



The Inter Faith Network for the UK

2003-2004 ANNUAL REVIEW

A message from the Network's Co-Chairs

The Inter Faith Network continues to make a vital contribution to deepening good inter faith relations in this country.

There have been some important new developments during the year. In particular, we are proud to have produced two significant publications which have both received a warm welcome: *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory* and *Connect: Different Faiths Shared Values*. The directory is a valuable resource for all those engaged in inter faith activity. It reflects in its entries the substantial increase in the number of national and local inter faith organisations in recent years. Everyone recognises the great importance of engaging young people in inter faith activity, but until now there has been a shortage of resources for this. *Connect* is an invaluable new resource specially written for the 16-25 age group. It is the fruit of collaboration between the Network, TimeBank and the National Youth Agency and has been widely welcomed.

On other fronts, the Network's new Faith Communities Consultative Forum now provides an important framework for dialogue and cooperation between faith communities at national level. The year has also been one of intensive involvement, on the part of Network staff, trustees and member bodies, in several major consultation exercises launched by the Government: in particular, an important and wide-ranging review of Government consultation with faith communities and preparatory work towards the establishment of a single Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

Yet the year has also been marked by growing concern about the Network's precarious financial position. We are working hard with member faith communities and others to secure the resources that are needed to enable the Network's important role to be sustained in the period ahead. If you are not already one of its supporters, we would be delighted if you would like to become one and help the Network to continue its vital work.

We offer our warm thanks to all those who have contributed to the work of the Network during this past year, and in particular to its staff and to Rosalind Preston who stood down at the 2004 AGM after serving, with much appreciated commitment and wisdom, for three years as Co-Chair.



Thomas Southwell

Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler

Jagjivan Singh

Mr Jagjivan Singh

Supporting grassroots inter faith work

Local inter faith organisations are vital contributors to the work of developing respect, understanding and social cooperation between people of different faiths in cities, towns and rural areas across the UK.

There are now some 180 local inter faith bodies operating in the UK, around 40% of which have come into existence in the last two years. The Inter Faith Network helps support new initiatives

and works with existing local inter faith bodies to share good practice so that they can develop and strengthen their programmes. It also helps raise the profile of local groups so that more people become involved in their work. It does this through direct advice and support, publications, and meetings.

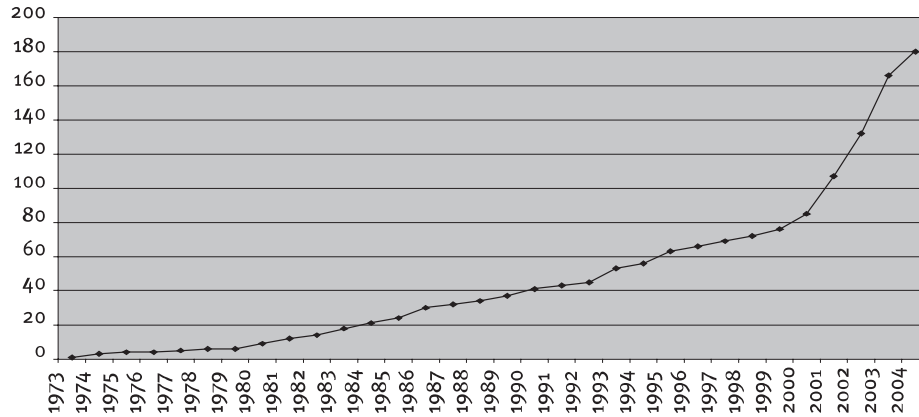
Network staff make regular visits to different parts of the UK to discuss inter faith work in progress. Just a few of this year's visits were those to Bradford, to talk with Bradford Vision, members of the Bradford Council of Mosques and the "Inner Ring Group" of the Bradford

DERMOT CARLIN, HARROW COUNCIL



Harrow Inter Faith Council members in the local authority council chamber

Growth in local interfaith bodies 1973–2004



Churches about the development of a forum of faiths for Bradford; to Huddersfield to contribute to an “inter faith day” organised by Huddersfield Inter Faith Council; and to Brighton to discuss the establishment of a Sussex Faith Forum.

The Network office also responds to requests for information and assistance from local inter faith groups. Typical questions this year were:

Our local inter faith group in North East England is thinking of setting up a welcome centre. Can you give us examples of other groups that run such centres so we can make visits to talk with them about how they fund and run these?

