

BRISTOL INTER-FAITH GROUP

Constitution November 2013

NAME

The name of the charity is Bristol Inter-Faith Group (BIFG)

OBJECTS

The objects of BIFG are to:

- be a forum for communication between religious groups;
- demonstrate the ability and desire to discuss matters pertaining to religion and become a unified group through shared concerns;
- foster positive attitudes, engendering trust, combating ignorance and prejudice, within and between religious groups and in the wider secular world;
- enable people of different backgrounds and cultures to meet and to experience as far as is possible, something of those backgrounds and cultures other than their own.

MANAGEMENT

The charity shall be managed by a committee consisting of from 3 to 10 trustees together with members. The trustees and members are to be appointed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Management Committee can appoint additional trustees and members between AGMs as necessary. Details of the current trustees must be kept up to date.

CARRYING OUT THE OBJECTS

In order to carry out the charitable objects, the Management Committee has the power to:

1. raise funds, receive grants and donations;
2. apply funds to carry out the work of the charity;
3. co-operate with and support other charities with similar objects;
4. do anything else which is lawful and necessary to achieve the objects.

In any situation in which the Management Committee is divided, the majority wish of the trustees must prevail.

MEMBERSHIP

All those who are aged 18 or over and who support the activities of the charity by attending events or contributing to its funds will be considered members of BIFG.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it to be in the best interests of the charity. The member has a right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is taken and may be accompanied by a friend.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM must be held every year with 14 days notice being given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM. There must be at least 12 members and trustees present for the proceedings to be valid.

Decision-making should be by consensus so far as possible. When the meeting is divided, a vote may be taken to give guidance to the trustees. A vote must be taken for acceptance of the annual accounts.

The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts. Any member may stand for election to the Management Committee. Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year but there must be no more than two trustees from any individual faith community. Trustees and members will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Management Committee must meet at least twice each year in addition to the AGM. At the first meeting of the Committee after the AGM the members and trustees present will elect officers as follows:

Coordinator – to ensure that meetings are held, minutes taken and distributed and that Committee members who undertake responsibilities carry them out.

Treasurer – to manage the charity's bank account according to the wishes of the Committee and to report as required.

If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.

MONEY AND PROPERTY

The activities of BIFG will be financed mainly by individual subscriptions and grants. Where a worshipping group chooses to support BIFG with a corporate subscription it will be accepted gratefully.

Money and property must only be used to promote the charity's objects.

Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by two signatories. The most recent annual accounts must be available to anybody on request.

Trustees cannot receive money or property from the charity except to refund reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND DISSOLUTION

If the trustees consider it necessary to change the constitution or wind up the charity the decision must be taken by a vote at an AGM or at a specially convened general meeting. In either case the members must be given all necessary background information and notice of the meeting 14 days in advance.

If a decision is taken to wind up the charity, the trustees must meet all liabilities of the charity and the transfer the net assets to organisations in the Bristol area that have similar objects. In the event of there being no such organisations, the assets should be transferred to Interfaith Network UK.