



Meeting Agenda & Actions

Location: National Zakat Foundation, 41 Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, E1 1JU

Date: Tuesday 16 January 2018

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Present:

Alan Green; Jan McHarry; Leon Silver; Ibrahim Lawson; Lis Gutteridge; Emily Yillah; Dan Range; Lee Hawkins; Fathema Khatun; Tom Ana; Andrew Richardson; Christine Hall; Jon Dal Din; Abdul Hasan and Afsar Ahmed.

I. Welcome – Alan Green, Chair

II. Introduction to National Zakat Foundation – Fathema Khan

- The National Zakat foundation is a faith based charity and helps Muslims that are in poverty with essential needs, for example with accommodation, food and/or clothing for people that are homeless.
- They provide grants to people that may have fallen into debt and might be at risk of losing their home.
- They also work towards empowering people to be self-sustainable by looking to paying for vocational training that will help increase their household income.
- NZF work with partner organizations and try to signpost people to get help in other areas, e.g. mental health or any other substance abuse problems.

III. Hate crime analysis and regular report – Lee Hawkins, MET Police

- Hate crime for tower hamlets over 12-week period – 852 reported offences.
- 3887 offences have been reported, and in the 12-month period the total number has decreased by 154.
- The number has decreased from this time last year.

IV. Westminster Inter Faith Event – Jon Dal Din

- Provisional fixed date for this is Saturday 23 June 2018 and it will be an all-day event.
- This event is normally done at the beginning of June, however, things have been altered this year due to Ramadan.
- Lunch is supplied by a Sikh Group in Birmingham who come down for the event.
- For the past 34 years, pilgrimage/faith walks have been organized and it consists of faith groups visiting different places of worship.
- For the past few years, the pilgrimage has started at the synagogue and the groups tend to spend an hour in each event.
- 120 people participated in the event last year in Hertfordshire.

Note: faith walk or peace walk for the title is more culturally sensitive instead of 'pilgrimage walk'

V. THIFF Manifesto Event – Alan Green, Chair

The process of the manifesto began with the steering group highlighting why THIFF operate and what they are aiming to do. The borough has not been great at showcasing what they do, so three questions were asked at the inter faith week event last year:

1. What has faith achieved in the borough?
2. How can faith have a stronger role in the borough?
3. What does faith currently do in the borough?

The feedback from the questions above combined with the theory of change meeting is how the manifesto was put together.

Comments from draft manifesto:

- Blue design preferred over red as the colour fits more with the borough logo
- 'THIFF will' change to 'THIFF work to'
- 2018 date should be added to manifesto

- Tower bridge and Tower of London are pictures that should be considered for front
- **ACTION: Emily to circulate draft manifesto to forum meeting attendees by Thursday 25 January 2018**
- **ACTION: Emily to circulate draft manifesto to inter faith week event attendees meeting by Thursday 25 January 2018**

VI. General Information

There are three things that Alan Green has been involved in:

- a) Mental health light morning (set up by clinical commissioning group – focusing on particular issues within faith groups)
This took place in December and there was a very low number of attendees of faith. Alan recommends it to people of THIFF forum.
- b) Alan was invited to TH Faith Partnership summit.
There was no set agenda that people from community groups were asked to fit in and the main focus was collaboration.

There were also 4 strands:

1. TH partnership: strong
2. Resilient and safe communities
3. Better health and wellbeing
4. Better health for young people

THIFF will be asked to work at understanding how we might feed in to these 4 strands.

- c) The new Chair of the London Buddhist Centre is Suryagupta (her ordained name). She will take over in March 2018 after 9 years of Jnanavaca skillfully guiding, in collaboration with others, the direction and activities of the London Buddhist Centre.

VII. AOB

- The borough will have different events for LGBT month. The theme this year is geography and mapping the world. Details will be circulated to forum.
- Nelson street Synagogue holding an event for Holocaust Memorial Day on Sunday 28 January 2018 at 3pm. The theme is the power of words.
- Ibrahim Lawson attended an event in Cardiff focusing on young Muslim women who have anxiety in Muslim schools. This may be something to consider organizing with Muslim teenagers in the borough.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 6 March, 6pm – 8pm, National Zakat
Foundation, 41 Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, E1 1JU**