



## GANDHIS TO VISIT BRITAIN

The Indian historian Rajmohan Gandhi gave a guest lecture on the theme *The War on Terrorism and the Gandhian Ethic* last October at an American university. In it, he imagined what his grandfather, the Mahatma, might have said, with affection but also bluntness, to both the West and the Muslim world at this time of confrontation.

Several of us felt that much of what he was saying to America could apply equally to Britain, and that Initiatives of Change should invite him and his wife Usha here to share their thoughts on what expectations people in other parts of the world have of Britain. They have warmly welcomed the idea and will come from November 12 to 27 this year.

Although Rajmohan started his training as a journalist in Edinburgh, and he and his wife have been frequent visitors to Britain over the years, nevertheless many of the IofC team do not know them well.

As background, we recommend Rajmohan's lecture at Notre Dame University (available on the Extranet <http://net.iofc.org/logon.php?DETAIL=40> or from Reception at Greencoat Place) and a 28-minute video *Encounters with Truth* which was broadcast all over Asia by STAR TV in the early 1990s (also available from FLTfilms at Greencoat Place).



David Channer

**Rajmohan Gandhi**

Already many have sent ideas for their visit, ranging from public events in different parts of the country and private meetings with people in public life, to opportunities for those committed to IofC to seek the Gandhis' perspectives on our work. A generous promise of £1000 has started a fund for the visit. A Steering Group will meet on Friday, February 4, to work further on the programme. Any further ideas will be welcome before then.

We feel that this is an inspired alternative to the idea of a major public event in London, previously proposed by the Outreach Forum, and that it will fulfil the same objectives.

**Peter Riddell**

on behalf of the Outreach Forum  
[Peter.riddell@uk.iofc.org](mailto:Peter.riddell@uk.iofc.org)

## **ACCREDITATION OF IofC INTERNATIONAL TO ECOSOC**

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For some time, those who feel that Initiatives of Change has something important to offer the United Nations and its various agencies have been aware that it could be done more effectively with accreditation to the ECOSOC. The acronym ECOSOC is shorthand for the UN's Economic and Social Council.

After a lengthy process of putting together the documentation, and seeking support for our application, Dick Ruffin and Danielle Maillefer were expecting to appear before the committee of 19 countries in New York who grant approval. Then word came through that approval had been granted without a hearing.

Archie Mackenzie, who served as British Representative on the ECOSOC in the 1970s, describes it in his book *Faith in Diplomacy* as "the plain sister to the more glamorous Security Council in the UN family". The Security Council has power to make decisions while the ECOSOC is confined to making recommendations.

However ECOSOC's purview extends to over 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system. When the major players in world politics are gridlocked in the Security Council, as they have been over the war in Iraq, more constructive progress can often be made in the ECOSOC. Those who wish to know more can refer to Chapter 12 of Archie Mackenzie's book and to the United Nations ECOSOC website.

Danielle Maillefer is now installed in the IofC office in Geneva. A young intern starts working with her at the beginning of February, and Mark Perera joins her later in March. This new situation should bring greater participation at our Caux conferences of people from the UN agencies and other international organisations in Geneva. It could also enable those working with IofC in various parts of the world to have greater access to and fellowship with those working with the UN and others in the field.

**Campbell Leggat**

## **PEACE AGREEMENTS**

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Comprehensive peace agreements within Somalia and Sudan have recently been signed in Kenya with international backing, introducing new and inclusive governmental structures. A core-group of four Somalis, working with IofC, now consider the issue of reconciliation to be their priority and have selected certain appropriate resource material from IofC for translation.

Senior Somalis and Sudanese gave a briefing at Greencoat Place in December. Among those present were members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and experts on the Horn of Africa from the Foreign Office and Department for International Development.

**Jim Baynard-Smith**  
**Peter Riddell**

## LESOTHO LINK CELEBRATED

A unique twinning between two countries, one in the rich world and one in the developing world, was the focus of a public Greencoat Forum, at the London centre of Initiatives of Change, on December 7. The Wales-Lesotho Link, or Dolen Cymru in Welsh, is believed to be the world's only country-to-country twinning.

