

## Seminar on Celebrating Multi-Faith Chaplaincy in Healthcare National Inter Faith Week 2011



A view of the event at Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

To recognise the unique contribution Multi-Faith Chaplaincy makes to the care of the patients within the NHS the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy held a Reception on Thursday 24th December 2011 at the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House in the Palace of Westminster. Aptly titled as 'Celebrating Multi-Faith Chaplaincy in Healthcare, the event was held during the National Inter-Faith Week 2011.

The event was attended by a good number of healthcare chaplains representing eight world faith communities as well as Lord Sheikh Cornhill, Rt. Revd Nigel Stock, the Bishop of Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Dr. Harriet Crabtree, Director of National Interfaith Network UK, Mr. Barry Mussenden, the head of Equality and Partnership at the Department of Health, Revd Toby Howarth, Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Interreligious Affairs, Dr. Shuja Shafi, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, Revd Micheal Heaney, president of Churches Together in England, Sri Brij Mohan Gupta, President of National Council of Hindu Temples UK and a number of other Faith Community leaders. The Secretary of State for Health Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley MP apologised for not being able to attend 'for diary commitments however, hoped that the event is successful'.

In welcoming the guests the Chair of the MFGHC, Mr Chowdhury Mueen Uddin said: 'In this National Interfaith Week we value and rejoice in the fact that right across the UK Chaplains from diverse faith backgrounds are able to creatively work together to ensure the highest quality of religious and spiritual care'.

While emphasising the high value chaplains' work add to the care of patients and staff in the NHS, the Lord Sheikh of Cornhill called: 'for including chaplaincy into the portfolio of a minister as well as to have a named executive director in each NHS trust responsible for chaplaincy to accord due recognition chaplaincy deserves'.

Mr. Barry Mussenden said: 'I am pleased to add my congratulations for hosting such a wonderful event. The department of health values the excellent work of the Multi-Faith Group and that this work is regarded as an important contribution to healthcare. The DH looks forward to have more collaborative work with the MFGHC in the coming years'.

Other speakers included Rt. Revd Nigel Stock the Bishop of Ipswich and Dr Harriet Crabtree, the director of the National Interfaith Network UK.

The highlight of the event however, was speeches by chaplains from a variety of faith communities who spoke on their distinct contribution in delivering the spiritual and religious care. These speakers included: Sandra Ballaster (Bahá'í), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Keith Munnings(Buddhist) Birmingham Central Hospital, Father Nigel Griffin(Christian), Senior Catholic Chaplain Imperial College NHS, Pt. Rakesh Bhatt(Hindu), Sandwell Dudley Hospital, Mr Harinder Maan (Sikh), Mr. Madhu Rawji (Jain), Rabbi Zorach Meir Salasnik(Jewish), Imam Yunus Dudhwala, (Muslim) Lead Chaplain, Newham Teaching Hospital.

A colourful brochure was handed to the participants with messages (posted below) of good will from national faith leaders including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi.



Messages:



ARCHBISHOP  
OF CANTERBURY

**National Inter Faith Week 2011  
Multi Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy Conference**

Caring for the whole person involves more than just medicine. Health Care Chaplains are a vital part of a multi-disciplinary team of the health professionals whose task it is to bring holistic care to all who seek it. In the current debate about the future of the NHS, it is important that this work of health care chaplains for patients and for staff at every level is properly recognised. I warmly commend the Multi Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy and the Department of Health in bringing together the major religious groups of this country to promote Chaplaincy in the NHS.

*† Rowan Cantuar:*

*office* of the  
**CHIEF RABBI**

**MESSAGE FOR THE MULTI-FAITH GROUP FOR HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY  
FROM THE CHIEF RABBI LORD SACKS**

Caring for a whole person involves more than medicine and surgery. We have a responsibility for treating patients as people and to recognise that patient's spiritual life plays a central role in their recovery, giving them strength to cope with a crisis. Faith based chaplaincy is therefore central to cure and recovery. This is why the NHS continues to value this unique role of Chaplaincy in healthcare.

