



**CURRICULUM  
FOR COHESION**  
BRINGING HUMANITIES TO LIFE

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## REPORT TO DONORS

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This report presents the work of  
Curriculum for Cohesion from  
1 January to 30 June 2013

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Dr. Matthew L. N. Wilkinson

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## Dear Donors

### The team and governance

This report covers the operations of Curriculum for Cohesion from 1 January to 30 June 2013.

### How the work of our project has grown in this second period

The period has been one of hard work and success in the policy, academic and teacher-training facets of the project, and in the growth of our team.

### How the advisory team has grown in these six months

We are delighted to report that our eminent team of Patrons and Academic Advisors now includes:



Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP

Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Simon has had the privilege to have been the Member of Parliament for Bermondsey & Old Southwark for the past 29 years. He is also the **Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats** in the House of Commons.

In December 2010, he was asked by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to act as the Government's **Advocate for Access to Education**. Simon was delighted to accept this role and he submitted his final report to the Government in July 2011.

Over the years Simon has had a number of Parliamentary responsibilities. He is currently a member of the **Joint Committee on Human Rights**, the **Ecclesiastical Committee** as well as a member of several All-Party Parliamentary Groups including the **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Islamophobia**.

Simon spoke movingly about how we can affect Parliamentary change at our 2013 Annual Curriculum



for Cohesion Dinner:

<http://vimeo.com/69337114?t=43m19s> and about the value of Curriculum for Cohesion at:

<http://curriculumforcohesion.org/endorsements/#simon-hughes>



**Aaqil Ahmed**

**BBC Commissioning Editor Religion and  
BBC Head of Religion & Ethics**

Currently Aaqil combines being the TV Genre Lead for Religion and Ethics with commissioning the TV output as well as managing the In-House Multimedia Religion and Ethics Department in Salford and Belfast and being the BBC's overall Head of Religion.

Over the past four years, Aaqil has commissioned projects as diverse as **The Life of Muhammad**, **The Preston Passion** and **Hitler's Children**. He also led the BBC in-house team's coverage of the Papal visit in 2010 and the award winning 50th anniversary of Songs of Praise in 2011.

Prior to his current role, while he was at Channel 4 Aaqil commissioned award-winning and genre-defining projects such as **Inside the Mind of the Suicide Bomber**, **Saving Africa's Witch Children** and **The Qur'an**.

Aaqil combines this work with a Professorship in Professional Practice: Television at the School of Media and Performing Arts, Middlesex University.

## How we have been working on a day-to-day basis

From **7 February 2013** (when the Department for Education (DfE) published its Draft National Curriculum for History) until **16 April 2013** (when the DfE's Consultation Period closed), the daily work of Curriculum for Cohesion revolved, in particular, around making our formal response to the UK Government's Draft National Curriculum for History.

This response was drafted by Dr. Matthew Wilkinson using philosophical, textual and historical analysis. It was reviewed by the entire Academic Team before it was sent to the Department for Education on 20th



March. You can read it at:

<http://curriculumforcohesion.org/read/response-to-dfe-draft-history-specification/>

Our response was launched at a [media roundtable](#) at the Institute of Education, University of London. Our media roundtable was chaired by the Director of the Institute of Education and our Academic Advisor, Professor Chris Husbands.

You can watch the video of the event here:

<http://curriculumforcohesion.org/watch/media-presentation-at-institute-of-education/>



On the panel from left to right were:

[Rt. Hon. Jack Straw](#) MP for Blackburn.

[Dr. Matthew Wilkinson](#) Director & Principal Researcher, Curriculum for Cohesion.

[Dr. Sean Lang](#) Senior Lecturer in History, Anglia Ruskin University and Chair of the Better History Forum.

[Mr. Eric Ollerenshaw](#) MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood and a former History teacher.

[Professor Chris Husbands](#) Director and Professor of Education, Institute of Education, University of London.

[Mr. Mohammed Amin](#) Vice Chairman, Conservative Muslim Forum, Curriculum for Cohesion Chair of Committee of Donors.

[Mr. Michael Fordham](#) Head of History at Cottenham Village College



[Dr. Katharine Burn](#) Senior Lecturer in History Education, Institute of Education, University of London.

[Lucy Wilkinson](#) as Curriculum for Cohesion Project Director, worked tirelessly to draw together the logistics for this media roundtable with busy, high-profile politicians and academics.

This event generated coverage of Curriculum for Cohesion in [the Times Educational Supplement](#), [The Economist](#) and the [BBC Online](#).

Subsequently, Dr. Wilkinson appeared on [BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze](#) and [BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme](#) and on the [Islam Channel](#) to discuss Curriculum for Cohesion's Response to the Draft National Curriculum for History. [Mohammed Amin](#) appeared twice on the [BBC Asian Network](#).

During this period, Curriculum for Cohesion became a significant public voice in the call that we shared with others for necessary changes to the DfE's Draft.

In July 2013, the DfE published a list of 612 organisations that responded to the National Curriculum in England Framework Document covering National Curriculums in English, Mathematics, Science, Art & Design, Citizenship, Computing, Design & Technology, Geography, History, Languages, Music and Physical Education:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/210969/NC\\_framework\\_document\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210969/NC_framework_document_-_FINAL.pdf).

Of these, only 11 (listed below) appear to be significantly Muslim-influenced.

1. Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust
2. Christian Muslim Forum
3. Curriculum Enrichment for the Future
4. Curriculum for Cohesion
5. Federation of Muslim Organisations
6. Islamic Medical Association UK
7. London School of Islamics Trust
8. Muslim Council of Britain
9. Noor Ul Islam Trust
10. SRE Islamic
11. Ta-Ha Publishers Ltd

This Muslim ratio of 1.8% contrasts with roughly 5% of the British population being Muslim, and illustrates the



need for Muslims to be more engaged with national developments and initiatives such as Curriculum for Cohesion

Of the above listed organisations, four (Curriculum for Cohesion, Curriculum Enrichment for the Future, Federation of Muslim Organisations and the Muslim Council of Britain) either [based their submission on our document](#) or were organisations that have had direct contact with us. We cannot tell if any of the others were influenced by our wider media communications.

Since April until the present, Dr. Matthew Wilkinson has focused again on the production of the book [Islamic Critical Realism: educating Muslims in the multi-faith World](#) in conversation, in particular, with Professor Roy Bhaskar and Dr. Ed Kessler. At present, he has written three (of eleven) chapters in an advanced state of drafting.



This work was punctuated by a well-received [Teacher-Training session at the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Education](#) in June entitled, The case for inclusive school History.

This helped 25 teachers understand how the inclusion of the Muslim and other faith contributions to history can improve the quality of historical knowledge enjoyed by all children in English schools and put this approach into practice. It was warmly applauded at the end by the teacher-trainees.



The Course-Convenor, [Ms. Kath Goudie](#), kindly attended our 2013 Annual Curriculum for Cohesion Dinner and we are now in discussion about how Curriculum for Cohesion will contribute to the [University of Cambridge's History Teacher-Training sessions](#) in the 2013-14 academic year.

The period culminated in our excellent [2013 Curriculum for Cohesion Annual Dinner](#) at the [Royal Over-Seas League](#) on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June of which more details are below.



## Particular successes include

### The Department for Education listens to Curriculum for Cohesion.

In July 2013, the Department for Education responded to the submissions that it had received during the National Curriculum Public Consultation Period, including that from Curriculum for Cohesion.

By 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Curriculum for Cohesion will make a detailed response to this revised July National Curriculum in England Framework Document.

The DfE's July draft is greatly improved from the February version and shows that the [DfE has taken on board the key points that Curriculum for Cohesion](#) and other stakeholders made in our response to the DfE's February draft of the National Curriculum for History:

1. [The July draft is far less prescriptive for teachers.](#) While everything set out in the February draft would have been mandatory, the July draft comprises a high level structure in black text which is mandatory, and then proceeds to list a number of items in grey text that teachers may wish to teach but which will not be mandatory.  
  
