

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

Rethink Iraq War Plans, Urges MCB

On October 15th 2002, The Muslim Council of Britain issued a press statement urging the British government to seriously rethink its policy concerning Iraq. The MCB Central Working Committee met on October 12th and endorsed the findings of a special survey of over 120 Muslim bodies conducted by its Research & Documentation Committee and debated at an emergency meeting on Saturday 21st September. The survey found that the vast majority of British Muslims were opposed to any military strike against Iraq.

The views of British Muslims on Iraq were conveyed to the Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien by an MCB delegation during a meeting with him on Monday 7th October 2002. In a free and frank exchange which ensued, the Minister defended the government's position and insisted that only with the real threat of war could peace be a possibility with Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. The Muslim Council of Britain reaffirmed its opposition to war against Iraq stating that a pre-emptive strike against Iraq and a forceful 'regime change' would be illegal and could have catastrophic consequences for international peace and security.

"We have a duty as British citizens to convey our views on this grave matter to our government and place on record the reasons for our opposition to this course of action," said Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary-General of the MCB. The delegation expressed its dismay over Britain and the United States' role in impeding the weapons inspections. Given the welcome agreement reached between Iraq and the Chief UN Weapons Inspector Hans Blix, Britain should be facilitating the resumption of inspections. However, the US' initiatives are being widely interpreted as a deliberate and insincere attempt to impose additional impractical conditions aimed at frustrating Iraq's compliance and providing the pretext for war.

"The Iraqi people have suffered enough, both from the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and from the crippling economic sanctions. Far from providing a just solution, war will only result in more death and misery for Iraqi civilians," said Mr Sacranie. The people of Iraq need the urgent removal of the economic sanctions and freedom from external threats so that they can themselves deal with the government of Saddam Hussein, said the MCB delegation.

For full details of the press release see www.mcb.org.uk

Huge Anti War Demonstration in London

An estimated 400,000 drawn from all parts of the country marched on Saturday 28 September from Embankment to Hyde Park, in protest against moves by the US and British governments to punish the Iraqi people for what it suspects Saddam Hussein might do and against the continued oppression of Palestinians in Israel. Speakers at the Park included John Pilger, Ken Livingstone, Tony Benn, Trade Union leaders and former United Nations weapons inspector Scott Ritter. MCB Secretary General Iqbal Sacranie also addressed the rally. The Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) and the Stop the War Coalition were the march organisers.

Religion Question in the Census

Lucy Haselden from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), attending an MCB conference 'The Demographic Profile of Britain's Muslim Community: Charting a Research Agenda' on 26 September 2002, clarified the timetable for the publication of Census results. The first tranche announced on 30 September 2001 will not provide ethnicity and religion analyses - this is to be published on 13

February 2003. This second tranche will include tables indicating head counts of gender, age band and ethnic group by religion, from ward level upwards, subject to disclosure constraints.

Other speakers at the event, that had 95 attendees, included Professor Tariq Modood from the University of Bristol and Mohibur Rahman, New Policy Institute. Professor Modood indicated that his current estimate for Britain's Muslim population stood at about 1.7 million. Lucy Haselden, who works in the ONS's Ethnicity & Identity Unit, also stated that the scope of a detailed 'topic report' on Religion was currently being discussed. The MCB is pressing the ONS that at a minimum, the statistical tables and cross-tabulations proposed for the presentation of ethnicity information should also apply to religion.

Dr Aziz Sheikh, Chair of MCB's Research & Documentation Committee, and Professor Muhammad Anwar of Warwick University chaired conference sessions. The keynote address was presented by Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary General of the MCB who noted that: "Previous studies and debates have identified the problems experienced by various communities along ethnic and racial lines. However, very little solid information has been available in respect of the British Muslim community, which has its own particular needs and characteristics, transcending ethnic and racial boundaries. ... The Census will enable the Muslim community to learn more about its own ethnic diversity, socio-economic breakdown, age demographic etc. The Muslim community will have hard facts and figures with which to back up its arguments, allowing for evidence-based advocacy rather than guesswork in order, not only to meet the needs of its members, but also to promote its needs within the wider community."

