



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

**Redbridge Faith Forum Charity 1118675**



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These are some of the comments made in response to the question "Please comment on what difference your involvement in RFF activities or events has made to you and any suggestions you have for future events/projects"

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## 2019-20

Trustees and Staff have pleasure in reporting that the charity has had a successful year with much good work being undertaken “behind the scenes” as well as “front of house” organising well attended, informative and interesting events bringing people together from all faiths, cultures and backgrounds. Full details are on our website [www.redbridgefaithforum.org](http://www.redbridgefaithforum.org) but a snapshot of our year follows.

### Network Meetings

Our quarterly network meetings have continued to be very popular with topical issues being on the agenda - in 2019-20 we focused on “The Development of Community Hubs”, “Greening Redbridge - facing the climate challenge”, “Cancer Care & Support”, and “Care for the Elderly”. We are grateful to all those who came along to speak and answer questions from the audience and to our supporters who attended in force. It has been a great pleasure to partner with and publicise the efforts of so many inspirational voluntary sector organisations as well as council and NHS providers who work tirelessly to make Redbridge a great place to live and to have the Mayor of Redbridge join us for the Greening Redbridge event.

### Women's Interfaith Group

Our series of workshops focusing on “Births - Ceremony, Custom and Tradition” from different faith and cultural perspectives was completed in April. This has been a very interesting and enjoyable series. The group met in December in the home of one of our supporters to enjoy a wonderful lunch and a discussion with different women speaking about their respective faith festivals.

***Did you know ? - RFF is delighted to have been awarded further funding from the London Borough of Redbridge Grant Fund for 2020-22 to continue our current activities plus organize workshops and training around suicide prevention and mental well-being.***

## Social Fundraising Events

Our social fundraisers are a wonderful opportunity for our supporters to come together to enjoy each other's company in a social setting. We celebrated Interfaith Week by holding an Interfaith Lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> November The Old Courthouse in Ilford. The change of timing from an evening dinner to a mid-day lunch was very well received and the food and warm welcome from our hosts was very much appreciated.

## Annual Walk of Peace

Our 2019 Walk with the theme of "Caring for Creation" started in beautiful sunshine on September 15th in stark contrast to last year's rain - as you can see from the cover photograph taken in the Holocaust Memorial Gardens. Walkers listened to a greeting from the Redbridge Mayor, Councillor Zulfiqar Hussain followed by a talk from Rabbi Lawrence Becker before continuing enroute to further venues where they were offered a warm welcome and wonderful hospitality:- Buddhist Vihara 8 Balfour Road, Hindu VHP Temple, 4 Cleveland Road, Ilford Islamic Centre, 52 Albert Road, St Albans Church, Albert Road, and the Karamsar Gurdwara, 400 High Road IG1 1TW

It was so encouraging to hear unifying messages from each faith community encouraging everyone to increase their efforts to care for creation in a world that is suffering so much from the effects of climate change and pollution.

## Our Volunteers

It would be impossible for our charity to survive without the incredible support of volunteers - our volunteer trustees, office volunteers, events volunteers and our members whose membership fees contribute funding towards our core costs. Our trustees attend many partnership meetings and committees to represent RFF members in our community as well as providing governance. We are delighted to have retained Natia who continues to work enthusiastically supporting staff both in the office and at events and Sania who volunteered with us prior to commencing maternity leave in August.. 2019-20 ended on a sad note as we said farewell to our co-founder and ex-chair of trustees Jacquie Grieve who passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Jacquie worked tirelessly to promote respect and understanding within all the communities in Redbridge and inspired us with her courage, her dedication, and her sheer hard work. She has left a huge legacy for us to follow and emulate.

## **RFF Trustees**

- Mohamed Omer - Chair from June 2019
- Vinaya Sharma - Vice Chair from June 2019
- Mohammed Dedat - Treasurer
- Appathurai Ramkumar - Secretary
- Angela Banner
- Rabbi Lawrence Becker
- Phillip Butcher
- Dr Pratibha Datta
- Reverend Bernardino Mandlate
- Reverend Pethigamuwe Hemaratana
- Carol Khorsandyon
- Imam Khurram Rafiq
- Harbans Singh Seehra
- Harmander Singh
- Dr Suhasini

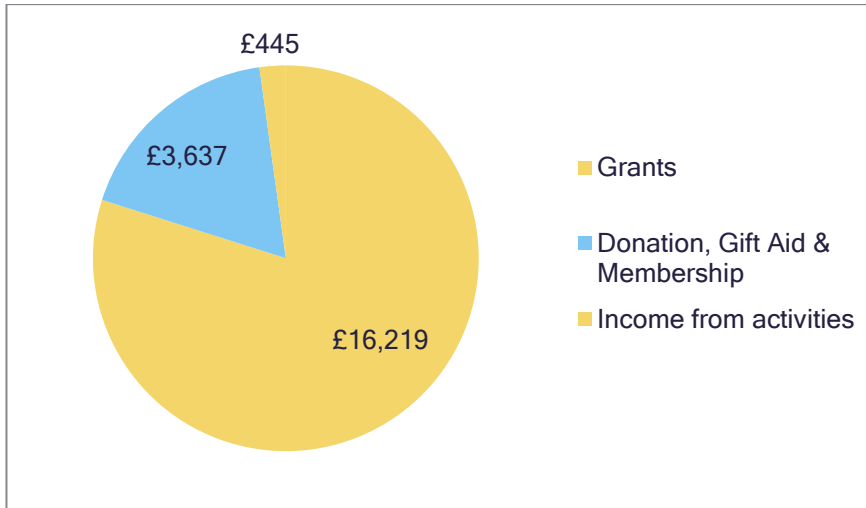
## **RFF Staff & Office Volunteers**

Saira Yakub & Karen Kent / Natia & Sania (maternity leave from August 2019)

