

- Connecting Communities
- Empowering Engagement
- Inspiring Ideas
-



DIALOGUE SOCIETY

LONDON 1999

Registered Charity No: 1117039

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About the Dialogue Society

The Dialogue Society is a registered charity, established in London in 1999, with the aim of advancing social cohesion by connecting communities through dialogue. It does this by bringing people together through discussion forums, courses, capacity building publications and outreach. It operates nation-wide with regional branches across the UK. It was founded by British Muslims of Turkish background inspired by the teachings and example of Muslim scholar and peace activist Fethullah Gulen. The Dialogue Society is not a religious or ethnic organisation. It aims to facilitate dialogue on a whole range of social issues, regardless of any particular faith or religion. It stands for democracy, human rights, the non-instrumentalisation of religion in politics, equality and freedom of speech.

The Dialogue Society is a groundbreaking organisation which puts deeply felt principles into action, taking ideas to their logical conclusions and beyond.

Sir Peter Housden, then Permanent Secretary for DCLG, now Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government

Wonderful place, wonderful ethos, wonderful time.
Omid Djalili, Comedian and Actor



Who We Are

The Dialogue Society is directed by a team of committed staff and volunteers who have a proven track record of working within the community. The team's expertise is complemented by the input of the Dialogue Society Board of Advisors, a distinguished group of people who between them represent a very wide range of expertise and experience.

The Dialogue Society derives its funding from private donations from local business people and professionals, which is testament to its support at the grassroots community level where its work is clearly valued. It achieves a remarkably high level of output in relation to its relatively small budget due to the support of committed volunteers.

The Dialogue Society is both a registered charity (registered charity number: 1117039) and a limited by guarantee charitable company registered with Companies House (company number: 05385343). Therefore, the Dialogue Society is regulated by both the Charities Commission and Companies House.

'Dialogue... doesn't happen easily. You have to work it. You have to organise it. I think that's where the work of the Dialogue Society is so important up and down the country.'

Bill Rammell, then Minister of State for the Armed Forces



Advisors



Dr Michael Barnes, Reader and Senior Tutor in Interreligious Relations at Heythrop College and member of the Roman Catholic Committee for Other Faiths.



Revd John Carter, Director of Press and Communications for the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds who lectures on faith and media at several universities.



Prof Max Farrar, sociologist and Emeritus Professor at Leeds Metropolitan University who advises several organisations on the issue of race.



Prof Bulent Gokay, Head of the School for Politics and International Relations at Keele University and Managing Editor of Global Faultlines.



Lord Hylton, active peer of the House of Lords since 1971, independent member since 1982 and elected member since 1999.



Dr Mumtaz Khan, Senior Lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University's Faculty of Health and former assistant editor of Counselling Psychology Review.



Judge Marilyn Mornington, District Judge and lecturer and writer on Family Law, in particular on domestic violence and elder abuse.



Fiyaz Mughal OBE, Founder and Director of Faith Matters, a not for profit organisation which works to reduce extremism and interfaith and intra-faith tensions.



Bill Park, Senior Lecturer in the Defence Studies Department, War Studies Group of King's College, University of London.



Prof Revd Simon Robinson, Professor of Applied and Professional Ethics, Leeds Metropolitan University and Associate Director of the Ethics Centre of Excellence.



Lord Sheikh, Conservative Peer and Chairman of the Conservative Muslim Forum, the Conservative Ethnic Diversity Council and Camberford Law plc.



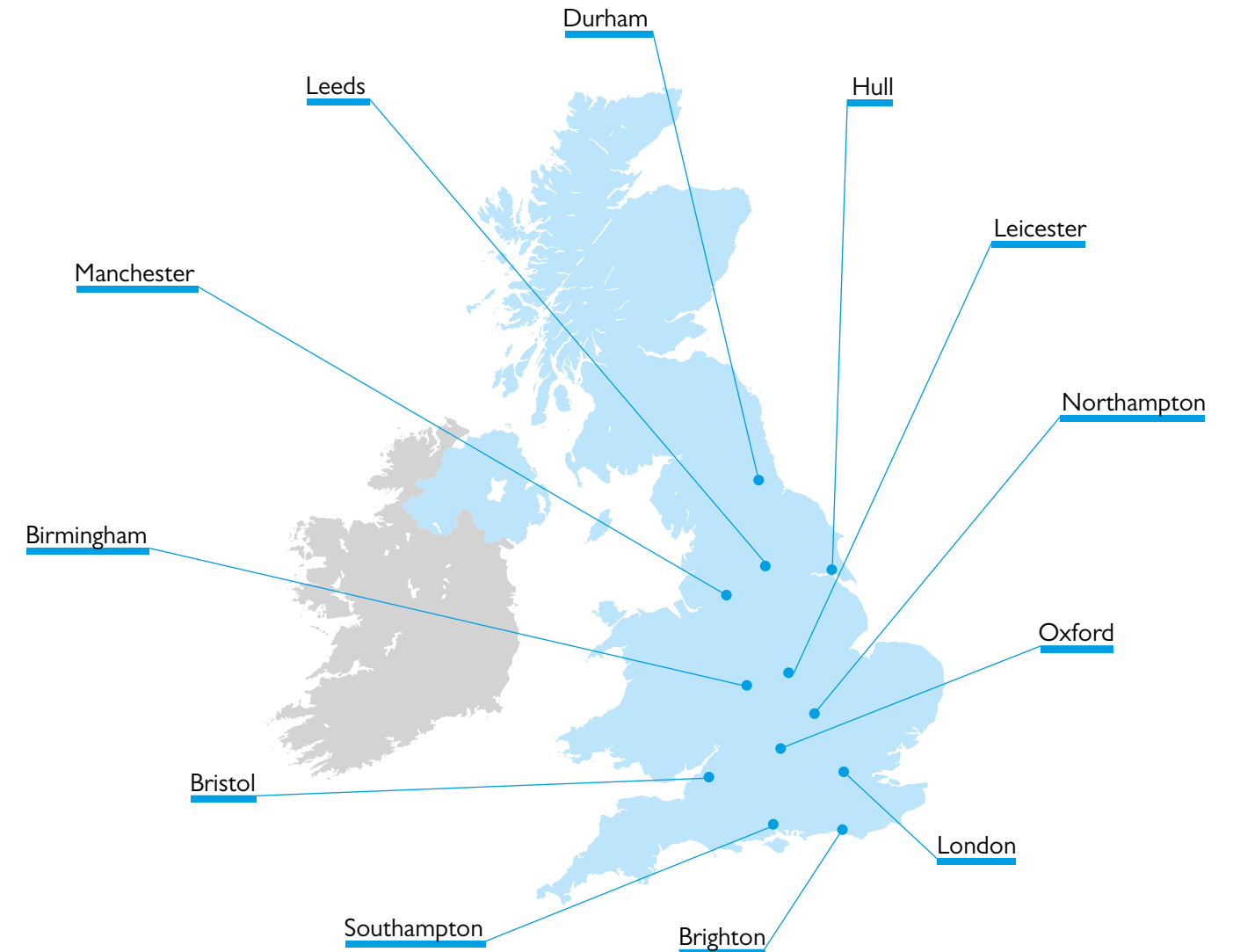
Prof Paul Weller, Professor of Inter-Religious Relations at the University of Derby and Visiting Fellow in the Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture.



