

2019 - 2020 REPORT

OVERVIEW

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a chapter of the World Conference of *Religions for Peace*, the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions who are dedicated to achieving peace.

Respecting cultural differences while celebrating our common humanity, *Religions for Peace* is active in over 90 countries, creating multi-religious partnerships that mobilize the moral and social resources of religious people to address their shared problems.

Based upon deeply held moral principles widely shared by the world's faith traditions, *Religions for Peace* advances a positive notion of peace that acknowledges that the well being of each person is related to the well-being of all. This notion of peace is multi-dimensional, recognizing the responsibility of all to reject the misuse of religion in support of violence and includes the need to

- Transform violent conflict
- Promote just and harmonious societies
- Advance human development
- Protect the earth

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a member of *Religions for Peace* Europe, one of the five regional bodies of the worldwide organization.

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a registered charity (1109076).

PATRONS

Following the practice of other chapters of *Religions for Peace* globally, we appoint senior religious leaders, who will help us shape our policies and further our activities.

Currently our Patrons are:

- Bhai Sahib Dr Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia who is chairman of the Sikh organization Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha and who has been knighted by the Pope for his dedicated work to Roman

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Catholic-Sikh relations and his enthusiastic commitment to working for peace among people of all faiths

- The Venerable B Seelawimla, Head Priest of the London Buddhist Vihara and Chief Sangha Nayaka of Great Britain.

We would welcome further Patrons who can support us with our work.

TRUSTEES

Our trustees are responsible for the management and guidance of *Religions for Peace* United Kingdom and our current Chair is James Cresswell who is President of the European Buddhist Union.

During the year in question Trustees included members of the Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and Christian religions. We actively seek suitable people from other faiths.

In addition to the board of trustees we have an Executive Committee responsible for day to day activities, membership of which includes Mr Jehangir Sarosh, a Zoroastrian who has been involved with inter faith and peace work for many years.

CONVERSION TO CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION STATUS

Anticipating increasing activities in the future, we have decided to take advantage of recent legislation and adopt a more modern format by converting our charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Since the end of the financial year the Charity Commission has registered the CIO (Charity no. 1190089) and our assets and activities will be transferred to the CIO shortly.

VOLUNTEERS

We welcome volunteers to help with our initiatives.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the last year we have continued with the work of improving our website and our presence on social media. This process has been led by Ms Cinde Lee and we are very grateful for her hard work and expertise, and particularly the steps she has taken to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

FUNDING

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Because of grants and bequests we are fortunate to have an investments which finance our activities.

UNITED KINGDOM INTER FAITH YOUTH NETWORK

We are working to establish the UK Interfaith Youth Network. We believe that bringing together young people of different faiths reduces barriers and encourages religious harmony.

UNITED KINGDOM WOMEN OF FAITH NETWORK

Ravinder Kaur Nijjar chairs our UK Women of Faith Network which has been involved in a number of initiatives and events.

The aims of both Networks is to build mutual respect and pluralism among women's groups and youth groups from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others, going beyond mere tolerance of diversity and creating respect for one another's religious and ethnic identity.

INTERNATIONAL

Religions for Peace is, above all, a global family of organizations working at national and regional level for peace and we continue to support the work of *Religions for Peace* International.

STRATEGY

The Trustees have spent much time formulating and projects. Amongst other initiatives we work in partnership with the Faith for the Climate Network to encourage inspire and equip faith communities to address the serious concerns over climate change.

THE FUTURE

Religions for Peace United Kingdom will continue its work for peace and justice, focusing on the strands mentioned above.

We will work to raise the profile of *Religions for Peace* and create paths to peace here in the United Kingdom, in Europe and beyond.

January 2021..

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE UNITED KINGDOM