



Faith Communities: Empowering Communities

National Poverty Consultation 2009
3-4 March 2009
High Leigh Conference Centre

A 24 hour consultation for senior figures from faith based social action agencies to explore how faith communities can contribute to empowering local communities in the UK over the next 5-10 years.

With

- **Sadiq Khan MP**
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DCLG (invited)
- **Greg Galluzzo**
Director, Gamaliel Foundation USA
- **Erinma Bell OBE**
founder, Carisma, Moss Side
- **Kathy Galloway**
Leader, Iona Community
- **Rt Rev Stephen Lowe**
Anglican Bishop for Urban Life and Faith
- **Lord Andrew Mawson OBE**
founder, Community Action Network

And

Inderjit Bhogal, Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum • **Tim Bissett**, Church Urban Fund
• **Doreen Finneron**, Faith Based Regeneration Network • **Rob Furbey**, Sheffield Hallam University • **Martin Johnstone**, Faith in Community Scotland • **Sarah Kaiser**, RenéCassin • **Chris Lawrence-Pietroni**, Local Government Association • **Christine Pilsbury**, Together Creating Communities, North Wales • **David Rayner**, Cohesion and Faiths, DCLG • **Jenny Rossiter**, Participatory Budgeting Unit • **Anne Stewart**, Community Pride, Manchester • **Henry Tam** Community Empowerment, DCLG • **Mark Waters**, Changemakers • **Andrew Yates**, Truro Diocese • **Tricia Zipfel**



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**CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY**

Aim

To bring together 50 - 60 senior figures from national and local faith based social action agencies to explore how faith communities can contribute more effectively to the empowerment of local communities in the UK over the next 5-10 years.

Objectives

- To clarify our own understanding of 'community empowerment' and how it differs from other forms of social action.
- To share and reflect on specific case studies and our own experiences of community empowerment
- To seek to define more clearly the specific contribution that faith communities and faith based social action agencies can make to the empowerment of local communities in the UK over the next 5-10 years.

Faith Communities: Empowering Communities...

What contribution can churches and wider faith communities play in community empowerment?

- The Community Empowerment White Paper was published in July, setting out the Government's understanding of and proposals for promoting community empowerment over the next 3-4 years.
- In 2007 the Government published a 'Community Empowerment Action Plan', which set out an ambitious agenda for giving citizens the means of participating in decision-making at every level. The DCLG's consultation on a framework for inter faith dialogue and social action (2007) also points to the role of faith communities in community empowerment: "Inter faith activity can also lead to greater community empowerment and civic engagement, as well as improvements in well-being and the creation of opportunities for people to realize their full potential through specific activities to tackle inequality and deprivation. The Government believes that inter faith social action has a particularly valuable role to play."
- But what does community empowerment mean in practice – and what role can faith communities play in empowering and giving a voice to local communities?

- This consultation aims to provide a space to reflect on these questions, and on the experience of faith organizations engaged in – or with an interest in – community empowerment.
- It will draw on a variety of case studies from Church Action on Poverty's own work of 'giving a voice to people in poverty', including our Changemakers programme and the work of our Participatory Budgeting Unit, through to Housing Justice's Guide Neighbourhoods programme; the Faith Based Regeneration Network and others.

National Poverty Consultations

Since 1988 CAP has organised ten National Poverty Consultations. These events are intended to provide an opportunity for senior representatives of church agencies and organisations to reflect on current social, political and economic trends, and to consider strategic and collaborative responses.

The first Consultation, at Blackheath in South London in 1988, considered some fundamental questions about the growth of poverty and the response of the churches and their agencies. Gatherings in 1989, 1990 and 1991 helped to promote the CAP Declaration *Hearing the Cry of the Poor* and the formation of the Churches National Housing Coalition. In 1992, we reflected on the growth of a market approach within the Welfare State. The sixth Consultation in 1994 reflected back on the work of the Housing Coalition and other attempts to undertake joint working. In 1997 and 2001 we held Consultations jointly with Christian Aid to explore the relationship between poverty north and south, and the impact of globalisation on local poverty. In 2003 we considered the relevance of the Call to Renewal Movement to work in the UK and in 2006 explored the topic of 'mobilising churches to overcome poverty.'

Previous Consultations have all been directed at Christian agencies – for this event, we are opening up the Consultation to organisations from other faiths to participate as well.

