

BRISTOL
MAYORAL
ELECTION 2021

Bristol **Faith** Manifesto

When we launched the **Bristol Faith Manifesto in February 2020**, no one could have imagined what lay just around the corner.

Not only a **global pandemic** which has changed life as we knew it but also the brutal killing of **George Floyd** at the hands of several Minneapolis police officers and the subsequent focus on the **Black Lives Matter protests**, bringing the issues of **racism, oppression, and inequality** once more into the spotlight once again.

The consequences of the past year have been multiple and sobering.

While no one has been untouched by the pandemic, already existing inequalities in Bristol have been made worse by Covid, particularly impacting children and young people. UK multi-ethnic communities have been disproportionately affected, including in Bristol.

Meanwhile, other challenges have not gone away (e.g. the **climate and ecological emergency**).

As we return to the Mayoral Election, we, Bristol's faith communities, commend this Manifesto to the candidates.

The aspirations we set out just over a year ago remain as salient as ever - though to all of them can be added a new narrative in light of Covid.

We repeat our commitment to work with whoever is elected Mayor to build a City where everyone, regardless of background, colour or creed, can flourish.

And we urge Bristol's next Mayor to work with us just as faith communities have worked through the pandemic to **feed the hungry, to comfort the bereaved, and bring hope to all.**

5 SHARED ASPIRATIONS

We believe the role of Mayor can **unite, serve and lead** our City by:

1. CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Building tolerance and understanding into the fabric of society, which is key to tackling crucial issues such as hate crime.

2. BUILDING COMMUNITY

Encouraging common bonds across generational, ethnic and social divides, along with increased provision of affordable housing.

3. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Building resilient homes for families and households, through support for young people, relationships and parenting.

4. CHALLENGING POVERTY

Identifying and understanding poverty wherever it is found and developing a strategic plan to overcome gaps in provision.

5. TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Building on Bristol's twin reputation as a city of innovation and a leader in responding to the Climate Emergency, to welcome and incentivise a greener future through a bold approach to planning, housing, transport and public procurement.

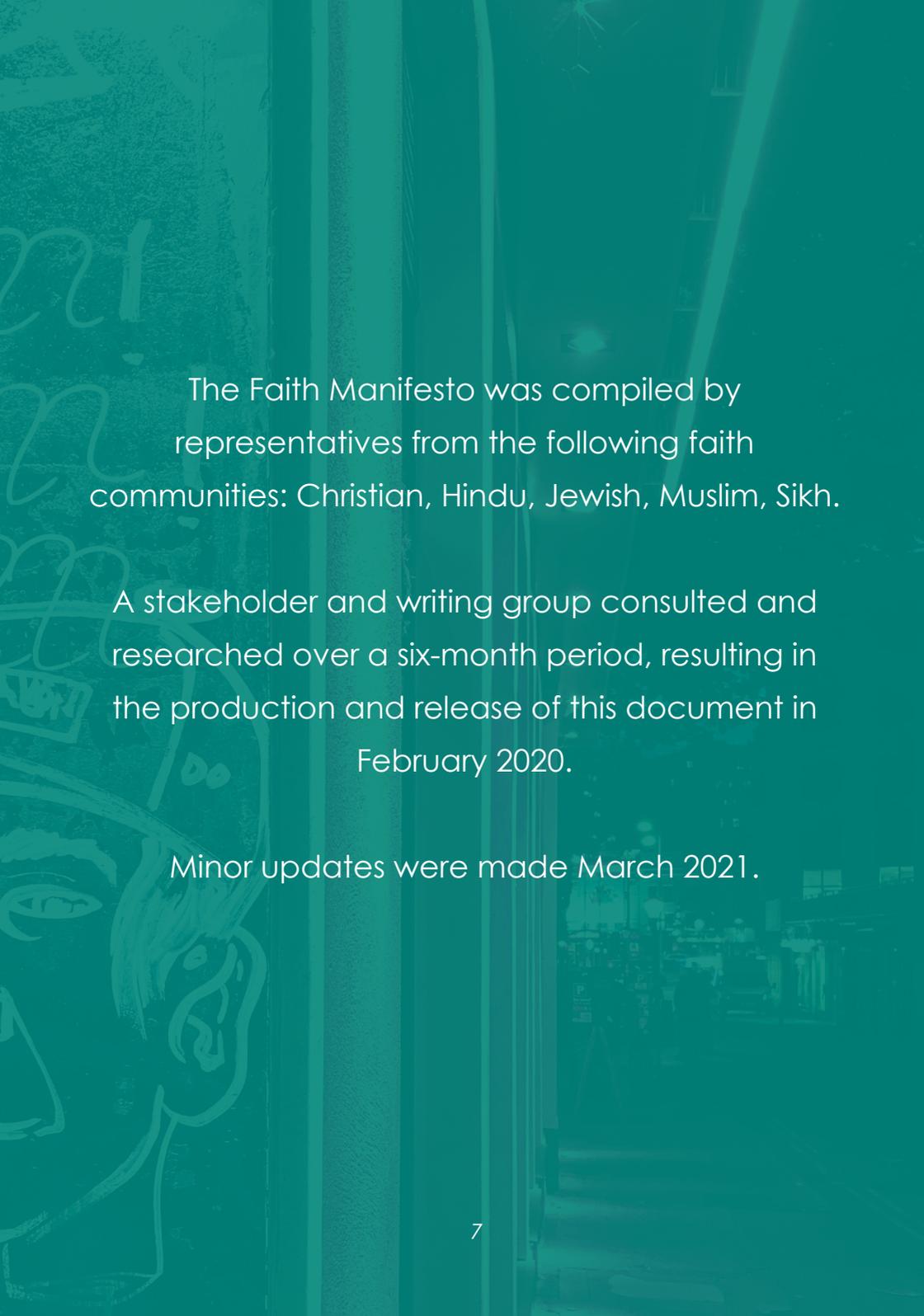
Turning such bold aspirations into reality will require a **commitment to partnership** from everyone across the City.

As people of faith, we commit ourselves to working alongside others towards the fulfilment of these goals.

We pledge our support for our elected Mayor's efforts to lead the City beyond the divisions of our time to a place where all its residents can fulfil their potential and look to the future with hope.

We invite the next Mayor to convene a Faith Commission to help steer and develop the aspirations outlined above.

Thank you for reading this booklet.



The Faith Manifesto was compiled by representatives from the following faith communities: Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh.

A stakeholder and writing group consulted and researched over a six-month period, resulting in the production and release of this document in February 2020.

Minor updates were made March 2021.



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A digital copy of this
document is available at
www.bristolfaithmanifesto.co.uk