



BRADFORD DISTRICT FAITHS FORUM
Cheapside Chambers
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Press Statement regarding the Dispatches Programme 'Lessons in Hate and Violence'

**transmitted by Channel 4 on Monday 14th February 2011:
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On behalf of the faith communities of Bradford District:

Every child is a gift of God to be cherished and cared for. Violence towards children is wrong. We unequivocally condemn any abuse of children, especially in a faith context. Such abuse should be immediately reported and dealt with by the appropriate authorities. The children of the District are everyone's responsibility.

There is much good practice in our faith communities in work with children. We support the work already being done by the Muslim community in working for the safeguarding of children. However, we recognise that there are some issues to address. We commit ourselves to work with appropriate authorities to continue to develop good practice and care for vulnerable children and young people.

All involved, whether television companies, parents, faith organisations, local authorities or members of the community, should have the well-being of children as their primary and urgent concern. The law is clear that there can and should be no exceptions to the duty of ensuring the safeguarding of children.

Bradford District is made up of many different communities and faiths. We condemn actions which sow division and discord between members of different faiths. All faith traditions teach respect for others who may not share their beliefs, and the teaching of intolerance and hatred towards people of other cultures and faiths is wrong wherever it takes place. We encourage differences in religion to be discussed openly and without prejudice towards others. We value opportunities to challenge and encourage each other: we recognise that we need each other in order to live together well.

The Very Revd Dr David Ison (Acting Chair Bradford District Faiths Forum)
Kashmir Singh Rajput (Vice-Chair BDFF, Sikh)
Mohammed Saleem Khan (Vice-Chair BDFF, Council for Mosques, Muslim)
Ashok Nair (Secretary BDFF, Hindu)
Zahida Khan (Treasurer BDFF, Muslim)
Revd Dr Jonathan Pritchard (BDFF Keighley representative)

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