This structure, while sticking to a basic chronological approach, leaves scope for more interesting teaching that will prepare pupils for multi-cultural Britain, including scope for using the material that Curriculum for Cohesion is developing.
2. [The July draft is much more age-appropriate.](#) The absurdly abstract conceptual language at Key Stages 1 and 2 of the February draft has been made more age-appropriate and the detail of the suggested content at all the Key Stages is much more teachable and learnable. This will help pupils derive benefit from their History education.
3. [The July draft is more diverse, including statutory mention of some history of Islamic civilisation.](#) For example, 10th century Baghdad and Benin (in a period when Muslim) are mentioned in statutory sections.



4. There is still plenty of room for improvement which we are going to put to the Department for Education in our formal response by 8th August. In brief, more thought still needs to be go into how the national British history relates to the world history and how to create a 'broader, truer history for all.'

### 2013 Curriculum for Cohesion Annual Dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League

The 2013 Curriculum for Cohesion Annual Dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 was attended by 52 eminent individuals from the worlds of politics, faith, business and education. 49 of them are shown in the group photograph.



From left to right:

1. **Mr. Abu Akeem**  
UK Programmes Officer  
Muslim Aid  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor
2. **Mr. Kevin Wilson**  
Head of Marketing  
Communications & Development  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
3. **Mr. Waqaus Ali**  
Trustee  
1stEthical Charitable Trust  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor
4. **Ms. Sarah Joseph OBE**  
Editor and CEO  
Emel Magazine





5. [Dr. Julia Ipgrave](#)  
Senior Research Fellow  
Institute of Education, University of Warwick  
Curriculum for Cohesion Academic Advisor
6. [Ms. Aisling Cohn](#)  
Schools Manager  
Three Faiths Forum
7. [Mr. Mohammed Aziz](#)  
Director  
Centre for Public Education  
Woolf Institute  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
8. [Dr. Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE](#)  
Chairman  
East London Mosque  
Curriculum for Cohesion Patron
9. [Ms. Ingrid Stellmacher](#)  
Founder and CEO  
Le Menach Foundation
10. [Professor Gary McCulloch](#)  
Head of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
11. [Mr. Jonathan Freeman](#)  
National Director  
Mosaic
12. [Mr. Ajmal Masroor](#)  
Director  
Barefoot Institute
13. [Mr. Aaqil Ahmed](#)  
BBC Commissioning Editor Religion &  
Head of Religion & Ethics  
Curriculum for Cohesion Patron
14. [Right Reverend Dr. Richard Cheetham](#)  
Bishop of Kingston  
Curriculum for Cohesion Patron
15. [Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG](#)  
Chairman  
Royal Over-Seas League  
Curriculum for Cohesion Patron



16. [Ms. Rebecca Long](#)  
Assistant to Professor Roy Bhaskar  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
17. [Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Romain](#)  
Chief Rabbi  
Maidenhead Synagogue
18. [Sir David Calvert-Smith QC](#)  
Chairman  
Parole Board  
Former Director of Public Prosecutions for England & Wales  
Former High Court Judge
19. [Professor Roy Bhaskar](#)  
World Scholar  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Academic Advisor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
20. [Mr. Mohsin Chohan](#)  
Director  
Winners Property Co Ltd
21. [Mr. Arjan Vekaria](#)  
President  
Hindu Forum of Britain
22. [Dr. Taha Afshar](#)  
Representing the Director  
Ahmad Tea  
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23. [Dr. Matthew Wilkinson](#)  
Director & Principal Researcher  
Curriculum for Cohesion
24. [Mrs. Lucy Wilkinson](#)  
Project Director  
Curriculum for Cohesion
25. [Dr. Robin Whitburn](#)  
Lecturer in History Education  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
26. [Mr. John Keast OBE](#)  
Chair  
Religious Education Council of England & Wales
27. [Mr. Iftikhar Awan](#)



