



## What is NIFCON?

A short name for a big task!

## Our Mission

Progress towards open and loving relationships between Christians and people of other faiths.

## Our Vision

- The exchange of news, information, ideas and resources relating to inter faith concerns;
- Theological reflection in both local and wider contexts;
- Prayerful and urgent action with all involved in tension and conflict;
- Sensitive witness to the gospel;

NIFCON does this by networking and meeting; by the written word in its various forms; by gathering information through its international presidents, correspondents, and other contacts and through its website. It is particularly mandated to monitor Christian-Muslim relations.

## Why Inter Faith Issues?

11 September 2001 and subsequent global events have made it clear that commitment to developing and fostering good relations between the major world faiths is not an 'optional extra'. Whilst religions may be censured for their contributions to human conflict they also have the capacity to be part of the solution.

NIFCON believes that working on an inter faith basis can unlock within individual faiths resources for building trust, engendering reconciliation and making peace to the benefit of society at a local and global level. Quite literally the future of our world may depend on such endeavours.

## Why a network?

As a conduit for news of initiatives we can avoid 're-inventing the wheel' enabling those who are just beginning to tackle inter faith work to share with those who have decades of experience.

Exchanging information we can also make links between academic or high level dialogues and practical grass roots initiatives.

A network links those whose work may make them feel isolated within their own communities.

Our work also includes speaking sensitively on behalf of Christians (particularly, but not exclusively, from within the Anglican tradition) who may be experiencing hardship, or in some cases even persecution, for their faith.

## Who does the work of NIFCON?

Three Anglican Bishops – Bishop **Louis Tsui** (Hong Kong), Bishop **Michael Nazir-Ali** (England), and Archbishop **Josiah Idowu-Fearon** (Nigeria) – share the presidency of NIFCON.

The NIFCON office in London is staffed by a **Coordinator** and **Administrator**, and the North American office in New York City has a volunteer **Staff Associate** – all three have theological and inter faith relations expertise.

The NIFCON **Management Group** (church people and scholars in the UK and elsewhere who are skilled and respected in inter faith circles) The **Compass Rose Society** (in the USA) also helps NIFCON through prayer, donations and practical activities.

But NIFCON as a 'network' is potentially as wide as the Anglican Communion – with contacts and correspondents in nearly forty provinces – sharing news, resources, ideas, and problems in the inter faith area. The NIFCON staff is hard at work 'growing' this web.

## Why specifically Anglican?

It is certainly true that, where possible, Anglicans should and do work ecumenically on inter faith concerns. But Anglicans have a unique contribution to make in this arena.

- The Anglican Church is a significant and often developing Christian presence in parts of the world, such as Nigeria, where inter faith issues, particularly the relationship between Christianity and Islam, are very much part of daily life.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury, as leader of the Anglican Communion, is a respected international voice in the field of inter faith relations. Archbishop Rowan Williams is committed to sustaining and developing initiatives begun by his predecessor. NIFCON provides an international Anglican body to support, advise and communicate, to the Anglican Communion at large, the fruits of this work.
- Anglican theology – with its historic commitment to scripture, tradition, and reason – works to ensure that our faith is not just theoretical but can be seen at work in the lives of individuals and corporately.

The Anglican Communion Network for Inter Faith Concerns is one of several networks operating within Anglican structures. NIFCON was founded following the 1988 Lambeth Conference. The 1998 Lambeth Conference further mandated it to develop appropriate responses and strategies to meet the challenge of inter faith relationships and to place particular emphasis on the study and evaluation of Christian-Muslim relationships.

Become a

## Friend of NIFCON

(please tick, complete your details overleaf and return to the NIFCON Office )

- Friend - we ask for a minimum contribution of £10 per year (Gift Aided if possible, see overleaf)
- Supporter - we ask you to pledge £100 - £500 per year for the next 5 years or make an equivalent one off donation (Gift Aided if possible)
- Ambassador - we ask you to secure a pledge or donation in addition to your own from at least 2 other sources (All Gift Aided if possible)
- Prayer Partner - we ask you to pray for our work regularly

All the above will receive our twice yearly newsletter (preferably by email).

We hope to offer additional benefits to Supporters and Ambassadors e.g. transcripts of speeches or lectures not on the website and an invitation to an annual gathering as and when funds allow.

Additional copies of this leaflet can be obtained from the Administrator.

## Legacies

- I should like to remember NIFCON in my will. Please contact me with further information.

## Notes on Gift Aid Declaration (overleaf):

1. Please notify the Administrator if you change your name or address while this declaration is in force. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Administrator: it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
2. You must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Anglican Consultative Council reclaims (currently 28p for each £ you give).
3. If in future your circumstances change and you no longer pay UK tax as in Note 2 above you can cancel the declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay the higher rate of tax you can claim further tax relief on your Self Assessment tax return.