

Faith Network News

February 2007



!Launch of Sheffield Faiths Forum! - 14 March 2007

The public launch of Sheffield Faiths Forum will take place at the Town Hall, 6pm – 8pm on Wednesday 14 March (registration from 5:30), where the newly appointed members of the Forum will be officially welcomed. Speakers include the Lord Mayor, Bishop Jack Nicholls, John Battle MP (Prime Minister's Envoy to the faith communities) and Sajda Shah (Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum). The event is open to members of local faith groups as well as faith leaders, Councillors and key contacts from statutory agencies in the City.

We would love to see YOU there. Please see the enclosed flyer for further details of the launch and how you can book your free place (if you haven't already done so!).

Appointments to the Faiths Forum

We are very pleased to let you know that, following our open recruitment process in December, we have been able to appoint the following volunteers to the Faiths Forum:

Baha'i	Maxwell Ayamba
Buddhist	Mike Fitter
Christian	Revd Kevin Barnard
Christian	Briony Broome
Christian	Revd Noel Irwin
Christian	Randolph Prime
Hindu	Ranna Bhatt
Jewish	Cath Platt
Muslim	Abdool Gooljar
Muslim	Tanwir Rauf

The selection panel was very impressed with the standard of applications received and would like to thank everyone who applied for their interest. All applications were assessed by their relevant faith leaders and a multi-faith selection panel, and were evaluated against the published person specification.

The Forum members will be expected to link back to the whole of their faith communities, rather than be 'official representatives' of their specific faith group, so that the Forum can listen to and speak with local neighbourhoods. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faiths Forum, please contact Tim Wright who can advise on current and future vacancies – at present we are particularly looking for voices from the Sikh community and from minority faith groups outside the nine established world religions.

Sheffield Faiths Forum Consultation

As part of the establishment of the Faiths Forum we have asked faith groups throughout the city to contribute to prioritising its future work. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation exercise, either as part of the Growing the Faiths Forum event last November or who have subsequently mailed us their comments. So far we have had around 30 responses covering 12 different faith traditions and denominations.

Priorities identified:

- Support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Multi-faith initiatives at a neighbourhood level
- Improving awareness of different faiths in the City

The results of the consultation will be used by the Faiths Forum in setting its work plan. If you feel you are willing and able to contribute to the work of the Forum in any of these areas or more generally around community regeneration, community relations and religious awareness then please get in touch with Tim Wright (contact details below).

Although the official consultation period has now ended, we still welcome any comments from Sheffield faith groups about the potential work of the Faiths Forum. You can download a consultation document from the OFFER website (<http://www.offer.org.uk/content.php?c=66>), request a paper copy form or speak to our Faith Worker, Tim Wright.

How Your City Works

Want to learn more about how to get your voice heard?

“How your city works” is a course that OFFER runs to help the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector through the maze of power and decision making processes in the city, so you can influence in a more effective way.

There are six sessions starting on Thursday 15 March through to 26 April, 10-11 followed by lunch, at SCEDU in Mowbray Street, S3 8EN.

Please contact Natalie Hunt at OFFER for more information and a booking form on 275 0462 or natalie@offer.org.uk or see the Offer website for more information at www.offer.org.uk.

Contact us:

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Our funders:

