

WILLIAM HEATH, SENIOR ADVISOR TO ARC, TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2017

Where have we got to so far? A personal impression based on work that went into the Guidelines and a long, inspiring day yesterday

- Stark reminder of scale and urgency of the threat that brings us together
- It's existential
- We're gathered in a time of species crisis and (in the normally reliable UK/US) abnormal political delinquency
- a multi-faith gathering
- to me a gathering of astonishing diversity
- never experienced anything like the opening worship
- Shared some c17th words of William Penn's in my group yesterday

27.01 *The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious, and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another, though the divers liveries they wear here makes them strangers.*

William Penn, 1693

We've engaged in the right way: we have Martin & his ARC team to thank for etiquette, process, structure; the welcome from Fr Tobias & wonderful Lasalle House team to this beautiful place which has purposeful and universal quality

And we have already laid a substantial foundation. The Guidelines are a huge achievement. They are transformational in themselves, not complete; as research, they're a survey, not a census, an impression not a conclusion, a recommendation or plan of action.

But we have achieved critical mass; the act of preparing them has focussed the mind the contributions are already starting to influence each other; and the gaps cry out to be filled in. It's more than an essay, the start of a living and evolving work, and that's what we have to make it.

We'll hear my colleague Mike Even's expert structured analysis of the Guidelines shortly. My own first impression is of a series of Venn diagrams:

- mostly shared core concerns (sustainable life and human dignity)
- some differing priorities
- a couple of direct profound disagreements which need millennia and miracles to solve.

We're not going to solve those; we have to be alert to them, and respectfully work around to avoid conflict.

Next, we've got an evolving understanding of the distinct roles of negative screening, positive policies, focus on social impact and realism of active engagement or ethical activism. We have a desire for collaboration, support or more time, whether you are small, medium or large. We

need quality as well as quantity; whether you are a \$10bn manager or carefully stewardship of a precious few \$00k.

Elliott Harris spoke of the \$7trillion and \$100,000 levels; I think this validates and includes activities at every level.

And we are making progress -

- the UN now speaks with new sensitivity and conviction about the role of the faiths
- we have heard from finance professionals not just as experts but speaking from the heart about principles, beliefs and values
- everyone present has engaged, speaking frankly
- we have to learn from each other and a lot to offer
- we have a willingness to collaborate

So what have we got to do today and tomorrow? We have to:

- get our act together
- build on the foundation
- living viable collaboration

Mike and I engaged because of ARC's view that this calls for a new project or institution. One that:

- meets the quite different needs of the small, medium and large
- is itself viable/sustainable
- this will take energy & enthusiasm that comes from deep conviction
- investment risk
- clarity about the landscape, climate
- realism about the market

We need to learn the lessons of Shaunika, 3iG, Seamus & Martin

We have a lot of expert support. We can draw on what we've achieved together and the unique capabilities of Martin and ARC and of many others working in this field. But we may need new leadership.

So that's my impression after day one of where we've got to and the task we face.

William Heath, senior advisor to ARC

William Heath is an entrepreneur living in Bath, UK. He cofounded Ctrl-Shift Ltd, Mydex CIC and most recently Datilda Ltd which take a market approach to the issue of people's loss of agency online and control over their personal data, a problem which remains unsolved. He also cofounded the public sector tech firm Kable Ltd and the digital rights campaign Open Rights Group. He worked with others on the co-operative buyout of The Bell Inn, a lively local music pub in Bath, and 125-year old Bath City FC. Other projects include stewardship of iconic farmland just outside Bath as a place for learning, Kelston Records location-based music, and helping secure the future of His Imperial Majesty Heile Selassie I's gift to Bath of the home he lived in here as an exile, as a Rastafari-Christian symbol of the welcome of refugees and care of the elderly. He is a member of Bath Quaker Meeting and runs Bath Quakers' online presence. He is a father of two, learning baritone & bass saxophone.