



**IARF
British Chapter**

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IARF PURPOSES AND PROGRAMMES – KOCHI, INDIA 2010

The following recommendations were developed in two Commissions authorized by IARF Council, and supported by the World Congress of Faiths www.worldfaiths.org.

The Commissions met in Kochi, 1-3 Sept. prior to the 4-7 Sept. IARF Congress.

PURPOSES

The International Association for Religious Freedom is called to serve these purposes:

- To be a global grass-roots community of liberal religious people and groups
- To work for religious freedom
- To promote mutual understanding and appreciation of our religious diversity
- To affirm religion as a liberating empowering force
- To explore freedom as an individual and social spiritual discipline
- To strive for empowering the oppressed.

PROGRAMS

- 1. Grassroots:** encourage more grassroots activity where we may have entry points. We appreciate regional differences and models which work there, as in the context of India. We feel that all models cannot be replicated. We also want to inform international concerns by developing communication in regional and national groups.
- 2. Youth:** foster youth involvement through international exchanges as well as their involvement in the wider work of IARF (Eg., the Model in India).
- 3. Outreach:** reach out to others, including interfaith organizations who may be interested in our work and our community (Eg., the United Nations).
- 4. Communications:** increase effective communications within the IARF community in both chapters and regions: **a)** seek appointed or executive officer (perhaps seconded) who could facilitate the work of the IARF. **b)** utilization of electronic technology accessible to all member groups.
- 5. Connections:** **a)** develop opportunities for IARF groups to visit other IARF member groups. **b)** establish a system to facilitate means for individual members of IARF groups for communicating with other IARF groups while doing personal travel.

6. **Study Commissions:** Appoint or authorize four commissions for 2010-2014.
- a) IARF Mission – a community of liberal religious people for interfaith friendship and freedom of faith or belief.
 - b) IARF Communications – effective networking of member groups, regions and friends.
 - c) IARF Faith and Belief – quest for Oneness and the Holy in the West and East.
 - d) IARF Witness – social justice, social service and peacemaking.

All Commissions should report to the IARF Council annually.

- 7) **Social Service Work:** Consider re-establishing social service networks with opportunities for direct service, as well as financial support.

The 2010 IARF Commissions:

Chairs: Takahiro Miwa, Dr. Homi Dhalla

Vice Chairs: Dorothee Gehrmann, Richard Gilbert

Secretaries: Peter Richardson, Charanjit Ajit Singh

John Taylor, Richard Kellaway, Albert Namdiaparamabil, V. Rengapashyam,
Mohammed Shabeer Ahmed; Steve Dick, Ajit Singh, Norio Sakai, G.K. "Kim" Beach,
Paul Johnson, Gene Reeves, Yayoi Reeves, Marion Tranyek

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