

**Press Release - For IMMEDIATE release**

***FaithAction Marks a Decade of the Faith Covenant***

***During Faith in Partnership Week 2024***

FaithAction celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Faith Covenant during a breakfast event at Westminster, attended by the Faith Minister, Lord Khan of Burnley. The Faith Covenant, designed to foster collaboration between faith organisations and local government, has played a crucial role in supporting communities over the past decade.

“I am determined to maintain an open-door policy and listen. I want to engage with as many faith leaders as possible, as faith-based organisations play a vital role in communities, providing support to people of all faiths and none.”

**Lord Khan, Faith Minister**

The meeting was the culmination of several meetings held during Faith in Partnership Week 2024.

During the week, we introduced the 'Faith for a Safe Start' toolkit, designed to help faith organisations collaborate with the NHS to improve maternal health outcomes for ethnic minority communities.

An event was hosted at the House of Lords by Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally, the event featured speakers from NHS England, Alive Church Lincoln, the British Islamic Medical Association, and The Royal College of Midwives.

“COVID highlighted existing health inequalities. Deprived communities face barriers to accessing healthcare, and faith groups are constantly caring for their communities. My goal is to create systematic ways for faith to be involved in addressing these disparities.”

**Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London**

The toolkit will be available in the New Year: <https://safestart.faithaction.net>

Later in the week, FaithAction held an online Faith Covenant Forum, bringing together representatives from local authorities that have signed the Covenant. During the forum, we presented findings from the 'What Matters to Us' survey, which captured faith leaders' priorities for the newly elected government.

<https://www.faithaction.net/blog/policy-and-government/2024/09/03/we-asked-you-said/>

"Faith isn't just for crises. From COVID to the Afghan refugee crisis, the Ukrainian war, and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, faith organisations have built social capital that bridges communities. This bridge allows for collaboration in crucial areas, such as when faith groups partnered with food banks to help deliver vaccines. These relationships have a lasting impact."

**Daniel Singleton, National Executive Director, FaithAction**

## **Notes for Editors**

### **FaithAction**

FaithAction is a national network of faith-based and community organisations committed to social action. They provide services such as health and social care, housing, and welfare-to-work programmes. FaithAction empowers these organisations through support, training, and research while serving as their voice to the Government.

<https://www.faithaction.net/>

### **The Faith Covenant**

The Faith Covenant was created by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society to support faith groups/organisations and local authorities to work together. It is a joint commitment between the two to a set of principles which will guide engagement, working to remove the mistrust they face and promote open and practical work based on shared values.

It has been signed by 32 local authorities so far.

<https://www.faithandsociety.org/>

### **Lord Khan of Burnley**

Lord Khan served as a Labour MEP for North West England from 2017 - 2019 and as Mayor of Burnley from 2020 - 2021. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 2021.

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/4913/career>