

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

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Reports and Committee updates

Meeting with Chair of Islamophobia Commission

MCB Secretary General, Yousuf Bhailok, met with Dr. Richard Stone, Chairman of the Islamophobia Commission on Tuesday 19th March. Matters discussed included the continued negative coverage of Islam and Muslims in the media and in particular the Channel Four programme "Who Speaks for Muslims", in which the MCB was featured. (See next item)

"Who speaks For Muslims"

The MCB has written to Ms Dorothy Byrne, Commissioning Editor, News, Current Affairs and Business, at Channel Four. The Secretary General's letter details the many inaccuracies in the programme that was broadcast on 15th March 2002 . This letter is accessible on the MCB website. (Resources Section: Letters to Editor/Producer)

Commission for Racial Equality

Yousuf Bhailok, discussed the recent statement made by Gurbux Singh, Chairman of the CRE, on "Forced Integration" between different communities in areas such as Oldham and Bradford, with his advisor on race issues Shahid Malik.

India

Yousuf Bhailok has been in daily contact with the people of Bharuch, Gujarat, where there has been a fresh outbreak of violence and attacks against Muslims and their property.

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWR)

Shiban Akbar, Vice-Chair of the SPWR committee and Dr Abdul Raheem Khan, Chair of the London Task Force Group and Membership Committee, attended a meeting on behalf of the MCB on Wednesday 20th March with the Iqra Trust and Radio for Development (RDF).

Faisal Osman, Trustee, and Mahmud Salih, Director of Education, attended on behalf of the Iqra Trust, along with James Greenshields, Executive Director of RDF, and Tariq Amin and Hanif of the Islamic Resource Centre, Norwich.

The meeting, chaired by Faisal Osman, discussed the Youth and Citizenship Project which is being co-ordinated by Shiban Akbar. If funds are secured, the project will hopefully be a joint venture between the organisations represented at the meeting.

International Affairs Committee

Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the International Affairs Committee, met representatives of an organisation called "Mharamat" from Macedonia on Monday 18th March at the Muslim Aid office for a briefing on the latest situation in the country where mosques have been destroyed. The organisation, which helps Muslims throughout Europe also informed him of a new bill that has been passed giving Muslims equal rights in the country.

On Thursday 21st March Tanzeem Wasti had a meeting with Sheikh Ramazan, Mufti of Uganda and Hugo Frost of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the UKIM. Tanzeem Wasti explained what the MCB does and how it has developed. Sheikh Ramazan explained the background to his

work and aid projects that he is involved in to help his country.

Later on in the day, at the UKIM offices, Tanzeem Wasti met with a new organisation of Sri Lankan Muslims who are sending a petition to their government asking them to bring an end to Tamil terrorist groups.

Community Affairs Committee

Dr Jafer Qureshi, Vice-Chair of the Community Affairs Committee, is liaising with Dr A.R Gatard and other interested parties in a consultation process on death and certification in the Muslim community. A report is currently being compiled.

Media Committee

Muslim Media delegates, including television directors, journalists and newspaper editors, from around the Muslim world were invited to a reception held by the MCB on Wednesday 20th March at The Islamic Cultural Centre.

Among the guests were Najiba Maram from the Ministry of Information and Culture, Kabul, Shukria Dawa from The Women's Mirror, Kabul and Mohammad Abdullah, Head of News Centre, Abu Dhabi TV.

The meeting chaired by Dr Abdul Raheem Khan, Chair of the Membership Committee, briefed the delegates on the work of the MCB, how it has developed and what it has achieved.

The delegation was invited to Britain by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has spent the past week visiting various media organisations. Hanifa Dobson attended the reception with the delegates on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Business and Economics Committee

On Thursday 19th March Iqbal Asaria gave a lecture on "Business and Ethics - Do they mix?" at the ArRum Club as part of the festival "Best of British Islam" jointly organised by Fair, ArRum, Iman and the Khayaal theatre company.

Events

The National Assembly Against Racism is holding a pre-election "Unite against the BNP" rally in Oldham on Saturday 23rd March at The Pennine Way Hotel. Speakers will include Michael Meacher MP, Arlene McCarthy MEP, Simon Hughes MP, faith representatives and anti-racist campaigners.

Cllr Mohammed Afzal, Assistant Secretary General of the MCB, will be one of the speakers.

HM Prison Service

HM Prisons Service and Clinks Prisons Community Links are holding a consultation event for prisons and community-based groups who have a faith dimension to their work. The event, entitled "Faith Matters", will be held at the NEC Birmingham on Tuesday 26th March. Among the key speakers will be Martin Narey, Director General of HM Prison Service.

Shiban Akbar, Vice-Chair of the Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee, will be

attending on behalf of the MCB.

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

National Assembly Against Racism