Mohibur Rahman's presentation identified three policy benefits from the Census's religion data: it would help identify and spread good practice (for example through comparisons between Muslim communities of different ethnicity); better targeting of resources, and better evaluation of policies. Copies of the Conference Book are available from the MCB Office (£2).

The Adoption and Children Bill

The MCB is lending its full support to the campaign of Church-based groups, including the Christian Institute, that only married couples and single people can adopt children. It is urging affiliates to lobby MPs not to support the amendment to allow homosexual couples and cohabiting couples to adopt.

Michael Scott-Joynt Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Winchester, Peter Smith the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, Indarjit Singh, editor of the Sikh Messenger, and Iqbal A.K.M. Sacranie, said in a letter to a national newspaper: "It is our conviction that joint adoption by homosexual couples, or by unmarried heterosexual couples, would not be in the best interests of children." The MCB holds that the married family is the best environment for raising children. Dr Reefat Drabu, Chair of the Women & Family Affairs Committee gave four radio interviews on this topic. Government plans to allow unmarried couples to adopt children were overturned on 16 September by the House of Lords by 196 votes to 162.

Muslims give evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Religious Offences

The Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism (FAIR), The Muslim Council of Britain, and the Association of Muslim Lawyers (AML) UK - in that order - gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Religious Offences on 17 October 2002. The two hour session was chaired by Lord Colville of Culross. The Select Committee has been taking evidence since June 2002 from a wide cross section of British society including the police, faith groups and non-faith groups

FAIR was represented by Mohammed Abdul Aziz, Christopher Allen, Sadiq Khan and Dilwar Hussain. The MCB was represented by Iqbal Sacranie, AbdulWahid Hamid, Khalid Sofi and Sarah

Joseph. AML was represented by Ahmad Thomson and Issath Nawaz.

The FAIR submissions concentrated on the various 'mischiefs' that has been created as a result of the lack of protection in British law for faiths such as Islam that were not mono-ethnic against discrimination and incitement to religious hatred. Evidence of the growing incidence of such incitement was presented.

The MCB submissions highlighted the need for harmony and stability in society and stressed the religious obligation of the Muslim community to preserve these. The MCB was against the abolition of the existing law on blasphemy although this only protected the Anglican faith because this would mean 'negative equalization' and also because 'we covet no freedom to commit sacrilege against other faiths'.

However the MCB expressed the need for a new law on 'vilification of religion and religious sanctities' since vilification and abuse are often the first steps towards more horrific crimes such as the genocide in Bosnia. Provisions were also needed to deal with 'incitement to religious hatred'. It also stressed that such provisions should not be treated like the existing race legislation where the 'extreme reluctance on the part of the Attorney General to prosecute in cases of incitement to racial hatred was noted.

Evidence of abuse and incitement were presented and all emphasized that appropriate laws would send a signal to society that religion plays an important and constructive role in our society and its adherents have the right to be protected from the mischief of those that would otherwise discriminate, vilify and incite hatred on the grounds of religion.

Barriers to Islamic Mortgages

The MCB participated in a meeting on Wednesday 16 October with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Ruth Kelly MP. The introduction of Shariah-compliant mortgages and savings products will require legislation changes, and the MCB has been pursuing these matters with the Chancellor. Iqbal Asaria, of the MCB's Business & Economics Committee attended the meeting and presented the needs of the Muslim community. He is a member of a working party convened by the Bank of England and chaired by Andrew Buxton, former Chairman of Barclays Bank, to highlight issues in this area. A letter was sent by the Secretary General to the Chancellor Gordon Brown urging him to give sympathetic consideration to the proposals submitted by the Working Group.

GLA Meeting

A delegation from the MCB including Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the London Task Group, Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, Deputy Secretary General and Abdul Raheem Khan met with Trevor Phillips, Chair of the London Assembly on 17th October. The delegation congratulated him on his stand on Palestine and presented him with a copy of the MCB Book "The Quest for Sanity". The meeting discussed matters relating to Muslims in London including education, unemployment and health. Mr Phillips appreciated the contribution of the MCB and it was decided that regular four monthly meetings would be scheduled.

Meeting with Home Office Minister

On 7 October a delegation including Salah el-Hassan from the MCB Affiliate, Iqra Trust, Tayyab Ali of the Islamic Cultural Centre, Yusuf Khoi and Dr Abdul Raheem Khan met Mr Hilary Benn, the Home Office Minister in charge of prisons. Various problems were discussed which highlighted the harsh conditions and ill health that some prisoners faced. A further meeting is to be convened in six months time.