Our local inter faith organisation plans to set up a young people’s forum. Do you have any advice on this?



CYNTHIA DICKINSON

Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship members

Helping local authorities and their partners engage with the inter faith agenda

During 2003 the Network published a major report on patterns of inter faith activity in the UK, *Inter Faith Activity in the UK: A Survey*, the research for which was carried out with support from the Community Cohesion budget of the Home Office. It also published, in association with the Home Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Local Government Association, a partner booklet on setting up and running local inter faith bodies, *Partnership for the Common Good: Inter Faith Structures and Local Government*.

The Local Government Association sent both these publications in Autumn 2003 to the Chief Executives of all local authorities in England and Wales. This has led to a sharp upswing this year in enquiries to the Network from local authorities, such as Birmingham and Blackburn with Darwen, which are in the process of reviewing and deepening aspects of their work with faith communities and inter faith bodies.

An increasing number of local authorities and local strategic partnerships are wanting to ensure that their area has a forum or council where members of the different faiths can come together to promote understanding, respect and shared action on social issues or to give input to

the projects of other bodies. They see such local inter faith structures as making an important contribution to community cohesion and are seeking the Network's advice as they work to develop or support these.

I'm working on a new inter faith website linked to a local authority initiative in East London. Can you point me to good examples of websites of other local inter faith bodies?

We are an LSP in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Our city is very multi faith but, to date, does not have a forum of faiths. Are there issues we should consider as we work towards one?

Supporting UK and national inter faith initiatives

The UK has a wide range of national inter faith organisations. Some are specific to particular parts of the UK, such as the Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum, the Scottish Inter Faith Council, and the Inter Faith Council for Wales. A number, like the World Congress of Faiths, link individuals of many faiths. Some, such as Religions for Peace UK, are chapters of world-wide organisations. There are also bodies which focus particularly on



Brian Walker, Sidney Shipton and Ajit Singh

the relationship between specific traditions, such as the Council of Christians and Jews.

Each type of national inter faith body plays an important role in providing resources for inter faith understanding and opportunities for dialogue and the Inter Faith Network helps promote awareness of their work. The Network holds a meeting each year for them to come together and share news of their activities and to discuss issues of common concern. This year's meeting took place in London in April.



Rabbi Jackie Tabick and Alfred Agius

A new directory of inter faith organisations

As Britain's religious diversity grows, so too does the number of inter faith organisations working at local, regional, national and UK wide level to promote good inter faith relations.



This year the Inter Faith Network published a new resource for inter faith work: *Inter Faith Organisations in the UK: A Directory*. It contains contact details for, and information about, the work of over 200 national, regional and local bodies.

The directory is available from the Network office for £6.50 (inc. post and packing).

“This will be an invaluable resource for identifying and engaging with inter faith organisations”

DAVID WOOD, LONDON STAKEHOLDERS – MAYOR'S OFFICE,
THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY.

Connect: Different Faiths Shared Values



Some of the toughest inter faith encounters are between young people – they ask questions and push points in ways that older members of their communities can find a challenge. At the same time, young people often bring a correspondingly greater passion and optimism about the possibility of peace and justice. It is vital that inter faith work in the UK be for young people too and this year the Network made this a priority. In June, it published, in association with TimeBank and the National Youth Agency, *Connect: Different Faiths Shared Values*.

Connect is a bright, informative inter faith action guide for young people aged 16-25. It is packed with ideas for inter faith projects which can be started and run by young people. A “Good to Talk” section provides guidelines for dialogue

and a “Shared Values” section sets out “the Golden Rule” as this is expressed in different faith traditions. The guide includes a resources section and a webpage has been set up to give further pointers: www.interfaith.org.uk/connect

The guide was written by Harriet Crabtree and Bhupinder Singh with the assistance of an advisory group of young people from different faiths, staff from the partner organisations and Network Executive Committee members and member bodies.



Participants at an inter faith youth retreat



Liverpool Community Spirit members



Blackburn Heats Volleyball Club

20,000 copies of the guide were printed and copies have been distributed around the UK by youth organisations, the National Union of Students and student religious bodies such as the Federation of Student Islamic Societies and the Union of Jewish Students, educational bodies, and faith communities. The Local Government Association sent copies to all local authorities in England and Wales. The guide has also been circulated electronically by bodies such as the British Organisation of Sikh Students. Feature articles about the guide have appeared in a number of publications, including *Young People Now* and the *Student Christian Movement* magazine. The guide has met with an extremely positive response and there have been many requests for bulk copies for distribution at events such as a major Hindu youth gathering in Leicester this summer.

