

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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Weekly Updates on Reports, Committees and Events: Issue XI

Reports and Committee Updates

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Reports and Committee updates

Channel Islam

MCB Secretary General, Yousuf Bhailok and the trustee of Muslim Aid, Mehboob Khantaria, had a meeting in Coventry on Monday 25th March with the management team of Channel Islam.

The team is hoping to launch Channel Islam as an interactive digital channel in late October 2002. The MCB is considering appropriate collaboration to help develop programmes to suit the Muslim community. Programmes will be in English and will aim to educate, inform and entertain.

National Assembly Against Racism

The National Assembly Against Racism held a pre-election "Unite against the BNP" rally in Oldham on Saturday 23rd March at The Pennine Way Hotel. Speakers included, Simon Hughes MP, faith representatives and anti-racist campaigners.

Cllr Mohammed Afzal Khan, Assistant Secretary General of the MCB, was also one of the speakers. He discussed how recently, and especially after September the 11th the BNP have started to target the Muslim Community.

He argued that the BNP have attempted to divide the Ethnic Minority Communities (EMC) with the slogan that 'Muslims are the Problem'.

Gujarat

Yousuf Bhailok is closely monitoring the situation in Gujarat where communal violence is unfortunately still occurring.

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWR)

Shiban Akbar, Acting Chair of the Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee, attended a consultation event called "Faith Matters", on Tuesday 26th March at the NEC Birmingham. The event was organised by HM Prisons Service and Clinks Prisons Community Links for prisons and community- based groups who have a faith dimension to their work.

Among the key speakers at the event in Birmingham were Martin Narey, Director General of HM Prison Service.

International Affairs Committee

Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the International Affairs Committee and Secretary of Muslim Aid, left for Peshawar last week on a field assessment. His aim is to determine what kind of help is needed for the refugees in camps.

Health and Medical Committee

Dr Shuja Shafi, attended the launch of the Department of Health's Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign at The British Museum on Monday 25th March. The object of the campaign is to raise awareness of TB among the African and Asian Communities where the infection is on the increase.

The Minister for Health, Yvette Cooper, stressed the importance of the campaign. This was

followed by a question and answer session for the media and other invited guests.

Legal Affairs Committee

The Legal Affairs Committee met to finalise the constitution and standing orders amendments to be put to the MCB Annual General Meeting on 28th April.

Dr Khan, Chair of the Membership Committee, participated in the meeting and reviewed a number of pending affiliations.

Events

The Human Relief Foundation are holding a charity bazaar on Sunday 31st March between 10.30am and 6.30pm at the Islamic Cultural Centre. Proceeds will go to helping the needy in Iraq.

Miscellaneous

Anti-Racist Football Campaign The MCB has been asked to support an anti-racist football campaign called "Bob and Patel". The cinema advert aims to tackle racist attitudes within the football industry by using humour. Secretary General, Yousuf Bhailok, stated " We believe this is an excellent concept. The idea to use football as a platform for dialogue and learning between two ethnic groups is very interesting."

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

Charity Bazaar

