

# **MISSING DOCUMENTS FOR INTER FAITH NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The attached documents appear for some reason not to have been included in the dossier of papers for the Inter Faith Network Annual General Meeting under *Agenda Item 8: Applications for Membership*. This is correspondence sent to Dr Harriet Crabtree and the IFN Office from Member Bodies of the Inter Faith Network in connection with the Druid Network membership application

**Hull and East Riding Interfaith** to Dr Harriet Crabtree

**East of England Faiths Agency and Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource**  
to Dr Harriet Crabtree

**Cambridge Inter-Faith Group** to Dr Harriet Crabtree

**Dacorum Interfaith Network** to Dr Harriet Crabtree

**Sheffield Interfaith** to Dr Harriet Crabtree

**Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship** to a number of parties  
including Dr Crabtree

also attached

E-mail Circular from **Camden Faith Communities Partnership** with  
**Sheffield Interfaith, Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship,**  
**Interfaith Alliance UK and Scriptural Reasoning** with **Druid**  
**Network Trustees to Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian IFN Executive**  
**Committee members**

Website ownership record for this latter e-mail

E-MAIL TO DR HARRIET CRABTREE FROM HULL AND EAST RIDING INTERFAITH

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Jackielukes](#)

**To:** [Harriet Crabtree](#)

**Cc:** [Cynthia Concord Leeds](#) ; [Interfaith Rotherham](#) ; [Interfaith North Lincs](#) ; [Interfaith Bradford FF](#) ; [Inter Faith Network for the UK](#) ; [Philip Heselton](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2012 3:48 PM

**Subject:** For IFN 's AGM on 12 July 2012

Dear Harriet,

at its AGM on 26 June 2012 at the Guildhall, Hull, **Hull and East Riding Interfaith (HERI)** heard and discussed a speech by Philip Heselton of Hull and East Yorkshire Pagans, after which this resolution was unanimously agreed, nem con (our Chair Professor Friend called for 'against' and 'abstentions' but there were none) :

***"This group supports the Druid Network and Pagan Federation application to become a member of the IFN, in accordance with the principles of tolerance and understanding - the spirit in which this group works."***

Views put in the discussion are mentioned in the Minutes attached, item 8. **It seemed puzzling and paradoxical to all who spoke that the organization set up to lead opinion in favour of learning about and valuing faith and belief groups, IFN, should be opposed particularly to so benign a movement devoted to nature and the countryside.** Chair and members of both Hull and East Riding SACREs (Statutory Advisory Councils for Religious Education) were present and said they saw no problem with Pagans, once some education was given about their modern form not the centuries-old fearsome one. As with so many other fears including Islamophophobia and anti-semitism, what is needed over time is education, friendship, inclusion not exclusion, and a spirit of good will, 'tolerance and understanding', as the motion says.

A member of Humberside Police, a former Prison Chaplain and current NHS HEY Hospitals Chaplain present added their voices to the view that Pagans are now accepted in a normal way, by local government too.

Can I add my own thoughts (a) that last year HERI's forum on the 2011 report about "Spirituality in Contemporary Funerals", with research done by Hull University's Centre for Spirituality Studies and HERI members, found an interesting upsurge of 'green' Pagan and Humanist funerals in Hull and East Yorkshire, handmade ie with music, poems and prayers created by ordinary people. This unexpected development, expressing spiritual feelings yet not using traditional Clergy, is interesting and sincere. The report also included 'contemporary' funerals of the usual faith groups and communities. (b) We are glad that Philip Heselton, one of HERI's founders, has rejoined HERI Committee after standing aside to make space for a keen refugee in 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Lukes

Secretary, Hull and East Riding Interfaith (HERI)

[www.heri.org.uk](http://www.heri.org.uk)

98 Victoria Avenue

Hull, HU5 3DS

East Yorkshire

tel. 01482-445728

## Druid Network Membership of IFN

David Capey [d.capey@sifre.org.uk] EAST OF ENGLAND FAITHS AGENCY AND

**Sent:** 01 June 2012 12:47

**To:** IFNet [IFNet@interfaith.org.uk]

SUFFOLK INTERFAITH RESOURCE (SIFRE)

**Cc:** Phil Ryder [philryder@btinternet.com]; Harriet Crabtree [harriet.crabtree@interfaith.org.uk]; Scriptural Reasoning

**Attachments:** IFN Proxy forms.pdf (69 KB)

Dear Harriett,

As you will be aware from our previous conversations first with Brian and subsequently with yourself, SIFRE and EEFA have both been concerned and mystified by the fact that IFN membership is restricted to organisations from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian traditions.

