

THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

A step towards greater consultation, cooperation and coordination on Muslim Affairs in the UK.

Muslim Council of Britain E-Newsletter

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Reports and Events

Ramadan Mubarak to you and your family.

We pray that God Almighty grant His mercy and protection in this blessed month

Books for Schools launch

In a landmark initiative, the MCB launched the first in a series of Key Stage linked educational resources to facilitate the teaching of Islam in British Schools on 12 October 2004.

"We believe education is the key to creating a vibrant and understanding society", said Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary-General of the MCB, adding that "these resources, developed by our team of educationalists, aim to overcome the barriers to the teaching of Islam experienced by so many of our teachers by making available creative, engaging and child-friendly resources on Islam and Muslims."

The event was attended by Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP, the Secretary of State for Education, who said: "It is only through understanding that this country can move forward as a true multi-faith and multicultural society. We must ensure children grow up with a better understanding of their friends and neighbours. The Muslim Council of Britain's initiative, Books for Schools, brings us much closer towards that goal. I am delighted to have the opportunity to lend my support to this project."

Resource packs are made up of books, artefacts, CDs, videos and accompanying tailor-made teaching aids developed in the UK. The project is funded by donations from Muslim parents and others in the local community who have been inspired by the MCB's vision of reaching out to every school-aged child in the UK.

Delegates from a variety of educational backgrounds were represented, including government bodies, SACRE (Standing Advisory Committees on Religious Education), Local Educational Authorities (LEAs) and schools. Also attending were representatives of embassies and publishing houses.

For further information refer to http://www.mcb.org.uk/mcbdirect/feature.php?ann_id=231

Launch of MCB Pocket Guide

On 25 September 2004, the Muslim Council of Britain launched the Pocket Guide for British Muslims entitled 'Know Your Rights & Responsibilities' at the London Muslim Centre, Whitechapel. Half a million copies of the new Pocket Guide are being distributed across Britain. "This Pocket Guide seeks to reassure Muslims about their rights and remind them of the responsibilities we all share to help build a more just and cohesive society," said Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary-General of the MCB.

The Pocket Guide contains information about what to do if, in the unfortunate situation, Muslims are arrested, detained at ports or have their houses searched by the police. It also contains advice on how

to help increase the educational attainment levels of Muslim children and urges British Muslims to participate in the mainstream political parties with a view to seeking the common good. In the wake of the terror threat facing these isles, the Pocket Guide lists the police Anti-Terror Hotline number and describes the averting of possible terrorist attacks as "an Islamic imperative".

The guide can be found online at <http://www.mcb.org.uk/PDF27Sept.pdf>.

An IslamOnline Dialogue session with Inayat Bunglawala on this subject can be found at <http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Browse.asp?hGuestID=2fKF3J>

Opening of East Midlands office

An initiative of the local Muslim community enabled the MCB to open its first regional office in Leicester on Sunday 10 October 2004. The MCB's East Midland Office will serve as a local hub for information dissemination and service delivery in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland, an area with a Muslim population of 70,000.

The opening was attended by mosque imams, community activists and other representatives of Muslim communities in the region. Guests first visited the office premises, located on Charles Street in Leicester city centre. Shaykh Muhammad Gora, a senior imam in Leicester, led the gathering in du'a (supplication).

MCB office bearers Iqbal Sacranie, Dr Abdul Bari and Dr Akber Mohamedali were among speakers at a subsequent lunch reception. Also addressing the gathering were Tahir Alam, MCB's East Midlands Zonal Representative and chair of the MCB's Education Committee, Dr Rashid Siddiqui, Vice Chair of the Islamic Foundation, Jabbar Bhojani representing the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri community, Sulaiman Abidi from the Somali community of Leicester and Rachel Uddin a local magistrate. Haji Hussain Khan, Chair of the Leicester Central Mosque, Conduit Street also attended. The event will remain a memorable one for the seventy guests who participated in this landmark occasion for the MCB, particularly for the kind hospitality and cordiality of the organisers and the commitment of those present to work together for strengthening the community and contributing to society as a whole.

The East Midlands office's activities are being supervised by a steering committee chaired by community leader and local businessman Sulaiman Chachia. The steering committee members include Syed Faiyazuddin Ahmad, Abdul Karim Gheewala, Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra and MCB Assistant Secretary General Ibrahim Hewitt. There are a number of other volunteers who will assist in its work, including Adam Sabat. The office premises have been provided to the MCB by Farook Ali Mohammed, founder of Fara Estates.