Miriam Feldmann from the Jewish community worked at the Network office as a student intern for three weeks during the summer and helped promote *Connect* among student religious organisations. Miriam is currently studying Theology at Cambridge University, where she set up a Muslim-Jewish Women's Dialogue Group, one of the case studies featured in the *Connect* guide.

Funding for the project came from TimeBank, the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the National Youth Agency and the Alma Royalton Kisch Trust as well as the Network's core funders.

Photographs on pages 8-9 are from *Connect*



ANDREW BRACKENBURY

Pupils at Preston Manor High School, London



Faith Matters
Conference, Scotland

The Media and a Multi Faith Society

Working with the media to raise the profile of inter faith work is an important part of the Inter Faith Network's work. This year, the Network worked alongside the Media Trust and Respect (an initiative of TimeBank and the Prince's Trust) on a joint conference, "The Media and a Multi Faith Society". This took place in London in March. It looked at how the media and the faith communities can contribute to shaping a society in which people of different faiths live together in a spirit of cooperation, mutual respect and understanding.

"People of different faiths in the UK have much to contribute to our shared national life. As we become an increasingly diverse society it is vital that different groups relate to each other with tolerance and respect. But it is not just a matter of people of different faiths getting on well and working on shared projects – this has to be seen and heard to be done. Media coverage which contributes to greater mutual understanding and which celebrates the positive stories of cooperation has a key role to play in this."

BISHOP TOM BUTLER, CO-CHAIR INTER FAITH NETWORK AND CHAIR, CHURCHES' MEDIA COUNCIL WHO CHAIRED THE MORNING SESSION

Fiona Mactaggart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Race Equality, Community Policy, and Civil Renewal at the Home Office, in her speech to the delegates, urged faith communities and the media to work together to communicate how the different faiths contribute to creating an integrated multi faith society.



JEWISH NEWS

Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler and Fiona Mactaggart MP

Other speakers at the conference reinforced this theme of co-operation. They included: broadcaster and producer Roger Bolton; Dr Indarjit Singh, Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations; Alex Brummer, City Editor, Daily Mail and contributor to the Jewish Chronicle; Hazel Baird, from the Commission for Racial Equality; Bob Satchwell, Director, Society of Editors; Simon Cohen, freelance writer and Director of Tolerance Ltd (who also played an important part in the planning and organising of the conference); Dr Salah Beltagui, Glasgow Muslim community

and Scottish Inter Faith Council; Hari Shukla, Newcastle Council of Faiths; Carmel Heaney, Project Manager of Respect; and Nick Carter, Editor of the Leicester Mercury. The afternoon session was chaired by Caroline Diehl, Chief Executive of the Media Trust.



Bob Satchwell and Dr Indarjit Singh

All programme makers and presenters need to show more humility in their work with a religion which is not their own. We are far from a state of equal partnership between the religious media and faith practitioners. The creation of a climate of confidence and trust between the media and those of different faiths is only a beginning, but it is an important beginning. That will help us move to more sensitive issues like separating true religious teachings from dated social practices that parasitically attach themselves to religion, hiding the reality that our different faiths have much in common.

DR INDARJIT SINGH

...the main way that the media can contribute to a country where different faiths coexist harmoniously is to study those faiths, understand them, respect their adherents and attempt to report them fully and fairly and without favour, and in doing so, we hope dispel ignorance...

ROGER BOLTON



Roger Bolton

From the day, recommendations emerged for both media practitioners and faith communities on ways to achieve stronger coverage of faith and inter faith issues. These can be found in the report on the conference, which is available from the Media Trust: info@mediatrust.org

Working with faith communities

The Inter Faith Network helps promote closer working relationships between the representative bodies of the major faith communities in the UK. 26 faith community representative bodies, including umbrella bodies, from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities are currently linked by the Network. This helps in developing links of trust and friendship and enables faith communities to share information and ideas about their inter faith work and issues on the public agenda.



Debbie Gupta of the Department of Trade and Industry speaking to the Faith Communities Consultation Forum

The Network's Faith Communities Consultative Forum

The Network's new Faith Communities Consultative Forum is a particularly important tool for co-operative working. It provides a structured opportunity for regular discussion between its member faith communities at national level on issues of common concern, ranging from inter faith issues to aspects of current Government policy and legislation.

