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The Inter Faith Network for the UK
2006-2007 ANNUAL REVIEW



The Inter Faith Network for the UK

ANNUAL REVIEW 2006-2007

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Co-Chairs' message

Our Review looks back across the year 2006-2007 – a year which culminated with the special National Meeting in Coventry on the theme “The Inter Faith Network for the UK: 20 Years of Working Together for Inter Faith Understanding and Cooperation”.

Anniversaries are, rightly, times to celebrate. And we recollected the many positive milestones on the journey of the Inter Faith Network's work in the last two decades and honoured those who have contributed to it. In particular we thanked Brian Pearce who stood down as Director this summer, having served full time on a voluntary basis in this post since the Network was founded and has made a most remarkable contribution to helping promote good inter faith relations in the UK.

Anniversaries are also times to look forward and, as the report on the Coventry meeting shows, Inter Faith Network members as usual have their eyes firmly on the challenges of the future. The inter faith landscape is ever more varied and the challenges many and complex. But the opportunities too are growing – opportunities for more joint learning; more joint working; and new projects and structures which can increase the chances people of all ages have to interact well and come to develop a greater understanding and ability to live harmoniously together as fellow citizens.

Young people are the future leaders of their communities and it is vital that they see good inter faith relations as a key concern and develop the skills to help shape a positive future. A particularly important piece of work for the Network this year has been working with the national student bodies through facilitating a series of meetings on how they can work for better cross community involvement on campus. Linked to this was the important day conference the Network held last November with the Equality Challenge Unit on ‘Building Good Relations on Campus’.

The faith communities and inter faith bodies have continued this year to engage, both through the Inter Faith Network's structures and independently, to deepen and develop inter faith work on a range of fronts. A significant development this year has been the continued strengthening of regional faith forums in some of the English regions. These are member bodies of the Inter Faith Network. In addition to initiating discussion with the Forums about complementary working in relation to assisting local inter faith groups, the Inter Faith Network has worked with the Faith Based Regeneration Network UK to help service a new link to increase consultation between the regional forums and to raise the profile of their work.



Dr Nawal Prinja and Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler, Co-Chairs,
Inter Faith Network

The year has seen another great leap in the number of local inter faith forums around the UK which can make a vital contribution to their areas through creating opportunities for interaction and engagement across communities. It has also seen a growth in other types of inter faith projects – in many cases with the help of funding from the second round of the Government’s Faith Community Capacity Fund, administered by the Community Development Foundation. The Network has been pleased this year to continue its engagement with CDF in this area of work.

Across the last year there has been much debate about ‘belonging’, ‘integration’ and ‘citizenship’. The Network’s discussion document, *Faith, Citizenship and Shared Life in Britain Today*, developed during the year, has made an important contribution to this. And we were pleased that Ruth Kelly, when she was Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, invited the Network’s then Deputy Director, Harriet Crabtree to be a member, on a personal basis, of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. She was later asked by its Chair, Darra Singh, to lead on Commission engagement with the faith sector. We were delighted that she took on this role. It helped enable the Commission’s process to take into account particularly effectively the importance of inter faith interaction; the role of national faith community bodies in resourcing local members to engage in local inter faith work; and the importance on this front of increased engagement by local authorities, in partnership with faith communities. The Commission’s final report, published in June, recognised the important role faith plays more widely within society and the significance of inter faith and intercultural interaction and made a number of recommendations relating to this. It is an area of work which looks likely to become increasingly significant and is one in which Government is taking an increasing interest.

The role of Government in encouraging inter faith engagement is very important. But we must not forget the particularly important role of the faith communities in this work – nor that of the voluntary sector inter faith organisations which support, resource and encourage this at UK, national, regional and local levels. And this is a moment when we would like to express our gratitude to all – whether working for public bodies or within faith communities, inter faith bodies or other sectors – who are contributing to this vital work. Together, as the Inter Faith Network’s document *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs* concludes, “listening and responding with openness and respect, we can move forward to work in ways that acknowledge genuine differences but build on shared hopes and values.”



Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler
Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network



Dr Nawal Prinja
Co-Chair, Inter Faith Network

Local inter faith support

Supporting the strong development of inter faith work at local level is an important part of the work of the Inter Faith Network.

In April the Network appointed two new project officers, Urmi Raval and Stella Opoku-Owusu, to help ensure that communication with local and regional inter faith bodies is strong (see page 9 on regional forums).

In the course of the spring, the Network carried out a survey of member local groups to find out which services they find most helpful. Advice and information, publications and regular circulars were reported to be particularly helpful and membership of the Inter Faith Network was noted by many as helping local bodies feel part of a strong national movement and interconnected with others carrying out this work.

During 2007, the Inter Faith Network researched and published a fourth edition of *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory*. This contains a page about each UK wide, national, regional and local inter faith body describing its work and giving its contact details.

The Directory, the Network's publication *The Local Inter Faith Guide* and its associated website 'local inter faith zone', and the Network's advice service are used across the UK by those working



to develop and strengthen local inter faith structures.

In a number of the English regions regional faith forums are now also supporting and developing the development of local inter faith work and

the Inter Faith Network's advice and support role includes signposting to these as key resources.

Around the UK, nearly 270 local inter faith organisations are now working to encourage and develop respect and understanding between people of different faith traditions and to increase awareness about these. Their work helps build community cohesion by promoting dialogue and social cooperation between communities. Some of these are bodies which operate on a bilateral or trilateral basis, such as the nearly 50 branches of the Council of Christians and Jews and the groups of the Three Faiths Forum, or other particular dialogues, such as ones focusing on Buddhist-Christian, Sikh-Christian, Hindu-Christian or Jewish-Muslim dialogue.

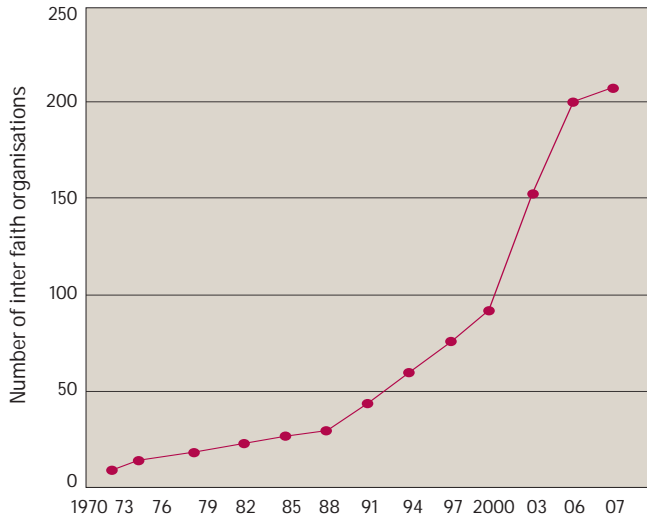
210 of the local organisations are inter faith groups, councils or forums operating on a multi faith basis and working with people from all or most of the major faiths in their areas.

