

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT, WITH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
FOR
THE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE (FODIP)**

**Registered Charity no: 1139005
For the Financial Year
1ST JULY 2009 – 30TH JUNE 2010**

Patrons:

Lord Harries of Pentregarth

Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield

Shaykh Dr Abdal Hakim Murad

Dr Usama Hasan

Trustees

Mr Steven Longden (Chair)

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FODIP is a registered charity, first established as a not-for-profit organisation in July 2008 to improve inter faith relations in the UK in the context of the Israeli Palestinian issue.

Our Aims

FODIP's objects are:

The promotion of racial and religious harmony for the benefit of the public in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) Promoting mutual understanding and respect between Jews, Christians, Muslims and the wider public in the UK;
- b) The provision of assistance, through dialogue and education, where community relations are threatened by differences in perspectives regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and other global problems;
- c) Resourcing the public concerning religious issues and approaches to peace and justice, involving events and people in the Middle East.

Objectives

In order to fulfil these aims, FODIP works through three main areas of activity:

- On a local level, resourcing and facilitating dialogue and education among local faith and inter faith groups on the Israeli Palestinian conflict;
- Through Study Tours to Israel and Palestine;
- At national level, acting as a point of information and advice, consulting and providing material for national organisations and institutions.

FODIP carried out a range of activities for the period July 2009 to June 2010 in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that these activities, summarised in this report, provide benefit both to those who participate in specific events and the wider communities represented.

Message from the Chair, Mr Steven Longden

Dear friends and supporters

Promoting constructive dialogue between Muslims, Jews and Christians on the subject of the Holy Land, of Israel and Palestine, was always going to be one of life's more challenging endeavours. Indeed Fodip has set itself a huge challenge, as the articles of our recently approved charitable status say, we aim to:

- Promote mutual understanding and respect between Jews, Christians, Muslims and the wider public in the UK;
- Provide assistance, through dialogue and education, where community relations are threatened by differences in perspectives regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and other global problems;
- Resource the public concerning religious issues and approaches to peace and justice, involving events and people in the Middle East.

Some say that the Israeli/Palestinian problem is intractable. People of faith know that nothing is impossible. At Fodip, people of faith and none come together to find the 'possibilities' that can come from constructive dialogue and action on one of the world's most serious conflicts in which the religious beliefs and actions of many Jews, Christians and Muslims continue to play their part

This report outlines the inspirational work that Fodip has carried out during 2009/10, its second year of operation. We continue to develop and refine our projects, our base of supporters continues to grow, and our opinions and advice are sought by ever greater circles of influence, both in the UK and overseas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our patrons, trustees and funders for their continued dedication to Fodip. A special vote of thanks goes to Fodip's founder, Dr Jane Clements, without whose vision, energy and selfless commitment, Fodip would still be a mere dream. Most importantly, I would like to express my deepest thanks to everyone who has taken the time to get involved in our projects and reached out to people with very different views to their own on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, in an effort to promote justice, peace and reconciliation.

Steven Longden
Chair of Trustees

What we have done this year

Tough Options Project

A central concern for FODIP was the issue of how we can hold productive conversations together about the difficult issues surrounding the Israeli Palestinian situation with the same spirit of openness and goodwill which characterises other inter faith dialogues. 'Tough Options' encourages and resources positive and productive conversations, believing that dialogue is not a soft option, but particularly difficult.

During the last year, we have developed and begun working with our 'Hear to Hear' programme'. This programme is set up to train facilitators to enable positive and productive dialogue with local groups on this difficult subject.

The 'Hear to Hear' methodology is a unique FODIP concept, based on our experience with 'Listening Events' in Year 1. A key element in its approach is the need to hear and understand both our own responses to events and situations, and those of our partner in dialogue.

Working with professional facilitators from ICA-UK, a handbook and training manual have been produced. An evaluation process, sponsored by the MB Reckitt Trust, was undertaken at the end of the year and results will be used in the ongoing development of the programme. Participants in the process included local activists and facilitators from London, Hertfordshire, the North West and Birmingham, working in inter faith education, through communities, schools and colleges.

"Constructive and reflective activities"

"A very helpful and thought-provoking experience"

"Congratulations on a great first pilot!"

Neighbours for Peace Project

The ***Neighbours for Peace Project*** (sponsored by the Scurrah Wainwright Charity) encourages local groups and individuals already working across communal boundaries to form consortia to support Israeli/Palestinian initiatives. The support is locally based and run, and involves an inter religious/cross-communal element, drawing on links and relationships already built up. The project was advertised on FODIP's website and through contacts, with suitable applications being received from London and the North West, and groups in each region have now come together to begin working through this initiative.

A workshop held in May for those involved noted that the process: "has already led to greater co-operation of regular 'idea trading' and complementary links both between the faiths and (unexpectedly) within the same faiths (i.e. Anglican Christians linking with Evangelical Christians)."

Co-operation "has also occurred in relation to [local events] supporting Palestinian/Israeli relations within the Faith Network for Manchester, the Manchester Muslim-Jewish Forum, Tameside Interfaith Network, Oldham Peacemaker and other local Christian/Jewish/Muslim networks which have become interested in the 'trade' involvement of the workshop members."

Theology Working Group

The Christian Theology Working Group comprised academics from a range of disciplines including leading systematic theologians, philosophers and Biblical scholars. During the year, the project (initially sponsored by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust) completed its work on Christian approaches to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The papers are due to be published during the next financial year under the title *Talking of Conflict: Christian Reflections on Israel and Palestine*. It is hoped that the published papers will stimulate creative discussion and reflection among their readers on a wider basis.

‘Questions Without Borders’ Study Tour

In December/January, 17 participants embarked on the first FODIP Study Tour to Israel and the West Bank.