The Forum met twice in 2003-04 and looked at a wide span of consultation documents and issues such as:

- the Home Office Review of the Government's engagement with faith communities and the report on this, *Working Together: Co-operation between Government and Faith Communities*
- the Government's White Paper on the proposed Commission for Equality and Human Rights, *Fairness for All: A New Commission for Equality and Human Rights*
- the report published last June by the House of Lords Select Committee on Religious Offences and the Home Office's response to this
- broader questions about additional legal protection against religious discrimination
- faith community representations on the provisions in the European Constitution relating to religion and to faith communities

- the possibility of a multi faith group on media issues
- the review of the BBC Charter and the Office for Communications (Ofcom) review of public service television broadcasting.

“The Forum is welcomed by Government as it aids cohesion and provides an articulate partner for discussions.”

WORKING TOGETHER: COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND FAITH COMMUNITIES, HOME OFFICE REPORT 2004

Under its terms of reference the Forum itself does not issue statements on behalf of faith communities collectively or take policy decisions on their behalf. However, its meetings provide valuable opportunities for member faith communities to become aware of the attitudes of other communities on current issues and can, as a result, facilitate the formation of informal coalitions on particular issues.

For example, following discussion at the December Forum meeting about the House of Lords Select Committee report, an *ad hoc* follow up meeting on this for faith community representatives was held in February. This led to a joint statement in support of legislation on incitement to religious hatred, which was initiated by the Muslim Council of Britain and signed on behalf of a number of member faith community organisations. In the debate on the

Select Committee report, Home Office Minister, Baroness Scotland drew attention to this joint statement. The Home Secretary announced in early July his intention to introduce legislation on incitement to religious hatred as soon as the legislative opportunity arises.

“The Government wants to have a closer engagement with faith communities which bring together large numbers of citizens who have an important contribution to make to society... The Government expects the views of faith communities to be expressed with candour. Consultation does not always lead to agreement and there will be disagreement from time to time between Government and faith communities on some issues. It is quite right for these disagreements to be clearly expressed, whether from the perspective of faith communities or of the Government. Effective consultation machinery needs to make people feel safe in expressing their views robustly to one another.”

FIONA MACTAGGART, THE HOME OFFICE MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAITH COMMUNITY MATTERS, SPEAKING TO THE NETWORK’S FAITH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM IN DECEMBER

Faith and public life

Promoting the involvement of the UK's different faith communities in public life is a major dimension of the Network's work. The work of the Faith Communities Consultative Forum is now an important part of this (see page 12) but the bulk of this activity involves day to day engagement of staff and trustees in particular strands of work relating to Government and other initiatives. Over the last year, this has included:

- **Assisting relevant Government departments on inter faith and faith and public life issues** and, in particular the new Faith Communities Unit of the Home Office, which formally began its work in October 2003.
- **Involvement in the Home Office review of arrangements for consultation by central Government of faith communities and their representation at national events.** This important Review was the first major project of the Faith Communities Unit. The Review's Steering Group, chaired by Fiona Mactaggart MP, the Home Office Minister with responsibility for faith community issues, included Ministers and officials from a number of Government Departments as well as representatives of faith communities. The Network's Director served as a member of the supporting Working Group and of the Panel of Advisers to the Steering Group and a

number of members of the Network's Executive Committee were involved in the Working and Steering Groups.

The Steering Group's report, *Working Together: Cooperation between Government and Faith Communities*, was launched in March. It reviews existing arrangements for consultation between individual Government Departments and faith communities and sets out "good practice" guidelines on this. In this context, it notes the role which the Inter Faith Network has played and welcomes the recent setting up within it of the Faith Communities Consultative Forum (FCCF). The report's conclusions have been broadly welcomed by faith communities.

- **Contributing to the work of the drafting group on further guidance on community cohesion** to build on the earlier *Guidance on Community Cohesion*, which was published in 2002 by the Local Government Association in association with the Home Office, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Inter Faith Network. Material from the Group's work is expected to be published in early November.
- **Participating in the Steering Group for the Safe Communities Initiative** launched by the Commission for Racial Equality in 2003 which is exploring ways to resolve community conflicts and disputes at a local level and to promote positive relationships locally.

