

Registered Charity Number

1169562

AddressCollaboration House
77-79 Charlotte Street
London
W1T 4PW**Trustees**

	<u>Date appointed</u>	
Mr Benedict Samuel Rich	10 th October 2016	
Rev Christopher Landau	10 th October 2016	
Mr Michael Wakelin (chair)	10 th October 2016	
Mr Kevin Jaquiss	20 th March 2017	
Mr Niall Thomas Duffy	8 th February 2018	(resigned 2 nd October 2018)
Ms Eleanor Puttock	8 th February 2018	
Ms Remona Aly	8 th February 2018	
Dr Mohammed Azim Ahmed	8 th February 2018	

Independent Examiner

Mr Keith Halstead MA (Oxon) FCA

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

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Trustees Report

The trustees are pleased to present the second annual report of the Religion Media Centre from 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019.

Governance

The Religion Media Centre was entered onto the Register of Charities with the registered charity number 1169562, on 10th October 2016. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organization.

Its constitution states its objects as: ‘To advance education of the public in world religion, including the Baha’i faith; Buddhism; Christianity; Hinduism; Islam; Jainism; Judaism; Sikhism and Zoroastrianism by: the dissemination of accurate, authoritative, independent and impartial information and research about religious faiths to the media; and the provision of media training to religious organisations.’

The trustees have met five times during the year and the advisory council once. The trustees have remained in place, with the exception of Niall Duffy who resigned upon taking a job overseas.

Our Trustees have supported the work of the charity in governance, fund raising, editorial content and marketing. They assume responsibilities set out in a document received upon joining, which lists their role in having ultimate responsibility for compliance with charity law and with the RMC’s own charitable objectives these being:- setting the RMC’s strategic direction; appointing and line managing the work of the RMC’s senior member of staff; prioritising the RMC’s activities and monitoring progress; supporting, but not directing, the team working on projects and content.

The advisory board met twice – 9th July 2018 and 12th Feb 2019 – and advises the RMC trustees with contacts, editorial content, operations, strategy, network of commentators and training. During this year, Mandip Sahota and Yas Taherzadeh resigned. The trustees are initiating a review of the advisory board and its remit. Its members are:

Professor Adam Dinham:	Director of Faiths and Civic Society at Goldsmiths University, London
Dr Clive Field:	Co-Director of British Religion in Numbers
Canon Ed Newell:	Director Cumberland Lodge
Rev George Pitcher:	Author, journalist and vicar
Jasvir Singh:	Lawyer and co-chair Faiths Forum for London
Professor Jolyon Mitchell:	Director Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Edinburgh University
Katie Harrison:	Director of the Faith Research Centre, ComRes
Lord Navnit Dholakia:	Deputy leader Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords
Nick Spencer:	Research Director Theos
Roger Bolton:	Journalist and broadcaster
Rev Tony Miles:	Methodist minister at Westminster Central Hall

Charitable objectives:

The Religion Media Centre is an impartial and independent organization aiming to help the media report and understand religion. It has no editorial line nor does it promote any one religion, or religious belief in general. Instead, it exists to provide accurate, timely and relevant information to the media, enabling the public to be better informed.

Trustees Report cont'd

85% of the world's population identifies with a religious group, so understanding religion and belief is and will remain central to public life and debate, however significant the growth of secularism. Tens of millions of people in the UK continue to identify with a religious faith. Religious literacy is essential to understanding the world in which we live. The media plays a key role in developing and enhancing this understanding.

Activities, achievements and performance:

The RMC engaged Ruth Peacock as project co-ordinator on a consultancy basis. More than thirty people have been involved in making the Centre work, on a freelance basis. A team of seven journalists has been assembled to edit the website, run the twitter feed, create films and write copy. They hold regular editorial meetings to plan stories ahead.

More commentators on religious affairs, many from universities, joined our database which stands at more than 200. They contributed to more than 40 fact sheets which went up on the website over the year and provided comment on news stories. Our twitter feed was maintained by Sophie Gregory, a young journalist with great determination and enthusiasm who built up the twitter following. The trustees agreed to start providing films to engage more people and we have engaged a social media specialist, Dan Forshaw, to help drive up engagement.

The website started a blog, giving space for a longer commentary on a running news story or religious topic in the news.

The RMC took on the organization of the second Religion Media Festival, held on April 30th 2019, in partnership with the Jewish community centre JW3. Planning took place throughout the year and top speakers included Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and James Purnell, deputy director of the BBC. The festival subcommittee reported back to the Trustees who reviewed funding and content decisions.

Three training courses were held: Media training for faith representatives; Reporting Christianity in Britain; and Reporting Religion in Britain. Feedback was positive. Four trainers were engaged to devise and deliver training for journalists and faith groups. They included teachers of RE, journalists with training experience and representatives from faith groups.

Based on this initial experience, trustees reviewed the training model and agreed to work with partner organizations in the future, such as faith groups and educators, to offer future courses, alongside seminars and workshops. Journalism training departments expressed an interest in a version of the training which can be delivered in an evening. Plans were made for the first of these, delivered in April 2019 at the Press Association.

A supporter, Shabbar Dhalla, has continued to maintain and update the website. We contract graphic designers for one off projects.

We held the first meeting of journalists interested in reporting religion, with an invited guest speaker, and hope to make progress towards creating a membership association next year.

Funding:

In this financial year, we received £30,000 from the Porticus Trust and £1,000 from Bahai's UK. In addition funds were received to stage the second Religion and Media Festival: £3750 from the University of Kent, £5,000 from the Jerusalem Trust and a promised £800 from Coexist House.

Trustees Report cont'd

Payments of fees were made to people acting as consultants, or individual freelancers, or small companies.

The RMC has an anti-bribery policy and accepts funds from those who support our vision, values and aims; who have a clear governance structure and transparent accountability. The RMC's long term goal is to seek donations from a wide variety of organisations, capping the amount from any one institution as a proportion of its annual income in order to protect the Centre from any undue influence. It seeks support from organizations and individuals with an interest in the accurate reporting of religion in the media, including academic and religious institutions, companies, charities, media organisations and government.

Our business case is reviewed during the year.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Academics working in the fields of theology and religion in society have engaged with the Centre, offering fact sheets and comment as it brings their work to a wider audience. Faith leaders and media organizations have engaged with us, seeking advice on news stories and commentators.

Results

The Charity achieved a surplus of £16,782 (2018 - £13,857) in the year. Net assets at the end of the year were £30,639 (2018 - £13,857) in liquid funds.

Reserves Policy

The Charity is at an early stage of development and is keeping its costs low, with no future commitments or overheads as staff are freelance. The current policy is simply to retain enough reserves to cover costs and to build up sufficient resources to fulfil the Charity's activities in the ensuing year.

Responsibilities of Trustees regarding the accounts

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year. In addition, they are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the Charity transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Michael Wakelin
Chair, Religion Media Centre
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

 27.6.19

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Grants	31,000	8,750	39,750	30,000	-	30,000
Training	275	-	275	-	-	-
Individual donations	443	-	443	-	-	-
Refund	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	-
TOTAL	32,918	8,750	41,668	30,000	-	30,000
Expenditure						
Project consultancy	6,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Communications costs	9,805	-	-	2,980	-	2,980
Computers / equipment	283	-	-	26	-	26
Web development	1,836	-	-	875	-	875
Events	153	-	-	770	-	770
Marketing	782	-	-	522	-	522
Travel	537	-	-	228	-	228
Insurance	293	-	-	293	-	293
Professional fees	300	-	-	99	-	99
Training	4,897	-	-	350	-	350
Total	24,886	-	24,886	16,143	-	16,143
Surplus for the Year	8,032	8,750	16,782	13,857	-	13,857
Cash funds at the beginning of year	13,857	-	13,857	-	-	-
Cash Funds at the end of year	21,889	8,750	30,639	13,857	-	13,857

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
ASSETS			
Bank and cash balances		30,639	13,857

Represented by :

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Unrestricted funds		21,889	13,857
Restricted funds	4	8,750	-
Total funds at 31 March 2019		30,639	13,857

These accounts were approved by the board of Trustees on –

And signed on its behalf by

Michael Wakelin, Chair

Michael Wakelin 27.6.19.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. The receipts and payments account is a record of monies received and paid during the financial year. The statement of assets and liabilities is a list of significant possessions and outstanding financial obligations at the end of the financial years. The accounts comply with the appropriate legal requirements.

2. FUNDS

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

3. TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING RELATED PARTIES

Included in the accounts is £48.75 paid to the chairman, via Union Consulting, relating to expenses for a fund raising initiative.

4. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted fund represents monies raised for a festival taking place on 30 April 2019. The purpose of the festival is to celebrate religion in the media and promote the vital need for religious literacy, using high profile speakers and workshops.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Religion Media Centre

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Religion Media Centre (the Charity) for the period ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:-

Date.....

Name:- Keith E. Halstead MA(Oxon) FCA

Address:- 60 Woodcote Hurst

Epsom

Surrey

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