

Shakespeare Business Centre  
245a Coldharbour Lane  
London SW9 8RR

[info@roadpeace.org](mailto:info@roadpeace.org)  
[www.roadpeace.org](http://www.roadpeace.org)  
Tel: 020 7733 1603

8<sup>th</sup> February 2012

RoadPeace, and the RoadPeace helpline, is 20 years old today!

Following some six months of preparation, RoadPeace began its official work for road crash victims on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1992. The RoadPeace helpline, which was available seven days round the clock, was not only the very first helpline for road crash victims, it preceded - by several years - the Victim Support helpline.

The distribution of our leaflet that asked *Are you a victim of road death?* resulted in the helpline being very busy from the start:- after only one year, RoadPeace already had 300 members.

For the first six and a half years – until autumn 1998 - the RoadPeace office was in my house, where meetings of the 9-strong committee and many other meetings also took place. The helpline too was operated from there.

In the early years, all letters and documents were written on the typewriter! A scanned report of some of the work carried out during 1992 is below, as are the names and roles of the very first committee members and the first leaflet.

RoadPeace will celebrate its official launch as the first ever UK charity for road traffic victims next year in April 2013; more than 21 years after RoadPeace and the helpline started, but 20 years from RoadPeace's first conference on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1993 held in Central London, at which our charity was publicly launched. That day was chosen because 7<sup>th</sup> April is World Health Day and the theme in 1993 was *Handle life with care: prevent violence and negligence*, which resonated so accurately with RoadPeace's hopes and demands.

*Hidden Victims* ([http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Hidden\\_Victims.pdf](http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Hidden_Victims.pdf)) was one of the speeches at that conference.

*Brigitte Chaudhry MBE  
Founder & President of RoadPeace*

# From the archives

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## RoadPeace's first leaflet

### ARE YOU A VICTIM OF ROAD DEATH?

The primary victims are dead, but the surviving relatives and friends are victims too.

They face not only the devastating shock and grief, but often a multitude of practical and even legal problems.

Sometimes it is the first experience of unexpected death.

Sometimes it is the first experience of dealing with authorities such as the Police, Coroners, Magistrates, etc.

The problems can be overwhelming at a time when families feel least able to cope and often have little or no guidance.

### **RoadPeace HAVE A HELPLINE**

Many RoadPeace members have known the tragedy of losing loved ones through road death. They have established a helpline to offer immediate practical information and sympathetic support to the bereaved.

The RoadPeace Helpline number is 081 964 1021

RoadPeace is a voluntary organisation committed to reducing the number of unnecessary deaths on our roads and supporting the bereaved survivors.

For more information contact:

P.O. Box 2579 London NW10 3PW

Telephone (081) 964 1021 (0942) 727436

# RoadPeace's first Committee

Jay Calascione  
Legal Support Officer

Brigitte Chaudhry  
National Secretary and Support Services Officer

Robert Davis  
Technical Research & Policy Officer

Elizabeth Elliot  
Internal Information Officer

Christine Mangat  
Publicity Officer

Sy Mangat  
Treasurer & Finance Officer

Stephen Owen  
Liaison Officer

Barbara Simms  
Fundraising Officer

Peter Smith  
Meetings Chairman

## WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE RoadPeace COMMITTEE DURING 1992

From the beginning of February 1992 we have worked with dedication and commitment towards establishing RoadPeace:

We have established a 24-hour Helpline

We are conducting research into the practical and emotional needs of victim families

We are representing victim families at the Victim Support Working Party into Road Deaths as one of the few organisations at that working party representing the victims

We are accompanying bereaved families to court hearings, if we are put in touch with them before it is too late for this

We are cooperating with bereavement organisations in establishing a system of mutual referrals

We are in touch with many other related organisations and associations to establish a network of information exchange and action

We write letters in response to newspaper articles relating to road danger

We are in touch with Road Safety Officers and Road Safety Organisations

We are drawing up lists of competent solicitors, barristers and QCs

We have provided guest speakers at Police training courses

We have begun to fundraise for RoadPeace

We have taken part in various television and radio broadcasts, and been the subject of various articles in order to publicize RoadPeace

We are now in communication with some 300 victim families anxious to work with us nationwide for the benefit of other victims

We have applied for membership of the European Federation of Road Crash Victims

We have a working committee of nine members, each with relevant expertise appropriate to the areas of need

Each individual RoadPeace committee member has made enormous personal and financial sacrifices throughout the year in order to provide the immediate assistance so urgently needed.

I personally, having spent an enormous amount of effort and time, have successfully applied for two Judicial Reviews in connection with the treatment of my son's death. If I succeed in the Judicial Reviews, the improvement in the treatment of road death - which should inevitably result - will benefit all future bereaved families. The legal knowledge to enable me to take timely action came from a present member of our committee.