In the last 20 years the number of local inter faith organisations operating on a multi faith basis has tripled and new groups are coming into existence every month. On a day to day basis many of these bodies are interacting with organisations that have an impact on our everyday lives including local authorities, the police, health services, schools, colleges and businesses.

These local inter faith organisations are working increasingly with local authorities to help shape the areas where they live. For example, according to research carried out during the year by the Inter Faith Network, around half of the local inter faith bodies said they are now working with their local authority in a consultative role.

The vital contribution made by local bodies to building strong and cohesive communities is increasingly recognised. For example, the Government’s White Paper of October 2006 on local government, *Strong and prosperous communities*, mentions inter faith work as a way to ‘keep channels of communication open’ and says that “relationships with established faith communities can also help newer faith groups develop the communal structures that they need to thrive”. Last year, as in the previous year, a number of local inter faith initiatives received funding under the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund (a fund administered by the Community Development Foundation for the Department for Communities and Local Government).

Growth of local inter faith activity



The importance of the work of local inter faith organisations was mentioned by Gordon Brown in his first Question Time as Prime Minister on 4 July when he expressed a desire to see “inter faith groups in every community ... [which] would make a huge difference to community relations”.

Local inter faith projects

Images from recent activities of just a few local bodies working locally to promote good inter faith relations.



Southampton Council of Faiths and Southampton Inter Faith Link's peace walk was joined by members of the public. Walkers visited places of worship around the city in an effort to promote a message of peace and understanding



Merseyside Faith Forum young participants about to eat after an inter faith meeting



Crawley Interfaith Network's Global Peace, Faith Matters meeting held at the Gurjar Hindu Union mandir



Above left: Bristol Inter Faith Group supported the Lord Mayor's Civic Celebration and the theme for this year was "Many Faiths – One Freedom". Above right: Redbridge Faith Forum's inter faith barbeque where members of the forum and members of the public were encouraged to come together to eat and talk



Bolton Interfaith Council's Spirit of Bolton inter faith event held in the town centre which attracted many people to participate in the activities

photographs courtesy of bodies illustrated

Some of this year's local inter faith enquiries to the Network office:

- Next year we want to hold a youth inter faith event. Are there guidelines and resources which might be helpful?
- We are having difficulty getting one of the major faith communities in our area involved in our inter faith forum's work. How are other forums working to get solid involvement from all their area's faith groups?
- I work for a local authority and we want to develop an inter faith forum for our area. We are unsure how to encourage this in a way that will ensure an independent, faiths-led body which is broadly representative of our local communities. Are there any useful pointers as we take this work forward?
- Some of us want to remain as a 'discussion group on spirituality' but others of us would like to see the group develop to become a consultative forum. How are similar groups handling such debates?
- We are thinking about holding an inter faith event which includes prayers and readings. How can we do this in a way which does not compromise the beliefs of adherents of the different faiths?
- Do you have information about the bereavement practices and funeral rites of the different faiths?
- We are working on creating a short constitution for our local inter faith organisation. Can you provide us with examples of constitutions of other local groups and are there any issues we should be thinking about?

The Network's website, with its local inter faith zone, continues to be a resource widely used by local inter faith practitioners:

www.interfaith.org.uk

English regional faith forums

The English Regions are increasingly important administrative units because it is at that level that decisions are taken about such matters as transport and planning. Every region has a Regional Economic Strategy which is drawn up by Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in consultation, to date, with unelected Regional Assemblies (although the role of these is to end) and other partners and stakeholders.

To enable faith groups to contribute to these consultative processes, regional faith forums have come into existence over the last ten years in Yorkshire and Humber, in the North West, in the East, the East Midlands, the South East, the South West, and the West Midlands. A Forum is now under development in London and one is being explored in the North East. The existing regional faith forums in England are all members of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

Last autumn's White Paper on *Strong and Prosperous Communities* spells out the role of inter faith work in building strong cities and emphasises the role of regions and regional governance. This has clear implications for regional inter faith work and regional faith forums as they were set up to contribute to the process of regional economic strategies.



The Northwest Forum of Faith's website

Regional forums in the East of England, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber are now developing work to support local inter faith structures in their regions and others may do so. In April the Inter Faith Network held a meeting with the forums to discuss ways to ensure that there are complementary patterns of working on local inter faith issues at the national and regional level and work is being taken forward this Autumn to build on this.

There is a recognition that, even though they have some general characteristics, the regional faith forums are all developing in their own

ways, rightly reflecting the distinctiveness of each region and different assessments of regional needs. They carry out some or all of a range of activities, which include gathering information on particular issues such as patterns of faith based social action and holding events and conferences. The Government's planned 'inter faith strategy' (mentioned in its July 2007 report on the future role of the third sector) will need to take into account their pattern of work and important potential as well as questions about how they can be resourced and sustained.

As part of enhancing the profile of regional faith forums, the Inter Faith Network for the UK and the Faith Based Regeneration Network UK have been jointly servicing during 2006-07 a new link, the English Regional Faith Forums Network. This is open to membership by regional faith forums which are recognised by regional governance instruments as the primary forum in their region. As noted above, in the London and North East regions, planning initiatives are in process to establish forums in these two regions. Representatives of these regions are invited to attend meetings of the English Regional Faith Forums Network as participant observers.

UK and national inter faith working

Work with the national inter faith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales

The Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum, the Scottish Inter Faith Council and the Inter Faith Council for Wales are member bodies of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Each carries out its own programme of work. In the case of the Scottish Inter Faith Council, this includes direct support, where requested, to local inter faith groups and linking of these.

In addition to contact with these bodies over the year, the Network office holds a meeting annually to meet with their representatives and to exchange news and good practice. In 2006 this meeting took place in Cardiff at the Welsh Assembly buildings on 7 December. Participants were welcomed by Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas, then the Presiding Officer of the Assembly, who spoke about inter faith issues in Wales and, in particular, about how the Welsh Assembly is developing its own distinctive pattern of engaging with faith communities.



Participants at Cardiff meeting

The meeting went on to explore the different patterns of inter faith engagement emerging in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; some of the challenges in broadening involvement, particularly from women and young people; and finding funding for national linking work.

