
Election of Trustees to the NASACRE Executive

At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one third of the elected charity trustees shall retire from office. Therefore, **there are 4 vacancies for Trustees**.

SACREs in paid-up membership are invited to nominate one candidate for election as trustee to serve on the NASACRE Executive; the normal length of service is 3 years.

Being a member of the Exec is an active role, requiring a **commitment of time and energy** to support the work of NASACRE in serving the SACREs. Exec members are volunteers and **do not represent** specific SACREs or faith groups.

In 2026 we are looking for new Trustees who can help with finance, communications and conference organisation.

A nomination must include:

- a brief biographical note (100 words max) from the nominee to explain their background and experience of working with SACRE
- a brief statement (100 words max) from the nominee about the ways in which they hope to contribute to the work of NASACRE, addressing the specific role descriptors they feel they would like to fill
- a statement (100 words max) from their SACRE Chair or Vice Chair about the nominee's ability to contribute to and support the work of NASACRE

A Trustee of a CIO must meet certain criteria. By completing the nomination form you are confirming that you are eligible to serve as a trustee and that none of the automatic disqualification criteria apply. You are therefore declaring that:

- You are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee under sections 178–180 of the Charities Act 2011.
- None of the automatic disqualification criteria apply to you, including:
 - being an undischarged bankrupt or subject to bankruptcy restrictions
 - having certain criminal convictions, especially for dishonesty, deception, terrorism, money laundering, or bribery
 - having been removed as a trustee by the Charity Commission or a court
 - being disqualified as a company director
 - being on the sex offenders register
- You understand that you must inform NASACRE immediately if your eligibility changes.
- You are over 18 years old

Nominations must be emailed to exec.officer@nasacre.org.uk by Monday 11 May 2026

A SACRE may make one nomination.

NASACRE Trustee Nomination Form

NAME OF SACRE **Staffordshire**

NAME OF NOMINEE **Hifsa Haroon Iqbal OBE DL MPHIL**

CONTACT EMAIL _____

SACRE Group to which nominee belongs (*Tick one*)

- Group A** – Other denominations and faiths
- Group B** – Church of England
- Group C** – Teacher associations
- Group D** – The Local Authority
- Not a SACRE member**, but employed in an adviser/officer role
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Are you currently Chair/Vice-Chair/officer of your SACRE? Choose an item.

If so, what role? **Chair**

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Background and experience of working with SACRE (100 words)

I have been a member of Staffordshire SACRE for a number of years, serving as Vice Chair between 2007-2016 and then again 2024-2026. I am currently serving as Chair. My professional background spans government, education and public service, focusing on religious education, equality, diversity and community cohesion. I have extensive experience working with schools and leadership teams nationwide. My career in counter-terrorism has provided a deep understanding of the impact of religious literacy on safeguarding and social cohesion. I also bring substantial governance and board-level experience from various public and charitable bodies, including oversight roles in audit, risk, and ethics.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

Ways in which the nominee hopes to contribute to specific NASACRE roles (100 words)

I hope to contribute to NASACRE by championing the central role of religious literacy in building resilient communities. In line with the 2026 priorities, I bring strong communications expertise as an experienced media contributor across television, radio and digital platforms, with a proven ability to present complex issues clearly to diverse audiences. I also offer extensive experience in organising and delivering conferences and large-scale events that bring stakeholders together effectively. Alongside this, I have board-level experience supporting good governance. I am committed to strengthening SACREs' national voice and promoting informed public discourse at this critical time for religious education.

SACRE CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR STATEMENT

Statement on suitability of nominee for proposed NASACRE role (100 words)

I am pleased to offer my full endorsement of Hifsa Haroon Iqbal's application to become a Trustee of NASACRE.

Hifsa is a highly valued member of Staffordshire SACRE and currently serves as Chair. In this role, she demonstrates strong leadership and a clear commitment to supporting the work of the SACRE team. She actively promotes and strengthens understanding of the Agreed Syllabus and the work of SACRE across Staffordshire schools , regularly visiting and engaging with both staff and pupils. Hifsa brings extensive knowledge and experience in religious education, as well as a deep commitment to equality, diversity, and community cohesion. I am confident that she would be a significant asset to NASACRE and would contribute positively in advancing its aims and priorities.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR DECLARATION

I hereby confirm our nomination to the NASACRE Executive.

NAME Lauren Nicholson-Ward (Vice Chair)

DATE 16/04/2026

CONTACT EMAIL Text