

21 June 2023 Kingston Faith and Belief Forum Meeting Notes

Online only - Google Meet

Wednesday 21 June, Time: 1pm - 2.35pm

Attendees

Rene Pfertzel
Sarah Mehdi
Hamad Momin
Marina Payen
Caren Marcelline
Joe Moffatt
Fleur Standing
Marilyn Leach
Stan Brown
Claire Mansfield
Martina Reid
Greta Farian
Claire Wilding
Howard Greenoff
Jawad T, Kingston Muslim Youth
Jeremy Rodell
RashidAli Laher
Reece St.Omer, Kingston University
Soltan Azizi
Chetananand Chuttoo

Apologies

Michael Lovell
Mohammad Arafat
John Azah
Sheila Bryant
Sanja Djeric Kane

Agenda

Meeting chaired by Rabbi Rene

1:00 - 1:05 Rabbi Rene	Welcome
1:05 - 1:20 All members	Forum name and discussion Context Members were asked to contribute their thoughts ahead of this meeting on an anonymous form.

	<p>Over the years there has been ongoing discussion regarding the name "Kingston Inter Faith Forum". It has been noted on several occasions that the name may not necessarily represent the membership objectives and be inclusive to our diverse community.</p> <p>As per our Terms of Reference, the Forum aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrate and support communities in Kingston 2. Promote understanding and cooperation between people of differing religious and non-religious beliefs 3. Act as a forum for communications between local religion or belief groups, and Kingston Council, and associated organisations on issues of mutual interest, including those pertaining to Council policies and the 'Religion or Belief' Protected Characteristic. <p>Responses 13 responses were made on the anonymous form and one sent by email. Form responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q1: 58.3% of respondents believe that the name does not represent current membership and is inclusive to our diverse community - Q2: 58.3% think the name should be updated (30.8% maybe and 15.4% no) <p>Most recurring name suggestion is to include in the name in some way '<i>Faith & Belief</i>' (suggested 6 times out of 10 responses to optional question to provide ideas).</p> <p>Discussion Following detailed discussion with participants at the meeting and no objections raised, it was agreed to change the name.</p> <p>Agreed new name: Kingston Faith and Belief Forum Action - Marina to ask for update to logo and update website, ToR, bulletin and any other resources</p>
<p>1:20: 1:40 All members</p>	<p>Topics and challenges that we all face. What topics and challenges should we discuss as a forum in the next year?</p> <p>Following in depth discussion with participants, the following topics have been agreed.</p> <p>Agreed topics for discussion at future meetings in the next 12 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burials and funerals 2. Challenges of being community leader - finding volunteers, people to do the work for the community. 3. How do we have a spiritual voice in a very secular world? 4. Ageing communities and struggling to bring young people into faith communities and meet their spiritual needs. Ageing population also brings the need for more care.

	<p>Action: Set up working group for burials and funerals (already expressed interest at meeting: Rene, Howard, Joe and Rashid and anyone else who wishes to be involved).</p> <p>Action - send survey to members to prioritise topics 2-4 and include what people can bring to these meetings in terms of contributions</p>
<p>1:40 - 2:00 All members</p>	<p>Upcoming initiatives</p> <p><u>Inter Faith Week in November (12 - 19 November)</u></p> <p>Suggestions for Inter Faith Week include: All to participating in the Remembrance Sunday Civic Service at All Saints on 12 November. RBK Kingston Faith and Belief exhibition to be hosted at All Saints and all to participate in the service at Liberal Synagogue on 19 November</p> <p>Action: RashidAli - suggestion for interfaith walk and heritage open days. English heritage leaflets. 8 - 17 september heritage week and come up with a proposal.</p> <p>Action: Form subgroup for Inter Faith Week Expressed interest to join working group: Cheta, Joe, Sarah, Kingston Dialogue Society, Reece St. Omer, Soltan happy to help</p> <p>Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme for HMD 2024 is 'Fragility of Freedom'.</p> <p>Agreed: Event on Saturday 27 Jan at Kingston University.</p> <p>Agreed: Key topic to address Uygurs.</p> <p>Action: Hamad to reserve Town House, Kingston University</p> <p>Action: Jeremy to invite Keynote Speaker</p>
<p>2:00 - 2:15 Claire Mansfield, RBK and group discussion</p>	<p>Community Engagement discussion. What's different on the new framework? How to best engage with all faith communities?</p> <p>We have a community engagement framework published 4 years ago which describes our commitment so we are refreshing it and how we can do some things differently etc. We are working on this now and hope to publish a draft in September. What do you think of our Kingston Council engagement (i.e. how we communicate with residents and how we hear back)?</p> <p>Action for all - contact Claire with any further thoughts and check out newsletter and share with your communities.</p> <p>Newsletter: https://www.kingston.gov.uk/council-democracy/borough-newsletter Claire Mansfield: claire.mansfield@kingston.gov.uk</p> <p>Link to Radio Jackie</p>

<p>2:15 - 2:30 Martina Reid, RBK and group discussion</p>	<p>Voter ID and elections and your feedback - polling stations, privacy areas etc. What can we do to support people to vote? You now need to show photographic ID when voting in person at a polling station. If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free ID, called a 'Voter Authority Certificate', online at https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate</p> <p>Discussion and ideas around supporting members in our communities to vote.</p> <p>Action for all If you, or someone you know, need help applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0208 547 5026, or via email at electoral.services@kingston.gov.uk</p> <p>Further comments and ideas on how we can support people to vote, please send to Martina Reid: martina.reid@kingston.gov.uk</p>
<p>2:30 - 2:35 All</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Joe - Please share the 'Discovering Volunteering' - hosted at All Saints on 20 July. Link: https://www.kingston.gov.uk/events/event/148/discover-volunteering-in-kingston-event</p> <p>Howard - 2 updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those faiths that wish to witness coffin going into cremator, now can film this live and the congregation can sit in chapel and watch. 2. Kingston hospital from June 1st any person that dies in hospital that has no one willing or able to make funeral arrangements will no longer be offering contract funerals. RBK now has a dedicated officer to help. <p>Report here: https://www.healthwatchkingston.org.uk/report/2022-07-13/bereavement-services-and-support-kingston-community-engagement-report</p>