

# 2008-11 Strategy

## *Living Together with Faith*



### **Introduction**

This document sets out the Christian Muslim Forum's 3 year strategy for the for the period 2008-11. Since its inception in 2006 the Forum has met many of the objectives set out in its Foundation Document, itself based on extensive consultation with Christians, Muslims and other partners across England. The Forum is now at an important juncture where serious reflection on its performance to date should lead to a clear set of strategic organisational and programme objectives for the future.

This document sets out a draft strategy based on priorities and values set out in the Foundation Document as well as recent consultation with Forum members. Forum members met in March 2008 to consider the consultation results and review the strategic direction of the Forum. The results of that review have directly shaped this document.

## **Forum Vision**

Our Vision is to :

- *Create* a space where Christians and Muslims meet, learn about and understand each other, so that we can
- *Live* faithfully with difference, and work together to
- *Heal* Christian-Muslim relationships

## **Our Strategic Values**

We believe that:

1. Strong personal relationships between Christians and Muslims, based on faith in God, and commitment to the common good are essential to our work;
2. Successful Christian and Muslim relations require the participation of believers from as many Christian and Muslim traditions as possible;
3. The participation of young people and women in inter faith activities is essential;
4. Good practice needs to be shared at national; regional and local levels and networking encouraged; and
5. We should not duplicate existing national or local inter faith initiatives or organisations; nor involve ourselves directly in the running of new or existing groups.

## **Our Strategic Priorities**

### ***Creating safe spaces***

- Lead, influence and encourage open and honest engagement to improve community relations;

### ***Living creatively with our differences***

- Build our capacity to engage with each other effectively
- Improve women's, young people's and children's involvement in our engagement;

### ***Healing, Creating and Celebrating relationships***

- Identify and lead discussions on issues of concern that relate to Christian Muslim relations and effect wider society;
- Be a role model for dialogue and engagement locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;

### ***In delivering these priorities we will:***

- Be responsive – listening to what Christians and Muslims say;

- Ensure value for money;
- Create effective partnerships with faith communities and civic society; and
- Develop a recognisable and unique brand, achieving a strong media profile to support the achievement of these aims.

These priorities will have a direct impact on our budget with resources being directed to ensure that we achieve these priorities.

## **Strategic Context**

### **Internal**

- Improving our media profile/branding;
- Promoting the Forum and its programmes as models of best practice, inter-faith dialogue and engagement; and
- Responding proactively, sensitively and clearly on controversial issues

### **External**

- Strengthening our high-level influence
- Delivering positive outcomes locally, regionally and nationally;
- Building the capacity of our faith communities to engage locally;
- Sensitive issues being raised by our faith communities in public .