Working with national inter faith organisations

Among the member bodies of the Inter Faith Network are 28 inter faith organisations whose work is carried out at UK or national level. Some, such as the Council of Christians and Jews, Three Faiths Forum and the Joseph Interfaith Foundation, work primarily with particular traditions (although in some cases using their bilateral and trilateral expertise to work more broadly). Others, such as the United

Religions Initiative (UK), work with people of any religion or belief. A number, such as Religions for Peace (UK), have a particular area of focus for their work. A few, such as the inter faith programme of Christians Aware, are initiatives which are run by particular faith traditions to develop good inter faith relations beyond their tradition. A full list of such bodies can be found on the inside back cover of this report and links to their websites with further information about their work can be found on the Inter Faith Network's website www.interfaith.org.uk

Keeping such bodies and programmes in touch and raising awareness about their work is an important part of the Network's work. A meeting of representatives of these inter faith organisations was held in London on 20 March.

Education and young people

During the year the Network office continued to keep in touch with developments on the educational and academic front through representation on the RE Council for England Wales and the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education as well as advisory involvement in the Runnymede Trust project on Faith Schools and Community Cohesion and the major new Religion and Society Programme of the European Humanities Research Centre and Arts and Humanities Research Council. It also continued to engage with the work of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and with other member educational and academic bodies (listed in full on the inside rear flap of this report).

The year saw an increase in the number of enquiries to the Network office from schools and from those developing inter faith materials for use in RE contexts or with young people more generally.

The Network's publication *Connect: Different Faiths, Shared Values*, published with TimeBank and the National Youth Agency, went into another print run and was distributed to 5,000 more young people through a range of routes from packs for Jewish sixth formers, to local inter faith youth events, to a youth conference in Scotland.

A number of Network member bodies such as the Council of Christians and Jews, the Three Faiths Forum, Minorities of Europe and the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths have also been developing important resources and programmes for young people and the Network has been making these more widely known. The Network office continued this year, through an advisory group, to play a role in taking forward the work of Diversity and Dialogue, a youth inter faith and intercultural initiative which is now based at the Citizenship Foundation.

A meeting for representatives of educational and academic bodies in membership of the Network, was held on 24 April. This provided an opportunity to discuss, in the context of the Network's membership review, the relationship between the Network and the educational and academic sector and to propose formal membership criteria for bodies in this sector which were adopted at the Network's 2007 AGM. These provide that membership can be considered where an educational or academic body is

- a UK or national educational organisation or a department of an academic institution which, as a significant part of its work, focuses on, or promotes understanding of, relations between two or more of the major religions represented in the UK;
- a UK, national, regional or local study centre offering inter faith resources and educational

programmes for use by the general public (and which is not already indirectly linked to the Network through the membership of the Network of an umbrella body to which it belongs);

- an educational or academic unit which specialises in inter faith issues, linked to a faith tradition of which one or more representative bodies is in membership of the Network.

The AGM also agreed to a proposal from the April meeting of educational and academic bodies that the Network should encourage the formation of a wider informal 'network' of academic institutions which are engaged in work on issues relevant to inter faith relations but from a more detached 'academic' standpoint than that of most of the higher education centres currently in Network membership which are themselves promoting inter faith dialogue.

Building Good Relations on Campus

Across the year, the Network continued to facilitate a series of conversations between national student religious bodies. Emerging from these, in May, the statement on the right on building good relations on campus was agreed by these bodies.

On 30 November last year the Network, in association with the higher education Equality

Good Relations on Campus: A Joint Statement

"The primary purpose of national student faith-based bodies is to resource, support and work for students of their own particular faith. At the same time, a commitment to dialogue and to working together to encourage good relations between our members on campus is of great importance.

Representatives from the national student faith-based bodies and relevant faith community youth committees listed below have held a series of informal conversations across recent months, facilitated at our request by the Inter Faith Network for the UK. These have focused on the desire of our bodies to strengthen their mutual links in order to discuss together issues of common concern and to work to promote good relations on campus. Future work in pursuit of these aims is under discussion between our bodies, and also with the Inter Faith Network and the National Union of Students. This includes a programme of activities and of training opportunities to help students of different faiths on the UK's campuses to work with confidence and commitment to promote understanding and respect on campus between those of different faiths and beliefs."

Baha'i Youth Committee for England; Catholic Student Forum (Catholic Youth Service); British Organisation of Sikh Students; Federation of Student Islamic Societies; National Hindu Students Forum; Student Christian Movement; Union of Jewish Students; Young Jains; and Young Zoroastrians.

May 2007



Ronnie Millar and Simrit Kaur Sandhu



Bijal Bhagwan and Parizad Avari



Preet Majithia and Rev Jeremy Clines



Daniella Shaw

Challenge Unit (ECU) held a consultation meeting on 'Building Good Relations on Campus'. The meeting brought together a range of those interested in this topic, including representatives of national student religious bodies and from Alif-Aleph, Council of Christians and Jews, Diversity and Dialogue and Three Faiths Forum. The day was chaired by Brian Pearce, the Network's Director, and Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive of the ECU. Harriet Crabtree, then the Network's Deputy Director, gave a presentation looking at

inter faith activity in the UK and the significance of good inter faith relations on campus and offered some preliminary reflections on taking this agenda forward. This was followed by national perspectives offered from a range of student organisations on the importance of working for good inter faith relations on campus. Contributors included: Jo Merrygold of the Student Christian Movement; Bijal Bhagwan of the National Hindu Students Forum; David Myers of the Union of Jewish Students; Simrit Kaur Sandhu of the British



Seminar participants



Alyaa Ebbiary



Tina Mistry

Organisation of Sikh Students; and Sabeen Akhund of the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS). Additional input was offered by Richard Cunningham of UCCF (the Christian Unions); Adam Berry of the Catholic Student Forum; Parizad Avari and Tina Mistry of Young Zoroastrians; Alyaa Ebbiary of FOSIS; and Nava Hinrichs of the Baha'i Youth Committee for England.

Moussa Haddad of the Equality Challenge Unit then spoke on the role of ECU and the work it has undertaken recently on promoting good relations on campus, within the context of its work on equality and diversity on campus.

After discussion, a presentation was given by Ronnie Millar, Director, Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland about the importance of creating safe spaces for encounter and dialogue.

Co-convenor of the University of Cambridge Faith Forum, Preet Majithia, then talked about this recently formed example of a student multi faith forum and Sarah Talcott, Inter-Faith Education Officer at the University of Surrey, gave an overview of work to develop a multi faith student council there and of the wide ranging programme of inter faith activities which she and colleagues were taking forward with support from a grant from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. This was followed by a presentation from Rev Hugh Shilson-Thomas, National Adviser for Higher Education and Chaplaincy, Church of England, on chaplaincies and their role in helping build good inter faith relations on campus.