The aim of Dolen Cymru, which marks its 20th anniversary in March 2005, is to "build a relationship based on understanding and friendship" rather than just economic aid, said the link's founding Secretary, Paul Williams, who has visited Lesotho three times. "The idea of Wales developing its own special link with a country in the Third World grew out of the desire to see if our small nation could make a direct contribution to one of the greatest challenges facing us today: the ever-growing economic divide between the countries of the North and the developing countries of the South."

Lesotho's High Commissioner in London, Her Excellency Me Lebohang Ramohlanka, said that when she took up her post in 2000 Dolen Cymru was her top priority. She added, "The link in my country has been held in the number one position."

It was Dr Carl Clowes who suggested the idea of finding a Welsh "twin" in the developing world in an attempt to bridge the North-South



John Leggat

### **Her Excellency Me Lebohang Ramohlanka and Paul Williams**

divide. Clowes became founding President of Dolen Cymru and was recently appointed Lesotho's Honorary Consul in Wales. The Link was launched on March 12, 1985, Moshoeshoe Day in Lesotho, named after Lesotho's founding King.

Known as the Kingdom in the Sky because of its high altitude, Lesotho was chosen because of its land area, mountainous topography and population similar to those of Wales, Williams explained.

Over 50 Welsh schools have linked with schools in Lesotho and there have been teacher exchanges. Doctors have also provided training in Aids counselling to health care workers in Lesotho, where a third of the population is HIV positive.

Williams emphasised the benefits of the Link in broadening the perspectives of people in Wales, particularly the young. There has been a series of youth exchanges and Welsh primary school children study a work pack entitled *Khotso!* comparing Wales with Lesotho.

**Michael Smith**

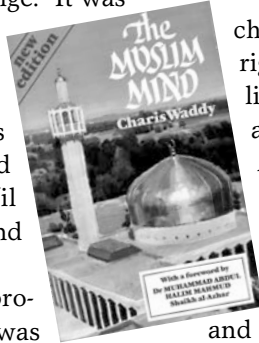


## 40 YEARS WITH GROSVENOR BOOKS

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Over the past 40 years many people have contributed to making Grosvenor Books an effective way of spreading the philosophy and experience of Initiatives of Change. It was started in 1965 and we feel privileged to have been part of this enterprise. It has been a means of serving authors and enabling them to fulfil their calling to write and reach a wide audience.

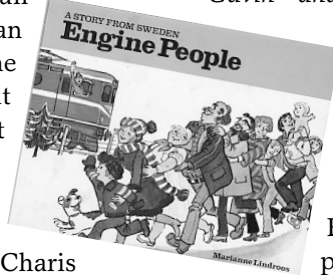
Amongst the books produced over those years was *The Muslim Mind* by Charis Waddy. Originally published by Longman in 1976, it was republished by Grosvenor in 1990 and launched in London on January 17, 1991 – the day the first Gulf War began. Guests on that occasion included ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto. We can probably never know the effect that book had, as it was one of the first books on Islam available to the general non-Muslim reader. As a result of her writing, Charis was highly regarded in Islamic circles and awarded the Star of Distinction by the Pakistan Government.



Six of Michael Henderson's books were published by Grosvenor and many more distributed by us. Promotion of his books has led to hundreds of broadcasts and live presentations in Britain and other countries. His book *Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate* has made him a sought-after speaker on this subject.

To answer a need to help children and parents make the right choices in life, we published *Listen to the Children* and *Listen for a Change* by Annejet Campbell. *Listen to the Children*, which was launched at the Thomas Coram House in 1987, received excellent reviews and has now been published in eleven languages.

Because we saw a need to produce books that would help children make the right choices in life, we went into children's publishing. As well as republishing *Happy Families* we had great fun with *Chico the Street Boy*, *Gavin and the Monster*, *Engine*



*People*, *Return of the Indian Spirit* and *Boy on a Bus*. 10,000 English language copies of this last book were sold in Russia and an English/Russian edition published for school use. *Engine People* was published as a co-edition in five languages simultaneously, as a result of our attendance at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

This annual international event is the largest book fair in the world, with around 7,000 publishers from 100 countries. We exhibited there for 25 years between 1973 and 1997 and were able to meet publishers from many countries, encouraging them to purchase the rights to publish our books in their own language. We met publishers who later produced foreign editions of *Listen to the Children* and other books. One of them was a Zimbabwean who decided to produce *Which Way Zimbabwe?* based on the previous *This Way Africa*.

