

Annual Review 2008/2009

Valuing our Faith Communities



Economic Impact Assessment September 2008 - March 2009

As part of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum's business plan, between September 2008 and March 2009 we undertook a study of the economic contribution made by faith communities to the region's economy.

This study was the first to be undertaken into community based work by the faith sector in Yorkshire and the Humber. A questionnaire was developed in consultation with representatives of faith communities. The survey was distributed by post to just over 3000 places of worship in November 2008.

The survey looked at both small and large scale projects which help address issues affecting people across the region or that help meet the needs of particular faith groups. The final report comprised an independent assessment of the significant economic contribution that faith communities make to the region as well as to the well being of the region's population.

United Faiths' Music and Media Conference and Concert The Carriageworks, Leeds February 2009

Using music and media to channel their voice positively 170 people aged 16 to 25 took part in the music and media conference and concert. Michael Wakelin, former BBC Head of Religion and Ethics gave the keynote address on the subject 'Religion in the Media: Past, Present and Future.'

The delegates then participated in a number of workshops including Radio, Indian Classical and Rock and Dhol. The afternoon concluded with a concert showcasing the breadth and talent of the young people of Yorkshire and the Humber.

Face to Face and Side by Side Leeds Town Hall October 2008

The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum participated in the development of 'Face to Face and Side by Side' framework.

Following the national launch of Face to Face and Side by Side by the Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary for State for Communities and Local Government the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum launched the region's interfaith strategy for the next three years.

Designed to encourage dialogue and social action and support the national framework, the keynote address was given by Ciara Wells, Deputy Director, The Cohesion and Faiths division of CLG.

The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum

The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum (YHFF) was established in 2005 to:

- Advance the contribution of faith communities in the Yorkshire and Humber region;
- Encourage and educate faith communities to work together in matters of policy, strategy and action;
- Challenge all forms of discrimination and injustice against persons or groups of people, particularly on the grounds of religious belief.

Valuing Faith Communities

Faith is flourishing in modern Britain. Policy makers want to work with faith communities to advance community cohesion and help to shape societies that are fulfilling for all people. Government strategy includes the "Face to Face and Side by Side" framework.

Faith communities bring a vision to serve and keep hope alive. We are rooted in local neighbourhoods as well as worship and prayer, and have a strong desire to make life better for all. We share food, fasting and festivals. We have a deep respect for the earth and the environment. We are committed to addressing inequality and unfairness.

YHFF commissioned research has revealed that faith communities contribute around £300 million per annum in the Yorkshire and Humber region. This is a very significant investment and increases confidence within the faith communities and the confidence of the key regional and national partners and funders.

In addition faith communities offer to all our partners:

- Values of hope, justice and hospitality
- Resources in terms of property and people, including motivated volunteers
- Experience, expertise, enthusiasm and energy
- Projects that make a difference and transform communities

Faith communities regularly bring together large groups of people to progress these visions and values.

Faith diversity is part of our richness and requires from us all greater understanding, deeper respect and a genuine acceptance of each other.

Good and respectful interfaith relationships are essential to our wellbeing.

Inderjit Bhogal.

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE
CEO Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum

'There have been many significant moments of the past year but I was especially delighted that we were able to commission the Economic Impact Assessment study. People from across Yorkshire and the Humber make a significant but often unrecognised contribution to the economy for the benefit of those who live and work in the region. The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum will continue to develop new partnerships and encourage stakeholders to support the faith communities and the interfaith groups throughout the region.'

Rt Revd Tony Robinson
Bishop of Pontefract and Chair, Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum

'The Churches Regional Commission (CRC) is very proud of what has been achieved since the YHFF was set up by CRC and partners over a three year period, and then launched in 2005. Now the YHFF has become independent of CRC we are partners with them in working to ensure that faith communities have a seat at the table and that local faith groups are supported to engage confidently in community life. The YHFF made a big impact in a short space of time and we look forward to future joint working.'

