

NBO Committee meeting
6 Tyne Road Bristol
19th February, 2016

Attendance:

Val (chair), Jamie (Minutes) Munisha, Keith, Jo, Yann, Mike, Juliet (Guest), Saido
Apologies: Modgala

Developing NBO as a Network of Networks.

A discussion took place along the lines of how the NBO could liaise with existing networks of Buddhists. A memorandum of understanding could be drawn up between NBO and interested networks on a case by case basis. NBO's role could be to act as an information exchange.

ACTION: Jamie, Val and Keith to examine taking the matter further. Val to open dialogue with Buddhist Council of Wales

Chaplaincy -

Keith gave a report on health care chaplaincy

The NHS are planning to cut funding to chaplaincy. Keith has sent a risk assessment to the NHS. There is also a plan to include the non religious pastoral care network - Keith has contacted the British Humanist Association.

Questions re. New Kadampa Tradition

We have had some questions regarding concerns about the NKT but have little or no authority to make statements or comments.

ACTION: Jo to contact David Francis and Lilian Weatherley regarding recent information request about the NKT.

The FPMT international office has begun work on trying to build a dialogue with the NKT. We should contact them to discuss the situation.

ACTION: Val and Jamie to write to Rafael Ferrer of FPMT Europe

Financial report.

We are spending slightly more than our income at present. We have a balance of £4445

Membership

Encouraging people to rejoin is demanding and Val requested help from council members.

ACTION: Val to circulate list of potential new members. Each committee member to establish contact with one potential member group.

NBO Phone

We will record a new message on the phone saying :

'This is a voluntary organisation and this phone is not manned (personned !) , please email any enquiry to chair@NBO.co.uk

ACTION Jamie to change answering machine message

BAM

Skype meeting taking place 7th March. We have four volunteers involved this year. Romain is looking after fund-raising.

Some responses have been received regarding assumptions on the facebook/web sites. Eg, that everyone agrees with certain situations and types of action. We need to remain non political but we are hoping that groups will promote other kinds of social action focused on poverty, inequality, racism, and not only environmental issues.

AGREED: Expenses up to £500 per project allocated to BAM 2016

Interfaith

Modgala sent a message and reminded us that we need to pay the IFN fee of £250.

Yann reported on Faith Communities Forum as an important avenue for dialogue with the Government and other agencies.

AGREED to consider in more detail our relationship with the FCF.

ACTION: Saïdo to pay subscription

Education

Final edition of CORAB is available now

Jo provides major specifications for Buddhism in any exam papers. This is for the DFE to which all authorities refer.

Jo has had contact with Mariano at the Buddhist Society who has similar thoughts and concerns

The REC is again redrafting terms of reference for RE. Jo was asked to consider joining the commission and co-ordinating Buddhist responses

EBU conference

Jamie gave details of the EBU conference taking place on 1-3 April 2016 in Berlin.

Dr Ambedkar: 60th anniversary of his conversion to Buddhism.

14 October

AGREED: Congratulations to Ambedkar community to be posted nearer the time

NBO AGM 2016

ACTION: VS to send out Doodle poll to fix AGM date

Public statements.

Should we sign statements as NBO or as named individuals?

A long discussion took place including about policy and protocol. We will keep this issue under review and deal with things on a case-by-case basis. We are not planning to write our own statements.