In 1989 we manned a week-long stand at the Moscow International Book Fair. This was in the Gorbachev period of *perestroika* and the first time there had been no censorship at a Soviet fair. Hundreds of the Moscow general public now had the chance to see and read MRA books. We were able to distribute copies of *The Black and White Book* in Russian and begin discussions with a Lithuanian publisher, leading to Lithuanian editions of *Listen to the Children* and *Listen for a Change*. On the last day Annejet Campbell had a long talk with a woman professor from Nizhny Novgorod. Fifteen years later many of this woman's students



regularly attend Caux conferences and other IofC gatherings.

Frank Buchman talked of reaching the millions, and it has been a privilege to have a part in publishing and distributing the literature of IofC to a world in need. We felt a great sense of God's leading when we sent the biography *Frank Buchman: A Life* to hundreds of libraries in the developing world. The *Black and White Book*, written to counter Mao's *Little Red Schoolbook*, was published in 28 languages in excess of 600,000 copies.

What of the future? We have worked in close teamwork over the years with our colleagues at Caux Books in Switzerland. Our conviction now is to cease publishing in UK under the name of Grosvenor Books. English language books will be published by Caux Books and by Initiatives of Change, and with modern technology it is also much easier for others to take individual initiative.

So we foresee books being published from many sources. We are keen to encourage people to order from the on-line shop at [www.iofc.org](http://www.iofc.org) and, in the UK, books can also be ordered direct from Initiatives of Change (books) at 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD Tel 020 7798 6000.

**David Locke, Elizabeth Locke,  
Hugh Nowell**

## LATIN AMERICA

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Following a request by IofC colleagues in Latin America, we joined Pieter and Meryl Horn from South Africa on a month-long visit to three countries.

In **Brazil**, we were privileged to enter the much reported favela communities, invited by people who live and work there.

There was the grandmother with a team of helpers who runs five crèches, a drug rehabilitation centre for teenagers and a number of other community facilities. One of those working with the teenagers had been on drugs for ten years from the age of ten, then quit and has been free for the last 20 years. He says he makes a fresh decision each day not to go back.

A black woman lawyer whom we met grew up in a favela, was told she would never be good for anything, but persevered and has returned to serve the community with her legal skills.

A young couple responsible for a crèche run by the Baptist Church were thinking how to help the family of 5-year-old Lucas: his mother had been beaten up and held hostage in her home by the drug gang because, in exchange for a sweet, he had pointed out one of the gang to a plain-clothes policeman.

It was a challenge to be asked to talk to some of those involved in this reality on *The A to Z of IofC* – on three consecutive days! Yet what seemed to mean most was to share our own experience of life and faith,

however different our lives might seem, and for them to feel part of a world network.

In **Uruguay**, Ismar and Fabiana Villavicencio (who earlier spent a year with IofC in London) continue to give leadership with the *Gente que Avanza* training course for young people from several Latin American countries. We met with the group, just returned from Central America, as they assessed their year's experience and prepared to go home with fresh perspectives. The next course is about to begin. Some of those responsible hope once again to contribute to the Caux summer conference.

**Argentina** is where a handful of young women who served as interpreters in Caux now co-ordinate the translation of the IofC *World Bulletin* into Spanish – an invaluable service. They are working on plans to have the GqA group from Uruguay help them give courses in Buenos Aires schools.

**Tom & Mary Jones**

## SCHOOLS SERVICE

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Letlapa Mphahlele from South Africa has arrived in the UK to play a focal role in the IofC schools programme till March 10. He was for 17 years a guerrilla fighter during the time of apartheid in South Africa and wrote a book about his experiences.