The report of the conference was widely circulated and can be downloaded from www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/campus.pdf.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK: 20 years of working together for inter faith understanding and cooperation

The Network's National Meeting 2007

This year's annual National Meeting of the Inter Faith Network took place on 16 July at the TechnoCentre in Coventry. Chaired by Network Co-Chairs Bishop Tom Butler and Dr Nawal Prinja, it marked 20 years of the work of the Inter Faith Network with its member bodies to promote good inter faith relations. It was a chance to celebrate achievements and also consider opportunities and challenges ahead.

A 20th anniversary cake was officially cut by outgoing and newly elected Officers and by the retiring Director and representatives of the four categories of Network membership. At this ceremony Venerable Tawalama Bandula of the Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha and a Network Vice-Chair during 2006-07 offered some words on the achievements of the Network and the importance of the harmonious spirit of friendship characterising the relationships it has helped build. He spoke of the endeavours of member bodies, trustees and staff who, across the years, have helped the work come this far.

“This is a time to give thanks, each in our own way, for the mutual hospitality, friendship and respect that have characterised the first 20 years of the Network's work ... I pray that our work continues in the same peaceable, cooperative and effective way that it has done since 1987.”

Venerable Tawalama Bandula

the inter faith network for the uk



Dr Indarjit Singh

“Today we are going to look back at 20 years of work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. It's an amazing journey - from the germ of an idea back in the mid 1980s to a nationally and internationally recognised body ...

The Network began in 1987, as it is today, as a network of organisations – although only 60 then, compared to over 150 member bodies today. As today, they were drawn from four categories: national faith community representative bodies; local inter faith groups; national inter faith bodies; and educational and academic bodies with a focus on inter faith issues. They were united in a commitment to promote good inter faith relations at every level in Britain and to increase awareness about, and between, faiths – both their distinctive dimensions and those aspects that they have in common. This same commitment is shared by today's member bodies.”

Dr Indarjit Singh

Looking back across 20 years

Dr Indarjit Singh, Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations and a Network Vice-Chair, reflected on some of the most significant developments of the Network's first 20 years. Chas Raws, Secretary, Merseyside Council of Faiths and member of the Society of Friends, and Urmi Raval, one of the Inter Faith Network's Project Officers, gave an illustrated joint presentation on 20 years of local inter faith work, looking at how this vital area of work has developed and the Network's role in this. Their presentations, and those of other speakers, can be found in the full report on the day which is available from the Network office or can be downloaded from www.interfaith.org.uk.



Chas Raws

It is hard to gauge with exactness the tremendous impact of the Inter Faith Network on inter faith relations in the UK. But the contributions at the meeting pointed to its evidence in almost every area of inter faith endeavour: The Network's resource publications (such as *The Local Inter Faith Guide* and *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory*) and its advice and information service and regional link meetings have helped support the development of an extensive number of local inter faith groups. Its 1988 seminars with the



Urmi Raval

CRE in the wake of the Rushdie Affair and its Faith and Public Life programme (started in 1991) has raised awareness within Government and other public agencies about the importance of religious identity. It worked with the Millennium Unit of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the faith communities to create the Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment which took place at the House of Lords as part of the Official Millennium celebrations and this was a watershed in involvement of faith communities in UK public life. Subsequent work assisting the Government in work on the Golden Jubilee and, in particular, to arrange the Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum, has borne rich fruit in the many youth forums which have been inspired by that. Participants at the National Meeting also reflected on the extensive engagement of the Inter Faith Network with the development of learning about inter faith issues in Religious Education and its role in relation to the involvement of women in inter faith activity – from its conferences with the Women's National Commission in the early 90s through to the special report last year on women's inter faith activity in the UK.

One of the characteristics of the Inter Faith Network, on which participants commented, is that it has always been a place where there has been a willingness to grapple with the tougher aspects of inter religious interaction and of engagement between faith communities and wider society. It has also been a place where there is a strong commitment to proceeding, wherever possible, by consensus.

And looking forward to new challenges and opportunities

Afternoon discussion groups were facilitated by Professor Brian Gates, Chair, RE Council for England and Wales; Rev Dr John Hall, Chair, West Midlands Faiths Forum; Pramila Kaur, Chief Executive of the Scottish Inter Faith Council; Dorab Mistry, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe; Deepak Naik, Minorities of Europe; and Ann Noonan, Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops for England and Wales. Participants discussed the particular strengths of past work of the Inter Faith Network on which they thought it should build for the future; how its role might develop most fruitfully across the coming years; whether there were any particular needs or tasks they wanted to identify; and how the framework of the Network, and the links which it provides can best be used to work together to deepen inter faith understanding and cooperation in Britain. Stella Opoku-Owusu, Network Project Officer, gave a short feedback of key points to the plenary.



Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra



Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick

In the final plenary session panelists Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Chair of the Inter Faith Relations Committee of Muslim Council of Britain, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, Chair of the World Congress of Faiths, and Dr Harriet Crabtree, then the Network's Deputy Director, reflected on some of the key themes that emerged during the day.

Thank you to Brian Pearce

The day ended with thanks and a presentation to Brian Pearce, to mark his twenty years as Director of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. Dr Manazir Ahsan, Director General of the Islamic Foundation and Network Vice-Chair, spoke on behalf of the Trustees and members of the Inter Faith Network. He noted the remarkable gift of time and skill which Brian had made, full time on a voluntary basis, since the Network was founded. Bishop Tom Butler added his personal appreciation and read out a range of tributes that had been received which reflected the enormous affection for, and appreciation of, Brian Pearce of

member bodies and those who have worked with him over the years. His admirable spirit of selfless service, knowledgeable, constancy, kindness and commitment were remarked upon by the many who had submitted the tributes. His contribution to the religious life of the UK was epitomised in the words of Dorab Mistry, who said “Brian, you have made an enormous contribution to the social and religious life of the UK. When the history of race relations and faith community interaction of the UK is written, your name shall be written in letters of gold.”

Following a presentation of a bouquet to Brian Pearce’s wife Michelle, whose support of the Network has also been of enormous importance, Dr Crabtree joined Dr Ahsan to present to Brian a series of gifts to mark his retirement as Director. In his response Brian Pearce thanked his wife, Michelle, who had helped him to organise the first planning meetings in the mid 1980s which led to the formation of the Network, for all her support and encouragement; his colleagues in the Network office and most particularly Dr Crabtree, who had been with the Network since 1990 and would be taking over as the Network’s Director in September; and all the Network’s member bodies and Trustees, past and present. He said that he had been enriched personally by the time he had spent as the Network’s Director and thanked everyone for “twenty endlessly fascinating and rewarding years”. Those present at the meeting responded with a standing ovation.