It will therefore not be a surprise to you that both the Boards of SIFRE and EEFA, both being members of IFN, have resolved that they support the application for the Druid Network to be admitted to membership of IFN. Likewise they support the application of the Christian Muslim Council as they know of no reason why it should not become a member of IFN.

I understand that the AGM will be invited to discuss the Druid Network application and I hope the Christian Muslim Council application will also be considered at the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

This communication is to make you aware of SIFRE's and EEFA's support for these two applications and to register with you our proxy forms should we or any other of our membership not be able to be present at the meetings.

It is our wish that this issue is resolved as amicably and as swiftly as possible in order that IFN and all the other bodies involved may return to fulfilling their prime purposes without further time / financial commitments restricting their other important activities.

We sympathise with you in your position in that you personally are having to carry the burden of dealing with this issue.

--

Best Regards,  
David Capey

Hon Executive Officer,  
Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource,

Registered Office and Postal Address  
The Inter-Faith Centre,  
The West Building,  
University Campus Suffolk,  
Waterfront Building,  
Neptune Quay,  
Ipswich,  
Suffolk,  
IP4 1QJ

Registered Charity: 10426112  
Limited Company No.: 2992865  
Registered in England and Wales

Telephone: 01379 678615  
Web site: [www.sifre.org.uk](http://www.sifre.org.uk)

## Druid Network application

David Wilman [ddw] [ddw@aber.ac.uk] E-MAIL TO DR HARRIET CRABTREE FROM  
**Sent:** 26 June 2012 13:39  
**To:** IFNet@interfaith.org.uk CAMBRIDGE INTER-FAITH GROUP  
**Cc:** philryder@btinternet.com; Scriptural Reasoning

Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2012

Form for the Appointment of a Proxy and Votes in Favour of the Application for Membership of the Druid Network

<b>Name of Member Body Appointing the Proxy</b>	Cambridge Inter-Faith Group
<b>Address of Member Body Appointing the Proxy</b>	Girton, Cambridge CB3  Address deleted for privacy
<b>Name of the Officer of the Member Body</b>	David Wilman
<b>Contact Telephone</b>	Telephone deleted for privacy
<b>Contact E-mail Address</b>	ddw@aber.ac.uk

This Member Body of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom whose name is specified above, hereby appoints the Secretary of Scriptural Reasoning, Unit 1, Quebec Wharf, 14 Thomas Road, London E14 7AF (being also a Member Body of the Inter Faith Network) as its proxy to vote in its name(s) and on its behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Inter Faith Network to be held on Thursday 12 July 2012, and at any adjournments thereof.

This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network which has not been recommended for admission by the Trustees and has been judged ineligible by the Trustees, in accordance with Clause 7.5 of the Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we instruct the proxy on behalf of this Member Body to demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the membership petition of the applicant body, the Druid Network

In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network, we instruct the proxy to vote in the name and on behalf of this Member Body in favour of the application by the Druid Network for membership, and further in favour of the Druid Network's eligibility for membership of the Inter Faith Network over and against any previous decision of ineligibility by the Trustees or prior bye-law

The proxy is automatically revoked by attendance in person of this Member Body at the Annual General Meeting.

