

Update from Bolton Interfaith Council 7th April 2020

Dear All,

We hope you are all safe and well, and send our warmest wishes to those who may be struggling at this time.

Thank you to those who have offered feedback and contributions to our BIC update. We will continue to produce this email every week to keep you updated on information and initiatives related to faith communities and the wider community here in Bolton. Please do get in touch if you feel there is any information you think we should include, or if you have a positive message or story to share.

Below is a list of current information and initiatives:

- **Bolton Quakers** are currently holding online meetings using Zoom. Sunday meetings with silent worship for half an hour beginning at 10.30am followed by time to talk. Tuesday 'talks and thoughts' discussion meetings will also be going ahead on Zoom at 7:30pm. Finally, silent worship on Wednesday takes place from 12pm for half an hour. Meeting ID links will be sent out by email – *please contact bernadette.jordan@outlook.com for more information*
- **Bolton at Home** have set up a helpline and webpage providing information for tenants who may be worried about rent payments – *contact 01204 328000 or go to www.boltonathome.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19*
- **Bolton City of Sanctuary** have added lots of useful links and information for communities to their website – *www.bolton.cityofsanctuary.org*
- **Bolton Hindu Forum** have appointed a number of representatives to offer multiple helplines providing support to people in isolation during this time, including services such as weekly food delivery – *see poster attached for telephone numbers*
- **Bolton Council of Mosques**
 - are now providing telephone support from professional counsellors - *Telephone 01204 363680 (option 6) + see poster attached*
 - have put together a list of Bolton Mosques Receiver Numbers in order for people to use mosque receivers/radio transmitters to hear the daily calls for prayers, and to listen to the Friday sermons, talks and lectures given in local mosques – *see list attached*
 - also continue to offer a dedicated support line for those who may need help with: shopping collection and delivery, medication collection and healthcare advice, food

hamper referral, or simply a friendly phonecall to overcome loneliness – *Telephone 01204 363680 (option 6) or 07935 196 976 + see poster attached*

- **Bolton Christian Community Cohesion** are continuing to provide extensive information on a weekly basis regarding churches and organisations across Bolton, including live streaming for church services – *for more information or to be added to the mailing list please email Keith Armstrong tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk or Janet Lythgoe admin@bolton.gmim.org.uk*
- **Bolton CVS** are currently recruiting for ‘Urgent Response Volunteers’ for duties such as: staffing phones, organising help for local residents, signposting to local services and distributing goods e.g. food/toiletries - *sign up via the website boltoncvs.org.uk*
- **Bolton Council** are now providing daily updates on their website, and are running an emergency contact number for extremely vulnerable people who have been told stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact (shielding) during the current situation - *Telephone 01204 33722, if you received a letter and require support*
- **Urban Outreach** continue to appeal for donations of the following items: pasta, tinned meat, tinned soup, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, tinned vegetables (sweetcorn, peas, carrots and potatoes), biscuits, tinned fish, jars of pasta sauce, tinned pulses, cereal, UHT milk, tea and coffee – *donations to be taken to Unit 4, Trinity Retail Park, Bradford Street, Springfield, Haulgh, Bolton, BL2 1HY (where Toys R Us used to be and in the unit at the bottom on the far right) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 4pm*
- Finally, the **Inter Faith Network UK** Co-Chairs and Faith Communities Forum Moderators have issued the following statement on ‘Faith Communities and Coronavirus’ – *see attached*

Thank you for reading, and as always, please also see our **Facebook** (*Bolton Interfaith Council*) and **Twitter** (*@BltonInterfaith*) pages where we will try to share more daily information and updates

For all official updates regarding Coronavirus please see the government website – www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Best Wishes,
Steph