

Resolutions from the 2017 Annual Meetings

Resolution 1

In view of the tragic news of the bombing of two Coptic Churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday, 9th April 2017, this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, meeting now in Birmingham, extends its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the over 41 Coptic Christians who died, and to the Coptic Pope and churches of Egypt, the United Kingdom and around the world.

In the words of Hans Küng, to the International Association for Religious Freedom:

“There will be no peace in the world, until there is peace among religions. There will be no peace among religions until there is dialogue among religions.”

Resolution 2

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches supports changes to the length and format of the Annual Meetings [as set out in report **AGM13/17**];

and therefore, requests the Executive Committee and Annual Meetings Panel to bring forward proposals to the next Annual Meetings, including any amendments to the Constitution and By-laws, to enable such changes to take place for future Annual Meetings.

Resolution 3

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of Rev Cliff Reed to the Unitarian cause worldwide by naming him as an Honorary Member.

Resolution 4

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches deplores the harsh and degrading treatment of County Durham resident Irene Clennell on 26th February 2017 when she was taken away from her husband and family by the UK Border Agency, held in Dungavel immigration removal centre and then deported to Singapore in the most humiliating manner.

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom to:

1. Immediately reinstate Irene Clennell’s indefinite leave to remain in the UK, permitting her to return to her husband and family in County Durham.
2. Cease the practice of using obscure technical issues to deport people who have long been fully integrated into British families, thereby subjecting them and their family members to extreme anguish and distress.
3. Instruct the UK Border Agency to treat persons subjected to deportation with the utmost care, dignity and respect.