**Signed [insert name of officer]: David Wilman**

**Dated: 26 June 2012**

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E-MAIL TO HARRIET CRABTREE FROM DACORUM INTERFAITH NETWORK

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## Form for the Appointment of a Proxy and Votes in Favour of the Applications for Membership of the Druid Network and the Christian Muslim Council

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**Paul Sandford** <paulsandford28@googlemail.com>

25 May 2012 15:16

To: "harriet.crabtree@interfaith.org.uk" <harriet.crabtree@interfaith.org.uk>, "IFNet@interfaith.org.uk" <IFNet@interfaith.org.uk>

Cc: Scriptural Reasoning <enquiries@scripturalreasoning.org.uk>, "philryder@btinternet.com" <philryder@btinternet.com>

Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom Annual General Meeting on  
12 July 2012

Form for the Appointment of a Proxy and Votes in Favour of the  
Applications for Membership of the Druid Network and the Christian  
Muslim Council

Name of Member Body Appointing the Proxy

Dacorum Interfaith Network

Address of Member Body Appointing the Proxy

12 Bullace Close  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP1 2PX

Name of the Officer of the Member Body

Rev. Paul Sandford

Contact Telephone

07767075490

Contact E-mail Address

[paulsandford28@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulsandford28@yahoo.co.uk)

This Member Body of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom whose name is specified above, hereby appoints the Secretary of Scriptural Reasoning, Unit 1, Quebec Wharf, 14 Thomas Road, London E14 7AF (being also a Member Body of the Inter Faith Network) as its proxy to vote in its name(s) and on its behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Inter Faith Network to be held on Thursday 12 July 2012, and at any adjournments thereof.

This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network which has not been recommended for admission by the Trustees and has

been judged ineligible by the Trustees, in accordance with Clause 7.5 of the Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we instruct the proxy on behalf of this Member Body to demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the membership petition of the applicant body, the Druid Network

In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network, we instruct the proxy to vote in the name and on behalf of this Member Body in favour of the application by the Druid Network for membership, and further in favour of the Druid Network's eligibility for membership of the Inter Faith Network over and against any previous decision of ineligibility by the Trustees or prior bye-law

In the matter of the application for membership by the Christian Muslim Council which raised important questions of fairness and inclusion of all faiths in the membership policies of the Inter Faith Network, and despite meeting all membership criteria has found its application not to have been recommended for admission by the Trustees, in accordance with Clause 7.5 of the Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we instruct the proxy on behalf of this Member Body to demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the membership petition of the applicant body, the Christian Muslim Council

In the matter of the application for membership by the Christian Muslim Council, we instruct the proxy to vote in the name and on behalf of this Member Body in favour of the application by the Christian Muslim Council for membership

In the matter of all other resolutions properly put to the Annual General Meeting, we instruct the proxy to abstain.

The proxy is automatically revoked by attendance in person of this Member Body at the Annual General Meeting.

Signed Paul Sandford

Dated: 25th May 2012

**Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2012**

**Form for the Appointment of a Proxy and Votes in Favour of the Applications for  
Membership of the Druid Network and the Christian Muslim Council**

<b>Name of Member Body Appointing the Proxy</b>	Sheffield Interfaith
<b>Address of Member Body Appointing the Proxy</b>	MultiFaith Chaplaincy Sheffield Hallam University Arundel Gate Sheffield
<b>Name of the Officer of the Member Body</b>	Lynn Rishworth (Chair)
<b>Contact Telephone</b>	0114 2333547
<b>Contact E-mail Address</b>	lynnrish@fsmail.net

This Member Body of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom whose name is specified above, hereby appoints the Secretary of Scriptural Reasoning, Unit 1, Quebec Wharf, 14 Thomas Road, London E14 7AF (being also a Member Body of the Inter Faith Network) as its proxy to vote in its name(s) and on its behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Inter Faith Network to be held on Thursday 12 July 2012, and at any adjournments thereof.

This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

- In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network which has not been recommended for admission by the Trustees and has been judged ineligible by the Trustees, in accordance with Clause 7.5 of the Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we instruct the proxy on behalf of this Member Body to demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the membership petition of the applicant body, the Druid Network
- In the matter of the application for membership by the Druid Network, we instruct the proxy to vote in the name and on behalf of this Member Body in favour of the application by the Druid Network for membership, and further in favour of the Druid Network's eligibility for membership of the Inter Faith Network over and against any previous decision of ineligibility by the Trustees or prior bye-law
- In the matter of the application for membership by the Christian Muslim Council which raised important questions of fairness and inclusion of all faiths in the membership policies of the Inter Faith Network, and despite meeting all membership criteria has found its application not to have been recommended for admission by the Trustees, in accordance with Clause 7.5 of the Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, we instruct the proxy on behalf of this Member Body to demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the membership petition of the applicant body, the Christian Muslim Council
- In the matter of the application for membership by the Christian Muslim Council, we instruct the proxy to vote in the name and on behalf of this Member Body in favour of the application by the Christian Muslim Council for membership
- In the matter of all other resolutions properly put to the Annual General Meeting, we instruct the proxy to abstain.