Revd Liz Carnelley
Chief Executive The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber

"I would like to commend Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum for its imaginative work in the Region – and for the national example it has set in some cases. Developing mature working relationships with Government Regional Offices, Regional Development Agencies and Local Authorities has been among the first priorities of the faith forums around the English Regions. YHFF has put faith communities on the map across Yorkshire and the Humber through its outstanding record in forging these key relationships."

David Rayner
Cohesion & Faiths Division Dept for Communities & Local Government.



Left to Right, Inderjit Bhogal CEO, Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum; Bea Jefferson, Yorkshire Futures; Isobel Mills, Deputy Regional Director, Parliament and Communities Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber; Mufti Yusuf Akudi Council Member, Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum; Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Chair, Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum; David Rayner, Cohesion & Faiths Division Dept for Communities & Local Government

Financial Statement

Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum Council Members

In the financial year 2008-2009 the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum comprised twenty one Council Members. Inderjit Bhogal, YHFF CEO's work was supported by a small team of staff.

The Council Members were:

Chair: Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Christian **Vice Chair:** Ms Sajda Shah, Muslim
Treasurer: Miss Kiran Bali, Hindu **Secretary:** Dr Satwant Rait, Sikh **Faith Seat Holder:** Mrs Patricia Farrell, Christian; Mufti Yusuf Akudi, Muslim; Agnes Grundwald-Spier, Jewish Orthodox (Until 12/2008); Revd Neil Bishop, Christian; Cllr Mrs Rowan Blake-James, Christian (Until 12/2008); Ms Helen Brand, Christian; Revd Graham Brownlee, Christian (Until 12/2008); Revd Canon Michael Cooney, Christian; Mr Deirius Dastor, Zoroastrian; Revd John Davis, Christian; Ms Nahida Majid, Muslim (Until 12/2008); Mr Daryoush Mazloum, Baha'i; Mr Dominic Moghal, Christian; Rabbi Ian Morris, Jewish; Ms Christina Moss, Buddhist; Mr Harbans Singh Sagoo, Sikh; Mr Joniah Parthasarathi, Hindu Dharma (Until 12/2008); Celia Blackden, Christian (12/2008 to present).

Financial activity for the period:- Apr 07 - Mar 08 Apr 08 - Mar 09
£ £

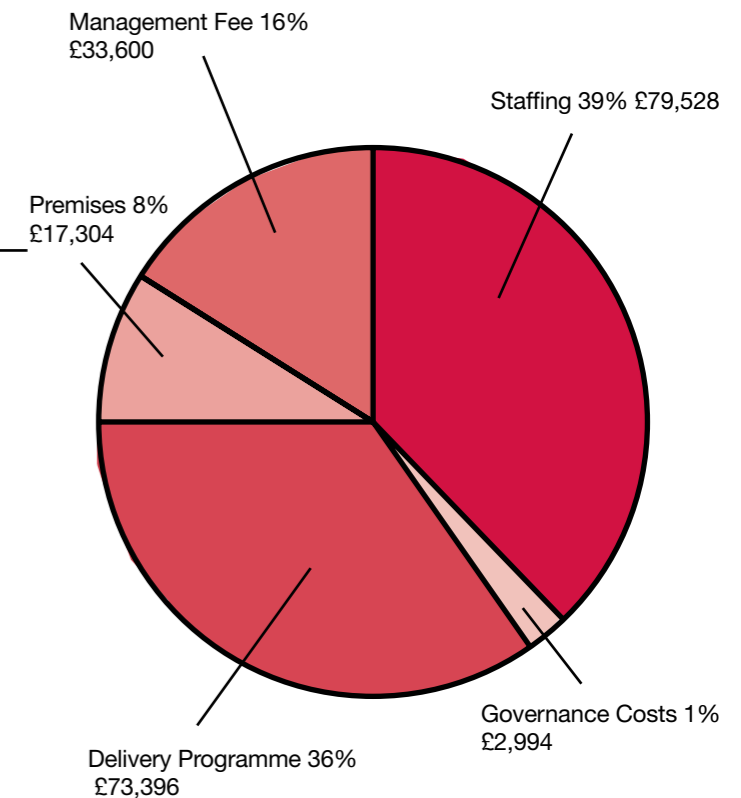
INCOME

Yorkshire & Humber Assembly	10,000	
Yorkshire Forward	92,095	133,000
ChangeUp	53,000	
GOYH		20,000
Community Development Fund	5,000	
CLG		70,000
Management Fees		27,000
Other grants & income	11,557	
Total Income	171,652	250,000