Three Faiths Forum Meeting

The Advisory Group meeting of the Three Faiths Forum took place on 9 October at 2 pm at the Ismaili Centre, South Kensington. This was attended by the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, the country's Ambassador and faith community representatives. Dr Abdul Raheem Khan represented MCB and presented a brief report on the activities of the Medical Group of the Forum. The Bulgarian Prime Minister asked the Group for the formation of similar forum in his country. He was very pleased to see the three Abrahamic faiths working together for greater understanding. The members of the Forum appreciated the message of the MCB Book.

Muslim Safety Forum Meeting

The Muslim Safety Forum met at New Scotland Yard on 9th October. Representatives from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) attended and Dr Abdul Raheem Khan represented the MCB. The Assistant Chief Prosecutor gave a presentation on the services they provide. The question and answer section focussed on the harsh sentencing passed against Muslim youth from Northern towns following last year's disturbances. A strong case was put to the CPS to question police on their evidence before their prosecution. Without such questioning there could be clear cases of miscarriage of justice.

Meeting with Indonesian Delegation

On Monday 30th September 2002, members of the MCB were invited by the The British Council to meet with a delegation visiting the UK from the largest Muslim organisation Nahdlatul Ulama, in Indonesia with a membership approaching 40 million people. Its activities include running Islamic boarding schools, economics institutions, agricultural institutions, human resource studies and development institutions, vocational training colleges, educational institutions, elementary and senior high schools, and 44 universities. NU also carries out humanitarian and social development work.

The delegation from Nahdlatul Ulama comprised Mr Kiyai Ahmad Hasyim Muzadi, Chairman, Mr Abdul Wahid Maktub, Special Staff to Chairman, Mr Muhjidin Arubusman, Secretary General, Mr Masduki Baidlawi, Deputy Secretary General, Mr Taufiq Abdullah, Deputy Secretary General, who were accompanied by Mr Everard Whitehouse, British Council Visit Coordinator and Mr Syahrizal Moeis, Head of Governance and Society, British Council Indonesia.

The meeting brought together religious and community leaders involved in interfaith work to enable a greater understanding of their role in the UK. They explored the work of a number of UK Islamic groups and Indonesian Muslim groups in the UK with a view to developing joint links and activities.

Interfaith Meeting

New Scotland Yard hosted a meeting of interfaith leaders on 6th October 2002. The meeting was hosted by David Veness and attended by representatives of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Hindu community. Dr Abdul Raheem Khan for the MCB was in attendance and all those present pledged to work together with greater understanding and friendship thus creating a more tolerant society. The meeting was followed up by a reception held at New Scotland Yard. The reception was attended by Sir John Stevens, the Chief Commissioner and David Veness.

Leadership & Diversity Awards

Mahmud Al-Rashid, Chair of the MCB Europe and International Affairs Committee, attended a dinner for the GG2 Leadership & Diversity Award at the Hilton, London. He was invited by the Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Ian Blair on 15th October.

Dr TB Irving passes away

Dr T.B. Irving, the author, professor, and translator of the first American English translation of the

Qur'an, who accepted Islam over 50 years ago, passed away peacefully on the morning of 24 September 2002 in his Mississippi home. He had chosen the Muslim name Al Hajj Ta'lim Ali Abu Nasr.

He was particularly concerned about making the Quran accessible to Muslim youth in North America. "A new generation of English-speaking Muslims has grown up in North America which must use our scripture differently than their fathers would have done. Their thinking roots have become distinct on a new continent without the familiar use of our holy tongue, and a great difference has developed between their customs and their ancestral faith," he wrote in the introduction of his translation, entitled: 'The Qur'an: The Noble Reading'.

Irving's other books in English include: Growing Up In Islam; The Quran: Basic Teachings, which he co-authored with Dr. Khurshid Ahmad and Muhammad Manazir Ahsan; Had You Been Born a Muslim; Religion and Social Responsibility; Tide of Islam; Islam Resurgent; Islam in its Essence; Polished Jade; Stories of Kalil and Dimna; The Mayas Own Words, as well as various articles on Central American Literature. May Allah forgive him and grant him Paradise for his contributions to humanity.