I commend the Department of Health and the Multi Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy (MFGHC) for playing a key role in bringing together nine Faith groups in promoting Chaplaincy in the NHS.

Yours with warmest good wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Sacks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks



**The Muslim Council of Britain**

## Message from the Secretary General

By harnessing the power of faith and spirituality, in conjunction with medicine and surgery, chaplains help deliver a whole-person-care which ensures respect and dignity for patients, staff and families - one of the core objectives of our National Health Service.

The Department of Health and the Multi Faith Group for Health Care Chaplaincy (MFGHC) deserve our sincere commendation for energetically championing unity among faith groups delivering faith based chaplaincy services in healthcare, for our diverse society.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farooq Murad'.

Farooq Murad  
Secretary General



Free Church Chaplains work to meet the religious and spiritual needs of patients who are from any of the 24 denominations which form the Free Churches Group, working across denominational boundaries. All are authorised through the Free Churches Group and to that end seek to uphold the ethos of the Group namely commitment to scripture, the heritage of dissent and the opportunity for prayer. It is encouraging that the authorisation process developed for the Free Churches Group is forming the basis for authorisation in the smaller faith groups and our working with the Multi Faith for Health Care Chaplaincy is a blessing.

### Revd Michael Heaney

General Secretary Congregational Federation  
Moderator of Free Churches Group  
President of Church Together in England



In the Bahá'í view, religion is considered to be a continually evolving system of knowledge and practice representing the spiritual experience of the human race. Bahá'ís understand that there is a core of shared values common to all religions. Multi-faith chaplaincy is an expression of that shared understanding, and the Multi Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy continues to play a vital role in enabling all faith communities to serve the needs of patients and staff of all faiths and none.

Patrick O'Mara

Secretary

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

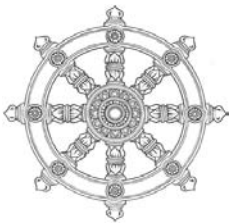


## National Council of Hindu Temples UK (NCHT)

To British Hindu Community spiritual care is an integral part of Healthcare which makes chaplaincy a valuable part of the NHS.

National Council of Hindu Temples UK is thankful to the Department of Health and particularly the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy for providing much needed support to our community to develop more structured chaplaincy services for Hindu service users in the NHS.

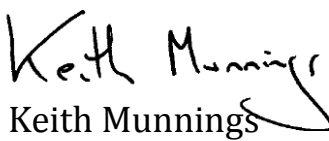
**Shri.Brij Mohan Gupta**  
**President**



## BUDDHIST HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY GROUP

Our faith community welcomes the development of multi-faith healthcare chaplaincy as a way in which practising Buddhists have been able to offer to hospital patients, their relatives and hospital staff our skills, knowledge and experience. Working together with chaplains of other faiths is a great experience and furthers our understanding and helps us recognise and deepen the compassion and kindness which all faiths share and which is especially poignant in caring for other human beings.

It is a great pleasure today to be celebrating the good work of the Multi-Faith Healthcare Chaplaincy Group in bringing faiths together. Our wishes are for the long life of this relationship well into the future so that its work helps further shape chaplaincy to become of even greater benefit to all those within hospitals.

  
Keith Munnings  
Chairman



## The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

The Jain Community believe that Faith Chaplaincy is an essential aspect of healthcare and that spiritual care is no less important than medical care. Jain tenets have laid out a specific system of spiritual care for sick that helps in recovery.

We acknowledge the very important role Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy (MFGHC) has played in bringing together a wide range of faith groups to work towards development of Multi Faith Chaplaincy.  
Sincerely yours.

Manhar Mehta  
Chairman



**UK Sikh Healthcare Chaplaincy Group**

For Sikhs, caring for the spirit is an essential part of their everyday lives. For those who are Sick or unwell, prayer gives the uplifting sense of protection and the knowing that doing the 'ardaas' (meditation) any current state of illness or discomfort will be alleviated.

The leadership Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy is immensely helpful for the Sikh Community in translating this unique Sikh vision of care and service into a professional chaplaincy institution.

Sital Singh Maan  
Sikh Healthcare Chaplaincy Group