'MCB EMO' will insha'Allah strengthen the work of the MCB through informed and direct participation of local and regional bodies and institutions. It is hoped that it will also identify and make the best use of individual talents and resources in the region and widen the MCB's affiliate membership base.

For further information email eastmidlandsoffice@mcb.org.uk

Hostages

The recent spate of horrific kidnappings and savage beheading of hostages in Iraq has vindicated the well considered view that the continued presence of foreign troops in Iraq and aerial bombings of its cities and villages will engender more violent reaction and human suffering of incalculable proportions. Recent reports indicate that over 100,000 Iraqis are estimated to have died since the start of the war in Iraq. The MCB reaffirms its call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraq and the restoration of its people's sovereign right to rule themselves.

Twelve Nepalese murdered

On 31 August 2004, the MCB issued a statement categorically condemning the murder of twelve Nepalese workers in Iraq. The MCB appealed for the immediate release and safe return of two French journalists to their families asking that the kidnappers demonstrate the inherent values of Islam of justice and compassion if they claimed to be Muslim.

Iraq: Eugene Armstrong

On 21 September 2004 the Muslim Council of Britain issued a statement expressing its horror at the killing of the American hostage Eugene Armstrong in Iraq and extending condolences to the family of the deceased.

North Ossetia slaughter condemned

The MCB offered its condolences to the Russian people for the tragic and horrific events in North Ossetia, in particular to the families of the afflicted, in a statement issued on 6 September. "There can never be any justification for the indiscriminate and wanton killing of innocent civilians. Far from serving any national cause these grotesque acts can only result in political disaster for its perpetrators," said Dr Abdul Bari, Deputy Secretary-General of the MCB.

Kenneth Bigley

The Muslim Council of Britain released a statement on 24 September calling for the release of Kenneth Bigley, condemning the hostage takers and asking for his safe return. A delegation from the Muslim Council of Britain travelled to Baghdad to try to assist in securing the release of Mr Bigley. The delegation included Dr Daud Abdullah, MCB Assistant Secretary General and Dr Musharraf Hussain, both well respected figures in the British Muslim community. The MCB delegation met with a number of Iraqi Muslim leaders during their visit to Baghdad.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said: "The British Muslim community have been very clear in their condemnation of the kidnapping of Ken Bigley as well as the killing of other hostages. We are very grateful to the Muslim Council of Britain and will do all we can to support their efforts. We all hope to see Ken safely back with his family".

Shortly after their return to the UK, Dr Daud Abdullah and Dr Musharraf Hussain held a Press Conference on Tuesday 28 September 2004 at the London Muslim Centre. On 8 October after a protracted period of mental torture and anguish and following the appalling news of the cold-blooded

murder of Mr Kenneth Bigley, the MCB released a statement offering heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the Bigley family who have gone through the most dreadful of experiences. The MCB's Secretary General, Iqbal Sacranie said: "There can be absolutely no justification for the killing of this defenceless individual. This is a deed that is deeply repugnant and morally reprehensible. We unequivocally condemn it and hope that Ken's murderers are brought to justice swiftly."

MCB Secretary General meets Prime Minister

The first formal private meeting between the Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Secretary General of the MCB Iqbal Sacranie took place on Wednesday 15 September 2004 at 10 Downing Street. The Secretary General raised various issues affecting the Muslim community which included Religious Discrimination, the use of anti-terror laws, social cohesion, Islamophobia and the War in Iraq. The Prime Minister welcomed the holding of the first meeting and assured the Secretary General that he would give the fullest consideration to the issues raised. It was also agreed that regular meetings would take place between the MCB and the Prime Minister.

MCB Secretary General meets Leader of the Opposition

The MCB Secretary General Iqbal Sacranie met the leader of the opposition, Rt Hon Michael Howard QC MP, at his office on Tuesday 14 September 2004. Amongst the various issues discussed was the need for better contact between the Conservative party and the Muslim community. The Secretary General stressed the importance of support from the Conservative Party on the issue of religious discrimination, incitement to religious hatred and references to Islamophobic remarks made by members of the Conservative Party. Both leaders agreed to maintain regular contact and hold meetings at regular intervals.