Dr Steve Wright, Senior Lecturer in the School of Applied Global Ethics and an Associate Director of the Praxis Centre, Leeds Metropolitan University.

Branches

The Dialogue Society has eleven branches across England. You can contact a branch by sending an email with the name of the city followed by @dialoguesociety.org (e.g. birmingham@dialoguesociety.org).



Recent Highlights (2011-2013)



Founded 11 new branches around the UK



Opened a new branch office in Birmingham



Opened a new branch office in Brighton



Signed our latest partnership agreement with Queen Mary University, University of London



Produced 16 publications over the last two years



Launched the Journal of Dialogue Studies



Co-delivered the Dialogue Studies MA with Keele University for the second year



Organised two academic workshops and published the papers in advance of the events to maximise productive discussion



Launched Community Connectors, a new volunteer programme which aims to bring communities together by going to them rather than expecting them to come to us



Introduced the Connecting Communities Circles model, bringing together different communities to share experiences and explore common ground and difference



Started to offer Success Schools in partnership with Further Education colleges



Delivered Success Schools to inspire and motivate young people in London, Birmingham, Bristol and Southampton



Our Approach

Defining Dialogue

At the Dialogue Society, we understand dialogue to consist of meaningful interaction and exchange between people of different groups (social, cultural, political and religious) who come together through various kinds of conversations or activities with a view to increased understanding.

Target Audience

Overall, the Dialogue Society's target audience is a proportional cross-section of people from different backgrounds living and working within the regions in which we operate.

In addition to bringing people together across cultural and religious lines, we are concerned to bring together people from the following sectors: academia, stakeholders, community and media. The work done by relevant professionals and volunteers within all these sectors can have a significant impact on the character of society. However, while each sector has a role to play in helping society to develop in a cohesive and empathic direction, channels of communication between them can be lacking and they can easily become insular. We aim to bring the different sectors into a creative, constructive dialogue that will inform and enhance the work of all.

I think they have a new model for a new way of being, and it's very important for all of us here tonight to share in that journey, I'm delighted to be a part of it.

Dr Steve Wright, Leeds Metropolitan University

I actually think that the Dialogue Society needs to be applauded, needs to be encouraged, needs to be accepted in this country as a model, a different model from the ones we are used to. So I would say all power to the elbow of the Dialogue Society.

Revd John Carter, Diocese of Ripon and Leeds

I was deeply moved and impressed by everyone we met, by their ideals, sincerity and wish to make the world a better place. They were open, interested, full of warmth and humour and at the same time very serious about their aims.

Angelika Monteux, Aberdeen

Areas of Interest

The Dialogue Society is interested in facilitating dialogue on the following areas of interest:

- Dialogue theories and practice
- Cohesion and multiculturalism
- Identity, integration and citizenship
- Peace-building and conflict resolution
- Family, education and youth
- Media, culture and communication
- Human rights and civil liberties
- Theology and religious studies
- World cultures and societies

I am thrilled to be associated with this organization. May you go from strength to strength, and may we all meet in such a fine place as this in another 10 years' time to celebrate another fine record of achievement.

Dr Julian Lewis MP on the occasion of the Dialogue Society's 10th anniversary event



Our Work

Discussion Forums

- Seminars and Panel Discussions
- Straight Talk
- Roundtable Discussions
- Connecting Communities Circles
- Workshops and Conferences



Courses

- Dialogue Studies Masters Degree
- Dialogue School
- Success School
- Media School



Outreach

- Community Connectors
- Community Outreach
- Stakeholder Outreach
- London Trips



Publications

- Community Publications
- Academic Publications
- Policy Publications
- Future Publications



Our Aims

Bringing people, communities
and different sectors together

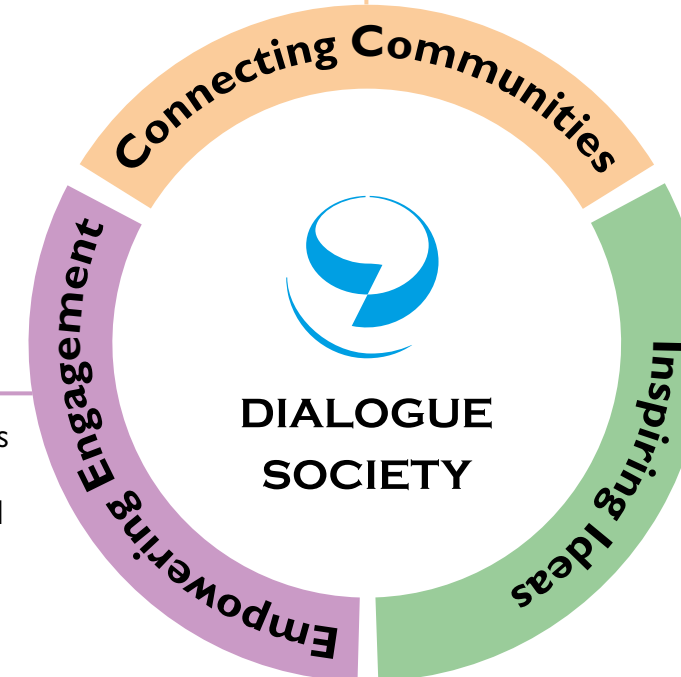
- Community Connectors
- Connecting Communities Circles
- Community Outreach
- Community Publications
- Discussion Forums

Building capacity
for dialogue

- Dialogue Studies Masters Degree
- Dialogue School
- Success School
- Media School

Developing new ideas
for dialogue

- Research Fellows
- Discussion Forums
- Community Publications
- Academic Publications
- Policy Publications





Discussion Forums

Seminars and Panel Discussions
Straight Talk
Roundtable Discussions
Connecting Communities Circles
Workshops and Conferences



Overview of Discussion Forums

Discussion Forums

Courses

Outreach

Publications

To bring diverse people together and facilitate open and meaningful dialogue, the Dialogue Society facilitates a range of discussion forums throughout the year. An expansive range of topics related to the charity's areas of interest are explored, bringing diverse speakers and participants into the dialogue. Policy-makers, researchers, community leaders, journalists, students and others join in critical but constructive discussion of important social and political issues.

By introducing innovative discussion formats the Dialogue Society reaches out to a broader audience. The Straight Talk series is based on lively interviews with leading thinkers, conducted by prominent journalists. A Street Dialogue project in 2012 took dialogue out into the community, recording the perspectives of diverse ordinary people on the issues that matter to them. Dialogue Society discussion forums also include more in-depth dialogues in an academic context: academic workshops and conferences.

