

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

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Reports and Events Update

The MCB Announces Publication

The Muslim Council of Britain is pleased to announce the publication of its book, "The Quest for Sanity: Reflections on September 11 and the Aftermath".

In the first major publication of its kind in the Muslim world, 'The Quest for Sanity' is a collection of over thirty papers by both Muslim and non-Muslim specialists about the wide-ranging impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks, with a special focus on how it affected British Muslims.

The book examines Islamic teachings regarding dealing with non-Muslims and living in a multi-faith state, the historical roots of Islam in Britain, the role of the British media in fuelling Islamophobia: the irrational fear of Islam and Muslims, case studies and personal accounts of how Sept 11 affected British Muslims and implications of the 'war on terror' for future world order.

To order copies of The Quest For Sanity (£12.75 each, plus P&P) please contact the MCB on 0208 903 9650 or order online at www.mcb.org.uk/books.

It will be on general in the week beginning 16th September.

Consultation Paper issued by Coroner Review Group

On 30th August 2002, the independent review group on coroner services and death certification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, appointed by the Home Office in July 2001, published a consultation paper with a number of proposals for Government for submission next Spring. In publishing the paper, the Group are requesting comments and ideas for inclusion in the final report. The review group is chaired by Tom Luce, former Head of Social Care Policy at the Department of Health and other team appointees include Mr Anthony Heaton- Armstrong, Barrister-at-Law; Professor Sir Colin Berry, former Professor of Morbid Anatomy at the University of London; Mrs Elizabeth Hodder, former Deputy Chair Equal Opportunities Commission; Mrs Deirdre McAuley LLB, Citizens Advice Bureaux Advisor and Mr Iqbal Sacranie representing the Muslim Council of Britain.

The proposals include a new court structure to deal with coroners' judicial inquests, along with transparency in document disclosure and other inquest procedures. This in turn would mean that bereaved families would have clearer and more reliable rights regarding issues such as post mortems. The group recommends a new independent statutory medical audit to ensure proper death certification and support for doctors. Public inquests and ensuing verdicts are also tackled in the report which reflects extensive contact with families, support groups and professional interests throughout the English regions, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Speaking for the Group, Tom Luce the chair said: "Neither the death certification nor the death investigation system is 'fit for purpose' in modern society. Both need substantial reform. We aim to recommend new systems for certifying and investigating deaths which serve the needs of the modern public, give bereaved families better rights, and provide the professionals with better support."

The full document is available at www.coronersreview.org.uk

Committees Update

Media Committee

Response from the Daily Express

Following a recent letter from the MCB to the editor of the Daily Express requesting a change in its longstanding policy of spelling of the word 'Moslem' to 'Muslim', we are pleased to announce that this change has now been made. The Media Committee is continuing in its efforts to also convince the Daily Mail to alter its policy as well.

BBC Reportage

On 30th August, the Secretary of the Media Committee, Inayat Bunglawala wrote to Stephen Whittle, the Controller of Editorial Policy at the BBC, thanking the corporation for their sensitive reporting of the possible suspected hijacking incident in Stockholm, Sweden last week.

Research & Documentation Committee

Dr Aziz Sheikh, Chair of the ReDoc Committee and Professor Gatrad OBE, ReDoc member, have had a paper entitled: 'Symbols of Islam: Bees and Honey in the Qur'an' published in the current issue of Reflect. This is an abridged version of an article by the same title published in the June issue of 'Beeecraft: Journal of the British Beekeepers Association'.

Health & Medical Committee

Department of Health is launching a flu immunisation campaign and it has requested MCB support in its publicity. Dr Shuja Shafi shall be attending the campaign launch on 2nd October.

Public Affairs Committee

The MCB has received a number of protests over the recent offensive remarks by the Ealing Southall MP Piara Khabra on Somali asylum seekers. The matter is being pursued by the MCB.

Events

Event: **Youth Committee Meeting**
Date: 15th September 2002
Time: 3.00 pm
Held By: The Muslim Council of Britain
Venue: Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre
Contact: For further information contact r_nasreen@hotmail.com

Event: **From Sabra and Shatila to Jenin: the humanitarian and legal consequences**
Date: 17th September 2002
Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm
Held By: The Palestinian Return Centre (PRC)

Venue: School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Lecture Theatre, Main Building,
Thornhaugh Street,
Russell Square, London, WC1 0XG

Contact: PRC Head Office: Tel: 0208 453 0919; e-mail: info@prc.org.uk;

Website: www.prc.org.uk

Information: This public seminar marks the 20th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre and will be

chaired by Mr John Austin MP

Event: **Muslim Demographics - the way ahead**

Date: Thursday 26th September 2002

Contact: Chair of ReDoc, Dr Aziz Sheikh, c/o MCB office

Information: Topics for discussion include the census output on the religion question

Event: **Million's March For Palestine**

Date: 28th September 2002

Time: 1.00 pm

Held By: The Muslim Association of Britain

Venue: Congregating on Embankment and ending up in Hyde Park

Contact: MAB Head Office: 020 7272 2888 Mobile: 07958 329 879

Information: Play your part in the biggest mobilisation for Palestine in this country ever, insha'Allah.

It is a demonstration in support of all the Palestinian people. It is now no longer a concern only for

Muslims; but for anyone, Muslim or non-Muslim, who realises and is aware that every human on Earth

has a right to live and be treated fairly.

Event: **Muslim Education in Europe Conference**

Date: 27th - 29th September 2002

Held By: The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (UK), The Association of Muslim Social Scientists

(Germany) & The Islamic Centre of Ireland.

Venue: Bonn, Germany

Contact: AMSS (UK), P.O. Box 126, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2UD, UNITED KINGDOM, Fax: 44 (20) 8940 4014

e-mail: amss@amssuk.com

Information: This conference sets out to coordinate and exchange expertise and experiences in monitoring, analysing

and assessing the development of education as it affects European Muslims. In doing so, it seeks to

develop an educational rationale which is capable of meeting the needs of the Muslim presence in the

West.

Vacancies

Fund Raising Officer at the Muslim Council of Britain

Salary: up to £25,000 per annum gross.

The MCB is an umbrella body of Muslims in Britain which has been in existence for five years. The organisation has a vacancy for a staff member to join its office team based in North West London

with responsibilities for

- developing a comprehensive fundraising strategy to raise funds from UK and overseas sources to meet MCB revenue expenditure requirements
- developing and manage action / delivery plans to implement the fundraising strategy
- developing and manage a core of volunteers to assist in fundraising
- reporting to the MCB Treasurer on regular basis and advise him/her on funding situation

Applications should possess

- good English language skills – telephone manner, letter drafting, proposal preparation
- IT literacy – email, Internet usage, Microsoft Office products experience
- experience in developing and implementing strategic business plans
- a track record in revenue fundraising for significant sums
- experience of liasing with a wide range of local, national and international funders
- experience of working with Muslim and non-Muslim organisations from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors

Letter of application with CV and two references should be sent to: The Chair, MCB Finance & General Purpose Committee, the Muslim Council of Britain, PO Box 52, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0XW. The closing date for applications is 27th September 2002.

