

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Religious leaders gather for lunch during
British Food Fortnight to discuss food as a means of
improving inter faith understanding**

On 20th September, during the first week of British Food Fortnight, leading figures from the nine major faiths in the UK will dine together at the House of Commons. Rabbi Lionel Blue, Dr Zaki Badawi, Indarjit Singh MBE, Dr Atul Shah and Nitin Mehta OBE will be among those attending the launch of faithandfood.com; a website that will describe what, why and where people can eat in accordance to their faiths.

Simon Cohen, editor of the website, says: *"Inter faith eating is a simple and social means of exploring each other's lives and beliefs. Food plays an important role in every faith tradition. Whether this is manifested in feasting, fasting or in some other ways, it is clear that food is not simply a necessity for survival, but a shared passion. This lunch is a paradigm for how the power of food may be harnessed to improve understanding and empathy between people of different faiths."*

Alexia Robinson, organiser of British Food Fortnight, says: *"Food is a great vehicle for understanding different cultures and religions. So much of our knowledge of different peoples comes from food. Few of us have travelled to China or India yet a Chinese or Indian take-away is part of our lives. It is fitting that religious leaders have chosen British Food Fortnight, which takes place during this country's traditional harvest festival celebrations, as a time to discuss food as a means of achieving greater understanding between the faiths."*

-- Ends --

Notes to editors

- **All press are invited to attend the press conference that precedes the buffet reception at 11am. Rabbi Lionel Blue and others will take part. The press conference will take place in the Jubilee Room, which can be accessed by the St Stephen's entrance to the House of Commons.**
- For further information about the lunch and about faithandfood.com please contact: Simon Cohen, Director of Tolerance Limited on 07745740013 or simon@tolerancelimited.com
- Further details about Tolerance Limited from www.tolerancelimited.com
- For further details about British Food Fortnight visit www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk or Tel: 020 7840 9292