

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS THAT TAKE PLACE IN URC GATHERINGS

(eg., General Assemblies; Youth Assemblies; United Reformed Church Committees; Synod Meetings etc.)

These guidelines originated from a meeting of Thames North Racial Justice Advocates of 12th March 2008. It has been endorsed by Racial Justice and Intercultural Ministry of the United Reformed Church.

These guidelines have been revised in the light of General Assembly 2014 resolution on expansive and inclusive language.

Many of us have been following these guidelines, which while they point to presentations that take place at gatherings of the United Reformed Church, also apply to any of the communication media we use or endorse.

The thoughts here are not exhaustive as we can add to them! These guidelines can be broadened to apply to all the groups of marginalised people.

The URC has declared itself to be a multicultural church in which we celebrate a rich cultural diversity and we praise God for that.

We have also adopted the “multicultural church, intercultural habit’ charter which moves our commitment beyond mere intention to making a difference in our life together

Whichever local church we belong to, we believe that we are part of the whole body of the United Reformed Church and any representation we make of ourselves and our ministries and mission, should reflect the body as a whole.

We, therefore, call upon all who are responsible for planning and implementing presentations for all kinds of URC gatherings, all who prepare publicity and resource materials, and all those endorsing web-pages and materials external to the United Reformed Church to consider the following questions, in the light of the foregoing comments.

We believe that to consider these questions thoughtfully and proactively, **it can enhance a sense of belonging and inclusiveness for more people**, while failure to do so can cause offence for some and could result in people feeling marginalised and excluded.

- Have we considered the composition of the group/team of people making a live presentation?
- How can we better encourage wider participation?
- Have we actively considered/challenged the nature, content, format and quality of any power point/DVD/video presentation?
- Have we reviewed the language, visual images, photographs and symbols that we use in our presentations and communication?
- Does our presentation best reflect the multicultural, diverse and inter-cultural nature of our church?
- Do we consider approaching new individuals or different groups to participate?
- Do we enable the participation of people with different kinds of disabilities (for example: do we consider the use of signers; large print resource materials, wheel chair access?)

NB: This is a document to which we can add as is appropriate, without making it too long, cumbersome and prescriptive.