Brian Pearce, Dr Harriet Crabtree and Dr Manazir Ahsan

“The Network has a particular role to play in the inter faith field but so do all its member bodies, whether they are inter faith organisations working at UK, national, regional or local level or our national representative bodies of our different faith communities or are at work in the educational and academic field. We have, I believe, been stronger, through working together towards shared goals. There is always more to do. But collectively we have made great strides in the last twenty years and there is now a much greater understanding in our society of the importance of good inter faith relations.”

From Brian Pearce’s closing reflections



Responding to Brian Pearce's closing reflections



Michelle Pearce, Venerable Bandula and Venerable Seewali listening to a presentation



Dr Elizabeth Harris,
Dr Nawal Prinja and
Canon Andrew Wingate



Professor Brian Gates, Barbara Butler, Manjula Sood, Barney Leith, Brian Pearce, Dr Nawal Prinja, Venerable Bandula, Neville Nagler, Dr Manazir Ahsan and Jagjiwan Singh



Listening to the closing reflections



Moulana M. Shahid Raza and Professor Brian Gates



Resham Singh Sandhu and Pramila Kaur

Faith and citizenship

Across recent years, there has been an increasing focus on what it means to be a citizen – for example about the nature of citizens' rights and responsibilities and how the different aspects of our identity contribute to, and shape, our sense of belonging and citizenship.

“...It is arguably the ‘procedural values’, or the ethics of how we relate to one another and which underpin the essential process of mutual engagement, which are of particular importance in making a reality of shared citizenship in an increasingly plural society: acceptance of the rule of law, support for the democratic process and a willingness of all people of goodwill to work together for the common good. We also need to value the virtues of courtesy and good neighbourliness and the shared norms of public behaviour which are crucial for promoting a positive encounter between people on a day to day basis. But the tradition of tolerance as a fundamental value of our society is also important – a tolerance which sets some limits on what constitutes acceptable behaviour, but is also ready to accept differences in practice and behaviour which are clearly not harmful or deeply offensive to others.

As part of its ongoing Faith and Citizenship project the Network office worked this year with the Executive Committee and member bodies on a reflection document *Faith, Citizenship and Shared Life in Britain Today* (to be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/faihcitizenship2.pdf).

In early July this year, the Government published a document, *The Governance of Britain*, setting out a wide

Tolerance by itself is, of course, not enough. We need to go beyond it to constructive engagement with one another on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. It is in this engagement that the boundaries of mutual tolerance are themselves renegotiated in a continuing process.

Engagement requires the opportunity for positive encounter between individuals and communities. While recognising and appreciating the legitimate desire of people to live and socialise principally with others of similar background, it is important to encourage much greater interaction between different groups within British society as part of the vital process of promoting greater mutual understanding and cooperation between them.”

Excerpt from 'Faith, Citizenship and Shared Life in Britain Today'

range of proposals relating to constitutional arrangements in Britain. The document announced that the Government intends “through an inclusive process of national debate to develop a British statement of values that will set out the ideals and principles that bind us together as a nation”. It says that the Government wishes to build on the current and ongoing work of various “expert and representative groups” and that the debate will provide valuable insights into national views on citizenship and Britishness. The Network will be contributing to this process, building on the work which it has done on these topics in recent years. It will also be contributing to discussion on the independent review of citizenship which Lord Goldsmith is carrying out on a personal basis at the request of the Prime Minister.

Faith expressed in dress and symbol

During the summer and autumn of 2006 there was considerable public debate about the wearing in public of items of religious dress and of religious symbols in a religiously diverse society like Britain. The *hijab*, *niqab* and cross were a focus of particular attention but dress and symbols of other faiths also drew attention. At times the views and concerns expressed showed a lack of appreciation of the reasons why religious dress and symbols are significant to the wearers or made the inappropriate assumption that a person is somehow less ‘British’ or less of

a full member of this society because of the practices they follow.

The Network’s Executive Committee worked this year to produce a short guidance document, *Wearing of Religious Dress and Symbols*. This sets out the wider context for discussion about religious dress and symbols: the deeply held beliefs which underlie choices about the wearing of these; the need for courteous and sensitive handling of the issues involved; and some of the factors to be taken into account in considering limits on the wearing of particular items for reasons of security, organisational corporate identity or health and safety.

The reflections close with a statement of three basic principles:

- The wearing in public of religious dress and symbols can be an important aspect of an individual’s religious identity and discussion about the wearing of these should at all times be conducted in a courteous and sensitive way.
- A choice to wear religious dress and symbols should be respected wherever other overriding factors such as security or health and safety do not come into play. There are situations in which some compromise is needed. However, any restrictions – whether because of the need to establish personal identity or because of the requirements of a particular job or the wearing of a uniform

in accordance with the policy of a school or other corporate body – should only be imposed where these requirements are clearly necessary and after appropriate consultation.

- Careful and sensitive handling of issues linked to the wearing of religious dress and symbols is part of the wider commitment of our society to religious freedom and to valuing diversity alongside the shared pursuit of the common good.

The full document can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk/religiousdress.pdf

Cohesion and integration

As mentioned in the last Annual Review, Dr Harriet Crabtree, then the Network's Deputy Director, was among the members of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, appointed in September 2006 by Ruth Kelly, then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Commission was chaired by Darra Singh, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Ealing. The Commissioners were appointed on a personal basis for their practical experience of community cohesion issues and not as direct representatives of their organisation or community, but Dr Crabtree was able to draw on her experience of the work of the Network office in the contribution she made to the Commission's work and she was asked by its

Chair to lead on its engagement with the faith sector. Its final report, *Our Shared Future*, was published in June and contained a wide ranging set of recommendations for practical action to address cohesion and integration issues at local level, along with suggestions for a national framework to support these.

The Commission's report reflected a programme of commissioned research; visits by Commissioners to a number of communities in England to hear about the barriers to integration and cohesion in different local situations; and conversations with researchers and practitioners working on integration and cohesion related projects. It also reflected the 600+ responses to its earlier consultation paper and these included a very high level of return from the faith and inter faith sectors. Although the focus of the Commission was on England, Commissioners also visited Northern Ireland and Scotland to explore how issues of integration and cohesion are being handled there and to hear about particular examples of good practice.

