

RECENT GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

False apprehensions have been raised on the basis of hearsay impressions of recent government proposals concerning faith. Below are details concerning these taken from the Home Office site which may help calm certain suspicions that have been voiced.



Ministers of Religion from Abroad: Second Stage Consultation on pre-entry qualifications and post entry civic knowledge and community engagement

Following the introduction last year of an English language requirement for ministers of religion from abroad, we are now inviting faith communities' views on two further measures the Government is considering introducing in order to ensure that ministers of religion admitted from abroad have the skills needed to practice ministry in a diverse and cohesive society.

The first is a possible requirement for ministers of religion to have appropriate accredited qualifications to practice ministry and secondly whether post entry ministers of religion should be asked to undergo an assessment of civic knowledge and community engagement.

A PDF outline of the proposals can be found on our site at :
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs4/ministersofreligion0805.pdf>

Core values

The Home Office recognises that there are certain core values which unite all the faith communities, and indeed people of good will who do not hold religious beliefs. These were celebrated at the Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment by the Faith Communities of the UK, held in the houses of Parliament on 3 January 2000 to greet the new Millennium. The values are:

- Community
- Personal Integrity
- A Sense of Right and Wrong
- Learning, Wisdom and Love of Truth
- Care and Compassion
- Justice and Peace
- Respect for One Another and for the Earth and Its Creatures

These values form the basis for all productive inter faith activity and for co-operation by all the faith communities in addressing issues of social exclusion, civil renewal and community cohesion.