

# **INTERFAITH GLASGOW**

**Annual Report and Accounts  
for the Period Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

# **Interfaith Glasgow Annual Report and Accounts for the Period Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

## **Trustees' Report**

### Board of Trustees and Administration Details

Interfaith Glasgow started as a project of the national interfaith body, Interfaith Scotland in 2012 and, on the 4th May 2016, it registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (No. SC046525), governed by its own constitution. These accounts cover the period from incorporation to the 31st March 2017.

The structure of the charity consists of charity trustees who are also the organisation's only members and comprise the organisation's board.

The board is made up of individuals from the different faith and belief traditions: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, (Catholic, Episcopalian, Church of Scotland) Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh. Further trustees may be appointed who are either people of another particular religion or belief, or people who have particular skills, knowledge, connections, or experience pertinent to the purposes of the organisation. Within the board there are three office bearer roles: Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

All board members undertake their roles in a purely voluntary capacity. The board has the power to appoint additional trustees and there are smaller working groups to look at matters such as policy and funding. The term of office for board members is three years with the possibility of re-election.

The current trustees are Philip Mendelsohn, Safa Yousaf, Anthony Allison, Cedric Blakey, Roy Henderson, James Gillies, Ruby Bhopal, Manjula Math, Emma Leighton and Abdul Aziz. Barbara Douglas also served on the board during the period and resigned in May 2016.

The office of the charity is Flemington House, Second Floor, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow G21 4BF.

### The Objects of the Charity

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only and, in particular, the promotion of religious harmony, equality, and diversity; and the advancement of education through:

- increasing mutual understanding, harmony, and equality between people from different religious traditions and none by providing opportunities for mutual-learning, friendship-building, dialogue, and cooperation
- supporting and collaborating with other organisations, groups, and individuals whose activities foster positive interfaith engagement
- increasing awareness, understanding, and appreciation of religious diversity and interfaith activity

We do this using a three-level model of interfaith engagement:

- friendship-building,
- dialogue, and
- cooperation on issues of common concern, including poverty.

### Annual Report of the Board of Trustees

Over the year we delivered 32 events and 1,590 participants attended.

## **Interfaith Glasgow**

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#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

##### ***Friendship-Building***

###### ***Interfaith Week***

During the 2016 Interfaith Week (an important showcase for interfaith work) Interfaith Glasgow hosted 4 of its own events and publicised and supported the events of many other groups across the city. Our Family Fun Day, which marks the end of Interfaith Week, drew a record crowd of 235 participants.

###### ***Interfaith Glasgow Launch Event***

120 guests from various faith communities, partners, charities, statutory agencies, funders, and friends of Interfaith Glasgow attended our flagship launch event hosted by the Lord Provost at Glasgow City Chambers. Supporters signed Interfaith Declaration setting out broad principles of interfaith cooperation and engagement for Glasgow. So far over 100 signatories have signed. <http://bit.do/support-interfaith-glasgow>

###### ***Community Meals***

Working in collaboration with faith communities across the city, we hosted meals at: Madrasa Taleem Ul Islam, Pollokshields Parish Church, Glasgow Gurdwara on Albert Drive, University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy Centre, and Wallacewell Church on Balornock.

###### ***Refugee Festival Women's Event***

Over 100 women attended our annual event for refugee women held in partnership with Interfaith Scotland and the Scottish Refugee Council. The theme was 'side by side' and included well-being activities, massage, and interfaith arts and crafts.

##### ***Dialogue***

###### ***Scriptural Reasoning***

Scriptural Reasoning is a method of interfaith dialogue designed to engage Muslims, Christians, and Jews in order to deepen understanding of each other's sacred texts. This year we hosted meetings on the themes of Dreams, Refugees, Leadership, and Religion and Belief in the Media.

###### ***Festivals Exchange***

Working in partnership with various faith communities across Glasgow to host visitors from diverse backgrounds – religious and non-religious – for a festival, this year's celebrations included Bandhi Chhor Divas at Glasgow Gurdwara, Christmas Eve at Gorbals Parish Church, Mawliid al-Nabi at Zia-Ul-Quran Mosque, Passover Seder at Garnethill Synagogue, and the Homan Hindu fire ritual at the Hindu Temple of Scotland, Rutherglen. This continues to be a unique way for people to learn more about other faiths through the experience of observing each other's religious festivals.

###### ***Annual Networking Event 'Flourishing into the Future'***

An annual opportunity for groups and individuals to network with each other and have an opportunity to make suggestions to us for future projects.

###### ***Faith to Faith Conversations***

A new initiative in partnership with St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art for a series of conversation sessions covering topical issues relating to religion and society on a Sunday afternoon each month from 2-4 pm.



## **Interfaith Glasgow**

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#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

##### *Sharing Stories: 'Headcoverings Uncovered'*

This storytelling project brought together 9 women volunteers from Muslim, Sikh, and Christian backgrounds to work together in developing their personal stories about head coverings. As part of Islam Awareness Week 2017, the women shared their stories at a public dialogue event, challenging preconceptions in a spirit of openness and sharing. One participant said, "This is the first time I've heard a woman who wears the face-veil speak – so thank you."

