

KAICIID

Welcome Note

Thursday 14th – Friday 15th October 2021



RELIGIOUS LIFE AND BELIEF CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY



Welcome to this unique event, in the wonderful surroundings of St George's House.

This is the culmination of three years' work in which we found some of the finest young interfaith leaders in the country and charged them with devising imaginative and impactful, grassroots projects which will help transform religious understanding in the UK.

The "21 4 21" project (21 young faith leaders for the 21st century) was launched in 2019. It was supported by three media organisations, British Muslim TV, the Jewish News and the Church Times alongside Coexist House. Over a hundred nominations were received from around the country before a distinguished panel of judges selected the final 21. The project was endorsed by the then Prime Minister, Theresa May, and the Mayor of London and the laureates were presented with trophies at a special ceremony at Lambeth Palace hosted by broadcaster Alistair Stewart.

Subsequently KAICIID, an international interfaith agency based in Vienna, has come on board to sponsor the next stage of the project which has involved working virtually with "the 21" and a few associates to build up their leadership, media and project management skills, with a view to launching three new grassroots inter-faith initiatives later this year. The projects will be specifically designed to be adaptable for many different locations around the country and beyond.

The laureates have been split in to three teams to plan their projects together, over the last few months, and now here we are at St George's House where they will pitch their projects to three "Dragons" in a "dragons den" style session.

We are so grateful to our three brave, philanthropic entrepreneurs for agreeing to be our 'dragons' and sparing the time to be with us: **Dr Neil Harbury**, **Christopher Kenna** and **Muddassar Ahmed**. Each of them is prepared, but not obliged, to support the projects development up to a sum of £10k, the money being awarded for excellence in vision, budgeting and planning.

Of course, there is more to our 24 hours than that – we shall look forward to networking together, building up friendships, hearing each other's stories from the pandemic, enjoying St George's wonderful hospitality and looking forward to a brighter future.

We are also delighted to welcome as our special guest **HE Dr. Ali Alnuaimi** – Chair of TWMCC; Member of the UAE Federal National Council and Chairman of the Defence, Interior and Foreign Affairs Committee at the Council. He will be speaking to us after dinner about his own inspirational interfaith projects in the UAE.

May God bless our special time together.

The Faculty

Rabbi Alex Goldberg

Bilal Hassam

Justin Cohen

Michael Wakelin