
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 **Lambeth SACRE**

NAME OF NOMINEE **Josephine Backus**

CONTACT EMAIL **Text**

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? **Vice-Chair**

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Background and experience of working with SACRE (100 words)

My professional background covers 16 years of secondary Religious Education (RE) in London and Hertfordshire secondary schools, finally achieving the role of Head of RE and Assistant Professional Tutor. In 1991, I was appointed Senior Lecturer at the University as subject lead for ITE (RE), as well as teaching on undergraduate and post graduate courses in Study of Religions, Philosophy and Ethics.

Additionally, I have worked with various organisations who are focused on delivering excellent RE in various contexts.

Nationally, I currently work with the Religious Education Council as a representative of the Network of Buddhist Organisations (currently Chair/Trustee and Education Officer), and am member of the Member Engagement Committee, Religious and Belief Reference Group (CAAR Review) and Dharmic/Indic Traditions Group.

Regionally, I am part of the Steering Group on of Learn Teach Lead RE (Area 2).

Locally, I am Buddhist representative on both Swindon SACRE and Lambeth SACRE (also Deputy Chair). I am a co-opted Buddhist representative for the Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea SACRE and am currently working with Norfolk SACRE.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

With NASACRE, I have supported the work to become a CIO, contributed to executive meetings, 'In Conversation' webinars, AGM and conference events. More recently working with the Faith & Belief Forum on Interfaith week and linked school activities. My membership of Faiths together in Lambeth and Swindon Interfaith Group has enhanced my role in this work.

I have also been part of the executive team assessing submissions to the Westhill-NASACRE Diversity Awards project.

I am very keen to continue to serve on NASACRE's Executive Committee and should I be elected, consider my skills and expertise would be useful in promoting the work of NASACRE and the key role that SACREs play in RE.

SACRE CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR STATEMENT

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

Josephine Backus has many years experience of serving on different SACREs in contrasting areas of the country. She consistently shows commitment and dedication to the place and role of SACREs in developing and supporting high-quality Religious Education across their Local Authorities. Her highly academic background, Buddhist religion and interfaith involvement combine to give her strong personal sources to draw from. She always champions RE's vital place in the curriculum, speaking up for the priority needed to realise the potential impact of the subject. This would all be valuable for, as a trustee, contributing to the strategic work of NASACRE.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR DECLARATION

I hereby confirm our nomination to the NASACRE Executive.

NAME Shaun Burns

DATE 07/05/2026

CONTACT EMAIL Text