

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

**Trustees' Annual report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

**For the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Charities Number: NIC101337**

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

**Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019**

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**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**  
**Year ended 31 December 2019**

**Reference and administrative details**

Charity Name: Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum

Charity Registration Number: NIC101337

Contact Address: c/o Clonard Monastery  
1 Clonard Gardens  
Belfast  
BT13 2RL

**Trustees**

Mr Edward Petersen (Chairperson), Mr Edwin Graham (Treasurer), Dr Wasif Naeem (Secretary), Dr Norman Richardson (Membership Secretary), Mr Raj Puri, Mrs Iulia Picu-Iwaisi, Mr Terry McKenna, Mr Jim Scott, Dr Gasser Abdelal, Ms Victoria Heslop, Mr Boyd Sleator.

**Principal Office-bearers**

Honorary President: Rev Maurice Ryan

Chairperson: Mr Edward Petersen

Vice-Chairperson: *(position vacant)*

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Edwin Graham

Honorary Secretary: Dr Wasif Naeem

**Independent Examiner**

CG Taggart Accountancy Services  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor  
49 Ashcroft Way  
Lower Ballinderry  
Lisburn  
Co Antrim  
BT28 2AY

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank  
4-8 Market Street  
Lurgan  
Co Armagh  
BT66 6AQ

## **NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019**

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### ***Objectives and Activities***

The charitable purpose of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum is to provide a forum for the Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh Faiths to dialogue with one another on matters of religious, national and civic importance; and to support a wider inter-faith dialogue with other religious and belief groups as appropriate

The principal functions of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum are to represent those faith and belief communities when advising or collaborating with other organisations on matters relating to faith matters in Northern Ireland; to advise Government and other appropriate organisations or bodies on faith matters in Northern Ireland; to encourage and facilitate education and training in matters relating to faith diversity in Northern Ireland; and to organize and promote inter-faith activities and events in Northern Ireland.

#### ***Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit***

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum through its activities during the calendar year of 2019 has continued to increase its activity in supporting inter-faith dialogue between faith communities and with other public bodies. The executive committee meets on a regular basis, usually at the Belfast Islamic Centre where the current Forum Secretary is based. A range of public meetings during the year highlighted relationships between faith communities and issues such as faith responses to the climate crisis and the challenges of hate crime. The Forum was engaged in the UK-wide Inter Faith Week programme and continued to develop its relationship with the UK Inter Faith Network and other interfaith bodies in the UK and Ireland. The Forum also maintains strong links with the local Remembering Srebrenica movement.

These activities implement our charitable purposes and provide public benefit.

#### ***Financial Review, including Reserves Policy***

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum suffered deficits in both 2018 and 2019 and its bank balance at 31 December 2019 stands at £113. Unrestricted funds amounted to £(103) (2018: £235). All income is available for general purposes.

The trustees plan to build up their reserves by increasing income and reducing costs.

#### ***Going Concern***

The main costs of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum are normally venue and catering costs associated with meetings. These costs have fallen dramatically in 2020, with the current pandemic having resulted in meetings being held virtually, an arrangement which is set to continue for some time.

An appeal for members to renew their subscriptions has just been launched and the trustees are confident that this will boost income in 2020.

As a result, the trustees are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum can continue its activities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 can be signed off as a going concern.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### ***Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity***

The Constitution of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum was last revised and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and has not been amended since then. In its present form it remains appropriate for the current purposes, structure and activities of the Forum.

***Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees***

Trustees of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum are drawn from the Executive Committee. Members of the Forum have the opportunity each year at the Annual General Meeting to stand for election to the Executive, and most members of the committee opt to serve as Trustees for the period of their membership.

***Organisational Structure***

The Executive Committee meets on average once every four to six weeks to manage the business of the Forum and to organise meetings for members. Meetings are notified to members and the wider public via a Google Groups email system, via a Facebook group and also via the Forum website; the latter, however, is currently undergoing a major review and update. Members make a small administration donation to the Forum in order to cover the costs of hiring venues, speakers' expenses, light refreshments and similar ongoing costs.

Meetings are normally held in the Belfast area in publicly accessible buildings, varying according to the nature of each meeting.

***Compliance with Public Benefit***

The Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve its purpose and objectives, as well as providing public benefit.

***Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities***

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Signed on Behalf of the Trustees**



**Norman Richardson**



**Edwin Graham**

**Date    October 2020**

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

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

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;

Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and

State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (3) listed above.

In respect of matter (4) above, I would draw your attention to that section of the Trustees' Annual Report dealing with Going Concern which explains that whilst deficits and the bank balance indicate that an uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the ability of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum to continue as a going concern, the trustees are optimistic that significantly reduced costs in both 2020 and on into the future, coupled with increased subscription revenues, will help secure that continuation for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

In connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*Grace Taggart FCA  
CG Taggart Accountancy Services  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors*

*49 Ashcroft Way  
Lower Ballinderry  
Lisburn  
BT28 2AY*

*Date*

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Members' subscriptions		190	-	190	295
		<b><u>190</u></b>	-	<b><u>190</u></b>	<b><u>295</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Venue costs		536	-	536	690
Travel		-	-	-	186
Insurance		100	-	100	-
Bank fees		27	-	27	28
Subscriptions		200	-	200	-
Office equipment		7	-	7	-
		<b><u>870</u></b>	-	<b><u>870</u></b>	<b><u>904</u></b>
Excess of Payments over Receipts for the year		<b>(680)</b>	-	<b>(680)</b>	<b>(609)</b>
Opening cash balance		<b><u>793</u></b>	-	<b><u>793</u></b>	<b><u>1,402</u></b>
Closing Cash Balance		<b><u>113</u></b>	-	<b><u>113</u></b>	<b><u>793</u></b>

Approved by the trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:



Norman Richardson



Edwin Graham

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Endowment Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>						
Current Accounts		113	-	-	113	793
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>793</b>
<b>Creditors and accruals</b>		<b>216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>558</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>(103)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>235</b>

Approved by the trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:



Norman Richardson



Edwin Graham

**NORTHERN IRELAND INTER-FAITH FORUM**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019**

**1. Accounting policies**

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

**(a) Receipts and Payments Account**

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

**2. Transactions with Trustees**

Travel expenses of £nil (2018: £186) were paid to Dr Norman Richardson during the year. Dr Richardson is a trustee of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

## Certificate Of Completion

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Certified Delivered	Security Checked 10/30/2020 6:17:25 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked 10/30/2020 6:18:28 AM
Completed	Security Checked 10/30/2020 6:18:28 AM

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Status	Timestamps
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