Consultancy Services

Egal Community Consultants, on behalf of the MCB, are conducting seminars and offering on-site visits to assist Muslim-focused organisations in submitting funding proposals to local councils or Central Government. The consultancy will help communities, including mosques and charity organisations, become more involved in local projects to improve their area in an effective, efficient and responsive way. Egal Community Consultants will visit and identify the strengths and weaknesses of an organisation and provide a constructive written report with suggestions on how to improve organisational development, governance, management, training and development alongside future plans. For further information, please refer to the MCB Website <http://www.mcb.org.uk>

New Mosque in Birmingham

On 18 October, a new mosque of the Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith UK was inaugurated in Small Heath, Birmingham. The ceremony was chaired by Dr Abdullah al-Turki, Secretary General of the Muslim World League.

Islam Awareness Week

The annual 'Islam Awareness Week' organised by MCB affiliate Islamic Society of Britain (ISB) is being launched this year on 4 November. On 7 November, the ISB will make a public call for a One Day National fast by taking part in one or all of the elements of the fast. Participants will be encouraged to donate to local and national charities via the IAW web site, thus sharing in Ramadan's spirit of fasting and helping others. All monies raised will benefit local, national and international charitable causes:

Local Charities

This is for local organisations wishing to distribute part of their money to a local cause, like a school or hospital such as Rainbows Children's Hospice in Leicester or Slough's Wexham Park Hospital where much-needed medical equipment is sought. The rest will go towards the nationally raised funds for the named Registered Charities below.

Prince's Trust (UK Registered Charity)

The Prince's Trust is a national charity whose aim is to help young people to reach their potential. This will receive 30% of the nationally raised funds.

Target 2015

Target 2015 is an initiative by the government's Department for International Development run in

partnership with registered charities. It aims to halve world poverty by 2015. Two projects have been chosen that provide sustainable long-term benefit: The Water & Sanitation Project run by Islamic Relief (UK Registered Charity) and the Healthcare Programme run by Muslim Aid (UK Registered Charity). These will receive 35% each of the nationally raised funds.

All monies should be made payable to "Fasting to Remember" and sent to Islamic Society of Britain, 71 Hob Moore Road, Birmingham B10 9AZ. For further information please contact: Sher Khan, National IAW Co-ordinator.

Telephone: 07092359611 Email: admin@iaw.org.uk; Website: www.iaw.org.uk

Committees Update

Central Working Committee

The Central Working Committee (CWC) of the MCB met in Leicester on Saturday 12 October. Br Manzoor Moghal, Chairman of the Federation of Muslim Organisations Leicestershire, welcomed the attendees at the Melbourne Centre. The meeting was chaired by Br Basil Mustafa (am) and Khurshid Drabu (pm).

A packed agenda included a report from the Secretary General of the MCB and Committee Chairs. Dr Akber Mohamadali outlined the marketing plans for the MCB Book "The Quest for Sanity" and urged affiliates to purchase bulk copies. Maulana Fazlur Rahim, Chairman of the Foundation for Civil Liberties, India, briefed the CWC on the judicial process now underway to seek redress for the Muslim victims of the Gujarat Genocide. Br Maqsood Ahmed, Muslim Advisor at the HM Prison Service also briefed the CWC on developments relating to Muslim prisoners.

Media Committee

Letter to the Stop the War Coalition

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the MCB Media Committee wrote to Andrew Murray of the Stop the War Coalition to express appreciation for his well reasoned piece in the Guardian on 26th September 2002, noting that " Many British Muslims are indeed very uncomfortable with our government's very public support for a US administration that seems intent on emasculating the United Nations and forcing it to provide cover for a war against Iraq."

Letter to 60 Minutes

On 8th October, the Media Committee wrote to 60 Minutes expressing disappointment with the interview with Rev Jerry Falwell, broadcast on CBS on Sunday 6th October. The program allowed the unacceptable and incendiary remarks describing the noble Prophet Muhammad (God's peace and blessings be upon him) as a "terrorist" to go unchallenged without a response from a representative of the the Muslim community in the USA.