At the book's launch, Letlapa was confronted by Ginn Fourie, the mother of Lyndi who was killed in the Heidelberg tavern shooting in



Joanna Margueritte

## MEETING HER MAJESTY

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My father, Dr Imam Abduljalil Sajid, attended a Christmas reception at Buckingham Palace. As mother was away, he took me as his guest. It was in recognition of the work that he, with other community workers and government, had done on behalf of Muslims as a peacemaker, bridging the gap between faiths. In the Palace brochure that day, against my father's name was written "Service to Community Relations".

On arrival, the Press Secretary told us that Her Majesty had requested a private meeting with us and a few others – a very exciting, memorable, thoroughly enjoyable experience. I was nervous beforehand but Her Majesty was warm and put me at ease by asking about my father's work with the local community, about my job and about living in Brighton.

### Good briefing

She had had a good briefing and showed most interest in my father's interfaith work, as well as his involvement with the local community, nationally, in Europe and internationally. Her Majesty asked him about bridge building and peace making in Geneva, at the Centre for Reconciliation in Caux and the World Congress of Faiths and Religions for Peace in UK and Europe. This encounter was shown as part of the Queen's speech broadcast on Christmas Day.

### Letlapa Mphahlele

Cape Town in December 1993 which he had authorised. What has happened since is a remarkable story of forgiveness and reconciliation. He will be speaking in 35 Sixth Forms around the country and at a wide variety of non-school occasions.

Letlapa's story gives an insight into past and present developments in South Africa – what causes someone to take up arms, and what are our responses? Students will have the opportunity to explore with him whether there is an alternative to the spiral of "terror" and extreme response of "the war on terror" that seems to be the hallmark of present times.

The new schools section of the IoFC UK website is now up and running. Students will be referred to [www.uk.iofc.org](http://www.uk.iofc.org) and the schools icon with a picture of Letlapa. You can find all sorts of interesting insights to our UK schools programme by clicking on this icon.

**Howard Grace**

**Zahrah Sajid**

## GREENCOAT FORUM

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24 Greencoat Place, SW1P 1RD  
Tuesday, March 15  
Light refreshments from 6.30pm  
Talk 7.30-9pm

*Building bridges towards a  
partnership of civilisations*

**Yasmin Alibhai-Brown**, distinguished columnist for *The Independent*, a frequent broadcaster, author of several books and a senior researcher at the Foreign Policy Centre. Born in Idi Amin's Uganda, she is listed in *Good Housekeeping* as one of the 20 most influential Asian and Black women in Britain.  
RSVP: 020 7798 6000

## MUSIC TREASURES OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

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**Herb Allen**, in conjunction with **Day Ely Ravenscroft**, is re-issuing as CDs music treasures of Moral Re-Armament. The first two CDs, out now, entitled *From the Ely Home to the World - MRA Music Treasures 1936-59* contain *Bridgebuilders*, songs sung by Cecil Broadhurst, Leland Holland, the Colwell Brothers and many others.

**Titles available now:**

*From the Ely Home to the World* (2 CDs)  
*Constance Jennings Ely's Favorite Hymns*

*The Words and Music of Cecil Broadhurst*

*The Vanishing Island* (2 CDs and book, with script and stage directions)

*Songs from Give a Dog a Bone*, recorded by the original London cast

*The Crowning Experience*, featuring Muriel Smith

*The Glory of Christmas*, with Muriel Smith

*The Caux Quartet*

*Christmas on Mackinac Island*, a radio broadcast with Muriel Smith and the MRA International Chorus

*Merry Christmas to You All (Up with People, 1967)*

More titles available shortly.

All of the above for private, non-commercial use. Order from:

<ravens1-2@juno.com> and put only "CDs" in subject line.

Those without email access may mail orders to: Day Ravenscroft, 7900 La Canada Drive #2227, Tucson, AZ 85704, USA.

An invoice for \$10 per CD will be included with your package.

<p>The Editors wish to thank all those who have sent contributions towards the cost of the UK Newsletter which remains at approximately £7 per year.</p>
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This issue was edited by Mary Jones and Janet Paine with layout by Blair Cummock.  
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