Meeting with Leader of Liberal Democrats

On Wednesday 8 September 2004, a delegation from the MCB comprising Iqbal Sacranie, MCB Secretary General, Unaiza Malik, Assistant Secretary General, Sher Khan, Chair of the MCB Public Affairs Committee and Mohammed Abdul Aziz attended a meeting with Charles Kennedy, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Party and Fiyaz Moghal, Chair of the Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats. The issues discussed included legislation on religious discrimination and the need for Liberal Democrat support. It was agreed that regular meetings be established between the MCB and the Liberal Democrats.

Religious Discrimination to be outlawed

In his speech to the Labour Party conference on 28 September, Prime Minister Tony Blair made a commitment towards equalising the rights of people in Britain against unfair discrimination. He stated, "...And let us demonstrate to Muslims here in Britain that these are values we apply to all our citizens, and change the law to make religious discrimination unlawful as we do with race, gender and disability". This undertaking has been long-sought by British Muslims.

The Secretary-General of the MCB, Iqbal Sacranie, welcomed the announcement, saying:
"For far too long one of the biggest injustices has been the hierarchy of rights in our legal system, which has caused many groups, including Muslims, to be treated as second class citizens. The consequence of the absence of a level playing field has led to the alienation, deprivation and marginalisation of the Muslim community."

"The Government's proposal to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief in the same way as on the grounds of race, gender and disability will make a huge and positive contribution to the lives and perceptions of many disadvantaged communities. We do applaud the Government's commitment to the equality agenda. The proposed law will enable and further encourage Muslims to play a full and active part towards the creation of a just, fair and cohesive society in the United Kingdom."

For the full release refer to http://www.mcb.org.uk/presstext.php?ann_id=114

Fairness for all

Experts in the MCB's Legal Affairs Committee have prepared detailed responses on two issues with far-reaching implications: the Government White Paper relating to a new Commission for Equality & Human Rights (CEHR), and the Anti-Terror, Crime & Security Act 2001 (ATCSA). In preparing both submissions, the MCB consulted widely with specialists and within the community, including posing a questionnaire survey.

The MCB's response to the Government White Paper 'Fairness for All - A new Commission for Equality & Human Rights' notes that the establishment of a single Equality body has many important implications for the Muslim community. While new institutional arrangements would certainly be helpful, there is need for urgent and immediate action to provide greater protection to British Muslims from discrimination and disadvantage.

The MCB's response to the DTI consultation paper can be downloaded from the online MCB Library/submissions and responses to consultation requests at <http://www.mcb.org.uk/MCB-Response-DTI-Consultation.pdf>

The response on ATCSA on reconciling security and liberty can be downloaded from: <http://www.mcb.org.uk/ATCSA.pdf>

Media Seminar

At a time when British Muslims are facing unprecedented media pressure, the Muslim Council of Britain's Media Committee organised a special one-day seminar on 'A Guide To The British Media' at the new London Muslim Centre in Whitechapel, London, on Saturday 25 September 2004 attended by over 120 delegates.

The seminar served to develop the skills needed by British Muslims to ensure a better and more

accurate representation of their faith and values in the print and broadcast media and proved informative and beneficial for all attendees who wanted to know more about how the UK media operates and how to combat the Islamophobia that runs rampant through too much of the British media.

Attendees were given the opportunity to question a panel of senior journalists from The Times, The Guardian, the Independent on Sunday and the Ilford Recorder to gain a deeper understanding of how our national and local newspapers work. Separate sessions with representatives of the Press Complaints Commission and OFCOM were held to find out about how complaints procedures work with respect to our newspapers and broadcasters. In the age of the Internet, the editor of BBC News Interactive was on hand to give an overview of BBC News Online - the world's most popular news website.

Professor Greg Philo, co-author of the acclaimed book 'Bad News From Israel' delivered an informative presentation - with accompanying video footage - on how our TV News broadcasters have failed to cover the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fairly and have tended to support official 'Israeli perspectives' about the long-running Middle East tragedy. The coverage of Islam was also discussed with a panel of editors from various UK Muslim publications.

Due to widespread demand, the MCB Media Committee is currently planning further more seminars and workshops on this subject. For further details email media@mcb.org.uk.

