

# THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

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

---

## The Muslim Council of Britain Weekly E-Newsletter

*15 Thw al-Hijjah 1422 Wednesday 27 February 2002*

---

### **Weekly Updates on Reports, Committees and Events:      Issue XIV**

#### **Reports and Committee Updates**

- Uranium Medical Research Center (UMRC)
- MCB lends its support to Palestinian Human Rights Motion
- International Affairs Committee
- Health and Medical Committee
- Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee
- Media Committee
- Public Affairs Committee
- London Civic Forum

#### **Events**

- The Mirror Pride of Britain Awards
- The Prince's Trust - Faith Communities Advisory Forum
- Islam and the West
- Women in Britain: the losses and gains of modernity
- IPPR Conference: Delivering Race and Equality in the Public Sector

#### **Miscellaneous**

- New on the MCB web site

---

## Reports and Committee updates

---

### Uranium Medical Research Center (UMRC)

Yousuf Bhailok, MCB Secretary General, met with Dr Durakovic of the UMRC on Tuesday February 26th. Dr Durakovic presented the Secretary General with a paper on the internal contamination in humans resulting from the use of depleted uranium during the Gulf War and the more recent war against Afghanistan.

### MCB lends its support to Palestinian Human Rights Motion

The MCB issued a statement in support of a motion introduced by students Omayma Al Khaffaf and Richard Farrow at Manchester University. The motion calls for the human rights of the Palestinian people to be protected against ongoing Israeli excesses and demands Israel's compliance with UN Resolutions that it withdraw from the occupied territories.

### International Affairs Committee

Tanzeem Wasti chair of the International Affairs Committee and other committee members attended the launch of 'The Iraqi Marshlands: A Human and Environmental Study' report at the European Parliament Building on the Friday 22nd February. The event was hosted by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne MEP and President of the AMAR International Charitable Foundation.

The report launch was followed by a reception to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the founding of AMAR (Assisting Marsh Arabs and Refugees)

Tanzeem Wasti attended a reception hosted by Baroness Uddin in honour of the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mohamed Mohathir on Monday February 25th.

The International Affairs Committee wrote to the Guardian's Diplomatic Editor Ewen MacAskill to thank him for his article published in the paper on Wednesday February 20th (Arafat is a disaster, but to blame him alone is perverse). Mr MacAskill called upon the British Government to adopt a more even-handed approach in the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict.

### Health and Medical Committee

Dr Abdul Majid Katme, member of the Health and Medical Committee, was interviewed by Devon Radio on Thursday February 21st on Eid ul-Adha and other related issues (sacrifice, slaughterhouses and halal meat).

Dr Mujahid Qureshi, Chair of the Health and Medical Committee, is currently in Saudi Arabia. Drs Qureshi and Abdul Raheem Khan (Chair, Membership Committee) are part of the medical advisory team of the British Hajj delegation.

### Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWRC)

Shiban Akbar, Vice Chair of the Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWRC) delivered two lectures on the 'Relevance of the Qur'an in the Modern Day' and 'Maryam' (may Allah be pleased with her), at Staunton Village Hall, Gloucester on Wednesday February 20th from 7.30-10pm. Around 50 people from the local community attended and the local vicar sent apologies for not being able to attend on this occasion.

Joe Ahmed Dobson, member of the SPWRC, gave numerous interviews on regional radio stations on the publication of an interim report by the Performance and Innovation Unit on 'Ethnic Minorities

and the Labour Market' on Wednesday February 20th.

## **Media Committee**

### **Letter to Newsnight**

The Media Committee wrote to the editor of BBC's Newsnight programme to complain of the report on the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict broadcast on Wednesday February 20th.

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee complained that the report fell short of Newsnight's usual high standards. He wrote that the report did not offer an equal amount of time to the two conflicting parties to air their views; that the questioning of Israeli officials by Mr Little was far from robust; and that it appeared that Israeli civilian casualties were more important than Palestinian ones.

### **Letter to Daily Telegraph**

The Media Committee wrote a letter of thanks to Christopher Howse at the Daily Telegraph to thank him for his piece on the meaning Eid al Adha that appeared in the paper on Saturday February 23rd.

## **Public Affairs Committee**

The Public Affairs Committee was invited by the Conservative Party to a meeting of the Muslim/ Conservative Committee. The meeting was chaired by Gary Streeter MP (Vice Chairman for Ethnic and Faith Communities) and attended by Dominic Grieve MP (Shadow Minister for Race) and Christina Dykes (Director of Development and Candidates).

The meeting is the first of many through which the Conservative Party hopes to establish and develop a constructive dialogue with the Muslim Community. Representatives of the Muslim Association of Britain and the Union of Muslim Organisations were also present.

Shenaz Bunglawala attended for the MCB.

## **London Civic Forum**

Ajmal Masroor attended an Executive Committee meeting of the London Civic Forum on Tuesday February 26th.

---

## **Events**

---

### **The Mirror Pride of Britain Awards**

After the success of previous years, the annual award ceremony is taking place once again to honour individuals who have shown courage and achievement.

The event will take place on Tuesday 5th March at the London Hilton and will be hosted by Carol Vorderman. Dr Fatma Amer and Yousuf Bhailok have confirmed that they will be attending.

### **The Prince's Trust - Faith Communities Advisory Forum**

The Faith Community's Advisory Forum's second meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th March, in the Prince's Room, at Park Square East. Iqbal Sacranie and Iqbal Asaria of the MCB will be attending.

### **Islam and the West**

Yousuf Bhailok and several members of the Central Working Committee will be attending a symposium on Islam and the West at the Saudi Information Center on Wednesday 6th March. The event will be chaired by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Al-Turki and leading Islamic scholars will be participating.

### **Women in Britain: the losses and gains of modernity**

As part of a series on Europe and Islam, writers, journalists and broadcasters, including MCB member Sarah Joseph, will be debating issues concerning women in Britain.

The event will take place on the 6th of March at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. For further information or to join the debate, please log on to: [www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net)

### **IPPR Conference: Delivering Race and Equality in the Public Sector**

The IPPR has organised a one-day conference in Central London on Thursday 7th March to examine issues surrounding the new Race Relations Act. Speakers will include Rt Hon Angela Eagle MP and Gurbux Singh, Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

---

## **Miscellaneous**

---

- New on the MCB web site** - Muslim Statistics - key facts and figures on British Muslims
- The latest newsletter viewable in PDF format
  - News archive
  - Pilot survey - Muslim teenager attitudes