Overall, the Commission's report has a strong emphasis on interaction and shared citizenship and faith and inter faith issues are seen through this lens. The report notes the fact that "Religious faith is profoundly important to those whose lives it shapes" and that it "is potentially a unifying force within society". At the same time, it notes that "At times religious identity can be advanced in divisive ways or can become a factor which

separates people from the wider community – for example in many of the areas where ‘parallel lives’ are most in evidence.” It underlines the importance of inter faith engagement:

“We believe that the way relations between people of different faiths and beliefs develop in the coming years in England’s diverse local areas will be very important to integration and cohesion.”

Commission on Integration and Cohesion

The Network office has been in discussion, following the publication of the report, with the Department for Communities and Local Government about the development by CLG of an inter faith strategy. Work on this is currently under way with likely publication of a consultation document in December.

As well as stressing the importance of inter faith engagement, the report also highlights the need for broader intercultural dialogue and for a more constructive conversation between those who are religious and those who are not. The Network’s past Director, Brian Pearce, has been invited by the Network, in his new role of part time Adviser, Faith and Public Life, to look particularly at this issue during the coming year.

The report notes the important contribution that faith groups make to the life of local communities. However, in its recommendations it picks up the fact that this contribution could be strengthened

if there was a higher level of ‘religious literacy’ on the part of public agencies and recommends that “faith communities should be encouraged to work with Government, the Local Government Association for England and Wales and other relevant agencies to develop a programme to increase ‘religious literacy’”. The report notes also a possible under use of faith-based bodies by some local authorities “due we think in part to the lack of understanding about faith groups, but also to a squeamishness about the possibility of their proselytising... [and] some evidence of a concern that engaging with faith groups might undermine the inclusiveness of the local authority’s wider strategies.” It recommends that “A set of clear guidelines should be developed to enable local authorities and others to be able to award public service contracts to faith based bodies without fear that there will be issues over whether this will lead to proselytising or pressure on users of services to accept the religious beliefs of the providers.” The Network has already been involved in discussions on how these two pieces of work might best be taken forward.

The Commission also recommended that “local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships conduct a brief ‘audit’ of opportunities for cross-cultural and inter faith engagement in their areas.

During the summer, the Network office began discussion with the Local Government Association about work which might look at how local authorities are working on inter faith issues

and whether there might be a case for some partnership work on this area, building on past partnership work on the Network's 2003 survey of the pattern of local inter faith activity in the UK.

A letter from Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to the Chair of the Commission, Darra Singh, published this October, has outlined priorities in responding to the report. A further Government response is anticipated early next year.

Faith communities working together

The Inter Faith Network links in membership national representative bodies of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faith communities.

The UK's faith communities are developing and deepening their inter faith working and an increasing number of their representative bodies have appointed people specifically to take forward their inter faith work. This is a very helpful development not only in facilitating engagement with other faith communities but also in promoting greater understanding within faith communities of the importance of good inter faith relations. Participation in the Network is a key context for faith communities' work 'side by side' on issues relating to public life and social action and for their work 'face to face',

talking with each other and encouraging local members to do so about a range of issues from religious beliefs, to past history, to present shared commitment to building a society respecting distinctive beliefs but rooted firmly in shared values.

The Network's Faith Communities Forum, established in 2003, has continued during the past year to be an important instrument in facilitating discussion at national level between faith community representatives on issues of common concern, particularly those relating to public policy issues. At its meeting in February members reaffirmed the importance of maintaining its role as an independent meeting place for faith community representative bodies.

Engaging with public policy issues

Good inter faith relations can only flourish where people of different faiths feel valued and active members of society. The Network office has worked through the year to brief its member bodies on relevant issues to support the faith communities' work together in the sphere of shared engagement with public life issues. It has continued to encourage Government and other agencies, at UK, regional and local level, to involve the faith communities in discussion about policy and service delivery. In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the member national linking inter faith

bodies have also carried forward this work.

The Network's relationships with Government departments and other public bodies are very important in its work of building good inter faith relations. Its main link with the Government is through the Cohesion and Faiths Unit in the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). But it is also in touch with other Government Departments including the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

A Faith Communities Consultative Council (FCCC) meets within the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Network office is directly represented on this. The FCCC has met three times in the course of the year. At its meeting on 28 February Brian Pearce, the then Director of the Network, gave a presentation on the role of local inter faith forums. At the FCCC meeting on 6 June there was discussion on the CLG's document on "Preventing Violent Extremism – winning hearts and minds", which had been published in April. In the light of concern which had been expressed at an earlier meeting of the Network's Executive Committee at the lack of engagement with faith communities generally on these issues, prior to the publication of this document, the Network office suggested a separate event be arranged for faith communities to have more extended discussion on the issues raised by that document. This meeting was held at the end of August and presentations were made

to it by the Head of CLG's Preventing Violent Extremism Unit; from the Charity Commission on plans for its new Faith and Social Cohesion Unit; and from the Director of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education on plans for a continuing professional development programme for faith leaders.

The new Equality and Human Rights Commission

As the last Annual Review reported, the Equality Act 2006 made provision for the setting up of a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The strands of discrimination work brought together in the Commission relate to race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age and religion and belief. It began its operations this autumn under its adjusted name of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. While the new Commission was 'open for business' from 1 October, it will not be operational in all respects for a little while.

The three key 'pillars' of its work are to be 'equality/discrimination', 'human rights' and 'good relations' (including good 'inter faith' relations). The Equality Act requires the new body to give particular attention in its work on 'good relations' to issues relating to race and religion/belief. It is not yet clear how the new Commission will carry out its functions in relation to 'good relations' but it has affirmed that it intends to proceed in full consultation

with interested parties as it develops its work.

At the time of last year's Annual Review, Trevor Phillips, then Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, had been appointed to chair the new body. At that stage it had not been decided whether the CRE would be joining this in the autumn of 2007 alongside the Disability Rights Commission and the Equality Opportunities Commission, but it was subsequently agreed that it should do so. Staff from those three Commissions who have chosen to join the new Commission became members of its staff on 1 October when it became operational (having come into being as a legal entity at the end of 2006 following the appointment of a number of Commissioners in addition to Trevor Phillips as Chair).

During the transition to the new body there have been meetings with a wide range of the new Commission's key stakeholder organisations, including the Inter Faith Network and the Religion and Belief Consultative Group. The Network's then Director, Brian Pearce, attended meetings between Commissioners and representatives of a range of organisations in April and in September.

The Religion and Belief Consultative Group, which the Network helped to facilitate, as mentioned in earlier Annual Reviews, brings together faith community representative bodies and representatives of the British Humanist

Association and the National Secular Society. It has met regularly over the last year to review developments in the equality field. The Network office is represented at its meetings and also at meetings of the Equality and Diversity Forum which brings together representatives from organisations linked to all the six 'strands' with which the EHRC is statutorily engaged.

