

# GENERAL SYNOD

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## NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2014

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### FOURTH NOTICE PAPER

#### ITEM 7

### VIOLENCE AGAINST RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA: MEMBERS OF THE PANEL OF SPEAKERS



#### **The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry**

Christopher Cocksworth read Theology at the University of Manchester. After teaching in secondary education, he trained for ordination and pursued doctoral studies. Before his consecration as Bishop of Coventry, he served in parochial and chaplaincy ministry and in theological education, latterly as Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Bishop Christopher is Co-Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant, and is Chair of the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England. He entered the House of Lords in January 2012, where he focuses his activity in the Lords on three main areas: foreign affairs, education and the beginning and end of life issues. Bishop Christopher's focus on foreign affairs is inspired by Coventry's ministry of reconciliation and he is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Conflict Issues and International Religious Freedom.



### **The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds**

Nick Baines is the first Anglican Bishop of Leeds for the new Diocese of West Yorkshire & the Dales. He was previously Bishop of Bradford (2011-14) and Bishop of Croydon (2003-11). He has a degree in German and French and before ordination worked as a Russian linguist at GCHQ. He has represented the Archbishop of Canterbury at international faith conferences and is the English Co-chair of the Meissen Commission which develops the relationship between the C of E and the Evangelical Church in Germany. He also preaches regularly at conferences in Germany – in German. Nick Baines is known for his engagement with the media. He has 10,000 followers on Twitter, a well-viewed blog and he is often heard on the Chris Evans Show on Radio 2 and Thought for the Day on Radio 4. He is regularly asked to comment on national issues and his recent letter to the Prime Minister, which asked whether the government had a coherent strategy on Iraq and Syria, made the front page of the Observer and sparked an international debate. He also chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust which promotes excellence in religious broadcasting through the presentation of annual awards.



### **Shaykh Fuad Nahdi, Executive Director, Radical Middle Way**

Shaykh Fuad Nahdi is the Executive Director of the Radical Middle Way and Founding Editor of the pioneering Q-News – The Muslim Magazine which he founded in 1992. His contributions in fields of media, community activism and interfaith work spanning over three decades has been widely recognised in the UK and across the Muslim world. Fuad read Islamic Studies at the Islamic African University in Khartoum, Sudan, and at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He is a graduate of the Centre for Journalism at City University, London and has worked and

contributed to media organisations from around the world including Reuters, Los Angeles Times, Arab News, The Nation, ABC News, Crescent International, Africa Events and BBC World Service. Presently Fuad is a Senior Research Fellow at the Muslim College in London where he teaches interfaith relations and *adab al-ikhtilaf* (The Proprieties of Difference). He served as a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Listening Initiative on Christian Muslim Relations (2001 – 2004) which led to the creation of the Christian Muslim Forum of which Fuad was an adviser until stepping down in 2009. In 2012 he was awarded the The Sternberg Foundation Inter-Faith Gold Medallion and included in a list of 500 most influential Muslims. Fuad has championed the vitally important role faith communities play in creating a just, tolerant and productive society and has worked with particular vigour to foster a strong sense of British identity amongst the United Kingdom's diverse Muslim communities.



### **His Grace Bishop Angaelos**

His Grace Bishop Angaelos is General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom, the ancient Church of Egypt founded by Saint Mark the Apostle around 55 AD, and the largest Christian denomination in the Middle East. Bishop Angaelos was born in Cairo, Egypt and emigrated to Australia during his childhood with his family. He later obtained a degree in Political science, Philosophy and Sociology, continuing on to postgraduate studies in law while working in the same field. In 1990 he returned to Egypt to the monastery of St Bishoy in Wadi-El-Natroun where he was consecrated a monk by the late Pope Shenouda III and served as his private secretary, until 1995 when he was delegated to serve a parish in the United Kingdom. With a pastoral ministry that spans almost two decades, Bishop Angaelos travels extensively around the world to speak at youth conferences and conventions. Since being consecrated a General Bishop for the United Kingdom in 1999, Bishop Angaelos has been ecumenically active at local, national and international levels, while also working extensively in the area of inter-religious relations. Specialising in initiatives relating to advocacy, human rights, international religious freedom and development work, he is a

member of, and chairs, numerous local, national and international bodies dealing with these matters. His Grace is founder and convener of the asylum Advocacy Group which works closely in partnership with the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Religious Freedom and Belief. As director of the Media and Communications Office in the United Kingdom and Europe, Bishop Angaelos frequently issues statements and comments relating to current religious and minority issues with his particular focus on dialogue, conflict-resolution, and reconciliation. In recent years, his comments and views have frequently been sought on matters of human rights, civil liberties and international religious freedom, particularly in relation to the situation in Egypt, the Middle East, and North Africa.



**The Revd Rachel Carnegie, Joint Executive Director, Anglican Alliance**

The Revd Rachel Carnegie has worked in international development since 1985. She has worked extensively in Asia and Africa, with organisations including UNICEF, Save the Children and Tearfund. From 2009 to 2013, she served as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International Development. In 2013, Rachel was appointed Joint Executive Director of Anglican Alliance. The Anglican Alliance was developed in response to the recommendation made at the 2008 Lambeth Conference that a specific mechanism was needed to help strengthen, co-ordinate and communicate the ongoing international development, relief and advocacy work across the Anglican Communion. Rachel has a degree from Cambridge University and a Masters in Education in International Development from Sussex University. Rachel was ordained in 2004 and has served as a non-stipendiary minister in Southwark Diocese, alongside her work in development. Rachel has a particular interest in facilitating dialogue within the Church on the relationship between mission and development, as well as promoting understanding within governments and secular development agencies on the distinctive contribution of local faith communities to relief and development.