The proxy is automatically revoked by attendance in person of this Member Body at the Annual General Meeting.

**Signed [insert name of officer]:Lynn Rishworth**

**Dated:15-5-2012**



## Re: Inter Faith Network Annual General Meeting

Concord [secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk] FROM LEEDS CONCORD INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

Sent: 26 June 2012 20:46

To: Scriptural Reasoning; Harriet Crabtree [harriet.crabtree@interfaith.org.uk]; IFNet@interfaith.org.uk

Cc: PHIL RYDER [philryder@btinternet.com]; trustees.tdn@druidnetwork.org; jeff@tmind.co.uk; tcoleman@scientology.org.uk; g.wilson@scientology.org.uk; tanya.paton@interfaithalliance.org.uk; ddw@aber.ac.uk; d.capey@sifre.org.uk; lynnish@fsmail.net; paulsandford28@googlemail.com; cat@paganfedeastmids.co.uk; pa@uk.upf.org; prudence.jones@ntlworld.com; carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com; adampamment@yahoo.com; stefaniacisco@hotmail.com; mark.rosher@googlemail.com; chris@funderburg.me; timjmiller@hastingsinterfaith.org; William Haines [w.s.h.haines@gmail.com]; mohamedelsharkawy@arrahan.org.uk; enquiries@childrenofabraham.org.uk

Dear Muhammad (and all)

There will be two members from Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship at the IFN-UK conference and AGM on July 12th with a mandate to vote

- in favour of overturning any prior bye-law which restricts or excludes TDN from eligibility to join and
- in favour of TDN's application for membership of IFN-UK.

We all hope to see a positive and amicable outcome to this situation, sharing, as we do, the aim of "building good relations with people of different faiths and beliefs"

best wishes

Cynthia

----- Original Message -----

From: [Scriptural Reasoning](#)

To: [Harriet Crabtree](#) ; [IFNet@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:IFNet@interfaith.org.uk)

Cc: [PHIL RYDER](#) ; [trustees.tdn@druidnetwork.org](mailto:trustees.tdn@druidnetwork.org) ; [jeff@tmind.co.uk](mailto:jeff@tmind.co.uk) ; [tcoleman@scientology.org.uk](mailto:tcoleman@scientology.org.uk) ; [g.wilson@scientology.org.uk](mailto:g.wilson@scientology.org.uk) ; [tanya.paton@interfaithalliance.org.uk](mailto:tanya.paton@interfaithalliance.org.uk) ; [ddw@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ddw@aber.ac.uk) ; [d.capey@sifre.org.uk](mailto:d.capey@sifre.org.uk) ; [secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk](mailto:secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk) ; [lynnish@fsmail.net](mailto:lynnish@fsmail.net) ; [paulsandford28@googlemail.com](mailto:paulsandford28@googlemail.com) ; [cat@paganfedeastmids.co.uk](mailto:cat@paganfedeastmids.co.uk) ; [pa@uk.upf.org](mailto:pa@uk.upf.org) ; [prudence.jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:prudence.jones@ntlworld.com) ; [carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com](mailto:carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com) ; [adampamment@yahoo.com](mailto:adampamment@yahoo.com) ; [stefaniacisco@hotmail.com](mailto:stefaniacisco@hotmail.com) ; [mark.rosher@googlemail.com](mailto:mark.rosher@googlemail.com) ; [chris@funderburg.me](mailto:chris@funderburg.me) ; [timjmiller@hastingsinterfaith.org](mailto:timjmiller@hastingsinterfaith.org) ; [carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com](mailto:carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com) ; [William Haines](#) ; [mohamedelsharkawy@arrahan.org.uk](mailto:mohamedelsharkawy@arrahan.org.uk) ; [enquiries@childrenofabraham.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@childrenofabraham.org.uk)

Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 5:09 PM

Subject: Inter Faith Network Annual General Meeting

Dear Dr Crabtree

### **Demand for Vote Under Article 7.5 of the Articles of Association**

Further to prior correspondence in respect of the application of the Druid Network (TDN) for membership of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom (IFN), under Article 7.5 of the Articles of Association (attached), the following ten IFN Member Bodies demand a vote at the Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2012 in respect of the TDN's membership application, and all of them vote in favour of the application of the TDN to join, and further all of them vote to overrule any prior bye-law which restricts or excludes the TDN from eligibility to join.

Some member bodies have appointed their vote by proxy in accordance with Article 41 of the Articles of Association, which I will accordingly submit to the AGM. The list of ten IFN Member Bodies hereunder is not exhaustive and there will be additional IFN Member Bodies attending on the day who are likely also to demand a vote under Article 7.5.

We should therefore be grateful that in accordance with this instruction, the discussion of the membership application of the Druid Network and vote upon it is properly set upon the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

# URGENT: For Attention of Dr Natubhai Shah, Hon Barnabas Leith, Mr Jyoti Mehta, Mr Dorab Mistry and the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian People of Britain

E-MAIL FROM LEEDS CONCORD, SHEFFIELD

Camden Faith Communities Partnership

INTERFAITH, CAMDEN FAITHS, IAUK AND SR

Sent: 03 June 2012 23:00

To: info@jainnetwork.com; chairman@jainology.org; secretary@jainology.org; info@jainology.org; jainnetwork@btconnect.com; malcolm\_deboo@yahoo.co.uk; secretary@ztfe.com; nsa@bahai.org.uk; opa@bahai.org.uk; javiddjalili@gmail.com; secretary@kingston-bahai.co.uk; oea@bahai.org.uk; enquiries@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk

Cc: PHIL RYDER [philryder@btinternet.com]; mohamedelsharkawy@arrahan.org.uk; ahmed.elsharkawy@talk21.com; tanya.paton@interfaithalliance.org.uk; graemereidwilson@gmail.com; pa@uk.upf.org; whaines@talktalk.net; secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk; seanleigh46@yahoo.com; office@druidnetwork.org; traceyepacts@yahoo.com; stefaniacisco@hotmail.com; carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com; prudence.jones@ntlworld.com; adampammet@yahoo.com; trust [trustees.tdn@druidnetwork.org]; enq@lborofaiths.org.uk; paulsandford28@googlemail.com; lynnrish@fsmail.net; chris@funderburg.me; mark.rosher@googlemail.com; cat@paganfedeastmids.co.uk; bardic@hotmail.co.uk

Importance: High

Attachments: governing.pdf (76 KB)

## For the Attention of:

Dr Natubhai Shah, Vice President of the Inter Faith Network, President of the Jain Network  
 Hon. Barnabas Leith, Executive Committee of the Inter Faith Network (Baha'i)  
 Ms Jyoti Mehta, Executive Committee of the Inter Faith Network (Jain)  
 Mr Dorab Mistry, Executive Committee of the Inter Faith Network (Zoroastrian)  
 and all brothers and sisters from the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian Communities of the United Kingdom

Dear Sirs and Madam,  
 and all brothers and sisters from across the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian Communities of Britain

## **On the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Inter Faith Network: An Open Letter to the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian Members of the Inter Faith Network Executive Committee and the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian Communities of the United Kingdom**

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom, we address this letter to you as Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian members of the Executive Committee of the Inter Faith Network, and we speak likewise to our brothers and sisters, ordinary women and men, from across the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian faith communities in Britain.