Equalities Review and Discrimination Law Review

The Equalities Review, chaired by Trevor Phillips, was established by the Government to carry out an investigation into the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society. Its final report, published at the end of February, recommended a ten step programme for making Britain a fairer and more equal society. These steps include supporting employers to take positive action, an enforcement regime overseen by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and targeted action on the most persistent inequalities. The report will be an important starting point for the work of the new Commission.

In June the Government published a lengthy consultation document setting out proposals for a Single Equality Bill covering Great Britain (ie England, Scotland and Wales). These proposals were developed through the Discrimination Law Review which was launched in February 2005. The Government subsequently announced that

it is considering publishing such a bill, in draft, in the next Parliamentary session.

This document and consultation on it will contribute to the shaping of equalities legislation for Great Britain, including provisions relating to discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief. Among the many issues it addressed, the Review proposed the retention in a new Single Equality Bill of the present exemptions for religion or belief organisations from existing requirements dealing with discrimination in the fields of employment and vocational training; and in the supply of goods, facilities, services and premises under legislation on discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief and on the grounds of sexual orientation. It also opened up discussion on whether the duty on public authorities to promote equality should be extended to cover religion and belief.

The Network office has ensured that both these consultations and their outcomes were drawn to the attention of all its member bodies and has taken part in discussion on them in the Religion and Belief Consultative Group and the Equality and Diversity Forum.

Incitement to religious hatred

Last year's Review reported on the enactment of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act in February 2006. The legislation, which applies only to England and Wales, came into force on 1 October.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Last year's Review reported on the handling of the first round of grants from the Government's new Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund and reported that a second round of the fund had opened for grants for 2007-08. The fund has been administered by the Community Development Foundation and its establishment was first announced in the Government's *Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society* strategy in 2005. A further round has been overseen by CDF in the current year. In March, the Network was pleased to co-badge a conference organised by CDF on "Integration: If not now, when?" and the then Deputy Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree, spoke at this.

Third Sector developments

As noted elsewhere, the final report of the Government's review *The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration* was published in late July by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) in the Cabinet Office. It sets out a strategy to promote the partnership between the Government and the third sector over the next ten years. The main aims outlined in the report are to help give third sector organisations a greater voice and to work with the sector to strengthen communities, transform public services, encourage social enterprise and support the conditions for the sector to thrive.

The Government intends to give third sector organisations more of a voice and to ensure that they are able to speak out and represent their communities. The OTS is planning to create a single advisory body drawing in expertise from across the third sector.

The report says that the OTS will champion and provide support to Government departments wishing to provide strategic and long term funding to third sector organisations to provide a consistent voice in public policy making, alongside the development or updating of departmental third sector strategies. In this context the Department for Communities and Local Government is planning to develop a strategic partnership programme for engaging third sector organisations to provide a strategic voice and to support local action in the Department's policy areas and it plans to develop a new strategic partners grant programme providing core funding over a three year period for strategic partners.

A 'Third Sector Network' has been under development across the last year and the Inter Faith Network office has been part of discussions on this and about possible ways to engage faith communities more widely.

Global issues, local engagement

The Inter Faith Network's focus is on the UK but in the course of the year it has made two particular contributions to work at European and at Commonwealth level.

A discussion on "Respect and Understanding" was a notable feature of the discussion among the 53 Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Malta in November 2005. As part of the follow up to this by the Commonwealth Secretariat in the course of the past year the Network has contributed to work on ways to promote understanding and respect between different faith communities. The Network office has also met with the Commonwealth Foundation to discuss the possibility of increased engagement between the work of the Foundation and local inter faith structures in the UK.

The European Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe held a meeting in Montchanin in Burgundy from 22 to 24 November, as part of a broader programme of work by the Council of Europe on the preparation of a White Paper on inter cultural dialogue. The meeting was attended by the Network's Director at the time, Brian Pearce, at the request of the International Bureau of the Local Government Association. Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, of the World Congress of Faiths, and Mrs

Anjum Anwar and Canon Chris Chivers from Blackburn also attended the meeting, which examined good practice at local level across Europe in inter cultural and inter faith dialogue. Brian Pearce was invited to give a presentation on the engagement of local authorities in the UK with inter faith activity and the context for this.

During the year, the Inter Faith Network has helped a number of initiatives, such as One World Week, to work with local inter faith groups to look at global issues.

Inter Faith Network membership

At the Network's Annual General Meeting, held in Coventry on 16 July twenty one organisations were accepted into membership:

- Blackpool Faith Forum
- Bradford District Faiths Forum
- Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme
- Centre for Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue at Heythrop College in the University of London
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [in place of its Commission on Inter Faith Relations]
- Churches Together in England
- Crawley Interfaith Network
- Faiths Forum for the East Midlands

- Horsham Interfaith Forum
- Joseph Interfaith Foundation
- Keighley Interfaith Group
- Faith Network for Manchester
- Middlesbrough Council of Faiths
- Portsmouth Interfaith Forum
- Redbridge Faith Forum
- Rugby Inter Faith Forum
- St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
- St Philip's Centre for Study and Engagement in a Multi Faith Society
- Swansea Faiths Forum
- Tameside Interfaith Network
- Westminster Faith Exchange

This brings the total number of Network member bodies at the present time to 150.

The AGM also noted that the Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations, in the University of Cambridge, (which had been in Network membership since 2004) now forms part of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, which also incorporates the new Centre for the Study of Jewish-Muslim Relations which was set up in 2006 and that the membership details have been adjusted accordingly.

As part of the ongoing review of the structures and patterns of Network membership the AGM agreed:

- that the present four categories of membership should be retained;

- to amend the membership criteria for local inter faith organisations to open membership to bilateral/trilateral groups and groups in less diverse areas;
- to introduce criteria for membership by educational and academic bodies;
- that the range of religious traditions from which faith community representative bodies in membership of the Network are drawn should remain unchanged at present;
- that a 'college' system of voting should not be pursued but rather that "A resolution should be brought forward for adoption at the 2008 AGM to amend the Network's constitution by providing that 75% or more of votes cast would be needed to carry a resolution dealing with membership issues if a minimum of ten member organisations request this"; and that "ahead of the 2008 AGM legal advice should be taken by the Executive Committee on the drafting of the resolution."

Trustees

At the AGM, Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler was re-elected as a Co-Chair and Dr Nawal Prinja was elected as a Co-Chair in succession to Jagjiwan Singh. Dr Manazir Ahsan was re-elected as a Vice-Chair for the coming year. Dr Natubhai Shah, Dr Indarjit Singh and Vivian Wineman were elected Vice-Chairs. Venerable Tawalama Bandula and Neville Nagler, who had served on the



Jagjiwan Singh receiving a thank you bouquet from Network Project Officer, Stella Opoko-Owusu

Committee since 1991 stood down as Vice-Chairs. The retiring Co-Chair and Vice-Chairs were warmly thanked for their contribution.