EXPENDITURE

Staffing		
Salaries	52,359	66,575
Pension fund contributions	2,229	5,154
Recruitment/ training	594	3,894
Expenses	3,127	3,905
Sub total	58,309	79,528
Governance costs		
Legal & professional fees	59	
Accountancy	814	1,478
Administrative costs		1,516
Sub total	873	2,994
Delivery Programme		
Communication & Publications	27,890	48,742
Council support costs	33,443	10,116
Conferences	6,255	9,442
Consultancy fees	14,462	5,096
Sub total	82,050	73,396
Premises		
Office rent, utilities	12,589	11,374
Telephone, stationery, postage	3,106	5,116
Sundry office costs	207	814
Sub total	15,902	17,304
Management Fee	14,370	33,600
Total Expenditure	171,504	206,822
Depreciation	2,173	2,201

Net Income (Expenditure) -2,025 40,977



'...faith communities are often first on the scene at times of crisis and make a real difference...'

'...Faiths Forums are shining examples of how faith communities are engaging with each other...'

'...if we don't cash in on the resources of faith communities we will miss out on this resource.'

Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP

To discover more about the activities of YHFF visit: www.yorkshirehumberfaiths.org.uk

To March 31st 2009

- Economic Impact Assessment research: Grace and Generosity - the report reveals the economic contribution of faith communities of around £300million per annum
- United Faiths Music and Media Conference. - 170 young people participate in a conference with the Head of BBC Religion and Ethics.

2008

- The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum becomes an independent charity.
- The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum participates in the development of Face to Face and Side by Side.
- Face to Face and Side by Side is launched in Yorkshire and the Humber with Ciara Wells (Head, Cohesion & Faiths Division Communities and Local Government).

2007

- United Faiths, UK's first and only regional Youth Council is established with 15 members.
- Launch of the Wilberforce Way, a 60 mile trail that links Hull, where William Wilberforce was born, with Pocklington, the town where he was educated and wrote his first letter of protest at the age of 14 and York where he was MP for Yorkshire.
- Sheffield becomes the UK's first recognised City of Sanctuary.

2006

- The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum of 21 members from 9 different faiths commences work. It is the only body that regularly brings people of different faiths together to meet at the regional level.
- Food Festival organised by the Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum to celebrate diversity and promote community cohesion. This is now an annual event.
- Faith to Faith Conference from which United Faiths was born.
- Yorkshire & the Humber Faiths Forum Council Member Patricia Farrell takes up the position of the Faith Seat holder to the Yorkshire & Humber Assembly.

2005

- The Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum was launched by the Right Honourable Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Get Involved

Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum invite you to help them in their work to advance the contribution of the region's faith communities, encourage and educate faith communities to work together and challenge all forms of discrimination and injustice on the grounds of religious belief.

Throughout the year YHFF hosts a series of meetings and events to which you and representatives of your organisation would be very welcome.

You can find out more by visiting the new YHFF website at www.yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk

Soundings is the YHFF newsletter giving in-depth details of the key areas of work by YHFF and their partner organisations. Delivered by post Soundings is published three times each year. If you would like to receive a copy, please send your address details to **YHFF, Suite E12, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds LS3 1AB**

For more current news and activities, YHFF send their electronic newsletter Soundbites by email. Soundbites is a short news bulletin from YHFF and interfaith organisations in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Join the emailing list by sending your email address to **info@yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk**

Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum

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