



 The Multi-Faith Centre
The University of Derby
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 multifaithcentre.org

Welcome

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Trustee. This is a pivotal moment for the Multi Faith Centre and an exciting time to join our Board.

The past 18 months have seen a significant change of direction for our charity. We have refreshed our governance and our leadership and have a new strategic plan led by our Director, Geoff Sweeney.

The Covid crisis has been devastating for communities throughout Derby and Derbyshire. Building on many excellent examples of faith action during the Covid emergency, we believe there is huge need to support the infrastructure, networks, and capacity of faith communities to better help those who are most vulnerable as the region recovers from the pandemic.

Our priority is to strengthen links between faith communities, share best practice and encourage more collaboration and partnerships with partners including local authorities for the benefit of all the communities of the region.

We are seeking Trustees who share our vision. We are looking for people with a range of skills, specialist knowledge, energy and dedication who can contribute at a strategic level.

Our new trustees will share our values and our commitment to taking the Multi-Faith Centre forward on the next stage of its exciting journey. If this sounds like you, we'd love to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Libby Derby'.

The Right Reverend, Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby

Chair of Trustees

Honorary President Terry Waite CBE

Honorary Vice-Presidents Emeritus Professor Jonathan Powers DL, Dr Wendi Momen MBE, Mr Raj Bali MBE, Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon, Dr M. Manazir Ahsan MBE, Revd Malcolm Weisman OBE, The Most Ven Dr Ajahn Phra Rajawithetpanyakhun

Trustees Rt Revd Bishop Elizabeth (Libby) Lane (Chair), Qazi Abdul Mateen, Mr Soshain Bali, Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon, Rev Adam Dickens, Mrs Ruth Dolby, Mr Graham Falgate, Mr Guy Freeman, Mr Andrew Oakley, Mr Ali Poostchi

Registered Charity No: 1087140 Company No: 3952377

Trustee Information Pack

About the Multi-Faith Centre

The Multi-Faith Centre is a charity that encourages and facilitates dialogue, co-operation, mutual respect and understanding between a diverse range of people from different faith communities and civil society who, by coming together, aim to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people living in Derbyshire.

We support all faith communities who are increasingly recognised as a gateway into communities that are hard to reach, where people feel most marginalised. Across all faith communities, great potential exists to help vulnerable people, but they receive limited support to do so and there is no joined up approach to meeting community needs.

The Multi-Faith Centre aims to address this need by:

1. Creating an infrastructure: Producing a platform for the faith sector to come together and act strategically and maximise their impact.
2. Facilitating communication: Creating safe spaces for faith communities to hold conversations on social and community issues common to everyone.
3. Nurturing collaboration: Encouraging faith groups to join and create partnerships with local authorities and key agencies.
4. Promoting celebration: Shining a light on good new stories around the positive contribution faith communities make in our society.

We work with:

Faith communities – faith leaders and community volunteers who are motivated by their faith to address local issues and want vulnerable communities engaged in shaping the kinds of services they need.

Civil society – local authorities, key agencies (like the police or the NHS), community and voluntary groups who are wanting to engage with faith communities more effectively and deliver better services.

The Role of the Trustee

Engaged trustees offering a range of skills and experience are vital to the success of the Multi Faith Centre. Trustees come from diverse backgrounds and are chosen for their skills and expertise they can bring to effective governance of the charity.

They also understand the issues affecting the region and share a fundamental appreciation of the value that all faith communities have in building safe, healthy, and cohesive communities.

The duties of a trustee are as follows:

- Ensuring that the Multi-Faith Centre pursues its stated objects (purposes), as defined in its governing document, by developing and agreeing a long-term strategic plan.
- Ensuring that the Multi-Faith Centre complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensuring that the Multi-Faith Centre applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects.
- Ensuring that the Multi-Faith Centre defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets. Safeguarding the good name and values of the Multi-Faith Centre.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the Multi-Faith Centre, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Ensuring the financial stability of the Multi-Faith Centre. Protecting and managing the property of the charity and ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds.
- Following proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the Multi-Faith Centre's Director and other employed/contracted staff.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

Our Requirements

We are seeking to recruit trustees with specialist expertise. Below, are the skills we are looking for to complement our existing Board. You do not have to have previous Board experience to apply but we would expect all potential trustees to understand the principles of good governance, to have strong leadership skills and have some knowledge and affinity with the faith sector and the challenges it faces in the current climate.

As a values-led organisation we are committed to building an inclusive culture that values diversity and welcomes people from all walks of life. Our principles of inclusivity and diversity are reflected in our mission, in our staff and in the composition of our Board. We welcome candidates from all backgrounds to apply.

We are looking for people with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Finance
- Strategic/operational/project development
- Fundraising

- Faith
- Community development
- HR
- Networker in the City and County – community, civic, local authorities
- University connections and ability to support the strategic link between the University and the Multi Faith Centre.

Person Specification

- A commitment to the Multi-Faith Centre
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Strategic vision
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- Non-dogmatic and willingness to engage openly with all faith traditions
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Commitment

Trustees are Non-Executive Directors of the Board of the Multi Faith Centre at the University of Derby (the name of the charity registered with the Charity Commission). Board meetings take place five times per year and normally last two hours.

In addition to Board Meetings, trustees normally join one of three main Board sub-committees: Finance, Human Resources or Strategy & Performance. From time to time, there are also opportunities to contribute through Task & Finish Groups and strategy workshops.

In pre-Covid times, all meetings were held at the Multi Faith Centre on the Kedleston Road Campus of the University of Derby. Now that remote working has allowed us to become more agile, we may review this and may operate a blended system of both face to face and online meetings.

Benefits of becoming a Trustee

Being a trustee is one of the most powerful ways in which you can contribute to your local community and a cause you really care about.

You will have opportunities to develop and hone your critical thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as developing strategic sensibilities and team working skills.

As a trustee, you will play an integral part in the good governance of the charity, not only ensuring that the organisation remains viable and sustainable but ensuring that it adheres closely to its mission and works in the interests of its beneficiaries.

How to Apply

We hope that you will consider making an application. If you have any questions about the appointment and would like to have an informal conversation, please contact the Director, Geoff Sweeney on g.sweeney@derby.ac.uk who will arrange a call.

To apply please send a CV (not more than three sides) plus a short covering letter outlining your motivation and how you meet the requirements to g.sweeney@derby.ac.uk.

The closing date for application is 30th September 2021.