We refer to the application made by our colleague, Mr Philip Ryder, Chair of the Druid Network on behalf of his organisation to Dr Harriet Crabtree, Director of the Inter Faith Network (IFN) for membership of the Network. Further to discussions and legal advice we have received we have strong grounds to believe that:

- 1) The grounds communicated by Dr Crabtree on 30 April 2012 to Mr Ryder in relation to the refusal by the IFN Executive Committee of the Druid Network's application for membership are clearly contrary to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Inter Faith Network - and are therefore null and void
- 2) The refusal by the Inter Faith Network as a registered charity to offer services and public benefit to members of the Druid community out of religious discrimination against that faith community may be unlawful

## **Refusal of Application for Membership of the Druid Network**

On 23 April 2012, Mr Philip Ryder, the Chair of the Druid Network (Charity Registration Number: 1138265) which has been accepted for registration by the Charity Commission under charitable objects of Advancement of Religion for the public benefit and which is fully recognised and protected as a religion in English law, submitted a written application for membership of the Inter Faith Network to Dr Harriet Crabtree, Director of the Inter Faith Network. Section 2(3) of the Charities Act 2006 fully recognises in law the Druid religion of the registered charity, the Druid Network, and the Druid faith is protected under all human rights law and international human rights conventions against religious discrimination, to which the United Kingdom is signatory.

On 11 May 2012, following a meeting on 30 April 2012 of the Board of Trustees of the Inter Faith Network, Dr Crabtree wrote to Mr Ryder stating:

"The 2007 AGM of IFN resolved that the category of 'national faith community body' be open, at the present time, to organisations from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian traditions. In view of this membership policy, IFN's Executive Committee is not in a position to recommend acceptance of your application to the 2012 AGM".

### **Constitution, Charitable Objects and Membership Rules Which Have Been Broken by the Inter Faith Network**

The Inter Faith Network is governed by its constitution, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were incorporated on 2 October 1997, a copy of which are attached herewith. Its stated charitable objects of Promotion of Religious Harmony for the public benefit are given under Article 3 of the Memorandum, thus:

"The Network is established to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths"

The reference to "the different faith communities in Britain" clearly indicates and includes within its purview the legally recognised religion of the Druid Network. The membership rules of the IFN are given in Article 4 of the Articles of Association:

"Full membership shall be open to bodies which satisfy one or more of the following conditions:- (i) It is a national body representative in whole or in part of a faith community in Britain;..."

The application for membership of the Druid Network unambiguously meets these requirements. Furthermore, Article 102b of the Articles of Association states:

"...No Rule or Bye-Law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the Memorandum or Articles of Association of the Network".

The decision at the 2007 AGM to restrict membership of the Inter Faith Network in order to exclude a number of "the different faith communities in Britain" as stated in Article 3 of the IFN's own constitution, and obstruct the application for membership of organisations, including the Druid Network, which are unambiguously "a national body representative in whole or in part of a faith community in Britain" as stated in Article 4, is clearly inconsistent with, affects and repeals the explicit provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Network - and is null and void.

### **Grounds for Refusal of Membership**

While no grounds for refusal of membership have been given by the Inter Faith Network beyond the reference to the decision to restrict membership made at the Annual General Meeting of 2007, there is a widely known basis for this restriction and religious discrimination. This is expressed, for example, in the document of the Church of England, "The Church of England in Relation to New Religious Movements and Alternative Spiritualities" which expresses the view of that particular institution that the Druid community be excluded from formal interfaith organisations, including the Inter Faith Network which is 80% publicly funded from the taxes of all British people, including Druids. The minutes of the Inter Faith Network Annual General Meeting of 2000 contain reference to this prejudiced attitude in a session chaired by the then Co-Chair of the Inter Faith Network, Anglican Bishop Tom Butler:

"It was strongly urged that not all manifestations of religion are benign...and in paragraph c) Some believe strongly that it would be inappropriate to bring some groups such as Pagans into the Inter Faith Network on a representative basis as faith community bodies. There are concerns about how the Network would then be seen by others"

The registered charity, the Druid Network is a legally recognised national faith community representative body of one of the Pagan religions of Britain, and it is our strong belief that the grounds for exclusion of the charity are influenced in part by the expressed religious prejudice that its faith is not "benign" as recorded in the Inter Faith Network minutes above.