Others who stood down from the Executive Committee included Dr Fatma Amer, who had served on the Committee since 1999, Dr Elizabeth Harris, who had served on the Committee since 2002, and Dina Gold, who had served on the Committee since 1995. Harsha Trivedi did not stand for re-election. All who stood down were thanked for the important contribution which they had made.

Sughra Ahmed, Rev Peter Colwell and Aviva Dautch (all of whom are new to the Committee) and Nitin Palan (who was a Committee member from 1999 to 2006) were elected to serve on the Committee for the coming year.

Executive Committee Members 2007-08

Co-Chairs

Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler
Dr Nawal Prinja

Vice-Chairs

Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE
Dr Natubhai K Shah
Dr Indarjit Singh OBE
Mr Vivian Wineman

Treasurer

Mr Ramesh Shah

Other Executive Committee members

Ms Sughra Ahmed
Ven Tawalama Bandula
Mr Sudarshan Bhatia
Rev Peter Colwell
Ms Aviva Dautch
Professor Brian Gates
Mr David Gifford
Ms Pramila Kaur
Mr Ayub Laher
Mr Shabbir Lakha
Hon Barnabas Leith
Mr Yann Lovelock
Mr Dorab Mistry

Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Mrs Ann Noonan
Mrs Regina O'Callaghan
Rev Daniel Otieno-Ndale
Mr Nitin Palan
Rabbi Alan Plancey
Dr Narayan Rao
Moulana M. Shahid Raza
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid
Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE
Mr Alan Schwartz MBE
Ms Priti Shah
Mr Jagjiwan Singh
Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick
Rev Guy Wilkinson

Staff

Brian Pearce continued to serve as the Network's Director until the beginning of September. He has now taken on a part time role at the Network as Adviser on Faith and Public Life. Dr Harriet Crabtree worked as the Network's Deputy Director until September 2007 when she took over from Brian Pearce as Director. Gaylina Nguyen has continued to serve as its Finance and Administration Assistant and Hannah Mercer, from the ProspectUs employment agency, as its PA/Administrator. Urmi Raval and Stella Opoku-Owusu began working as Project Officers (Regional and Local Inter Faith Support) for the Network in April. Bhupinder Singh continues to design and maintain the Network's website.



Urmi Raval, Gaylina Nguyen, Hannah Mercer
and Stella Opoku-Owusu at the Network's National Meeting

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2006

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2006 £	Total 2005 £
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income	8,215	268,937	277,152	292,216
Investment Income	–	3,950	3,950	4,256
Incoming resources from charitable activities	–	10,867	10,867	9,815
Total incoming resources	8,215	283,754	291,969	306,287
Resources expended				
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income				
Charitable Activities	677	12,329	13,006	17,411
Consultation, Information and Advice	6,093	99,720	105,813	102,502
Meetings and Conferences	4,232	70,997	75,229	52,461
Publications	–	6,145	62,924	69,069
Governance Costs	1,862	31,971	33,833	32,627
Total resources expended	19,009	277,941	296,950	267,489
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year				
	(10,794)	5,813	(4,981)	38,798
Funds brought forward	10,794	108,667	119,461	80,663
Total funds carried forward	–	114,480	114,480	119,461

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing. All the charitable company's recognised gains and losses are shown above. The movement on reserves is shown above.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2006

	£	2006 £	£	2005 £
Tangible Fixed Assets		9,794		17,440
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	57,641		54,585	
Cash at bank	56,430		82,467	
	<u>114,071</u>		<u>137,052</u>	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	9,385		35,031	
Net Current Assets		<u>104,686</u>		<u>102,021</u>
Net Assets		<u>114,480</u>		<u>119,461</u>
Funds				
Restricted Funds		–		10,794
Unrestricted Funds		114,480		108,667
Total Funds		<u>114,480</u>		<u>119,461</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 4 July 2007 and signed on their behalf by Jagjiwan Singh, Co-Chair.

Supporters in 2006

The Inter Faith Network's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through support from faith communities, Government, trusts and individuals supportive of its work, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies.

The Trustees of the Network thank most warmly all those who have given financial support to its work during the calendar year 2006 and also those who have given the gift of time to help it work for good relations between the faiths in the UK.

Trusts, Foundations and Companies

Ardwick Trust
Joy Cohen Charitable Trust
P H Holt Charitable Trust
Rest Harrow Trust
Roger Vere Foundation
Tolkien Trust
Triodos Foundation
Van Neste Foundation
Westminster Foundation
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust

Government Funding

During 2006 the Network received a strategy grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (previously from the Home Office).

Faith Community Organisations

The Network's member faith communities provide funding towards the Network's budget on a structured basis, with contributions varying in amount with some reference to the relative sizes of the different communities. The sources of contributions received in 2006 have varied from community to community. In some cases these have included donations from individuals, who are included in the lists of that category of donor.*

Board of Deputies of British Jews
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Committee for Other Faiths
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Community Security Trust
Hindu Council (UK)
Institute of Jainology
Liberal Judaism
Methodist Racial Justice Projects Fund
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is

* A number of faith community contributions for 2006 came in at the end of 2005 and were noted in last year's Review and some came in after the close of the accounting year and so will be mentioned in next year's Review.

Movement for Reform Judaism
Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara Hounslow
United Reformed Church
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Other Donors *

Focolare Movement
Devizes Religious Society of Friends
Mid Essex Inter Faith Forum
Sheffield Inter Faith
Ven Tawalama Bandula
Mr Anil Bhanot
Mrs Lorna Barbour
Rev David Clark
Mrs Elizabeth Crabtree
Mr Nihal Indrajith De Silva
Rev Freda Evans
Mr J A Ewan
Ms Dina Gold

Mr Vernon and Mrs Margaret Griffiths
Mr Tom Gulliver
Rt Revd Graham James
Mr Andy Lie
Rev W Roy Pape
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Kay Ramsey
Ms Clare Salters
Mr Rashid Siddiqui
Mr Harbans Singh Sethi
Mrs Patricia Smith
David Stevens
Rev Richard Tetlow
The late Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana
Mr Julian Wall
Mrs Joan Wattam
Rt Rev Roy Williamson

And others who kindly gave donations but prefer not to be listed...

*These include donations from a number of individuals as part of the structured funding from faith communities.

Further information about the Inter Faith Network can be found on its website: www.interfaith.org.uk or by writing to the Network office.

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