

# THREE FAITHS FORUM



Founders:  
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Indonesian Delegation visits Three Faiths Forum

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Sir Sigmund Sternberg, co founder of the Three Faiths Forum, hosted today a delegation from Indonesia visiting the UK under the auspices of the British Council. (The delegation was accompanied by Mr Aidinal Alrashid and Mr David O'Brien of the British Council).

The Nahdlatul Ulama is Indonesia's largest Muslim organisation with a membership of more than 40 million people and the delegation were visiting the UK on a fact-finding tour.

They visited North West London Reform Synagogue where they were welcomed by Rabbi Tony Bayfield and Sir Sigmund. This was their first visit to a synagogue and they expressed great interest in the Passover service.

Today they came to Star House, head office of the Three Faiths Forum where they met interfaith workers including Sydney Assor, chair Surrey Three Faiths Forum who gave them a briefing on how to establish a local group and how it works. The visitors asked many questions on the success of the Three Faiths Forum and were keen to set up a similar group in Indonesia. They also met Dina Gold of the Board of Deputies of British Jews who explained the interfaith work of the Board.

Sidney Shipton, co ordinator of the Three Faiths Forum, explained the working of the Three Faiths Forum and its activities. He said that the original intention was to work primarily in the UK but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, having noted its success at home, has sent visiting delegations from abroad to find out more about its work. He mentioned the value of the annual meetings the Three Faiths Forum has with all the ambassadors and diplomats in the UK. He specifically emphasised the necessity of working not only at leadership level but also at grassroots.

Sir Sigmund drew their attention to the importance of examining the school textbooks in Indonesia and expressed his great desire for future co-operation in interfaith activities in their country. He also mentioned the work of the World Economic Forum in Davos in promoting interfaith dialogue. He suggested a symposium should be held in Indonesia in the near future. It was agreed that the delegation would meet the Forum after their trip to Leeds University.

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