- **Helping with work linked to the implementation of the 2000 European Directive dealing with discrimination in the workplace on grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age; and the development of new institutional arrangements in the field of equalities and human rights.**
This has been through two routes. Firstly, the Network has been involved in discussions with the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) about guidance for employers and others on the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations which came into force in December to implement the Directive. Secondly, the Network's Director has served during the past year on the DTI's Task Force helping to prepare detailed proposals for a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). This will be a new single equality body to deal with the different strands of discrimination dealt with under the Directive, including religion and belief, and with the UK's human rights legislation. It is also intended that the new commission will have responsibility for promoting good community relations, although this has yet to be worked out in any detail. The Network obviously has a keen interest in the way in which the responsibilities of the new organisation may impact on the handling of inter faith relations at both a national and local level.

- **Pressing the case for further legislation on religious discrimination.** In the context of its proposals for the new CEHR the Government has come under considerable pressure to prepare new discrimination legislation to provide a more consistent and coherent framework of protection for the different "strands" with which the new body will be concerned. It has been suggested that there is a need for a new 'Single Equality Act' to complement the setting up of the CEHR rather than deferring consideration of new legislation until the new body is in operation. For some time, the Network has had on its agenda the case for new legislation that can give more general protection against religious discrimination. As this Annual Review was being produced, the Prime Minister announced at the Labour Party Conference in September that the Government now plans to introduce legislation on discrimination in relation to the provision of goods, services and premises.
- **Involvement in the continuing discussion on possible fresh legislation on religious offences.** There has been continuing discussion in relation to the 2003 report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Religious Offences. As noted elsewhere, a number of faith community bodies linked by the Faith Communities Consultative Forum developed a statement in support of legislation on incitement to religious hatred.

The Home Secretary announced in early July that he is looking for a Parliamentary opportunity to do so.

- **Participation in the Steering Group which worked on a new national non-statutory framework for Religious Education in England.** This will be published this autumn and will provide for inter faith issues to be studied as part of RE in schools.

“In recent years there has been a sea-change in the consultation of faith communities. Work done, in particular through the Inner Cities Religious Council and the Inter Faith Network for the UK, has been influential in changing Government’s attitude to the contributions which faith communities can make.”

WORKING TOGETHER: COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND FAITH COMMUNITIES, HOME OFFICE REPORT 2004

Focus on Europe

The 2004 Network National Meeting, “Inter Faith Relations: the UK and Europe” held in June in London looked at the possibilities and challenges presented by being part of Europe and how to engage with its structures, influence policies and legislation and develop links with faith communities and inter faith bodies in other parts of Europe.



Participants at the National Meeting

The focus of the work of the Inter Faith Network is life here in the UK. The membership of the UK in the European Union is, however, increasingly having an impact on faith communities and the inter faith agenda here:

- European Directives, such as that on discrimination in the workplace, with its inclusion of discrimination on grounds of religion and belief, are implemented in UK law and shape life here
- Member states enact legislation affecting the expression of religious identity of those who live in or travel to their countries, relating to such matters as the display of religious imagery in school classrooms or the wearing of religious symbols there

“The challenge we face today is to work towards tolerance and mutual respect between faith communities and a basic understanding that people can agree to disagree but still work together.”

MIKE O'BRIEN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- UK faith and inter faith bodies are increasingly being invited to take part in Europe-wide programmes or events
- Inter faith work is progressing in some other member states and the exchange of ideas and news between different EU countries is likely to become increasingly significant



Mike O'Brien MP

Mohammed Aziz



Revd John Kennedy





Om Parkash Sharma and Jane Gallagher

- Important Europe-wide projects, such as those relating to developing materials for inter cultural education, involve contributions from the UK
- Faith community bodies and inter faith bodies are, increasingly, wanting to make contact with their counterparts in Europe to make common cause on issues of shared concern
- The intention to promulgate a new constitution for the EU has given rise to concerns about the place of faith communities within the structures of European societies.

Among the speakers at the meeting were, Mike O'Brien MP, then Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs; Jackie Gower of the University of Kent's Jean Monnet Centre for Europe; Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Chair of the Scottish

Inter Faith Council; Peter Smith from the Local Government Association; Mohammed Aziz, Special Projects Consultant for the Muslim Council of Britain and a CRE Commissioner; Jehangir Sarosh of the World Conference of Religions for Peace Europe; Win Burton of the Soul for Europe; Deepak Naik of Minorities of Europe; Sidney Shipton of the Three Faiths Forum; and Professor Paul Weller of the University of Derby. Workshop presenters included: Minou Cortazzi, Vice Chair, Leicester Council of Faiths and Leicester Baha'i community; John Keast, UK representative on the Council of Europe project "Inter cultural education and the challenge of religious diversity and dialogue in Europe; and James Bridge, European Political Adviser, Age Concern England.