Types of Discussion Forums

- Seminars & Panel Discussions
- Straight Talk
- Roundtable Discussions
- Connecting Communities Circles
- Workshops and Conferences



Areas of interest covered

- Dialogue theories and practice
- Cohesion and multiculturalism
- Identity, integration and citizenship
- Peace-building and conflict resolution
- Family, education and youth
- Media, culture and communication
- Human rights and civil liberties
- Theology and religious studies
- World cultures and societies





Seminars and Panel Discussions

The Dialogue Society holds a range of free public seminars and panel discussions at its London Head Office and its regional branches, often exploring one theme from different angles in a focused series of discussions. Events are advertised through a large email database and through invitations to diverse groups for whom a topic has particular relevance. Events comprise initial presentations by invited speakers, question and answer and discussion time, and time to continue conversations over refreshments.

Past panel discussion series include a 'Making Dialogue Effective' series, held in London and repeated at several branches, and a 'Debating Multiculturalism' series held in Oxford. Speakers included diverse dialogue experts, faith leaders and eminent academics including Prof Tariq Ramadan and Prof Ted Cante.

In the main, discussion events focus on the Dialogue Society's primary areas of interest:

- Dialogue theories and practice
- Cohesion and multiculturalism
- Identity, integration and citizenship

Topics for forthcoming panel discussion series include:

- 'Examining the extremes: exploring the causes of and connections between violent "religious" extremism and extreme right wing movements'
- 'Britishness in the age of multiple identities'



It was a delight to have the opportunity to share in such an engaging and stimulating dialogue. *Sir Peter Housden, then Permanent Secretary for DCLG, now Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government*

It was a pleasure to take part in today's dialogue on the purposes of higher education. *Malcolm Gillies, Vice-Chancellor, London Metropolitan University*





Straight Talk

Introduced in 2012, the Dialogue Society Straight Talk programme probes urgent contemporary issues in a dynamic interview format. The programme is intended to provide an engaging platform for constructive and critical dialogue on important and sometimes controversial issues.

An invited expert responds to questions from a seasoned interviewer, generally a prominent journalist. Once this initial exchange has framed the discussion more clearly it is opened to the floor and members of the audience are invited to join the debate.

The events are free and open to the public. They are intended to appeal to the general public along with academics and researchers, think tanks, media representatives and students.

Straight Talks to date have included:

- 'Liberty, Secrecy and Surveillance' with Shami Chakrabarti, Liberty; interviewer: Steve Richards, The Independent
- 'Multiculturalism: Has it a Future?' with Prof Tariq Modood, University of Bristol; interviewer: David Goodhart, Prospect Magazine and Demos
- 'London Mayoral Election: People or Politics' with 2012 Independent Mayoral Candidate Siobhan Benita; interviewer: Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Channel 4



David Goodhart, Director of Demos (left), interviewing Prof Tariq Modood, Bristol University (right).



Steve Richards, chief political columnist for The Independent Newspaper (right), interviewing Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty (left).



Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Channel 4 News presenter (left), interviewing Siobhan Benita, 2012 Independent London Mayoral Candidate (right).

Thank you for the opportunity of engaging in such a stimulating discussion on Faith and Integration.

Dominic Grieve QC MP, Attorney General

Thank you for a stimulating evening - though, alas, not long enough. I look forward to a further visit.

Alistair Burt MP, Minister for North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia





Roundtable Discussions

Dialogue Society roundtable discussions provide a platform for constructive exchange between people professionally engaged with a particular social or political issue. They are intended to facilitate dialogue between people working in different sectors who are concerned with the same questions but may not have frequent opportunities to benefit from one another's perspectives.

At a Dialogue Society roundtable discussion, an eminent speaker gives a short presentation on the issue to a select group of invited guests. The group then has ample opportunity to engage in lively discussion, with real openness encouraged by conditions of the Chatham House rule. Guests will typically include policy-makers, researchers, journalists, students and community group representatives of different backgrounds and cultures.

Some roundtable speakers to date include:

- Air Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford KCB CBE, RAF
- Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP, Attorney General
- Mr Alistair Burt, Minister, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Prof Joseph Camilleri, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University
- Sir Peter Housden, then Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities and Local Government

Speakers have addressed a variety of topics, from community cohesion and multiculturalism to international relations, conflict resolution and diplomacy.



Alistair Burt MP
Minister for North Africa, the
Middle East and South Asia



Air Marshal Sir Andrew
Pulford KCB CBE
Royal Air Force



Simon Hughes MP
Liberal Democrat MP
for Bermondsey and
Old Southwark



Professor Malcolm Grant CBE
President and Provost of
University College London



Sir Peter Housden
then Permanent Secretary for DCLG,
now Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government



Dame Anne Pringle DCMG
then British Ambassador
to Russia



Dominic Grieve QC MP
Attorney General



Professor Nick Fosskett
Vice-Chancellor,
Keele University



Prof Malcolm Gillies
Vice-Chancellor, London
Metropolitan University



Rt Hon Michael Howard
Lord Howard of Lympne CH PC QC

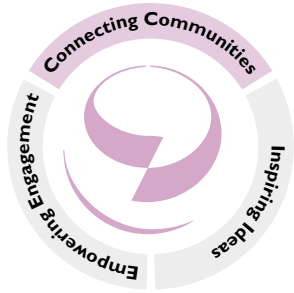


Sir Peter Westmacott KCMG LVO
then British Ambassador to France,
now British Ambassador to the USA



Sir David Warren KCMG
then British Ambassador to Japan





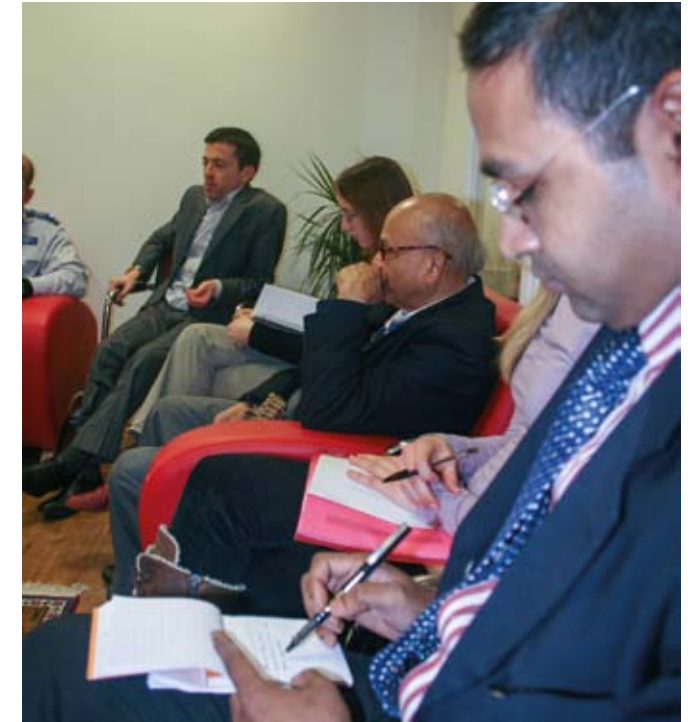
Connecting Communities Circles

This new project aims to connect particular cultural communities with other communities and with relevant stakeholders. It consists, in the main, of a series of informal discussion events or 'circles'. Initially, each event focuses on a different ethnic group represented in the local area. A panel of five speakers belonging to that group is invited to address questions relating to the community's history, identity and particular interests and challenges. Other members of the community in question are invited to attend, along with Dialogue Society staff and sometimes a small number of interested contacts. Seating is arranged in a circle to facilitate conversation. Refreshments are provided and the atmosphere is relaxed.