Inayat Bunglawala asserted that "Considering the obviously inflammatory nature of Falwell's remarks - which are only the latest in a string of abusive statements about Islam made by leading figures in the right-wing US Christian Evangelical movement - surely, it was only fair that Muslims were given an opportunity in the same broadcast to challenge Falwell's assertions."

Letter to the Daily Telegraph

Inayat Bunglawala wrote to Charles Moore, Editor, and Christopher Howse, Leaders Editor at the Daily Telegraph, on 16th October regarding the opening paragraph in an article which stated "Will Saturday's atrocity in Bali, which has already cost at least 182 lives, finally prompt the Indonesian government to take decisive action against the country's burgeoning Islamist movement?"

Inayat, expressed his concern that the Daily Telegraph had not distinguished between the large variety of Islamic movements or defined what was meant by an "Islamist movement", thus hindering rather than helping understand the phenomenon of mass terrorism". Further, the letter stated that "The Muslim Council of Britain has repeatedly called for building bridges between the West and the Muslim world to increase understanding and dispel common misconceptions," to which end he requested the Daily Telegraph also endeavour.

Letter to BBC Breakfast TV

On 17th October, the Media Committee wrote to BBC Breakfast Television regarding an interview aired at 7.45 am with the former US National Security Advisor, Mr Robert MacFarlane, about the 'war on terror' and whether it has been effective to date. The Media Committee expressed their disappointment at the line of questioning adopted by the BBC Breakfast presenter as no questions regarding whether the massive and unstinting US support for Israel or its vigorous enforcement of the economic embargo against Iraq had contributed to an increase in anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world were asked. The Committee stated that "The 'war on terror' cannot be won unless it is also accompanied in changes in American government attitudes towards Muslim countries."

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Committee Meeting

The Finance & General Purpose Committee held a meeting on Tuesday 15th October. Those in attendance were Ali Omar Ermes, Iqbal Sacranie, Daud Abdullah, Dr Jamil Sherif, Dr Akber Mohamadali, Jamil Versi, Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, AbdulWahid Hamid and Misdag Zaidi. Items discussed including the fund raising campaign for Ramadan and distribution of literature. A distribution project person was also appointed for the MCB Book 'The Quest for Sanity'.

Social Affairs Committee

NCWMP Meeting

Shiban Akbar, Chair of the Social Affairs Committee, attended a meeting of the National Council for the Welfare of Muslim Prisoners (NCWMP) at the Islamic Cultural Centre, London on 6th October 2002. The meeting considered new applications for membership, policy issues and set 27th October as the date for the next AGM and election.

Education & Training Committee

Ramadan Guidelines for Schools

The MCB's Education, Training and Employment Committee (ETEC) have sent a four page 'Guidance to Schools on arrangements for Muslim Pupils during Ramadan' for distribution to head teachers. The document is based on work undertaken by working group representing Headteachers in Hounslow and School Governors representing Hounslow Jamia Masjid.

The initiative states: "As fasting is a responsibility as well as an obligation in Islam it is important that pupils are supported while continuing with normal school life. It is equally important that pupils realise that Ramadan is not an opportunity to try to gain special individual rights within the school. Schools will wish to recognise the importance of Ramadan to Muslim pupils through the curriculum, collective worship and other opportunities." The guidance letter can be found at www.mcb.org.uk.

Research & Documentation Committee

Letters to The Independent & The Guardian

Dr Aziz Sheikh, Chair of the MCB Research & Documentation Committee wrote to the Editors of the Independent and the Guardian on 16 October regarding respective articles by William Kay and Rupert Jones on Islamic mortgages which made reference to three million Muslims in Great Britain.

Dr Sheikh referred to the recently convened conference on Muslim Demographics which, according to leading Muslim social statistics experts, concurred "that the figure does not exceed 1.8 million and could be lower."

Public Affairs Committee

Telco Liaison

The Public Affairs Committee is liaising with Telco, an organisation which is a coalition of the TUC and a number of other faith groups. The coalition is campaigning for a living wage. Representatives of the MCB Public Affairs Committee will be attending a march organised for 12 November 2002.

The Quest for Sanity

Letters of appreciation have been received from the following, which are very welcomed:

The book is indeed interesting and of great use especially in these difficult times.