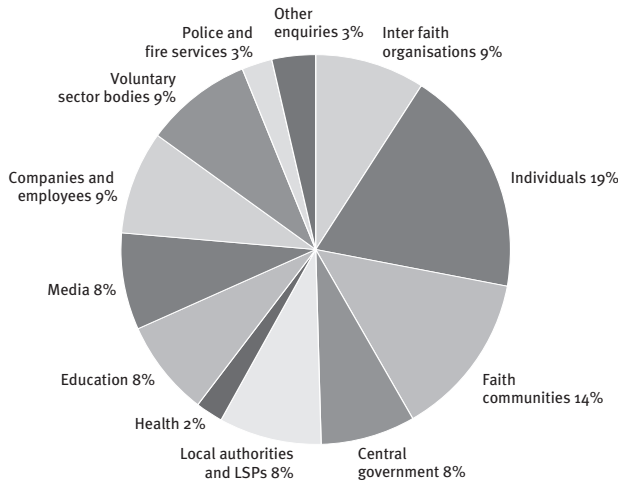
A full report of the meeting is available from the Network office.



Win Burton

Informing and advising

The Network office provides information and advice to a wide range of organisations and individuals to help them in developing inter faith and multi faith projects and initiatives.



For certain types of enquirers such as companies and employees, the Network's role is principally as a signpost to sources of guidance such as the ACAS guidelines or the Shap calendar of religious festivals. In others, such as assisting the media or central Government, it helps enquirers in making contact with the relevant faith or inter faith bodies. On enquiries from national, regional and local inter faith bodies or from organisations wishing to develop these, the Network's assistance may be ongoing over a period of many months.

This year 650 enquiries were logged – a slightly lower figure than in recent years and corresponding to a steep increase in users of the website.

Do you know if there are any organisations providing post 16 citizenship education programmes for refugee communities of different faiths?

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION, LONDON

We are looking to set up a multi faith consultation group. Can you provide contacts for local faith community leaders?

POLICE SERVICE, YORKSHIRE

We are looking for a Hindu who is involved in hospital chaplaincy to offer a presentation at a seminar we are organising. Can you suggest someone?

MUSLIM ORGANISATION, EAST MIDLANDS

The Network's web site at www.interfaith.org.uk provides information about the work of the Network and its publications. It also allows the downloading of some of its publications as well as providing links to the internet pages of other projects with which the Network has been involved. The number of visitors to the web site is growing and now averages over 1,200 a month.

The Network's newsletter, *Inter Faith Update*, is published three times a year and is distributed to subscribers, member bodies and supporters.

Network Membership

At the Network's Annual General Meeting, held in London on 28 June, the following organisations became members: Alif Aleph UK; Burnley Building Bridges; Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action; the Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations; Lancashire Forum of Faiths; Medway Inter Faith Action; Northampton Inter Faith Forum; North Kirklees Inter Faith Council; North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths; and the Oldham Inter Faith Forum. Rochdale Multi Faith Partnership became a member body in place of Rochdale Interfaith Action and Gateshead Inter Faith Forum and the Newcastle Council of Faiths became members in place of the Tyne and Wear Racial Equality Council Inter Faith Panel. Following these changes, the Network has 105 member organisations.

Trustees

At the Network's AGM Rosalind Preston stepped down from the position of Co-Chair, having served her three year term in this post, but remains on the Committee as a Vice-Chair. Jagjivan Singh was elected to serve alongside Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler as Co-Chair. Jehangir Sarosh and Om Parkash Sharma were elected as Vice Chairs and Dr Natubhai Shah stepped down following his term as a Vice Chair but remains on the Committee.



Rosalind Preston (third from right) with, l to r, Sister Isabel Smyth, Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Regina O'Callaghan, Priti Shah, Harriet Crabtree, Fatma Amer and Elizabeth Harris

The following stepped down from the Executive Committee and were very warmly thanked for their service on it: Saraswati Dave; Revd Simon Reynolds; Shaunaka Rishi das; Paul Seto; Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana; and Gillian Wood. Dr Vajiragnana had served as a Committee member since the Network was founded in 1987.



