

### CHARITIES FORUM

19.09.2023 15 Hatfields, London

### What difference does faith make?

#### **TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- Intersectionality between faith and science
- Volunteering trends after the pandemic
- The challenge of faith-confident investing
- Faith groups and campaigning
- Faith in the community

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#### A one-day conference addressing the role that faith plays in furthering organisational mission.

What difference does faith make? This bespoke conference is specifically designed for senior leaders and decision-makers working in faith-based charities. It is intended to create an opportunity to discuss and analyse the role that faith plays in helping many charities achieve their objectives, and to address some of the key challenges facing this unique group of organisations. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an inspiring and thought-provoking day.

08:30	Registration, corree & networking						
09:00	Chair's welcome:						
	Krish Raval OBE, director, Faith in Leadership						
	The chair for this year's Faith Charities Forum will be Krish Raval, director of Faith in Leadership. Faith in Leadership includes among its alumni and patrons key British faith leaders and runs programs in partnership with the University of Cambridge Inter-faith Programme. He heads a number of leadership interventions and is particularly committed to building the capacity of faith communities and young people.						
09:05	Opening keynote: Faith groups and campaigning						
	Thomas Yih, head of charities engagement, Charity Commission						
	Tom will provide an overview of the regulatory position and latest guidance for faith charities when campaigning, as well as a general update from the Charity Commission for England and Wales.						
09:45	Legal update – looking back and thinking forward						
	Adam McRae-Taylor, legal director, and Paul Rideout, legal director, Moore Barlow						
	Adam and Paul will consider the latest legal developments affecting the faith-based sector, covering HR, safeguarding, charity governance and more.						
10:25	Faith in fundraising						
	<b>Lucy Bushill-Matthews</b> , chief operating officer, National Zakat Foundation and <b>Jehangir Malik</b> , policy & engagement director at Mercy Mission UK						
	Lucy will explore the challenges for faith charities when fundraising, and offer practi advice on aligning fundraising with faith and values, so that the relationship between charities and donors goes beyond the transactional.						

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11:05	Networking & refreshment break
11:35	The challenge of faith-confident investing
	Rev Dr Andrew Harper, head of ethics, Epworth
	True faith-consistent investing is more than positive outcomes and encouraging stories.  Andrew will explore the challenges of making tough decisions around disinvestment, engagement, and public image as we seek to fulfil our faith mandates.
12:15	Panel: Intersectionality between faith and science
	Krish Raval OBE, director, Faith in Leadership, Professor John Wood CBE FREng, Associate of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, and consultant to CERN, Dr Martin Hodson, Environmental biologist and director, The John Ray Initiative, and Graham Budd, executive director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion
	How should the faith sector respond to the twin challenges of climate change and AI?
13:15	Lunch
14:15	Faith in the community
	David Barclay, partner, Good Faith Partnership
	The Good Faith Partnership facilitates connections across boundaries of politics, business, civil society, and faith, to tackle systemic issues. David will highlight some of its work with faith groups, including the Warm Welcome Campaign, a community response to the cost-of-living crisis, which established thousands of free spaces, to make sure nobody was left to suffer on their own last winter.
14:55	Volunteering trends after the pandemic
	Hannah Rich, senior researcher, Theos
	Hannah will share the findings of research exploring how volunteering in faith-based homelessness projects has changed since before the pandemic, including the challenges and opportunities posed by the last few years. The session will also explore wider trends in faith-based volunteering.
15:35	Networking & refreshment break
15:55	Closing plenary: Working out our differences
	Laura Marks CBE, inter-faith social activist
	While recognising that there is more that unites than divides us, Laura will reflect upon her own vast experience, successful and less successful, in inter-faith work and argue that acknowledging there are deep-rooted differences, and difficulties, between faiths is hugely important in reaching common ground.
16:35	Chair's closing remarks
16:45	Networking reception
17:45	End
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