Such a prejudiced and totally unacceptable statement about a lawfully recognised and legally protected religious community such as the Druid Network, expressed within the formal context of the work of a charity like the Inter

Faith Network whose explicit objects are the promotion of religious harmony for the public benefit, exposes statement and activity by the latter charity, the Inter Faith Network, which is vividly in breach of its stated charitable objects which are "to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths".

As a result of this recent exclusionary action by the Inter Faith Network Board of Trustees, a minimum of TEN existing member bodies of the Inter Faith Network, in accordance with Article 7.5 of the Articles of Association, have now DEMANDED that the application of the Druid Network be discussed and voted upon at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2012. However, the Inter Faith Network Board of Trustees continues to maintain that the prior decision of the Annual General Meeting of 2007 applies, despite such restriction contradicting the Memorandum and Articles of Association as currently in force, and therefore being null and void.

We also have grounds to believe that the denial of services and benefit by the charity, the Inter Faith Network, to members of the Druid religion out of religious discrimination against that faith community is likely to be contrary to the Equalities Act and other relevant human rights legislation.

The Inter Faith Network is not founded upon a religious doctrine or belief, but rather clearly within its governing document exists to promote religious harmony among "the different faith communities in Britain", and any restriction by reason of religion is thus not in accordance with its stated charitable purposes nor is there any rational basis for the restriction which is linked to its written charitable purposes as given in Article 3 above. It cannot rely upon any charities exemption from such equalities and human rights law against discrimination on religious grounds, and moreover the Inter Faith Network continues to be up to 80% funded from the British taxpayer and thus indiscriminately takes money from British people of all faiths - including from Druid and Pagan communities whose applications to join the IFN it has rejected.

### **The Baha'i Faith**

The Baha'i faith is classed by the Church of England's document "The Church of England in Relation to New Religious Movements and Alternative Spiritualities" as a "New Religious Movement" and is treated under the agency of the Church with responsibility for NRMs. In various contexts overseas, the Baha'i religion has been called a "cult", an "apostate sect", marginalised and its members brutally persecuted. This persecution has increased in recent years leading to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief to raise strong concerns about the exclusion and executions of members of that faith in Iran, and discrimination against Baha'is in other countries.

### **The Jain Faith**

Followers of the ancient Jain religion likewise have been the subject of marginalisation and discrimination at various periods in the faith's history and in various countries. There have been concerns at legislation in some states such as in Gujarat which does not properly recognise the independence of the great world religion of Jainism, but rather sees it as a "sect" that is merely part of other religions.

### **The Zoroastrian Faith**

Followers of the Zoroastrian religion have likewise historically been the subject of discrimination and persecution by others. In the current context, the discrimination and mistreatment of Zoroastrian minorities in various countries is a subject of strong concern by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

### **The Druid and Pagan Faith**

There are numerically a greater number of followers of the Pagan religions in Britain than there are Baha'is, Jains or Zoroastrians. Nevertheless, faith-based representative bodies of the Druid and other Pagan religions are systematically excluded from membership of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom. Just like the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian communities, the Druid community and other Pagans have been discriminated against and excluded, labelled "sects" and "cults" despite such beliefs being historically older in these islands than Christianity. Clearly, given the full legal protection under English law of the Druid religion and of the registered charity, the Druid Network, under Section 2(3) of the Charities Act 2006, which recognises the Druid religious faith as protected by the law of the land, any attempts now by the Inter Faith Network Executive Committee to discriminate or deny Druidry's legitimacy and equality as a faith are unlawful.

The Inter Faith Network is up to 80% funded by public money and has received hundreds of thousands of pounds each year from public funds, including taxpayers' money from members of these faith communities, including the Druid community, whose membership applications it has blocked. It has now been found that throughout, the membership policy of the Inter Faith Network has been unconstitutional and contrary to its own Memorandum and

Articles of Association. This discriminatory membership policy has been likened to that in apartheid South Africa, where "whites only" NGOs continued to take the taxpayers' money of black people whom they continued to block from joining.

