

NEWS RELEASE

22 April 2019

Standing Together: A statement from the Co-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK and Moderators of the IFN Faith Communities Forum following the Easter Day terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka

Following the barbaric Easter Day terrorist attacks on churches and other properties in Sri Lanka, many people in the UK have been coming together to express their condolences and stand in solidarity.

As we said after the terrorist attacks in Pittsburgh USA and Christchurch New Zealand – such attacks on places of worship are a reminder of the need to condemn extremist violence in the strongest terms and to stand together and to continue to work together with ever greater urgency against ignorance, prejudice and hatred. Hatred targeting any community because of its faith and belief is a scourge that cannot be tolerated. There must be freedom for all communities to worship and practise their faith freely and without fear.

The Inter Faith Network Co-Chairs and Faith Communities Forum Moderators

Notes for editors

1. Press queries to Inter Faith Network: email ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
2. The Inter Faith Network for the UK www.interfaith.org.uk was founded in 1987 to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain and to promote good relations between people of different faiths in this country. It works with its member bodies and others to carry out these aims.
3. Member bodies of the Inter Faith Network include: national faith community representative bodies; national, regional and local inter faith bodies; and academic institutions and educational bodies concerned with inter faith issues. A list of member bodies can be found at <http://www.interfaith.org.uk/members>.
4. A copy of this statement can be found at <http://interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages> and a copy of IFN's statement making policy at https://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/Policy_on_making_of_statements.pdf
5. IFN has published the following relevant guidance: *Looking After One Another: The Safety and Security of our Faith Communities*, published in partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs' Council can be found at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/looking-after-one-another-the-safety-and-security-of-our-faith-communities-2017> https://www.interfaith.org.uk/uploads/Looking_After_One_Another_-_The_safety_and_security_of_our_faith_communities.pdf. That document contains guidance on responding jointly to attacks on places of worship; working for calm at times of tension; and working to build on and strengthen existing good inter faith relations. It contains material about how and where to report hate incidents, cyber-attacks, and actual or suspected terrorist activity; where to find information on strengthening the security of buildings; and where to find information about working to build – and strengthen – good inter faith relations locally.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK
2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7730 0410
Email: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
Web: www.interfaith.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IFNetUK www.twitter.com/IFNetUK