The insights and new connections gained through these initial discussions allow the Dialogue Society to make its events and courses more accessible to the community in question. They also lay the foundations for further initiatives bringing different groups together through inter-group circles and through informal introductions. The Dialogue Society seeks to take the delivery of this project out of its own premises into diverse community centres, improving its reach and effectiveness.



I think they really do a fantastic job and just reading about it is not enough. So many events are extremely well organised and they are very considerate to their guests, so I will urge anyone that's invited to any event no matter where it be, to go along and see for yourself. It's the best way.
Dr Harvey Marshall, Former Lord Mayor of Westminster





Workshops and Conferences

These events provide a platform for rigorous, methodical scrutiny and evaluation both of dialogue practices and of social and political issues pertinent to them. They also encourage fruitful interaction between people engaged in academia, policy, and the community. The event programmes generally allow time for dialogue at a more personal level during group meals and cultural activities or sightseeing trips.

On the first anniversary of the 7th July terrorist attacks the Dialogue Society arranged two major conferences on the 'Necessity of Interfaith Dialogue in Preventing another 7/7', held at the House of Lords and LSE. In 2007 a peer-reviewed international academic conference was organised on the theme of 'Muslim World in Transition: Contributions of the Gülen Movement'; full draft papers were published and are available via the website. 2012 saw two fruitful academic workshops on the topical theme of 'Debating Multiculturalism'; again, papers were published and are available online. All these events were organised in partnership with universities and research institutes.

Forthcoming workshops are planned on the following topics:

- 'Nationalism, identity and sense of belonging' (Birmingham)
- 'Dialogue Theories' (London)



The London Conference was one of the best organised conferences that I've ever been to, and I go to lots of conferences. They were very open in the sense that they invited people with different values and from different walks of life; they seemed to find a way of embracing this range of perceptions and approaches into their own activities.

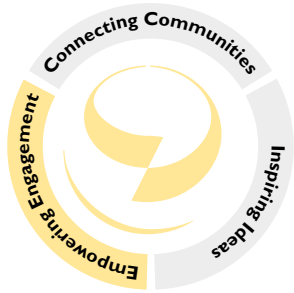
Bill Park, King's College London





Courses

Dialogue Studies Masters Degree
Dialogue School
Success School
Media School



Overview of Courses

The Dialogue Society offers three courses to empower dialogue and engagement: the Dialogue School, the Success School and the Media School. These free courses are intended to increase the competence and confidence of young people and community groups.

In addition, the Dialogue Society co-delivers a Masters degree in Dialogue Studies with Keele University. This unique new Masters degree, exploring the approaches of government and nongovernmental agencies to the crucial issues of intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and peace-building, includes a ten-week work placement at the Dialogue Society.

Courses offered

• Dialogue Studies Masters Degree

A cutting-edge MA course designed and co-delivered by Keele University's internationally renowned School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy and the Dialogue Society.

• Dialogue School

This School introduces different theories of dialogue and practical approaches and techniques for engagement in dialogue.

• Success School

This School aims to increase the confidence and raise the aspirations of young people (16-21).

• Media School

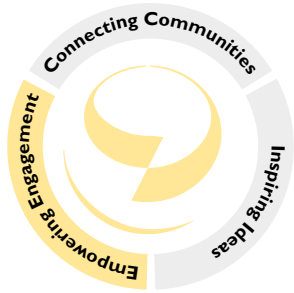
This School helps give small charities and community groups skills and confidence for media engagement.



What's great about the Dialogue Studies MA is that it is both academic and practical. In the first term we studied more modules than other MA students. In the second we undertook a placement at the Dialogue Society where we organised our own dialogue projects and were trained in dialogue skills and practices. In the end, I felt I gained an academic's critical eye as well as a practitioner's insightful perspective.

Sevgi Basman, 2012 Graduate





Dialogue Studies Masters Degree

Discussion
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The Dialogue Society co-delivers a cutting edge MA in Dialogue Studies with Keele University's prestigious School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy. The MA equips students to be reflective practitioners of dialogue, complementing theoretical exploration with practical training and experience. Students explore key debates around multiculturalism, political community and citizenship and examine the role of intercultural dialogue in building cohesion and in addressing violent conflict. The course focuses primarily on the use of dialogue to strengthen communities outside situations of conflict and it is unique in this respect.

Students undertake two core modules, in 'Approaches in Dialogue' and 'Learning and Research Skills' and choose one elective module from a broad range of options. They also write a dissertation on a relevant topic of their choice and complete a ten week placement at the Dialogue Society Head Office in multicultural London.

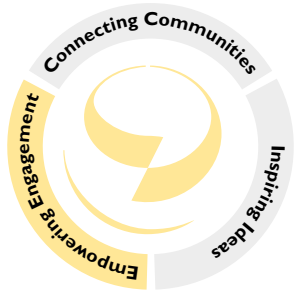
The placement offers professional experience of community level dialogue and visits to relevant government departments, NGOs and places of worship. It also includes weekly training sessions covering theoretical approaches to dialogue and practical dialogue skills such as facilitation and public speaking (see 'Dialogue School' below).



I'd recommend this MA to anyone wanting to excel academically as well as develop skills to better understand, communicate and organise people.

Maksat Atajanov, 2013 Graduate





Dialogue School

Discussion
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Courses

Outreach

Publications

The Dialogue School aims to build capacity for the effective, reflective practice of dialogue in interfaith, intercultural and other contexts. It primarily targets Dialogue Studies MA students during their internship although some sessions are open to the public. A range of invited speakers complement the expertise of Dialogue Society staff.

Sessions fall into two categories

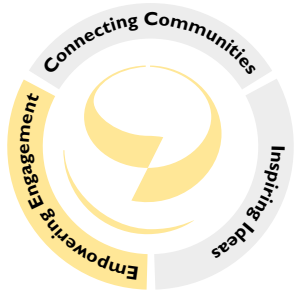
- Theoretical sessions explore the work of influential dialogue thinkers such as David Bohm and Daniel Yankelovich and examine religious inspiration for dialogue and how this is translated into practice. The dialogue thinkers explored are those introduced in *Dialogue Theories* by Dialogue Society staff members Frances Sleaf and Omer Sener, edited by Prof Paul Weller and published by the Dialogue Society in 2013.
- Skills-based workshops provide training in project management, dialogue facilitation skills, public speaking, effective networking and media engagement. These sessions are highly interactive, often offering opportunities to develop skills through exercises and feedback. Regular external contributors include professional story-teller Sarah Perceval, who coaches participants in public speaking, and facilitation experts from St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.