We therefore address a clear request and appeal to the Baha'i, Jain and Zoroastrian communities in Britain to reflect on the illegality of the Inter Faith Network's conduct and think in moral and ethical terms about your own experiences of being discriminated against, persecuted and marginalised. We ask that you stand up as decent women and men of faith and of fairness in defending the rights of the Druid community, a lawfully recognised and protected religion under the law of this country - and oppose the Apartheid Membership Policy which the Inter Faith Network Executive Committee has applied against the Druid Network and various other religious communities - taking tax money from all faiths, but excluding some faiths.

On this 25th Anniversary of the Inter Faith Network, please take a stand for justice and fairness against prejudice and discrimination. Please vote in support of the Druid Network's application to the join the Inter Faith Network.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Rishworth, Chair of Sheffield Interfaith [IFN Member Body] added

Cynthia Dickinson, Secretary of Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship [IFN Member Body]

Sharhabeel Lone, Chair of the Camden Faith Communities Partnership [IFN Member Body]

Tanya Paton, Chief Executive of the Interfaith Alliance UK [IFN Member Body]

Sheikh Dr Mohamed Elsharkawy, Trustee of Scriptural Reasoning [IFN Member Body]

Chris Funderburg, Trustee of the Druid Network

Mark Rosher, Trustee and Secretary of the Druid Network

Cat Treadwell, Trustee of the Druid Network and Regional Co-ordinator of the Pagan Federation

**This statement is published online in the public interest for the taxpaying British public:**  
<http://www.theinterfaithnetwork.org.uk/>

**From:** PHIL RYDER [philryder@btinternet.com]

**Sent:** 19 May 2012 01:26

**To:** IFNet

**Cc:** 'bfadmin@barnabasfund.org'; 'mohamedelsharkawy@arrahman.org.uk'; 'Christian Muslim Council'; 'patricia.cj@btconnect.com'; 'joeryan@rcdow.org.uk'; 'ahmed.elsharkawy@talk21.com'; 'tanya.paton@interfaithalliance.org.uk'; 'graemereidwilson@gmail.com'; 'pa@uk.upf.org'; 'whaines@talktalk.net'; 'secretary@concord-leeds.org.uk'; 'enquiries@cfc.org.uk'; 'seanleigh46@yahoo.com'; 'office@druidnetwork.org'; 'traceyepacts@yahoo.com'; 'stefaniacisco@hotmail.com'; 'reuben.livingstone@gmail.com'; 'carolnowlan3211@btinternet.com'; 'prudence.jones@ntlworld.com'; 'adampamment@yahoo.com'; 'tdosouth@urcwales.org.uk'; Scriptural Reasoning; 'trust'; 'enq@lborofaiths.org.uk'

**Subject:** Re: Response to your email of 14 May

Dear Dr Crabtree

Thank-you for your email and the additional clarity contained therein. I fully understand that it would be inappropriate for you to offer a personal response on many of the points raised.

It appears from your reply that the only reason for rejection is that The Druid Network (TDN) is not recognised by IFN UK as a Faith Community Representative Body, despite your email recognising Druidry as a religion/faith, because of a membership policy introduced at the 2007 AGM.

In the spirit of open, honest and honourable communication I would like to raise a few points for consideration by the IFN Governing Body.

I have no legal training, but having spent 5 years holding talks with the Charity Commission Legal Department

## Result of WHOIS query: DOMAIN OWNERSHIP RECORD

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Domain name:  
theinterfaithnetwork.org.uk

Registrant:  
Campaign for an Inclusive Inter Faith Network

Registrant type:  
Other UK Entity (e.g. clubs, associations, many universities)

Registrant's address:  
PO Box 49850  
London  
NW5 9AL  
United Kingdom

Registrar:  
Fasthosts Internet Ltd [Tag = LIVEDOMAINS]  
URL: <http://www.fasthosts.co.uk>

Relevant dates:  
Registered on: 14-Apr-2012  
Expiry date: 14-Apr-2014  
Last updated: 29-Jun-2012

Registration status:  
Registered until expiry date.

Name servers:  
ns1.livedns.co.uk 213.171.192.250  
ns2.livedns.co.uk 213.171.193.250  
ns3.livedns.co.uk

WHOIS lookup made at 11:27:38 06-Jul-2012

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This WHOIS information is provided for free by Nominet UK the central registry for .uk domain names. This information and the .uk WHOIS are:

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