Costs and practical arrangements

Early bird rate (sharing rooms) – bookings before 31 December	£99
Early bird full rate places (single rooms) – booked before 31 Dec	£120
Full rate places (sharing rooms) – booked after 1 January 2009	£125
Full rate places (single rooms) – booked after 1 January 2009	£145
Non-residential	£75

The costs include accommodation, meals and all conference costs. A limited number of discounted places are available for community organisations and genuinely cash strapped individuals who would not otherwise be able to attend.

As far as possible, participants are strongly encouraged to attend for the full 24 hours. High Leigh is on the outskirts of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, less than 1 hour travel from central London by train.

Bookings can be made with the conference administrator, Janet Ashton, CAP, Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester, M1 1JQ tel 0161 236 9321 e: janeta@church-poverty.org.uk





Faith Communities: Empowering Communities

DRAFT Programme :

Speakers, facilitators in bold confirmed

* Speakers still to confirm



**CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY**

Tuesday 3 March 2009

12.30 Arrivals and registration

1.00 Lunch

2.00–2.15 Welcome and opening remarks

- **Rt Rev Stephen Lowe**, Bishop for Urban Life and Faith

2.15–4.00 Session 1: Community empowerment – Views from top and bottom

Video: Grassroots views on community empowerment

Keynote address: Sadiq Khan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (invited) *

Panel: chair – Tricia Zipfel

- **Chris Lawrence-Pietroni**, Local Government Association
- **Lord Andrew Mawson OBE**, Community Action Network
- **Erinma Bell OBE**, Carisma, Manchester
- **Sajida Madni**, Birmingham Citizens *

4.00 Afternoon tea

4.30–5.15 Session 2: Faith in empowerment
Greg Galluzzo, Gamaliel Foundation USA

5.15 – 6.30 Session 3: Unpacking empowerment

Workshops to explore specific policy themes, and what community empowerment means in relation to them. Each will include a presentation on current Government policy and the broader policy environment, and a respondent to identify critical questions for discussion (including whether there is any distinctive faith community perspective). This will be followed by discussion and input from participants; and conclude by identifying 3 key learning points from the session. Each group will have a facilitator and a rapporteur to feed back 3 key learning points in the final panel session. Each group will comprise 15-20 people, and work on one of the following themes:

- **Encouraging active citizens/local democracy**
 - Presentation: **Henry Tam**, Community Empowerment Division, DCLG
 - Respondent: **Anne Stewart**, Community Pride, Manchester
- **Face to face and side by side**
 - Presentation: **David Rayner**, Cohesion and Faiths, DCLG
 - Respondent: **Inderjit Bhogal**, Yorkshire Faiths Forum
- **Strengthening local leadership & accountability**
 - Presentation: **Doreen Finneron**, Faith Based Regeneration Network
 - Respondent: **Chris Pilsbury**, Together Creating Communities

7.00 Dinner

7.45–9.15 Session 3: Open space session
Facilitated by **Alistair Murray**, Housing Justice

9.15–9.30 Evening prayer – Kathy Galloway, Leader, Iona Community

Wednesday 4 March 2009

7.30 Morning worship – Kathy Galloway, Leader, Iona Community

8.30 Breakfast

9.15 – 10.45 Session 4: Empowerment in practice
Workshops to share practical strategies that faith communities can adopt to promote community empowerment:

- **Changemakers/citizen organising, Greg Galluzzo, Mark Waters**
- **Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, Andrew Yates**, Truro Diocese
- **Guide Neighbourhoods**, Ian Bingham, Castle Vale and Housing Justice
- **Participatory budgeting, Jenny Rossiter**, Participatory Budgeting Unit
- **Faith in Community Scotland, Martin Johnstone**

10.45 Coffee -

11.15–12.30 Session 5: Faith communities and community empowerment
Space for overall comment on key issues for faith groups to take forward, including key learning points from each workshop session (3 points maximum written on flipchart), followed by a plenary panel discussion to reflect how these ideas/themes link back out to the broader picture:

- **Tim Bissett**, Chief Executive, Church Urban Fund
- **Rob Furbey**, Principal Lecturer in Urban Sociology, Sheffield Hallam University
- Zahid Hussain, Faith Network for Manchester *
- **Sarah Kaiser**, Director, RenéCassin

12.30–12.45 Closing worship – Kathy Galloway, Leader, Iona Community

1.00 Lunch and depart