The Dialogue School helped me develop essential skills such as networking, public speaking, facilitation skills while also reading and discussing important dialogue thinkers such as Karen Armstrong, Tenzin Gyatso the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, Daniel Yankelovich, to name but a few.

Elisa Conti, Dialogue School participant





Success School

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Publications

The Success School aims to increase the confidence and raise the aspirations of young people at a key stage in their lives (16-21), particularly targeting those from less advantaged backgrounds.

It provides inspiration and encouragement through the stories of exceptionally successful guest speakers. Speakers give an interview about their lives and the obstacles they faced on the path to success before responding to participants' questions. Previous speakers include Cherie Blair, John Bird of the Big Issue, Paralympian Peter Hull MBE, comedian Omid Djalili and Shami Chakrabarti of Liberty.

The School also includes workshops with performance coaches and self-help authors, who provide practical advice on how to overcome common barriers to success and to set and reach personal goals. Participants, speakers and staff have time to mingle informally over refreshments after each session, building a supportive network.

Following the success of the pilot project in London, the Success School has been introduced in a number of Dialogue Society Branches around the country. In several locations the Dialogue Society is working with FE colleges or sixth forms to take the project to its target audience.



Ilknur Kahraman, Dialogue Society (right), interviewing Cherie Blair (left).



Air Marshall Sir Andrew Pulford with Success School participants.



Frances Sleaf, Dialogue Society (right), interviewing Deepak Verma, actor, writer and producer (left).

Success school has answered many questions in my heart that I can't even put in words, they have changed the way I look to the world and the way I want to live and I'm very thankful.

Ahmad Alsaif, Success School participant

It's a pleasure to be working with the Dialogue Society to bring this kind of opportunity to our students and others in Southampton.

Glenda Gardiner, Richard Taunton College

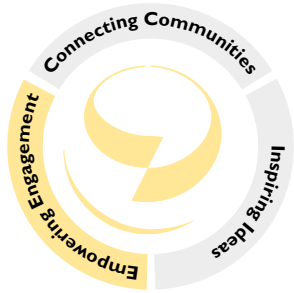
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to return to Islington and to meet with the young people who working together will make a difference in our country.

Cherie Blair



Ozcan Keles, Dialogue Society (left), interviewing Omid Djalili, comedian and actor (right).





Media School

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Publications

The Media School empowers participants to engage with the media in a positive and confident manner, helping them to be more effective in publicising their work and in dealing with any media attention. It targets small to medium sized charities and community groups, students and other young people. It brings participants into contact with a range of media professionals, from journalists to public relations professionals, who can explain how the media work and advise on how best to engage with them. Training is provided in practical skills for media engagement, such as using new media, broadcast interview skills and writing press releases.

Media School contributors have included radio and television journalist Julia Rooke, Neil Barnett, formerly a journalist with the Telegraph and the Spectator, and Will Straw, founder of political blog Left Foot Forward.

Insights from the Media School held in 2010 were shared in the Media Engagement manual which forms part of the Dialogue Society's set of ten Community Dialogue Manuals. It can be downloaded free via the website.



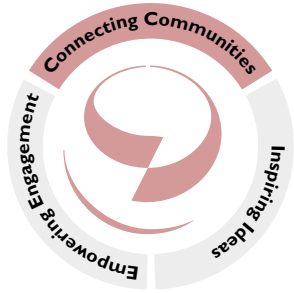
This is an excellent course taught by practising journalists from all fields. It's best suited for those that need to go out there and get their message in the media. It gave me direction, clarity and most of all confidence to engage with the media to promote my organisation.
Media School participant





Outreach

Community Connectors
Community Outreach
Stakeholder Outreach
London Trips



Overview of Outreach

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Outreach

Publications

In addition to working with those who attend discussion forums and courses, the Dialogue Society engages in outreach to form new, fruitful connections in communities and with stakeholders. New groups and individuals are drawn into dialogue through community events and excursions, visits to organisations and stakeholders and the distribution of publications.

Key forms of outreach

• Community Connectors

Community Connectors are volunteers based in a particular London borough or region. They seek to support community services and dialogue activities in that particular area and to form connections between different groups and stakeholders.

• Community Outreach

In London this primarily takes the form of the 'connecting' work of the Community Connectors. This is supplemented by periodic community events and by active recruitment of course and discussion participants at different community groups and educational institutions. Regional branches organise a range of community events, from interfaith discussion groups and community engagement dinners to tree-planting.

• Stakeholder Outreach

Stakeholder outreach includes meetings with councillors and police and attendance at political party conferences. It allows the Dialogue Society to communicate its work to stakeholders and make contact with people who may support and become involved in that work.



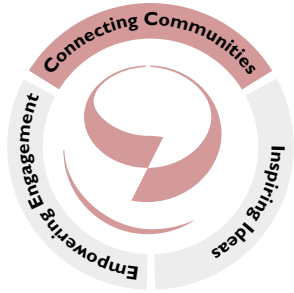
• London Trips

London trips provide an enjoyable shared experience of London's fascinating history and cultural and religious diversity. Particularly targeting young Londoners and BME communities, they are intended to promote appreciation of diversity and a sense of belonging and citizenship.

• Outreach through Publications

In distributing publications the Dialogue Society reaches out to many and diverse new groups and organisations. Further, community publications such as the Community Dialogue Manuals help groups and individuals to reach out to one another through their own dialogue activities.





Community Connectors

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Publications

Community Connectors are volunteers based in a particular London borough or region. They seek to support community services and dialogue activities in that area. They explore local services and structures and look to connect different communities, groups and stakeholders for the benefit of all and to strengthen community cohesion.

Participate, Support and Connect

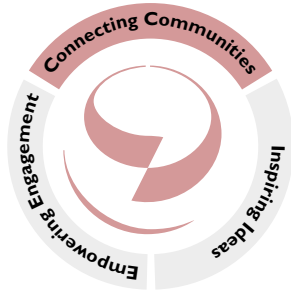
- Community Connectors aim to support existing structures and services and to make fruitful connections between different communities and organisations
- They support the events run by local groups, contributing time and assistance and encouraging participation among the communities they know
- They connect informal or formal community committees with local stakeholders
- They raise awareness of significant national and international events and festive occasions, such as the UK Census and International Women's Day



The care that we received during the trip was so overwhelming. Careful consideration was given to the smallest detail. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Jenny Hamilton





Community Outreach

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Publications

Community outreach in London is led by a number of Community Connectors. These committed volunteers concentrate on supporting existing dialogue projects and forging new connections between different groups and stakeholders. They will periodically organise a local project bringing together different local groups around a seasonal theme. They also assist Head Office with community events such as the annual distribution of traditional Anatolian 'Noah's Pudding'.

