

**Kettering Interfaith Forum**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Applicant (organisation or individual)**

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**Contact information (Email or Postal Address)**

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**I / We apply for membership of the Kettering Interfaith Forum and confirm that I /we agree with its aims and to follow its Code of Conduct (see overleaf)**

**signed .....**

**\*I have paid the membership fee of £5 online to Kettering Interfaith Forum, at Lloyds Bank, Kettering, Sort Code 30 94 43; account number 83340060**

**OR**

**\*I enclose a cheque for £5 payable to Kettering Interfaith Forum**

**Please return the completed application form to [frank@spokeguards.co.uk](mailto:frank@spokeguards.co.uk) or by post to Frank Rodgers, Treasurer, Kettering Interfaith Forum at 59 Park View, Kettering, NN16 9RJ**

**\*delete as appropriate**

## AIMS

To promote and maintain harmonious relations between people of different faiths by working together to overcome ignorance, fear and misunderstanding by a) being a forum for communication between religious groups; b) demonstrating the ability and desire to discuss matters pertaining to religion and shared concerns; c) fostering positive attitudes (engendering trust, combating ignorance and prejudice), within and between religious groups and in the wider, secular world; d) enabling people of different backgrounds, beliefs and cultures to meet, and, to experience as far as is possible something of those backgrounds, beliefs and cultures other than their own; e) bringing the aims of the Interfaith Network to a local level in the Borough of Kettering including developing mutually respectful relationships which do not blur or undermine the distinctiveness of different religious traditions; f) working with other groups with similar aims.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

As members of the human family, we should show each other respect and courtesy. In our dealings with people of other faiths and beliefs this means exercising good will and:

- Respecting other people's freedom within the law to express their beliefs and convictions
- Learning to understand what others actually believe and value, and letting them express this in their own terms
- Respecting the convictions of others about food, dress and social etiquette and not behaving in ways which cause needless offence
- Recognising that all of us at times fall short of the ideals of our own traditions and never comparing our own ideals with other people's practices
- Working to prevent disagreement from leading to conflict
- Always seeking to avoid violence in our relationships with one another,

When we talk about matters of faith with one another, we need to do so with sensitivity, honesty and straightforwardness. This means:

- Recognising that listening as well as speaking is necessary for a genuine conversation
- Being honest about our beliefs and religious allegiances
- Not misrepresenting or disparaging other people's beliefs and practices
- Correcting misunderstanding or misrepresentations not only of our own but also of other faiths whenever we come across them
- Being straightforward about our intentions
- Accepting that in formal inter faith meetings there is a particular responsibility to ensure that the religious commitment of all who are present will be respected.

All of us want others to understand and respect our views. Some people will also want to persuade others to join their faith. In a multi faith society where this is permitted, the attempt should always be characterised by self-restraint and a concern for the other's freedom and dignity. This means:

- Respecting another person's expressed wish to be left alone
- Avoiding imposing ourselves and our views on individuals or communities who are in vulnerable situations in ways which exploit these
- Being sensitive and courteous
- Avoiding violent action or language, threats, manipulation, improper inducements, or the misuse of any kind of power
- Respecting the right of others to disagree with us

Living and working together is not always easy. Religion harnesses deep emotions which can sometimes take destructive forms. Where this happens, we must draw on our faith to bring about reconciliation and understanding. The truest fruits of religion are healing and positive. We have a great deal to learn from one another which can enrich us without undermining our own identities. Together, listening and responding with openness and respect, we can move forward to work in ways that acknowledge genuine differences but build on shared hopes and values.

(From: Inter Faith Network for the UK 1993, 2000)