

Media Release - Oldham Forum signs Peace Pledge

At its meeting held Friday 25 November in the Council Chamber, The Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum became the latest signatory in the borough to sign the Pledge to Peace (www.pledgetopeace.eu/).

The Forum, established in January 2016, is an umbrella body of 33 local and national organisations which have signed the Pledge. As signatories, organisations dedicate themselves to working to help 'create a culture of peace' across Europe by carrying out actions for peace in their own community and beyond.

At its Annual General Meeting in September, the Forum adopted a constitution and a distinctive 'peace plan' with defined actions for delivery within one year. Oldham's Mayor and Champion of Peace, Councillor Derek Heffernan, kindly agreed to Chair the Forum and was elected unanimously.

The Forum also extended offers of appointment to the position of Honorary Chairperson to the founders of the Pledge to Peace initiative, Mr. Prem Rawat, who is the Ambassador to the Pledge to Peace (www.premrawat.com), and to The Hon. Gianni Pittella MEP, a former first Vice President of the European Parliament.

As well as signing the Pledge to Peace at Friday's meeting, Acting Chair, Maria Dawn Ellis, co-founder of the Forum, also signed the letters to Mr. Rawat and Mr. Pittella.



Photo: Delegates to the meeting look on as Maria Ellis, Vice Chair of the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum, signs the documents.

Maria said: "In the Mayor's absence, it was an honour and a privilege to be able to sign these documents and to act as Chair of this important meeting held in such a magnificent venue. It is apt that we have applied to become a signatory to the Pledge at a time when we shall be marking the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Pledge to Peace in the European Parliament in Brussels (28 November 2011)."

“I am pleased to say that in Oldham the Forum goes from strength to strength and that we are gaining new members on a weekly basis. Any civic organisation or business is invited to sign the Pledge to Peace and to join our Forum to help make Oldham a more peaceful borough.”

Maria who is also founder and Chair of Peace Talks Oldham, the first organisation to sign the Pledge to Peace in February 2015, has organised a special event on **Saturday 10 December 11am-12.30pm in Crompton Library, Farrow Street, Shaw.**

At the event there will be readings from a book of 20 talks given by Mr. Rawat on the subject of peace. The featured book, No Ordinary Box, is one of those stocked by the Oldham Library Service and a copy has been made available for loan in every branch library in the borough.

Everyone is invited and the event is free.

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