

THREE FAITHS FORUM



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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Receives Interfaith Gold Medallion

18 May 2007. Leaders of the nine major faiths were present at Buckingham Palace yesterday when HM Queen Elizabeth II was presented with a specially struck Interfaith Gold Medallion with diamond. The award was conferred in gratitude for the lead The Queen has given personally in the search for mutual tolerance, respect and brotherhood.

The traditional Jewish blessing upon meeting with Royalty was recited by Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. Sir Sigmund Sternberg then presented the award, making reference to Her Majesty's 2006 Christmas message in which she said, "it is very easy to concentrate on the differences between the religious faiths and to forget what they have in common". This, he said, summed up what the gathering on this occasion represented.

Imam Moulana Raza of the Muslim College read out the accompanying scroll in which the leading members of the major faith communities placed on record their deep and sincere appreciation of the lead The Queen has given to the nation "in the promotion of respect and understanding for minority faiths and in seeking to include new communities as natural components of this society."

Those present also included Bandula Venerable Tawalama, Sir Lankan Sangha Sabha of Great Britain; Mrs Rits Barlett, National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is; Rev. Esme Beswick, Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches; Mrs Farmida Bi, a coordinator of the Three Faiths Forum Legal Group; Revd. Dr Marcus Braybrooke, co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum; Bishop Tom Butler, Church of England; Revd. Mark Fisher, Free Churches Group; Archbishop Kevin McDonald, Catholic Church; Mrs Mandana Moavenat, Zoroastrian Community; Mr Brian Peace, Interfaith Network for the UK; Dr Natubhai Shah, Jain Community; Mr Om Prakash Sharma, Hindu Community, Mr Stephen Shashoua, Director, Youth and Education Department of the Three Faiths Forum; Mr Sidney Shipton, co-ordinator of the Three Faiths Forum, Dr Indarjit Singh, Network of Sikh Organisations (UK).

Patrons:

HE Cardinal Francis Arinze
Baroness Boothroyd of Sandwell
HRH Dom Duarte Duke of Bragança
Lord Carey of Clifton
Lord Hameed of Hampstead CBE DL
The Rt Hon Baroness Hayman

Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet
George Mallinckrodt KBE
The Rt Hon Michael Martin
Prof. Dr Klaus Schwab KCMG
Chief Rabbi M Rene-Samuel Sirat
Alderman John Stuttard
Dr Otto Von Habsburg

Honorary Consultant:

The Rt Hon John Battle PC, MP

Advisor

Imam Maulana Shahid Raza

widening horizons · confronting prejudice · encouraging harmony

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