

## **Havering Inter Faith Forum Annual Report 2013-14**

Havering Inter Faith Forum was officially inaugurated on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at a meeting at Romford Town Hall. At the Annual General Meeting of 24 April 2013 the following 9 members were elected as the Executive Committee, which then elected its officers as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Faith</u>
John Lester	Chair	Baha'i
Wendy Brice Thompson	Vice-Chair	Christian
Tariq Mahmood	Secretary	Islam
Surinder Tiwari	Assistant- Secretary	Hindu
Hari Mistry	Treasurer	Hindu
Tej Virbains	Member	Sikh
David Weston/Saddhabhaya	Member	Buddhist
Aloysius Peter	Member	Christian
Barbara Stanley-Hunt	Member	Baha'i

**Committee Meetings:** The committee has met on four occasions during the year.

**Key Objectives:** The committee continues to pursue the following key objectives being agreed:

- a) Expanding participation;
- b) Marketing and Publicity;
- c) Developing and Strengthening partnerships;
- d) Creating opportunities for dialogue;
- e) Developing the capacity of the forum.

**Events:** Four open meetings were held during the year:

- a) A meeting for the committee to present its plans at the YMCA on 18 July 2013.
- b) A panel discussion meeting at YMCA on 17 September 2013 with the topic 'Organ Donation or not – according to my Faith?'
- c) As part of National Inter Faith Week, a panel discussion meeting at YMCA on 19 November 2012 with the topic 'How my Faith could Promote Peace and Reduce Conflict';
- d) A panel discussion meeting at YMCA on 4 February 2014 with the topic 'My Faith and Science: Conflicting or Compatible?'

**Displays:** We have had display and information stalls (5 days in all) at a number of events during the year as follows, all of which have attracted interest:

- a) Cottons Park 28 July 2013;
- b) Havering Show 25-26 August;
- c) Community Cultural Celebration (BME Day) at Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch 2 November;
- d) International Women's Day at Havering College of FHE 8 March 2014

**External Links:** We have established and continued contact with outside organisations as follows:

- a) Week of Prayer for World Peace – We bought and distributed 100 leaflets published for this week containing quotations from all Faiths and two of the committee attended the National gathering in London.
- b) We have supported the monthly inter faith gatherings held by Coopers Coborn School in Upminster.
- c) We have contributed to the meetings of the London Boroughs Faiths Network in Central London, which has enabled us to meet representatives from other Faith Forums and exchange plans and ideas and supported their tenth anniversary meeting in Westminster in November 2013. We also attended the second meeting of ENORB (European Network on Religion and Belief) to be held in the UK at the University of London in October 2013.
- d) We were represented at the Mayor of London’s Inter-Faith gathering in City Hall on 18 November 2013.
- e) Two of the committee attended the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Romford on 26 January 2014. The committee was also represented at the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 commemorations.
- f) Two of the committee also attended various HAVCO events during the year.
- g) We continue to be in close touch with Barking and Dagenham Inter Faith and supported their London Peace Week in September 2012. .

**Other:**

We are represented on various local initiatives such as Troubled Families, Early Years and Safeguarding Children.

**Finance:** We received no financial assistance this year but were still able to publish two newsletters during the year. Transactions were as follows:

Opening Balance: £969.17	<u>Expenditure:</u>	
	Leaflets (WPWP)	50
	Newsletter 4	350
	Newsletter 5	175
	Balance	394.17

**Plans:**

As well as the ongoing objectives being pursued by members of the committee (see above) and the continuation of the inter-faith panel discussions and displays (see events above) we are still endeavouring to:

- a) reach the youth of all faiths and none to facilitate understanding and respect between them;
- b) investigate ways in which we can have a close involvement in health issues, like our neighbouring Inter Faith Forum in Barking/Dagenham, particularly ensuring that all faiths are aware of access to NHS facilities.

Finally the Committee would like to register its deepest gratitude to Benjamin Agyemang and Kim Vasa of the Community Regeneration Team at Havering Council for their invaluable assistance and support without which most of the above would not have been possible.