Khemaies Jhinaou, Ambassador, Tunisian Embassy, London

We are particularly concerned to encourage not only an attitude of toleration among our students - I do not think that we have any who are less than tolerant - but also a willingness to enquire actively and thoughtfully about other faiths, and to use their time at Cambridge to educate themselves in this way. The book will be a very helpful contribution to that end.

The Baroness O'Neill, Newnham College, Cambridge

I read the book with interest and found it informative and stimulating it is good to have such material available to stimulate discussion.

We must hope that through the example of co-operation between Christians, and Faith communities leadership we can show to the populace as a whole an illustration of people of different beliefs living and working together for peace and justice in our troubled world.

The Revd Canon Dr Michael Ipgrave, Inter-Faith Relations Advisor, The Church of England, Archbishops' Council

I have read the book with interest. I have tried to maintain close contact with the local Muslim Community in my constituency over the last year in particular, and many of the articles in your book have also been extremely helpful in appreciating the concerns of the Muslim Community in this country.

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North & Leith

The Quest for Sanity - Reflections on September 11 and the Aftermath...seems a most interesting and worthwhile attempt to tackle some of the current perceptions surrounding this terrible event.

Eve Turner, Head of Regional & Local Programmes BBC South

The book feels like a very helpful contribution made by the Muslim Council of Britain to understanding how different people in different communities and different parts of the world have experienced September 11th. I particularly welcome the chapter on hope and the reminded that we need to be morally responsive to all truth, goodness and beauty. That needs saying and saying over

again, being heard and acted upon.

The Right Reverend Christop Mayfield Bishop of Manchester

I wish to commend you and MCB on taking this initiative which will benefit a cross section of people - leaders, opinion makers, legislatures, academicians and ordinary souls. Congratulations.

Haji Salim Hashim, High Commissioner for Malaysia, London

I commend the thoughtful approach of those contributors at whom I have looked. We appreciate that recent events are tragic not only for victims and their families in America and in the UK, but also for the Muslim community, and it important that none of us should say or do anything likely to create further damage for interfaith understanding.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Archer of Sandwell, Q.C., House of Lords

A quick dip into it reveals some excellent pieces of the kind that have, by and large, been missing from the post-September 11 debates. There is some excellent material contained in the book; a quest for sanity indeed in a world increasingly insane.

Ibrahim Hewitt.

I am writing to you to ... congratulate you and your organisation on the production of such a comprehensive account of recent events and the challenges that lie before us.

I live and work in Brixton. Mercifully, thanks to our relatively long history of mutli-cultural, multi-racial existence locally (which includes, of course, a mosque) we have avoided major disputes and hostility, though I know from speaking to Muslims that there have been incidents of verbal abuse.. We have to be on our guard against bad people and ignorant people. Your book helps to remind us all of the need to be careful.

Paul Twyman, Political Strategy Limited

I am grateful for the careful thought that has gone into the writing of the articles and will do my best to continue to uphold the principles of justice and truth. I am much involved in inter faith dialogue and friendship and believe that the book will be of help in encouraging greater understanding of the issues felt so keenly.

Lady Kathleen Richardson

This is the first major study of its kind about the events of September 11th and the aftermath incorporating the Muslim perspective. 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. At its centre is an urgent call for increased dialogue and understanding between peoples to help remove the causes behind the phenomenon of terrorism.

Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary General of the MCB.

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.

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 liaising 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.

Events

Event: **One Day Conference - MDDA**
Date: Sunday 20 October 2002
Held By: Muslim Doctors and Dentists Association
Venue: Islamic Cultural Centre, London
Contact: MDDA Chair, Dr Shehu c/o MCB Office

Event: **Islam Awareness Week**
Date: 4 - 11 November
Held By: Islamic Society of Britain
Venue: Nationwide
Contact: Sher Khan, National IAW Co-ordinator. Telephone: 07092359611
Email: admin@iaw.org.uk;
Website: www.iaw.org.uk

Information: On 7 November, the ISB will make a public call for a One Day National fast - by taking part in one or all of the elements of the fast. Participants will be encouraged to donate to local and national charities via the IAW web site, thus sharing in Ramadan's spirit of fasting and helping others. All monies raised will benefit

local, national and international charitable causes.