- Director  
Awan Consulting Limited
28. [Mr. Mohammed Amin](#)  
Deputy Chairman  
Conservative Muslim Forum  
Curriculum for Cohesion Patron  
Curriculum for Cohesion Head of Committee of Donors
29. [H R H Princess Badiya of Jordan](#)  
Former Chair  
Mosaic
30. [Mr. Syed Saif-Ur-Rehman Shah](#)  
Manager & Senior Vice President  
Habib Bank AG Zurich
31. [Right Honourable Sadiq Khan](#)  
Member of Parliament for Tooting  
Shadow Lord Chancellor  
Shadow Secretary of State for Justice  
Curriculum for Cohesion Lead Patron
32. [Professor Richard Andrews](#)  
Dean of Faculty  
Professor in English  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
33. [Mrs. Basma El-Shayyal](#)  
Head of Religious Education  
Islamia Girls School  
Curriculum for Cohesion Academic Advisor
34. [Mr. Amjid Faquir](#)
35. [Mr. Shabir Randeree](#)  
Managing Director  
DCD London & Mutual plc
36. [Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad \(Tim Winter\)](#)  
Dean  
Cambridge Muslim College  
Shaykh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic Studies  
University of Cambridge  
Curriculum for Cohesion Academic Advisor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
37. [Ms. Mary Earl](#)  
Lecturer in Education



University of Cambridge

38. [Dr. Katharine Burn](#)  
Lecturer in History Education  
Institute of Education, University of London  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution  
Visiting Fellow  
Kellogg College, University of Oxford
39. [Dr. Claire Foster-Gilbert](#)  
Director  
Westminster Abbey Institute
40. [Dr. Edward Kessler OBE](#)  
Executive Director  
Woolf Institute  
Curriculum for Cohesion Academic Advisor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
41. [Dr. Seán Lang](#)  
Senior Lecturer, History  
Anglia Ruskin University  
Chair, Better History Forum
42. [Ms. Kath Goudie](#)  
History PGCE Course Convenor  
University of Cambridge
43. [The Reverend Canon Andrew Tremlett](#)  
Canon of Westminster Abbey  
Chairman  
Westminster Abbey Institute
44. [Ms. Bernadette Hunter](#)  
President  
National Association of Head Teachers
45. [Imam Mohammed Abid Khan](#)  
Project Supervisor  
1st Ethical Charitable Trust  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor
46. [Dr. Atif Imtiaz](#)  
Academic Director  
Cambridge Muslim College  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution
47. [Mr. Willayet Khokhar MBE](#)  
Community Liaison Officer  
Muslim Aid  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor



48. [Mr. Galib Virani](#)  
Associate Director  
Afren plc
49. [Dr. Muhammad As'ad](#)  
Principal, Cambridge Muslim College  
Curriculum for Cohesion Donor  
Curriculum for Cohesion Partner Institution

Speeches of the highest quality were given by:

1. [The Rt. Hon. Sadiq Khan MP](#)
2. [Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad \(Tim Winter\)](#)
3. [Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG](#)
4. [Dr. Matthew Wilkinson](#)
5. [Mr. Mohammed Amin](#)
6. [The Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP](#)

These can be watched at:

<http://curriculumforcohesion.org/watch/dinner-at-royal-over-seas-league-2013/>

Our 2013 Annual Dinner provided a successful forum to update team members and supporters of the work of Curriculum for Cohesion. It also generated goodwill and cohesion within the project itself.

Apart from an enjoyable evening amongst friends, our dinner resulted in the [Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP](#) Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Democrats, and [Mr. Aaqil Ahmed](#) BBC Commissioning Editor Religion & Head of Religion & Ethics accepting our invitations to become Patrons of Curriculum for Cohesion.

Once again, [Lucy Wilkinson](#) worked tirelessly to pull together an event attended by busy and eminent individuals to ensure that this event was a success. Praise belongs to God Almighty.

## Lecturing on the University of Cambridge PGCE Teacher-Training Programmes for History and Religious Education

As a result of the success of the sessions in helping teacher-trainees on the [University of Cambridge](#)



Teacher-Training PGCE Programmes in History and Religious Education, [Ms. Mary Earl](#) Lecturer in Religious Education, has invited Curriculum for Cohesion to increase its input into her work to three sessions in the coming academic year.

The last of these will be a seminar aimed at a group of [teachers from the USA](#) who are interested to find out about the work being done in Religious Education in the UK for multi-faith contexts. This means the ideas and teaching practices developed by Curriculum for Cohesion are starting to reach an international audience.