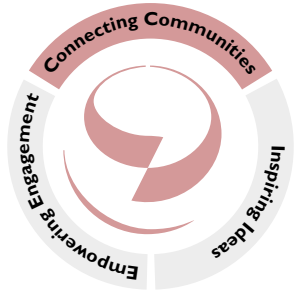
The Dialogue Society also reaches out to local young people and organisations in publicising its training courses and visiting schools and community groups. More generally, it seeks to attract ever new visitors to enter into dialogue by offering an eclectic range of courses and events, publicising them widely and keeping attendance free.

Head Office staff also reach out to diverse groups by attending and speaking at community events and academic discussions. At the regional branches, volunteers organise a range of community activities, from dinners on cultural themes, to interfaith circles, to tree-planting days. Sometimes events are organised in partnership with other local organisations.



...the Society is not only about discussion and debates, it's also engaged in a range of practical work and is rooted in local communities.
Prof Paul Weller, University of Derby





Stakeholder Outreach

Discussion
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Courses

Outreach

Publications

The Dialogue Society actively engages with stakeholders, including MPs, councillors, the police and educational institutions, in order to build awareness of and support for its work, explore any opportunities for fruitful partnership and invite stakeholders to participate in a range of dialogue events, from public Straight Talks to specialist roundtable discussions. Stakeholder outreach helps to bring people of diverse experience and expertise to the Dialogue Society to engage with the public, or with people working on the same issues as they are but in different sectors.

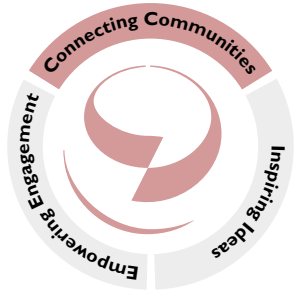
Over the past few years Dialogue Society representatives have attended the political party conferences and the Civil Service's annual conference, 'Civil Service Live'. These events provide opportunities to tell a wide range of politicians and civil servants about the Dialogue Society's work, to exchange ideas on areas of common concern and to keep in touch with political developments which have a bearing on cohesion and dialogue. Dialogue Society staff and volunteers, at Head Office and at the regional branches, also arrange meetings with local councillors, local police forces and other local and national stakeholders.



If government's policy-makers and other actors in the public sphere are looking for potential partners in dialogue, they should definitely not forget about the Dialogue Society.

Dr Carol Kersten, King's College London





London Trips

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Courses

Outreach

Publications

Dialogue Society London Trips provide participants with an opportunity to visit a range of cultural, religious and historic sites, sharing as a group a vivid experience of the rich heritage and eclectic contemporary life of an exceptionally multicultural city. They are intended to encourage positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity and to cultivate a sense of pride and belonging.

The trips target Londoners who may have had little opportunity for this kind of exploration, particularly young people and BME groups. Trips are also arranged for visitors from elsewhere in the UK and from abroad. They typically last a full day, are tailored to the needs and interests of the group and can include visits to relevant organisations. Trips end with a meal or refreshments and time for the group to discuss and reflect on their experiences together.

Past trips have included historical tours of London's South Bank and the East End, visits to Parliament, museums and diverse places of worship and meetings with a range of dialogue organisations.



As one of the tour guides of the London Trips, my greatest satisfaction is surprising Londoners with what London has to offer. So many people who live and work in London are unaware of the hidden gems of this great city.
London Trip Guide





Publications

Community Publications
Academic Publications
Policy Publications
Future Publications



Overview of Publications

Discussion
Forums

Courses

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Publications

Dialogue Society publications are both an outcome of and a contribution to dialogue at three different levels: community, academia and policy development.

Community publications comprise publications for the general public and manuals for community organisations to empower engagement in dialogue. In this second category, the Community Dialogue Manuals published in 2012 provide comprehensive advice and materials to help people run local projects to build cohesion. Downloadable from the website, the manuals are also being distributed across the UK.

Academic publications respond to the need for critical examination of the work of dialogue and contribute to the study of the social issues with which it is engaged. 2012 saw the publication of two collections of papers presented at academic workshops on 'Debating Multiculturalism' held that spring. Another publication in this category is the forthcoming peer-reviewed Journal of Dialogue Studies.

Policy publications are geared towards local and national stakeholders including but not restricted to government departments and public bodies. Drawing on the Dialogue Society's community-level experience, these publications suggest alternative ways of approaching issues related to dialogue, cohesion and identity. The 2009 policy paper Deradicalisation by Default suggested an alternative approach to preventing violent extremism. It was received with great interest by policy-makers and academics.



I was very impressed to see the 13 publications that the Dialogue Society produced in 2012! This is testament to their continuous hard work, dedication and ability to translate their vision and commitment into printed material of always better quality. I was amazed to see their progressive engagement with different kinds of publications and their ability to balance their range of publications in the three areas of academic, community and policy.

Dr Fabio Petito, Sussex University





Community Publications



The Dialogue Society **Community Dialogue Manual Series**

The manuals aim to inspire and enable individuals, groups and organisations to engage in meaningful dialogue through a range of simple projects. They provide tangible ideas, know-how and resources to support people to reach out to one another and strengthen their communities.

Part-funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government, the manuals allow the Dialogue Society to disseminate its experience, building capacity for grassroots dialogue and citizenship initiatives.



Today I received a set of the impressive new Community Dialogue Manuals of your Society. I must congratulate you and your colleagues on your achievements with regard to promoting the notion and the tool of dialogue in inter-cultural and community activities. The manuals you have produced can greatly help academic institutions, community centres, faith organisations and other groups in their dealings with communities and people from different cultural background.

Dr Ali Paya, Westminster University

The manuals suggest over **sixty five ideas** and projects, including **thirty five detailed dialogue projects**, inspiring and instilling enthusiasm for dialogue. In over **six hundred and fifty pages** they guide readers through every step of the process of project planning and organisation, offering detailed advice, hints and tips and checklists.

They provide over **one hundred sample letters**, emails, forms and other resources to support people in the projects they undertake. They also highlight further useful resources, including over **two hundred references** to helpful external websites, relevant organisations and publications.

Discussion
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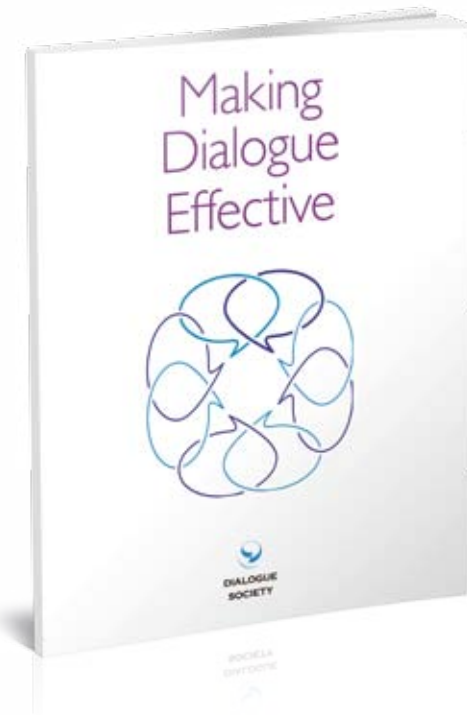
Community Publications