## **Funding**

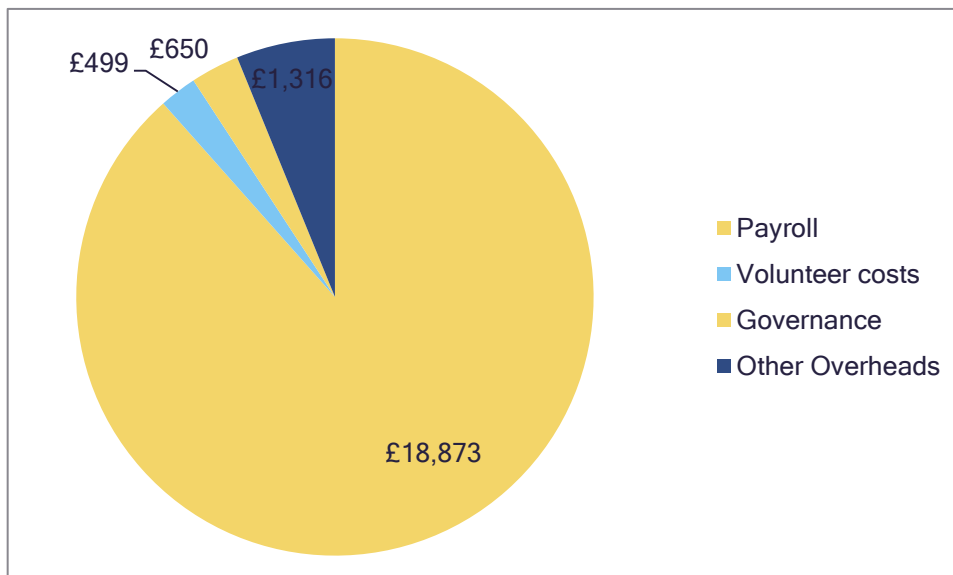
Redbridge Faith Forum is grateful to the London Borough of Redbridge for grant funding and to many faith communities for “in-kind” support. Please refer to the annual accounts for full details on the RFF website.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY INCOME



- £16,219 (80%) - Grants (previous year £25,743 - 82%)
- £3,637 (18%) - Donation, Gift Aid & Membership (previous year £4,798 - 15%)
- £445 (2%) - Income from activities (previous year £1,027 - 3%)

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY EXPENDITURE



- £18,873 (88%) - Payroll (previous year £18,873 - 80%)
- £499 (3%) - Volunteer costs (previous year £742 - 3%)
- £650 (3%) - Governance (previous year £650 - 3%)
- £1,316 (6%) - Other Overheads (previous year £3,221 - 14%)

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR RECENT SURVEY

These are some of the comments made in response to the question “*Please comment on what difference your involvement in RFF activities or events has made to you and any suggestions you have for future events/projects*”

I think Redbridge Faith Forum does excellent work in promoting community relations among different faith groups. it enhances understanding of the faiths of different communities and I think it helps overcome ignorance and barriers

***“RFF has helped me to interact with people of other faiths and keep in touch with the community.***

***“RFF has helped me to network with faith leaders I would not have been able to contact without them. RFF is a valuable asset to the community which promotes cohesion and shared values. I value the work of Redbridge Faith Forum”***

I have enjoyed my chance to be involved in Redbridge Faith Forum as it gives me chance to meet people of different faiths in the community



AR Information received from Redbridge Faith Forum often includes news of other activities in Redbridge not only those of RFF – this enables recipients to attend the events that interest them.

Redbridge Faith Forum has widened my knowledge of other religions, their religious practices, customs, cultures. Blurred differences of faiths. Friendship, fun, enhanced and stimulation of knowledge -(quiz). Raised awareness of issues pertaining to mental health, homelessness, rough sleeping (general societal) problems. For future events? My main concern is how we can help address the rising criminal activities if at all possible. A very difficult problem to begin to solve.

*Through Redbridge Faith Forum I am more aware of other people's beliefs and events that are going on. I have established new connections and made new friends.*

Redbridge Faith Forum is of relevance to my working life mainly. It has allowed me to network with others, distribute information, generate ideas for action and learn about the Redbridge Faith community and how it relates to my work. It also has personal resonance as I have learnt and engaged with other faiths in a way that I probably wouldn't have done in my outside of work life, but that has enriched it nevertheless. I would love to take part in more of the RFF activities, but as I live outside the area this is not always possible.

*Redbridge Faith Forum is very helpful and supportive and gives a lot of information and advice – thank you.*