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# [Community] Faith in Football group hold inaugural meeting Friday 1 Jul 2011

Different religious groups met at Wembley Stadium last week to discuss using football as a way of breaking down barriers between different faiths.

The inaugural meeting of the Faith in Football Working Group saw representatives from Jewish and Muslim communities, The FA, Kick It Out and the Metropolitan Police agree a set of common principles around a 12-month action plan that includes tournaments and competitions, education sessions at Wembley and tackling faith based discrimination via the Kick It Out weeks of action events later this year.

Faith in Football Chairman, Alex Goldberg, said: "We have a consensus within this group that football can promote social action and that we all have a responsibility to tackling faith based discrimination in the game, particularly anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

"There's a definite need to bridge the gap between football and religious communities where the game has not been played in a structured way and The FA is moving in the right direction in addressing these issues and moving this important agenda forward," said Goldberg who works with Faith Forum London and the European Jewish Centre.

Kick It Out's Alison Vaughan, added: "It is really important that we recognise good practice in this area of work. Through our Weeks of Action programmes we can encourage education and raise awareness around this topic in schools and pull together regional seminars to debate and discuss the topic further."

Faith in Football Working Group members also include Butch Fazal (Luton SFC), Majid Lavji and Lee Owen (Asia Europe), Sukhvinder Cheema and Rimla Akhter (Muslim Women Sports Foundation), Rabbi Zevi Sanders (Southport Hebrew Congregation and Crumpsall FC), Aisling Cohn (Three Faith Forums) and Abdal Ahmed (Osmani Trust).

From The FA

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Carl Frampton, IBF Inter-

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