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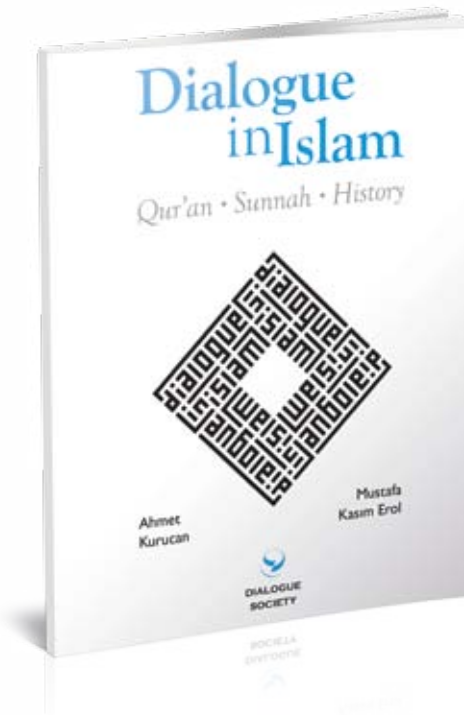
Making Dialogue Effective

This volume presents some of the key insights emerging from the Dialogue Society's 'Making Dialogue Effective' panel discussion series in held in London, 2010-2011. The six discussions brought together a wide range of experienced dialogue practitioners and academics to discuss the social impact of dialogue and how it might be augmented.

The booklet includes an extensive list of practical recommendations, based on the insights of panellists and on Dialogue Society experience. It is intended to be a contribution to an ongoing dialogue on dialogue and to the sharing of best practice.

Making Dialogue Effective is an excellent booklet, succinctly outlining the series of discussions held at the Dialogue Society. It covers current important questions in our field, such as genuineness, empathy and measuring impact. A good quick read into the heart of conflict transformation issues in the UK today.

Nicola Sugden, *Talk for a Change*



Dialogue in Islam by Ahmet Kurucan and Mustafa Kasim Erol

This book gives a concise, readable introduction to the relationship between Islam and dialogue, drawing on the Qur'an, the Sunnah and examples of the application of these sources in Islamic history.

Using a helpful question and answer format, the authors demonstrate that dialogue is a part of the fabric of Islam, required by God-given human disposition, and by fundamental Islamic principles of conduct derived from mainstream, long-established understanding of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Popular misconceptions are addressed and dispelled.

I have just finished reading "Dialogue in Islam" by Ahmet Kurucan and Mustafa Kasim Erol. It is a tremendous piece of work. Thank you to the Dialogue Society for promoting this key area of work within the Muslim community.

Yusef Noden, *Al Manaar The Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre*



Academic Publications

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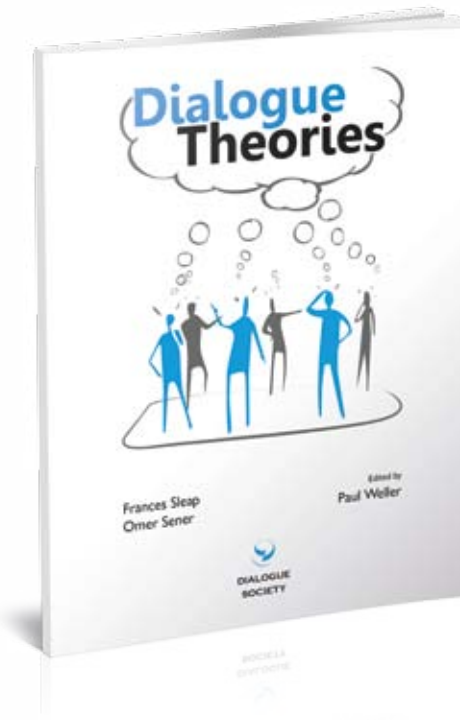
Journal of Dialogue Studies

The Journal of Dialogue Studies is a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed academic journal published twice a year. It aims to bring together a body of original scholarship on the theory and practice of dialogue that can be critically appraised and discussed.

It publishes conceptual, research and case-based works on both the theory and practice of dialogue, and papers discussing wider social, cultural or political issues as these relate to dialogue. The Journal is intended to contribute towards establishing 'Dialogue Studies' as a distinct academic field.

Perhaps one of the most valuable benefits to both policy and practice that the creation of the field of 'dialogue studies' can contribute is to act as a practical and scholarly 'institutional memory'.

Dr Fern Elsdon-Baker, Coventry University



Dialogue Theories by Frances Sleep and Omer Sener, edited by Paul Weller

Dialogue Theories gives an accessible introduction to the ideas of ten thinkers who have made insightful contributions to thought on dialogue, from quantum physicist David Bohm, to social theorist Jürgen Habermas, to Islamic scholar and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen.

The book is intended to inform and inspire anyone with an interest in the meaning and value of dialogue. As well as introducing the key ideas of each thinker, it discusses the relation of those ideas to practice, exploring a wide range of dialogue organisations and projects.

I've devoured my copy [of Dialogue Theories], and I think it is a really useful text that has the potential to have real impact.

Ian Jamison, Tony Blair Faith Foundation



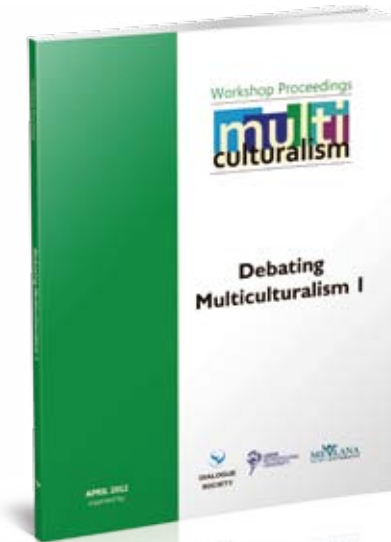
Academic Publications

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Debating Multiculturalism I

This book comprises the unedited papers presented at an academic workshop held in Konya in spring 2012, organised by the Dialogue Society, Leeds Metropolitan University and Mevlana University. Focusing primarily on multiculturalism in the UK, the workshop brought the perspectives of academics and practitioners to bear on an eminently topical debate.



Debating Multiculturalism 2

This book comprises the papers presented at the second of two academic workshops on the theme of 'Debating Multiculturalism' organised by the Dialogue Society in spring 2012. The workshop, organised in partnership with Keele University and Fatih University, explored multiculturalism across Europe as well as in the UK context.



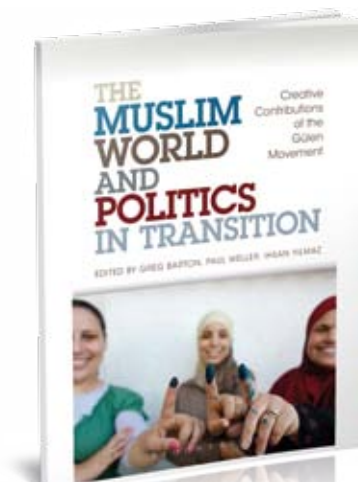
Muslim World in Transition: Contributions of the Gülen Movement

This publication comprises the proceedings of a peer-reviewed international conference examining the impact of the Gülen movement on the contemporary Muslim world in transition and the relations between the West and Islam in general.



