

Wednesday,
14 September
2022

Greater Manchester **Faith Community Leaders**

Statement on the Passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In offering our condolences to the Royal Family on the passing of Her Late Majesty, we are sharing in a unique grief that words alone cannot fully express.

One of Queen Elizabeth's many achievements was to make each individual she met feel cherished, irrespective of their faith. By so doing, she communicated respect and esteem for the great diversity of people whom she served by fulfilling with integrity, charm and authority the role of constitutional monarch for longer than any other person in this nation's history.

While our individual communities have delivered their own heartfelt tributes to her legacy, we wish together to say that, because of her values and example for this Nation and this Commonwealth, our relationships are richer, our common life is better and our diversity is more deeply appreciated than it has been before.

We have learned to journey together in a way that could not have been imagined when she acceded to the Throne. For this, we are profoundly grateful. We pay tribute to one whose values, rooted in her faith, helped us shape the future. Faith was an integral part of her life.

We can assure King Charles III of our best thoughts, prayers and wishes as we look together at the horizon that lies ahead.

A Statement by Greater Manchester Faith Community Leaders, including:

Christian (Presidents of Greater Manchester Churches Together who live within Greater Manchester)

From the Church of England:

- Rt Revd David Walker (*Bishop of Manchester*)
- Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft (*Bishop of Bolton*)
- Rt Revd Mark Davies (*Bishop of Middleton*)
- Very Revd Rogers Govender M.B.E. (*Dean of Manchester*)

From the Catholic Church of England and Wales:

- Bishop John Arnold (*Bishop of Salford*)

From the Methodist Church:

- Revd Andrew Lunn (*Chair of Bolton & Rochdale District; Chair of Manchester & Stockport District*)
- Revd Cathy Bird (*Deputy Chair of Bolton & Rochdale District; Deputy Chair of Manchester & Stockport District*)

From the Salvation Army:

- Major David Taylor (*Divisional Leader, Central North*)

From the Apostolic Pastoral Congress

- Archbishop Doye T. Agama, (*Abbot General Order of St Hadrian, Metropolitan Emeritus Apostolic Pastoral Congress, Senior Pastor Christian Way of Life Churches*)
- Bishop Clive Whittle, *Bishop of South Manchester, Apostolic Pastoral Congress, President of Compassion Prison Ministry UK*

From Command Prayer Centre Ministries International:

- Bishop Edmund Akyeah-Mensah (*Founder and General Overseer*)

Sikh

- Mr. Jagtar Singh Ajimal
- Dr Ranjit Singh Sumra

Faith Network 4 Manchester

- Revd Charles Kwaku Odoi D.L.

Hindu

- Dr Kaushik Chakraborty (*member from World Council of Hindus; Chair, Altrincham Interfaith Group*)
- Prof. Nawal K Prinja, (*VOICE, an education project of VHP(UK)*)
- Dr S Sinha (*chairperson of SGMT and committee member of Indian Senior Citizens' Centre*)
- Ms Nidhi Sinha (*Co-ordinator of Sangha*)

Jain

- Mr Suresh Mehta (*Chair of Board of Trustees, Jain Samaj Manchester*)

Jewish

- Mr Mark Adlestone O.B.E. D.L. (*Chair of Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region*)
- Mr Marc Levy (*Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region*)
- Ms Sara Radivan (*North West Regional Manager, Board of Deputies of British Jews*)
- Rabbi Jonathan Guttentag
- Rabbi Robyn Ashworth Steen (*Principal Rabbi, Manchester Reform Congregation*)
- Mr David Arnold M.B.E. (*Co-chair Council of Christians and Jews, Manchester*)
- Mr Jay Charara, (*Co-Chair, Hindu-Jewish Association Manchester*)

Muslim

- Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar (*Welfare Officer - Manchester Council of Mosques*)
- Mr Sajjad Haider (*Member of the Shia Muslim Community*)
- Mr Amer Salam (*UK Islamic Mission*)
- Councillor Zahid Hussain (*Lead Member for Race at Manchester City Council*)