Most Ven Dr M Vajiragnana

Trustees

Executive Committee Members 2004–05

Co-Chairs

Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler
Mr Jagjiwan Singh

Vice-Chairs

Dr Manazir Ahsan MBE
Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE
Mr Jehangir Sarosh
Mr Om Parkash Sharma MBE

Treasurer

Mr Ramesh Shah

Executive Committee

Dr Fatma Amer
Dr Elizabeth Harris
Mr Phil Henry
Revd Canon Dr Michael Ipgrave
Mr Ayub Laher
Mr Shabbir Lakha
Hon Barnabas Leith
Most Revd Kevin McDonald
Mr Abdul Rauf Mirza
Mr Neville Nagler
Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Mrs Regina O'Callaghan
Mr Nitin Palan
Rabbi Alan Plancey
Dr Nawal K Prinja
Dr V P Narayan Rao
Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid

Mr Resham Singh Sandhu MBE
Janet Scott
Mr Alan Schwartz MBE
Dr Natubhai K Shah
Ms Priti Shah
Sister Margaret Shepherd
Dr Indarjit Singh OBE
Sister Isabel Smyth
Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick
Ven Pandit Wiloye
Wimalojothi



Gaylina Nguyen

Staff

During the year, Brian Pearce has continued to serve as the Network's Director, Harriet Crabtree as Deputy Director, Bhupinder Singh as Information Officer and Gaylina Nguyen as a part-time clerical assistant. Temporary administrative assistance was provided through an agency. During the summer, Miriam Feldmann worked for three weeks as a student intern (see under Connect, page 8).



Bhupinder Singh and Imam Dr Sajid

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2003

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2003 £	Total 2002 £
Incoming Resources				
Donations, Legacies and similar income	61,649	167,198	228,847	147,881
Operating Activities in the furtherance of the charitable objects	–	8,311	8,311	16,076
Investment Income	–	2,516	2,516	2,191
Total Incoming Resources	61,649	178,025	239,674	166,148
Resources Expended				
Cost of generating Funds	411	7,300	7,711	4,808
Charitable Activities				
Consultation, Information and Advice	5,811	103,316	109,127	120,245
Meetings and Conferences	1,277	22,704	23,981	33,800
Research	38,145	–	38,145	–
Publications	5,825	34,751	40,576	2,850
Management and Administration	–	15,347	15,347	12,582
	51,058	176,118	227,176	169,477
Total Resources Expended	51,469	183,418	234,887	174,285
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources For the Year	10,180	(5,393)	4,787	(8,137)
Funds at 1 January 2003	–	48,056	48,056	56,193
Funds at 31 December 2003	10,180	42,663	52,843	48,056

All the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing. Movements in reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2003

	£	2003 £	2002 £
Tangible Fixed Assets		6,066	3,522
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	12,780		1,376
Cash at Bank and in Hand	41,334		47,526
	54,114		48,902
Creditors: amounts due within one year	7,337		4,368
Net Current Assets		46,777	44,534
Net Assets		<u>52,843</u>	<u>48,056</u>
Funds			
Restricted Funds		10,180	–
Unrestricted Funds		42,663	48,056
Total Funds		<u>52,843</u>	<u>48,056</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Executive Committee
On 18 June 2004 and signed on their behalf by Mr Ramesh Shah, Treasurer

Supporters in 2003

The Inter Faith Network's programme of building good relations between the different faith communities in the UK is funded through grants and donations from trusts, organisations and individuals supportive of its work, including its member faith communities, as well as through the subscription fees of its member bodies. The Network is also currently receiving a Home Office grant.

The Trustees of the Network thank most warmly all those who have given financial support to its work during the calendar year 2003 and also those who have given the gift of time to help work for good relations between the faiths in the UK.