Edited papers from above conference: **European Muslims, Civility and Public Life**, edited by Paul Weller and Ihsan Yilmaz (Continuum, 2012)

This edited collection deals with challenges and opportunities faced by Muslims and wider society in Europe following the terrorist attacks of 2004 and 2005. It explores the actual and potential contributions of the Gülen movement.



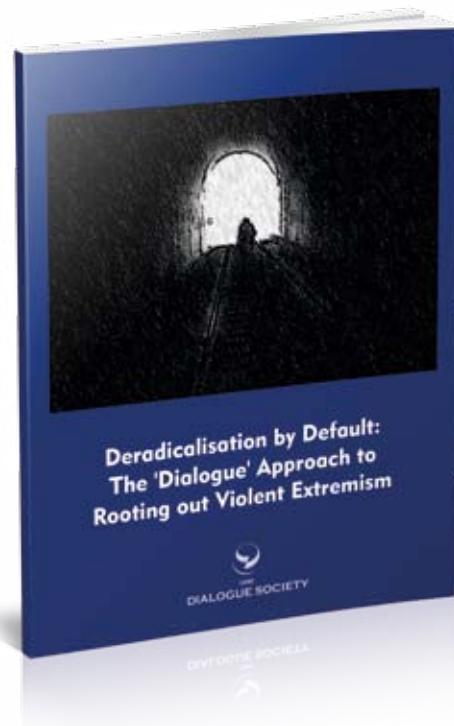
Edited papers from above conference: **The Muslim World and Politics in Transition**, edited by Greg Barton, Paul Weller and Ihsan Yilmaz (Bloomsbury, 2013)

This edited volume, published by Bloomsbury, explores the contributions of the Gülen movement in Muslim-majority countries.

A very impressive conference. I will feed back to my colleagues all the interesting ideas expressed. Thank you for inviting us.
Elizabeth Teague, FCO



Policy Publications



Deradicalisation by Default: the 'Dialogue' Approach to Rooting out Violent Extremism

Published in January 2009, this policy reflection paper was received with great interest by policy-makers, parliamentarians and senior academics.

It highlights two key problems with the 2009 Prevent strand of the government 'Contest' programme and proposes an alternative approach. It suggests that damaging extremist ideologies should be challenged in a positive and pro-active way, by supporting Muslim communities to re-emphasise and re-assert authentic dialogue values and teachings in Islam. It offers eight specific ideas towards the implementation of this approach.

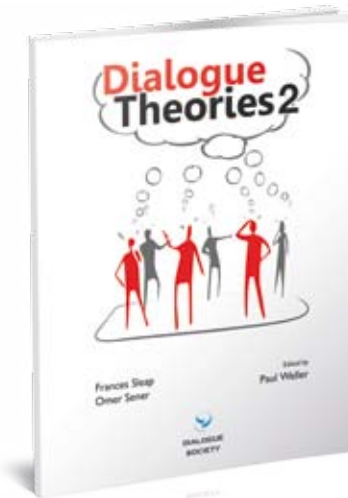
...the Society's done a huge amount in taking out the message of the exceptionality and unacceptability of terrorism whilst building community understanding.

Lord Carlile of Berriew QC

...it was very clear that anyone who worked for the Dialogue Society was totally committed towards providing simple solutions to some of the serious social problems that we are encountering here in the UK.

Batool Al Toma,
The Islamic Foundation

Future Publications



Dialogue Theories 2, Edited Volume

This companion volume to the original Dialogue Theories book will fill in some gaps by introducing another set of inspiring dialogue thinkers. Chapters submitted by assorted authors will be discussed and refined through a day workshop.



Nationalism, Identity and Sense of Belonging, Workshop Proceedings

This publication will comprise papers presented at a workshop to be organised by the Dialogue Society's Birmingham Branch. Contributors from the public and voluntary sectors as well as academia will explore crucial questions concerning identity and belonging in the UK.



Journal of Dialogue Studies issue 2: Critiquing Dialogue Theories

This volume of the multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed biannual Journal of Dialogue Studies will focus on critical examination of influential theories and models of dialogue, considering to what extent they are intellectually convincing and useful in practice.



Journal of Dialogue Studies issue 3: Models for Evaluating Dialogue

This volume of the Journal will pay particular attention to the existing models for measuring and evaluating dialogue, examine the strengths and weaknesses of particular approaches and consider ways forward for the evaluation of dialogue practices.

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Volunteer

You can volunteer for us in your local neighbourhood as a Community Connector or at one of our offices assisting with ongoing projects.
volunteer@dialoguesociety.org



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donate@dialoguesociety.org



Internship

We offer internship placements at our Head Office and some of our branch offices throughout the year. It's a great way to gain experience.
internship@dialoguesociety.org



Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, for every £1 you donate the Dialogue Society can receive an extra 25p in reclaimed tax at no extra cost to you.



Send a Book

It costs £3.00 to send a book or manual to a relevant individual or organisation. Help us send a book by donating £3.00 and we'll let you know when it's posted.
sendabook@dialoguesociety.org



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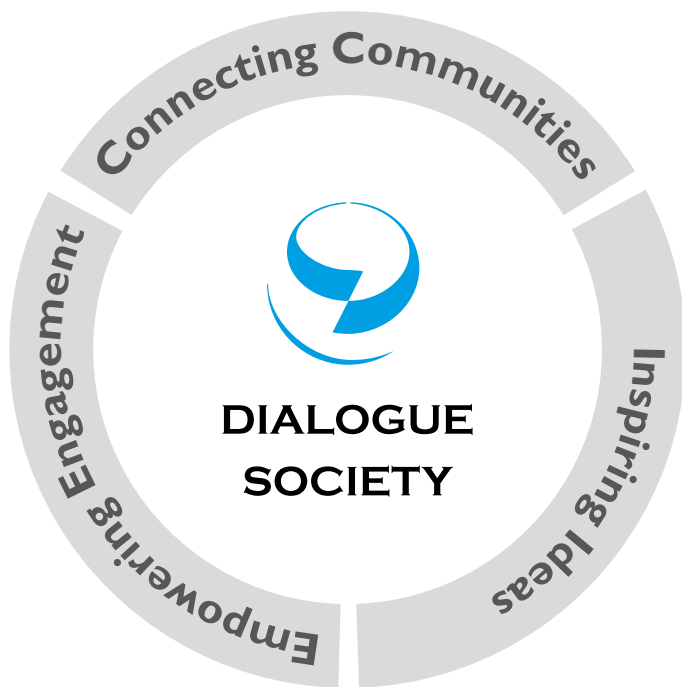
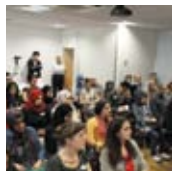
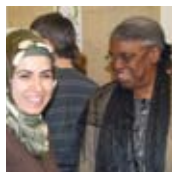
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