunch will be provided. This is being held from 10am to 1pm at the Interfaith Scotland Dialogue Centre, Flemington House, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, G21 4BF. Booking is essential. To book a place or for further information, email [admin@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:admin@interfaithscotland.org).

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** is holding a talk on 'Muslim Life in Britain' on Thursday 27 April at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Hakan Gok. This is being held 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](mailto:membership@concord-leeds.org.uk).

**Crawley Interfaith Network** is holding a talk entitled 'The Beliefs of East Asian Faiths' on Thursday 27 April from 7pm to 9pm. The speaker will be Satish K Sharma, General Secretary of the National Council of Hindu Temples (UK). This is being held at the Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Courts, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD. For further information, contact Iyad Daoud on [contact@crawleyinterfaith.net](mailto:contact@crawleyinterfaith.net) or call on 01293 883372.

A '**Face to Faith Turban Awareness Day**' is being held in Exeter on Saturday 29 April from 10am to 4.30pm. There will be an opportunity to learn about who the Sikhs are, the contributions they have made, ask questions, and have a turban tied male or female. This

is a family event to experience and learn about the Sikh religion, heritage, history and culture, supported by the Church Urban Fund and local Diocese. It is being held at the Exeter Guildhall, High Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3EB. For further information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/177435659429973/> or contact Cllr Chaz Singh.

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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](http://www.niinterfaithforum.org)

Interfaith Scotland: [www.interfaithscotland.org](http://www.interfaithscotland.org)

Inter-faith Council for Wales: [www.interfaithwales.org.uk](http://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](mailto:ifnet@interfaith.org.uk) by **17 May** 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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