Government Funding

Home Office

Trusts, Foundations and Companies

E and H N Boyd and J E Morland Charitable Trust
Joy Cohen Charitable Trust
P H Holt Charitable Trust
Alma Royalton Kisch Trust
Joseph Rank Trust
Rayden Charitable Trust
Rest-Harrow Trust
Rothschild Trust Corporation Ltd
Alfred and Frances Rubens Charitable Trust

Thompson Fund
TimeBank
David Uri Memorial Trust
Vitabiotics
West London Synagogue Charitable Fund
Westminster Foundation

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 2003 has 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. During 2003 donations were received on behalf of member faith communities from the following organisations and trusts:

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
Lord Ashdown Charitable Settlement
Baha'i Community of the UK
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Church of Scotland
Community of Buddhist Contemplatives
Community of Interbeing
Community Security Trust
Institute of Jainology
Jain Academy

Jain Samaj Europe
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars)
Moulana F M Laher Charitable Trust
Liberal Judaism
London Buddhist Centre
Methodist Racial Justice Projects Fund
Network of Engaged Buddhists
New Kadampa Tradition
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Spanish and Portugese Jews' Congregation
Taraloka Retreat Centre
Telford Buddhist Priory
Thai British Buddhist (Buddhavihara) Temple
United Reformed Church
United Synagogue
Western Ch'an Fellowship
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League
Yorkshire Jain Foundation
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Individual donors

(including donations from a number
of individuals as part of structured faith community funding)

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His Honour Jonathan Crabtree
Rt Revd John Gladwin
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Rt Revd Christopher Herbert
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Mr David and Mrs Celia Storey
Most Ven Dr Medagama Vajiragnana
Rt Rev Stephen Venner
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We would also like to thank....

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...And others who also gave generously, but prefer not to be listed.

Inter Faith Network for the UK

Member Organisations 2004-05

Faith Community Representative Bodies

Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (UK)
Baha'i Community of the UK
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Buddhist Society
Churches' Agency for Inter Faith Relations in Scotland
Churches' Commission for Inter-Faith Relations
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK)
Friends of the Western Buddhist Order
Hindu Council (UK)
Imams and Mosques Council (UK)
Islamic Cultural Centre, Regent's Park, London
Jain Samaj Europe
Jamiat-e-Ulama Britain (Association of Muslim Scholars)
Muslim Council of Britain
National Council of Hindu Temples
Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK)
Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations
Roman Catholic Committee for Other Faiths, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of GB
Swaminarayan Hindu Mission
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inter Faith Panel
Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK)
World Ahlul-Bayt Islamic League
World Islamic Mission (UK)
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Inter Faith Organisations

Northern Ireland Inter Faith Forum
Scottish Inter Faith Council
Inter Faith Council for Wales

Alif Aleph UK
Christians Aware Interfaith Programme
Council of Christians and Jews
Interfaith Foundation
International Association for Religious Freedom (British Chapter)
International Interfaith Centre
London Society of Jews and Christians
Maimonides Foundation
Religions for Peace (UK Chapter)
Three Faiths Forum
United Religions Initiative (UK)
Westminster Interfaith
World Congress of Faiths

Local Inter Faith Groups

Bedford Council of Faiths
Birmingham Council of Faiths
Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Council
Bolton Interfaith Council
Bradford Concord Interfaith Society
Brent Inter Faith
Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Contact Group
Bristol Inter Faith Group

Burnley Building Bridges
Cambridge Inter-Faith Group
Canterbury and District Inter Faith Action
Cardiff Interfaith Association
Cleveland Interfaith Group
Coventry Inter Faith Group
Derby Open Centre Multi-Faith Group
Dudley Borough Interfaith Network
Gateshead Inter Faith Forum
Gloucestershire Inter Faith Action
Harrow Inter Faith Council
Huddersfield Interfaith Council
Lancashire Forum of Faiths
Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship
Leeds Faith Communities Liaison Forum
Leicester Council of Faiths
Loughborough Council of Faiths
Luton Council of Faiths
Manchester Interfaith Forum
Medway Inter Faith Action
Merseyside Council of Faiths
Merseyside Inter-Faith Group
Interfaith MK (Milton Keynes)
Nelson and Brierfield Building Bridges
Newcastle Council of Faiths
Newham Association of Faiths
North Kirklees Inter-Faith Council
North Staffordshire Forum of Faiths
Northampton Faiths Forum
Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Oldham Inter Faith Forum
Oxford Round Table of Religions
Peterborough Inter-Faith Council
Reading Inter-Faith Group
Redbridge Council of Faiths
Rochdale Multifaith Partnership
Sheffield Interfaith
South London Inter Faith Group
Southampton Council of Faiths
Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource
Watford Inter Faith Association
Wellingborough Multi-Faith Group
Whalley Range (Manchester) Inter Faith Group
Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group
Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

Educational and academic bodies

Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations
Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations
Community Religions Project
Institute of Jainology
Islamic Foundation
Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby
National Association of SACRE's
Religious Education Council for England and Wales
Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education
Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter

