

Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Onyx Link Foundation's quarterly newsletter.

Editors Note



As the comforting smell of burning bonfire wood leaves our noses, we make room for new senses to be ignited as we welcome Winter.

It's been a busy few months here at the OLF office and we'd like to share with you what's been

happening. We'd also like to introduce you to the newest member of the OLF team.

Whilst you hug a hot chocolate and munch on a mince pie, why not relax with our Winter edition.

Before you do that, we'd just like to wish you all peace, health and happiness for the year ahead - Enjoy.

Jen

Jen Buss
Editor



How to... **Hygge**

pronounced hue-guh. This season, why not delve into the Danish concept of Hygge, loosely translated as the feeling of coziness. Examples of this are:

Cultivating closeness - Build community and close relationships. Pay attention to what really makes you happy.

Celebrating the everyday - Embrace the joy of everyday items and routines. Live in the present.

Create cosy - Lift your spirits by lighting a candle - Enjoy the simple things.

Our team support International Integration Day

In October, we joined the honourable Dr Sibani Roy, Founder of NWAMI/CCE to help celebrate their International Integration Day. The event included some breath-taking cultural music, spectacular traditional dance and some very influential guest speakers.



We also had the pleasure of contributing to this significant event. Dr Abdalla Mohamed OBE our Chair & Operations Director gave a heartfelt speech about the need and importance of integration and two of our hard-working volunteers provided a warm welcome and a helping hand to the guests.

We would like to thank Dr Roy for both inviting us to attend and allowing us to participate. It was a great honour and very enjoyable.

MEDIA...

Can't wait until the next edition of our newsletter? Why not keep up to date with all the OLF news and updates on our social media pages. You can find us here...



@Onyxlinkfoundation

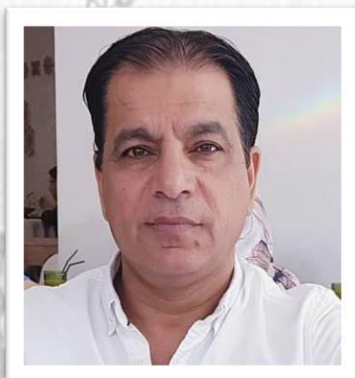
We meet the Leader of the House & Chief Whip, Julie James



We were grateful for the Honourable Julie James AM, Leader of the House and Chief Whip for meeting us on behalf of the First Minister. Our visit proved fruitful as we were able to introduce our organisation and objectives to such a respected lady and to share with her the success of our Wales Interfaith Conference.

Julie has many responsibilities, which include co-ordination of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers, asylum-seekers, immigration, migrant workers and community cohesion. She was very pleased with the success of our Interfaith conference and what we have achieved. We hope to include Julie in some of our future events.

Welcome



We'd like to welcome and introduce you to the newest member of the Onyx team, Yahya Alqaisi.

Yahya joins us as our Publications Manager.

Yahya graduated from Philadelphia University, Amman, Jordan after gaining a BA in English language and Literature. He also holds a Higher Diploma in Translation.

Since he graduated, Yahya went on to work in several respected positions. His employment history includes freelance writer and editor, Editor in Chief, TV Producer and Writer. Yahya has also written a number of popular philosophical and spiritual novels.

We would like to say, 'Welcome to the team, Yahya, and good luck in your new role.'

We participate in Faith Talks event at Newport Cathedral, St Woolos

In November, we had the great pleasure of supporting Newport Cathedral, St Woolos with their 'Faith Talks' event. Around 30 students from Coleg Gwent attended the event where they were able to learn the basics of 4 of the major faith groups, Christianity, Islam, Baha'i and Judaism.



Above, Ruth Israel, Chaplaincy & Inclusion Co-Ordinator, Coleg Gwent runs through the plans of the day with her students.

Revd Canon Mark Dimond hosted the event and was joined by Sharon Linnard, High Sheriff of Gwent. The facilitators, who included our Chair & Operations Director, Dr Abdalla Mohamed OBE did an excellent job of introducing their faith to the students.

It was also an ideal opportunity for the students to ask questions and learn more about these wonderful faith groups.

The event received encouraging and positive feedback from Ruth Israel, Chaplaincy & Inclusion Coordinator at Coleg Gwent, the tutors and students alike. We're already looking forward to collaborating with Revd Canon Mark Dimond and his team again on the next project!

Under the spotlight in this edition...Sheikh Elnayyal Abu Groom, our Research & Quality Director.



Q. What is the most favourite part of your job?

A. To highlight the oneness of the message delivered by all prophets.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

A. Being satisfied by the wide acceptance of the ideas I present.

Just for fun...

Q. What is your favourite food?

A. I don't have likes or dislikes in food.

Signing of the Declaration

As we bid farewell to 2018, we'd like to remind our readers about one of our greatest achievements. The Wales Interfaith Conference proved very successful for us and the signing of the declaration was a great achievement for us.

Declaration of 'The Wales Interfaith Conference' Cardiff, 10th of May 2018

We, the faith leaders and communities meeting at the 'Wales Interfaith Conference' in Cardiff, on the 10th May 2018 on humanity, morality, and earth, agree on the following:

Humanity is one; therefore, we have a strong hold on equality and worth. We respect our differences and acknowledge that diversity in faith, race, gender or culture enriches our oneness and strengthens our community relations.

We agree that morality arises from doing good to others and refraining from causing harm. This is a foundation upon which we can build good community relations through respect and love.

Earth is our only home. This necessitates our togetherness in peaceful co-existence. It is incumbent upon us to maintain the balanced system of our home in which we live and thrive. Therefore, it is our responsibility to keep our living in harmony with the dynamics of all the planet's components to maintain it as a suitable place for us and our future generations.

Our agreement on the above will surely pave the way for our collaboration in community activities that improve the quality of our environment and community relations.



Signatories for the Declaration:

The Right Reverend Dr Gregory Cameron - Bishop of St Asaph, Church in Wales, Rabbi Michael Rose - United Synagogue, Cardiff, Mr Vivian Bartlett - Bahá'í representative on the Interfaith Council for Wales, Ngakma Nor'dzin Pamo - Chairperson, Buddhist Council of Wales, Wiccan High Priestess Jemma-Jane Thompson, Wiccan - Pagan Earth Religion, Sheikh Mohamed Toulba - Imam of South Wales Islamic Centre, Cllr Neeta Baicher JP - Representative of the Sikh community, Chair of BASW Cymru, and member of Newport and Monmouthshire SACRE, Dr Abdalla Mohamed OBE - Chair, The Onyx Link Foundation.

Goodbye 2018!

We've had a fantastic year and we hope you have too! We have some big plans for 2019, so stay tuned for the Spring edition of our Newsletter, out on the 1st March!