Dr. Matthew Wilkinson is also shortly to begin negotiations with [Ms. Kath Goudie](#), the Course Convenor for the [University of Cambridge's Teacher-Training PGCE Programme in History](#) to increase our input into the History PGCE next year.

This increased commitment to Teacher-Training will coincide with the publication by Routledge of the Curriculum for Cohesion book for teachers, [Islamic Critical Realism: educating Muslims in the multi-faith World](#).

On pages 15-18 of this report, we outline the work carried out this year in greater detail.

## Looking Ahead

An important six months for the project lies ahead.

The most important task of this period be the completion of the book [Islamic Critical Realism: educating Muslims in the multi-faith World](#) which will be a full-time commitment in order to submit the manuscript to Routledge Publishers by the first quarter of 2014.

You can follow all our developments on our website: [www.curriculumforcohesion.org](http://www.curriculumforcohesion.org).

Here you can read [regular news bulletins](#) about our work and download [all current documents](#) including our [Prospectus](#), all [formal submissions to the Department for Education](#) and our [academic papers](#).

We will configure the website so that it sends donors an update email when new items of news are posted on



it. We will discontinue such emails if individual donors inform us that they do not wish to receive them.

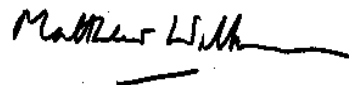
Of course, if you would like to talk to Dr Wilkinson about anything in further detail, please feel free to contact him: [mlnwilkinson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mlnwilkinson@yahoo.co.uk) or 07930 413 841.

## Thank You

Thank you again for the terrific support that you, the donors, gave Curriculum for Cohesion in these six months. Without your generous support this project would not be happening.

I hope that you can see that we are building a sustainable and intellectually thorough contribution to humanities education in collaboration with some of the best people and institutions in British education, faith and politics. Our work is already having an impact at the policy, academic and teacher-training levels of education. Success is only by God. Amin.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Matthew L. N. Wilkinson  
Director & Principal Researcher  
Curriculum for Cohesion  
22 July 2013

The above text has been slightly amended from the report previously emailed to donors to correct minor typographical issues.



Type of Output/ Activity	Name/Title	Date	Status	Outcome / Follow-up
Peer-reviewed articles	The Primacy of Ontology for Educational Policy: the case of Muslim boys in compulsory History education in England.	June 2013	To be submitted shortly to the Journal of Education Policy.	
	'Believers and Achievers': Muslim boys in History education	October 2013	To be submitted to the Journal, Race Ethnicity & Education	
Book	First three chapters of book entitled, Islamic Critical Realism: educating Muslims in the multi-faith West drafted and reviewed by the academic team.	June 2013	Completed.	Book to be completed during 2013
Teacher-Training / Lectures	University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education, The Case for inclusive school History	June 2013	Completed.	25 History PGCE students understand better the potential role of History to improve the educational performance of Muslim pupils.





Type of Output/ Activity	Name/Title	Date	Status	Outcome / Follow-up
National Education Policy	Curriculum for Cohesion's Response to the UK Government's Draft National Curriculum for History written, and reviewed by CfC Academic Team and sent into the Department for Education.	March 2013	Completed.	<p>Dr. Wilkinson presented Curriculum for Cohesion's Response in person to Ms. Pam Raven, Subject Leader for History, at the DfE on 8 April.</p> <p>Dr. Wilkinson presented the Curriculum for Cohesion Response in person to Mr. Matthew Sanders , Special Adviser for Education to the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP, on 10 April. These people are two key decision-makers in the final form of the History curriculum.</p>



Type of Output/ Activity	Name/Title	Date	Status	Outcome / Follow-up
Other events	Media Roundtable at the Institute of Education, University of London to present Curriculum for Cohesion's Response to the UK Government's Draft National Curriculum for History to selected media	April 2013	Completed	<p>Through coverage in the Times Educational Supplement, The Economist and BBC Online, many more people learnt about the work of Curriculum for Cohesion.</p> <p>Dr. Wilkinson also appeared on BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze and Sunday programme to discuss Curriculum for Cohesion's Response to the Draft National Curriculum for History. After this event there were 767 visits to the Curriculum for Cohesion website in one evening.</p>

