

THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

A step towards greater consultation, cooperation and coordination on Muslim Affairs in the UK.

Muslim Council of Britain Weekly E-Newsletter

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Weekly Updates on Reports, Committees and Events: **Issue X**

Reports and Committee Updates

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Reports and Committee updates

Meeting at the US Embassy

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok, Chair of the International Affairs Committee, Tanzeem Wasti, Maulana Yaqub Miftahi and Dr Abdur Raheem Khan met with the Deputy Chair of the US Mission in London, Mr Glyn Davies on Wednesday January 23rd.

The MCB delegation visited Mr Davies to express their concern and horror at the treatment of suspected al Qaida members held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Mr Bhailok commenting on the US administration's handling of the suspects stated that: "this heavy-handed approach will only hand victory to the terrorists of September 11th. At a time when we are all trying to defeat the evil of terrorism, the US must endeavour to be true and sincere to the civilised values it proclaims and which we all support. These include justice, humanity and integrity. This is no example to be setting to the rest of the world. Some regard it as blatant 'double standards' and a flagrant violation of our commitment to uphold civilised norms".

Letter from Bill Morris

Bill Morris, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) wrote this week to the MCB to thank the Secretary General for his letter in support of comments made by Mr Morris in response to the Home Secretary's remarks on race relations in the UK.

Letter from Trevor Phillips

The MCB received a letter from Trevor Phillips, Deputy Chair of the London Assembly thanking the MCB for supporting his comments published in the Guardian on December 19th 2001.

Mr Phillips wrote an open letter to the Rt. Hon. David Blunkett MP responding to comments made by Home Secretary regarding race relations in Britain.

Health and Medical Committee

Meningitis Research Foundation

Complementing the work done by the Department of Health and the MCB's Health and Medical Committee in educating Muslims of the proper precautionary measures necessary when travelling for Hajj and Umrah, the Meningitis Research Foundation, an organisation committed to educating people about meningitis and septicaemia, have this year added sound files to their website and produced audio cassettes in nine languages on the signs and symptoms of these potentially fatal diseases.

The MRF which has published leaflets in eleven languages on meningitis and septicaemia, hopes to disseminate information more widely, particularly to the British Muslim community, on the dangers of meningitis and inadequate vaccination.

Sound files can be downloaded from the MRF website (www.meningitis.org) or alternatively, cassette versions can be ordered from the Foundation; call 01454 281 811.

Media Committee

The Media Committee wrote to the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, to express their appreciation for his thoughtful remarks about the war in Afghanistan which appeared

in The Guardian on January 21st.

Education, Training and Employment Committee

Nawazish Bokhari, Chair of the Education, Training and Employment Committee will attend the Muslim School Governors 'Workshop for Muslim Teachers' on Saturday January 26th.

Events

'Engagement with the Islamic World'

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies will hold a lecture on 'Engagement with the Islamic World' to be delivered by the British Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, on Friday January 25th. MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok and Vice Chair of the Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee Shiban Akbar will attend.

Getting the best out of Hajj

Message of Islam, in conjunction with the Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC), will be holding a one day seminar on 'How to get the best out of Hajj' on Saturday January 26th at the ICC from 10am - 6pm. The seminar will cover everything impending Hajjis need to know on how to prepare and perform Hajj. For information contact Message of Islam via email at info@messageofislam.com

FCO Reception

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok, Chair of the International Affairs Committee Tanzeem Wasti and MCB Treasurer Fadi Itani will attend a reception hosted by Sir Michael Jay of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Tuesday January 29th.

The reception is being held for Muslim community leaders to express their concerns on matters affecting the community since September 11th.

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/>

