

President's Report

Auckland Inter-Faith Council (AIFC)

Annual General Meeting

17 August 2022

The Executive Committee 2021-2022:-

Officers: President - Ruth Cleaver (Unificationist); Vice President- Harpreet Singh Kohli (Sikh); Treasurer - Steve Drake (Bahá'í); Secretary – Amy Marsden; Committee Members: Beate Matthies- (Roman Catholic); Ram Lingam (Hindu Dharma); Daud Azimullah (Muslim); Muriel Samuela (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints); Paul Wilton (Jewish); Caitlin Bush (Buddhist); Rev. Ivica Gregurec (Anglican).

Seconded by the Committee to assist: Rev Marama Diane Winder (Interspiritual); Naomi Johnson (Jewish); Anne Degia-Pala (Muslim), Aadil Basha (Muslim).

Changes to the Committee for the next year:

Stepping down from the Committee (either at this AGM or during the coming year) for a variety of personal reasons are: Harpreet, Amy, Steve, and Ruth, and Daud will become an Advisor. Also from our Advisors, mid-year Marama withdrew from actively supporting the Committee, and Anne will resume her role as Advisor as opposed to co-opted Committee member. Each person has contributed significantly to the development and strength of this organisation and we honour their dedication and investment over the years.

Moving forward the remaining Committee members plus some new additions will carry on the good work and we wish them all the best.

EVENTS and ENGAGEMENTS:

Due to the lockdown, the planned programmes for August – Oct in 2021 (musical evening end of August in collaboration with Sri Chinmoy organisation, and Exploring Sacred Spaces visits) were all cancelled. We were unable to organise Leadership Diversity Day this year due to instability and pressures in the school system. The Committee continued to meet regularly by Zoom to discuss any pertinent issues.

We are excited that the Exploring Sacred Spaces visits are scheduled to resume this year in Oct. Watch for notices on our email list, website, Facebook page, or via Auckland Heritage Festival promotion sites.

During the lockdown several Committee members were invited to speak in Zoom programmes organised by other organisations:

- 8 Dec. 2021, Interfaith Celebration of Human Rights Day, hosted by Auckland Unitarians for Peace and Social Justice (Sally Mabelle, organiser);
- Sunday 27 March 2022, "Prayer for Peace" programme was organised from Wellington (Lachlan Mackay, organiser).

Committee members attended a number of Iftar or Eid dinners (Pearl of the Islands, NZMA) during and after Ramadan.

We were invited by the Department of Internal Affairs, Policy Division to engage with them about our perspective faith observations and experiences re “content and harm”, content being any material available to the public. Members of the Committee volunteered their time and we had an evening hui on 23rd February 2022 which turned out to be well facilitated and interesting. The DIA was grateful for our contribution and gave a koha of \$500 to our organisation.

Several Committee members supported the RDC (Religious Diversity Centre) with recordings of short videoclips on the topic of water (Ram, Steve, Caitlin). You can find these videos at <https://rdc.org.nz> .

On 18 June Ruth was invited to be Guest Speaker at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women’s Association Interfaith Peace Symposium on the topic : **Fundamentals of Establishing Lasting Peace in our Current Climate.**

Our AIFC public event by webinar on 29 June entitled “My Practice My strength” had Committee members and a few other invited speakers share about their families’ faith practices. This programme offered a very personal and unique insight into how people experience their faith within the privacy of their own homes, and is available for viewing on our website (www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- We acknowledge and are very grateful for all the voluntary work done by Committee Members, Advisors, and other volunteers to keep AIFC running and make all of these initiatives happen. Special thanks to Beate for updating the AIFC website, organising our Zoom calls, and editing the “My Practice My Strength” recording.
- We appreciate all AIFC ‘financial’ members (paying the annual subscription of \$20.)- these funds keep our programmes going.
- We would also like to acknowledge our hosts for the evening, the Family Federation for World Peace, also known as the Heavenly Parents Holy Community, for the use of this facility tonight.
- Many thanks to everyone participating this evening and to all who have supported our work over the last year.

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