While exploring our own and each others’ religious traditions in ‘the Holy Land’, participants also engaged with the difficult issue of Israeli/Palestinian relations. The group heard from young people involved in dialogue, as well as inspirational speakers, and explored practical educational and community initiatives. Home hospitality was a particular feature, with participants enjoying Friday night in Jewish homes, refreshments in East Jerusalem and coffee with kibbutzniks. There were also opportunities to experience something of each others’ worship, and to take time for individual spiritual refreshment.

As a result of the trip, participants have begun working together specifically to further the aims of FODIP. This has included joint speaking engagements at both a local church and a synagogue, and increased cooperation between individuals in the Manchester area as with a ‘fair trade’ support initiative under FODIP’s Neighbours for Peace programme.

“I have never had such a wide-ranging and though-provoking travel experience in such a short time.”

“It was stunning and overwhelming to discover new dimensions of my own faith whilst sharing important ‘moments of faith’ with Muslims and Jews.”

“It was an absolute privilege to be included in the group and even in the more uncomfortable and challenging moments I have learned a great deal.”

“I will always treasure the experience and fully intend to translate it into practical action which will work to unite faith communities both in the UK and in Israel/Palestine.”

Seminars and Events

In pursuit of our aim to increase dialogue and education on the Israeli Palestinian situation, we have organised and participated in seminars and events around the country, especially in London, Greater Manchester and Blackburn, attended by over 300 people in total. Several of these events included film showings, such as 'Encounter Point', 'Ajami' and 'The Lemon Tree'.

To mark National Inter faith Week, 2009, we held a mini-conference on The Holy Place: The Peace of Jerusalem in three traditions, with distinguished speakers from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. In December, FODIP hosted a talk given by John Ging, of UNWRA, on the Gaza situation and UNWRA's work with children in particular. Alongside events held locally in places of worship, we participated in the launch of Concordis International's *Papers VIII: British Churches and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict*.

In addition to these, FODIP also hosted three 'closed' meetings, by invitation only, providing participants with a unique platform to speak freely on especially sensitive issues, and to express fears and hopes within a framework of trust.

Communication

FODIP's website, emailing and regular newsletters have all been developed this year, with the help of a dedicated webmaster and designer. These have enabled the building of a supporter base which is diverse and focused.

Advice, Information and Consultation

Throughout this year, FODIP has established itself as a dependable source of information and advice, becoming a respected point of contact and referral for others, including the National R.E. Council of England and Wales and inter faith organisations such as the Council of Christians and Jews.

FODIP has advised national church bodies, as well as Jewish and Muslim organisations, and spoken at a number of national and local conferences. These have included work with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the Bereaved Families Forum and St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

Financial Reserves

Reserves Policy

The trustees have agreed the reserves policy of the charity, namely to leave enough to meet four months' running costs of the charity. This means that the reserves for the year are set at 31 July 2009 of £1550 which is equal to between three and four months' expenditure during the year ended 30 Jun 2009.

Principal funding sources

The charity's main source of income is through small grants and donations. Restricted income came primarily from Study Tour funding in terms of payments for services and private donations to support bursaries. During this year, the Neighbours for Peace project was kindly funded by a grant from The Scurrah Wainwright Trust of £2110 and by the Community Development Fund: Faiths in Action of £5070. The Tough Options project received a grant from the M B Reckitt Trust for development and evaluation of the 'Hear to Hear' programme of £3675.

In addition, FODIP makes a small charge for consultation expertise and facilitation where appropriate, labelled as 'fees'. The largest single receipt in this category was from the Royal Geographical Society of £1500 for the provision of school educational material.

Investment policy and objectives

The charity has no long-term investments. Our cash reserves are held in the Unity Trust current bank account.

Annual Accounts

FODIP Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th June 2010

<i>Income</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2009</i>
Grants	10855.00	3300.00
Donations	4500.00	2829.00
Restricted Donations	1500.00	6712.00
Study Tour	12664.03	0.00
Fees	3285.00	1300.22
Other income	179.00	0.00
Total income	32983.03	14141.22

Less Expenditure:

Rent/management	1352.22	1926.17
Insurance	187.35	0.00
Postage	100.90	37.21
Telephone	487.33	233.62
Bank charges	6.00	26.61
Bank interest	0.03	0.00
Stationery & Office Equipment	1018.45	1052.40
Professional development/training	12.50	271.16
Governance	47.62	174.33
Staff salaries & Consultancy Fees	3860.00	0.00
Web design	2024.98	1433.55
Seminars	1259.78	7893.77
Working Groups	0.00	181.92
Study Tour	17520.48	0.00
Accountancy	61.25	43.74

<i>Excess of Net Income over Expenditure</i>	<u>28387.94</u>	<u>13901.49</u>
	<u>4595.09</u>	<u>239.73</u>

Balance Sheet

<u>As at 30th June 2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank	4896.07	283.48
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	61.25	43.75
Net Current Assets	<u>4834.82</u>	<u>239.73</u>
Represented by:		
Income & Expenditure Account Brought Forward	239.73	0.00
Net Income for Year	4595.09	239.73
	<u>4834.82</u>	<u>239.73</u>

Plans for future period

Aims for the forthcoming twelve months are:

- To establish a sound financial base for the charity;
- To review and develop the strategic plan for the next 3 years;
- To build the capacity of the charity;
- To take a further 2 Study Tours to the region and to facilitate 2 further tours for other organisations;
- To continue the 'Tough Option' programme, training 25 facilitators to introduce the 'Hear to Hear' dialogue methodology locally;
- To publish the Theological Working Group papers.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Steven Longden (Chair)

Date