

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

24 Thw al-Qi`dah 1422 Friday 8 January 2002

Weekly Updates on Reports, Committees and Events: Issue X1

Reports and Committee Updates

- Breakfast at No 11
- Golden Jubilee Multi-Faith Youth Forum
- Commission for Racial Equality
- Education, Training and Employment Committee
- International Affairs Committee
- Media Committee
- Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee
- 'Faith and Community' publication launch

Events

- 23rd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran
- Official Launch of the British Hajj Delegation

Miscellaneous

Reports and Committee updates

Breakfast at No 11

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok attended a breakfast seminar at No 11 Downing Street on Tuesday February 5th.

The seminar, hosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown and the Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short, was called to discuss financing for development and the meeting of the Millennium Development Goals; both important topics for the upcoming G7 Ministerial meeting.

Golden Jubilee Multi-Faith Youth Forum

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok and Assistant Secretary General Afzal Khan attended a multi-faith meeting on Tuesday February 5th at the Golden Jubilee Office in London.

The meeting was organised to discuss arrangements for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Part of the celebrations will involve a multi-faith 'Youth Forum' in which younger members of the various faith communities in Britain will be invited to reflect upon faith, service and community.

Commission for Racial Equality

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok met with Sara Marshall, Director of Policy and Communications at the CRE on Monday February 4th. Ms Marshall called the meeting to discuss Community Cohesion and Article 13 on Religious Discrimination with Mr Bhailok.

Education, Training and Employment Committee

The Education, Training and Employment committee of the MCB wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, Estelle Morris, to express concern at the possible introduction of a 25% quota of students drawn from other or no faith backgrounds as a prerequisite to the establishment and state financing of faith schools.

The letter stated that whilst the MCB fully agreed with the need to ensure 'inclusivity' the imposition of a quota may result in unintended discrimination against British Muslims.

The amendment to the Education Bill was defeated in the House of Commons on Wednesday with MPs voting 405 in favour to 89 against.

Media Committee

Inayat Bunglawala on behalf of the Media Committee wrote to Lord Dubs, Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, to thank him for organising recent meetings of media executives and representatives from the various Muslim organisations. The meetings have been very useful and are now being followed up by the Media Committee.

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWRC)

Meeting of the National Council for the Welfare of Muslim Prisoners

Shiban Akbar, Vice Chair of SPWRC, attended the Executive Committee meeting of the National

Council for the Welfare of Muslim Prisoners (NCWMP) held at the Al-Khoei Foundation in London on Saturday February 3rd at the invitation of the NCWMP.

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman of the NCWMP Mohammed Qadri and was attended by Salah El Hassan, Yousif Al Khoei, Hashim Charif and invitees Maqsood Ahmed and Professor Dawud Noibi.

Oxford Advisory Group

Shiban Akbar as MCB representative to the Oxford Advisory Group of Thames Valley Police attended a 'Strategy Meeting' on Tuesday February 5th at Cowley Police Station, Oxford.

The meeting was held to discuss an ongoing dispute between two prominent Asian Muslim families in Oxford which has to date involved thousands of hours of police time.

'Faith and Community' publication launch

Deputy Secretary General Mahmud Al Rashid, Tanzeem Wasti and Dr Abdur Raheem Khan attended the launch of the 'Faith and Community' publication on Monday February 4th.

The publication, a joint venture between the Local Government Association, the Interfaith Network and Government departments, offers practical guidelines to help local authorities develop good working relationships with faith groups and inter faith structures in their area.

Events

23rd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok, Deputy Secretary General Mahmud Al Rashid and Chair of the International Affairs Committee Tanzeem Wasti have been invited by the Iranian Ambassador HE Mr Morteza Sarmadi to a reception on Monday February 11th to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Iranian Revolution.

Official Launch of the British Hajj Delegation

The British Hajj Advisory Group, the Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will officially launch the British Hajj Delegation at a ceremony to be held at the ICC on Thursday February 7th.

The delegation has been established to provide consular, medical and pastoral advice and assistance to the 20,000 Britons that travel annually to perform the Hajj.

Miscellaneous

Article published on 'Religious Circumcision and the Human Rights Act' by A R Gatrad, A Sheikh and H Jacks in Archives of Disease in Childhood 2002 86: 76-78.

