

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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Urgent AGM Reminder

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWR)

The 5th Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 28th April 2002 at Brent Town Hall insha-Allah. The Election Commissioner has extended the deadline for receipt of delegate forms from MCB affiliates until 5:30pm Monday 8th April.

Reports and Committee updates

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWR)

Deputy Secretary General of the MCB, Mahmud-AI Rashid together with vice-chair SPWR Shiban Akbar were present at an event organised by the Asian Cultural Centre in Oxford on Tuesday 26th March in honour of Dr David Carter-CVO the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh. The event included a reception followed by dinner and a cultural show which was hosted and arranged by the Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association and attended by the Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Britain Razak Ali.

Mahmud Al-Rashid of the MCB delivered a key note speech in which he stated that " the number of Bangladeshi's coming to the UK and the number of UK citizens going to Bangladesh shows the great affinity and affection between the two countries which needs to be developed further". He also stated that "British Bangladeshi's together with other British Muslims have a great responsibility in accepting the invitation by our Prime Minister to claim a stake in British Society".

Acting vice-chair SPWR Shiban Akbar earlier this week attended an Executive meeting held by the National Council for the Welfare of Muslim Prisoners (NCWMP) at the Muslim World League. The meeting itself was chaired by NCWMP chair Dr Zaki Badawi.

Education, Training & Employment

Nawazish Bokhari, Chair of the Education, Training & Employment Committee took part in a television programme on Meridian TV. Mr Bokhari along with Frank Dobson (Labour Party MP), Damian Green (Conservative Party MP) and Phil Willis (Lib Dem MP) discussed the topical issue of faith schools in Britain. Mr Bokhari, representing the MCB expressed his support for Faith Schools.

Nawazish Bokhari also participated in a conference held in Bournemouth. Mrs Margaret Hodge, the Minister of State for Life Long Learning was present.

Health and Medical Committee

Dr Shuja Shafi, Secretary of Health and Medical Committee last week participated in the launch of 'World Tuberculosis Awareness'. The conference was attended by several key Health figures such as Evett Cooper, Minister for Public Health. The event focused on the effects of TB within the ethnic population of Britain.

Media

MCB issues Press Release on Palestine

The MCB's Media Committee issued a press release on April 3rd 2002 voicing its strong condemnation of Israel's illegal re-occupation of Palestinian lands. The Secretary General of MCB Yousuf Bhailok called on "the leaders of British Jewry to speak out against these crimes. The alternative is to see increasing radicalisation in the region and more killings of the innocent".

For the full text please see the MCB website.

MCB thanks The Guardian's Melanie Finn

The Media Committee wrote to The Guardian journalist Melanie Finn to thank her for her sympathetic portrayal on March 30th 2002 of Nadia Muhsen, a Yemeni Muslimah. Nadia Muhsen's life and experiences have for many years been used by various media outlets to criticise Muslim societies. Finn, for the first time, allowed Nadia's own account to be heard freely demolishing many myths.

Membership Committee

Dr Abdul Raheem Khan, chair of the MCB's Membership Committee attended a meeting held by Ken Livingston's GLA (Greater London Assembly) together with various inter-faith leaders on the highly profiled 'Campaign Against Racial Intolerance'.

On Thursday 4th April 2002, Dr Abdul Raheem Khan took part in a meeting at the GLA under Kumar Murshid of the Muslim Coalition. Dr Khan represented the MCB as chair of London Task Group in which the meeting with Baroness Ashton (Department of Education) was discussed and followed up.

Events

On April 6th - 10th Yousuf Bhailok, Secretary General of the MCB will be attending the General Islamic Conference in Makkah al Mukarramah Saudi Arabia arranged by the Muslim World League. The conference aims to consolidate work through Islamic teachings and principles and also seeks to strengthen ties between various Islamic organisations and agencies.

Conference organised by the Palestinian Return Centre

Deputy Secretary General of the MCB Mahmud-Al Rashid will be attending a conference over the weekend organised by the Palestinian Return Centre. The conference will be attended by several key figures in the Muslim world including Secretary General of the Arab League Mr Amru Musa. The conference's agenda will focus on Israeli Law of Return and its Impact on the Conflict in Palestine.

Miscellaneous

Quranic story book for children published

MCB's Vice Chair of SPWR Shibani Akbar has her second Quranic story book for children published - The Adventures of Zulqarnain. The book is for children aged from 5 - 8 and copies can be obtained by contacting Shibani at: shibani.akbar@conted.ox.ac.uk

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

General Islamic Conference