##### **Cooperation**

###### *Food Justice Network*

The Interfaith Food Justice Network is a movement of over forty local groups and organisations in and around Glasgow, working at the forefront of tackling food poverty. The Interfaith Food Justice Network is supported by Interfaith Glasgow in partnership with Faith in Community Scotland's Transformation Team, who together host bi-annual networking events and support meetings of the network's "Development Group." They have promoted the Interfaith Food Justice Declaration and collaborated with Nourish Scotland in their work on the forthcoming Good Food Nation Bill consultation. So far over 100 signatories, many representing their faith communities, have signed our Food Justice Declaration <http://bit.do/support-interfaith-glasgow>

###### *Weekend Club*

The Weekend Club is an interfaith response to the social isolation experienced by "New Scots." Our 12 volunteers help plan and deliver monthly welcoming events for refugees, asylum seekers, and new migrants. Over the year, 11 events were organised and over 680 participants attended. People hailed from a wide range of countries including: Syria, Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Libya, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Poland, Eritrea, and Somalia. Participants are welcomed and encouraged to share aspects of their own culture and heritage, highlighting the aspect of shared learning that is important in this project.

##### **Partnership Working**

Recognising that working together with local faith groups and communities and agencies sympathetic to our work is key to building bonds of friendship and cooperation, we have continued to work in partnership with Faith into Community Scotland (Transformation Team) on our Food Justice project. We work with many local mosques, gurdwaras, temples, synagogues and churches for the delivery of our community meals and Festival Exchange events. We also partner with Glasgow Life Museums services, BEMIS, Scottish Refugee Council, Forestry Commission, Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, Backbone, and various chaplaincies in working alongside our Weekend Club project with refugees and asylum seekers in the city.

##### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are key to helping deliver our outcomes. Over the year we have worked with our 10 volunteer trustees and supported them by organising an away day for team building and planning. We have 12 Weekend Club volunteers and this year, in addition to training on working with asylum seekers, we partnered with Backbone to take the volunteers on a residential to Glenfleshee. Altogether this year we worked with 76 volunteers, many of them helping with our annual Family Fun Day.

# **Interfaith Glasgow**

## **Annual Report and Accounts for the Period Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### ***Organisational Development***

We consulted with our supporters and communities as part of our Annual Networking event to generate ideas for future projects and fed these ideas into our ongoing funding applications.

Our board continues to meet every 6 weeks, and this year participated in an away day as a strategic planning session for the new organisation. We hold regular staff

meetings and staff progress reviews. On-going training and support is offered as appropriate

Our annual publication 'Flourish' continues to be a showcase of our of activities and is an important tool for us to share our work with the wider public. We continue to use and develop our social media platforms: website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

We strive to build relationships with all who are concerned with interfaith relations in Glasgow, including MPs, MSPs, and local councillors.

Our aim is to strengthen the sustainability of Interfaith Glasgow by diversifying our funding portfolio in the coming year.

#### **Financial review**

At the end of the period the charity held £11,206 in the bank. The restricted fund was overdrawn by £1,595 in anticipation of funding and donations to be received in 2017/18. Unrestricted funds' cash balance at the end of period was £12,801.

On incorporation, the charity received donated equipment from Interfaith Scotland worth approximately £1,000.

Interfaith Glasgow is funded on a project basis and unrestricted reserves would not be included in this funding. The Trustees consider that a level of reserves of £5,000 to cover costs of redundancies and other costs associated with winding up the organisation is reasonable, and are looking at ways to generate further funds to meet this target.

Approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf

**REDACTED**

Signed  
Philip Mendelsohn

Date *27/04/17*



## **Interfaith Glasgow Annual Report and Accounts for the Period Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Interfaith Glasgow**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed .....

**REDACTED**

Date ..... 21/3/17 .....

Stanley Wynd ACIS FCIE  
Bonnington Mill  
72 Newhaven Road  
Edinburgh  
EH6 5QG

**Interfaith Glasgow**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the Period Ended**  
**31st March 2017**

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2016/17 £
<u>Receipts</u>			
Grants	3,000	45,000	48,000
Donations	1,840	138	1,978
Other income	-	25	25
Bank interest	-	2	2
Total receipts	<u>4,840</u>	<u>45,165</u>	<u>50,005</u>
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments for charitable activities:			
Staff costs	-	18,815	18,815
Freelance costs	3,199	3,960	7,159
Event and project costs	3,007	2,374	5,381
Print & design costs	-	608	608
Staff travel	-	100	100
Staff training	139	23	162
Office	-	281	281
Insurance	-	347	347
Telephone	-	401	401
Volunteer expenses	90	-	90
Admin & payroll fees	-	674	674
Bank charges	-	25	25
Advance on staff costs paid to the payroll provider	-	4,013	4,013
Governance costs:			
Board costs	-	743	743
Total payments	<u>6,435</u>	<u>32,364</u>	<u>38,799</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for year	(1,595)	12,801	11,206
Cash funds brought forward	-	-	-
Cash funds carried forward	<u>(1,595)</u>	<u>12,801</u>	<u>11,206</u>

**Interfaith Glasgow  
Receipts and Payments Account for the Period Ended  
31st March 2017**

**Bank and cash on hand**

	2016/17 £
Opening balances	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	11,206
Closing balances	11,206

**Restricted funds**

	Balance at 04/05/2016	Received	Paid	Balance at 31/03/2017
Weekend Club	-	4,340	(5,935)	(1,595)
Family Fun Day	-	500	(500)	-
	-	4,840	(6,435)	(1,595)

**Weekend Club**

Funding from Faith in the Community Scotland, Church of Scotland and Wellington Church for the Weekend Club project - an innovative programme of events providing activities over the weekend for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

**Family Fun Day**

Funding from BEMIS towards the cost of putting on the Family Fun Day.

**Assets and liabilities**

Interfaith Glasgow had equipment valued at the year end at approximately £502. It also had debtors of £11,231. At the year end the charity owed £15,134 in unpaid bills and expense reimbursements.

**Trustee expenses**

The members of the board of trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses in the year.

Approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed ... **REDACTED** .....  
Anthony Allison

Date .....05/07/17.....