Project on Employment Discrimination

In March 2004, the MCB, working with partners, completed a project funded by the Department of Trade & Industry on the Employment regulations relating to religious discrimination at the work place. The MCB has now launched an ambitious extension to this work, also involving collaboration with partners such as Citizens Advice. Affiliates, community advice providers or others interested in any aspect of this project, or seeking guidance on the new laws should contact the Project Coordinator, Hasan Salim Patel on 07932 150085 or email dtiproject@mcb.org.uk

British Council action commended

On Wednesday 1 September 2004, the Muslim Council of Britain issued a statement welcoming the decision taken by the British Council to terminate the employment of Mr Harry Cummins. Mr Cummins was dismissed following the results of their internal investigation which confirmed that he was the true author of a series of four extremely vitriolic and inciteful articles about British Muslims that appeared in the Sunday Telegraph in July 2004 under the pseudonym, Will Cummins. "They have acted swiftly and decisively to distance themselves from the poisonous hatred espoused by Mr Cummins," said Dr Abdul Bari, Deputy Secretary-General of the MCB. The full correspondence between the MCB and the British Council can be found online at: <http://www.mcb.org.uk/britishcouncil.html>

Fringe Meetings at Party Conferences

On 22 September the Muslim Council of Britain held a fringe meeting at the Liberal Democrats Party conference to discuss how political parties can 'Connect with British Muslim Voters'.

Dr Daud Abdullah, the Assistant Secretary-General of the MCB, spoke about the growing political awareness and activism among British Muslims following the war against Iraq saying: "the new electoral landscape suggests Muslim voters are increasingly politically active and willing to take part in the electoral process and the democratic culture of our country."

Dr Abdullah outlined three key domestic policy concerns of British Muslims: the need to outlaw religious discrimination; measures to tackle high levels of poverty and social exclusion in Muslim communities and concern about the curtailment of civil liberties and the targeting by the authorities of Muslim organisations and individuals.

Panellists at the meeting included Lord Dholakia, Lembit Opik MP and Fiyaz Mughal, Chair of the Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats (EMLD).

The following week, on Wednesday 29 September 2004, the MCB held a Fringe Meeting at the Labour Party Conference at the Hilton Brighton Metropole. The guest speakers included The Rt Hon Prime Minister Tony Blair; The Rt Hon Jack Straw; The Rt Hon David Blunkett; The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt and three of the Muslim Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

On 6 October 2004, the Muslim Council of Britain held a fringe meeting at the Conservative Party conference. Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary-General of the MCB, urged for greater engagement of the Conservative Party with the Muslim community and said:

"The key task for the Conservative Party is to build trust with British Muslim voters. The Conservative Party needs to address key domestic policy concerns including poverty, social exclusion, Islamophobia, discrimination and the misuse of counter terrorism powers. "

Mr Sacranie also congratulated Michael Howard "for taking the fight against the racist politics of the BNP to the front line, and re-emphasising Conservative Party principles that, in essence, welcomes all, including Muslims."

Mr Michael Howard, the Leader of the Conservative Party attended the MCB Fringe Meeting which took place at the Stour Whole Room, BIC, Bournemouth. Panellists at the meeting included Dominic Grieve, MP and Tim Boswell, MP.

Meeting with Chancellor of the Exchequer

A delegation from the MCB led by the Secretary General, Iqbal Sacranie, met Rt Hon Gordon Brown and his aides at H M Treasury on 14 October 2004. The Chancellor expressed his appreciation of the work carried out by the MCB to embed inclusiveness in British society and indicated his willingness to contribute to make these efforts more robust and fruitful. The MCB delegation put forward to the Chancellor a summary of recent findings and research which showed a marked level of deprivation

and underperformance in the British Muslim community. The MCB felt that the time had now come to create ownership of this reality in the Muslim community and concrete measures needed to be taken to redress the situation in the long term interests of the country.

The Chancellor agreed fully with these sentiments and offered to introduce a number of members of the government and departments to bring a multi-faceted focus on the issues at hand. The MCB and the Treasury have agreed to examine the issues in a structured manner and come up with a long term strategy to uplift the British Muslim community.

Leadership Development Programme

Following the success of the MCB's first Leadership Development Programme which concluded in May of this year, a further programme has been planned. The primary aim of this programme is to develop leadership capacity across the British Muslim community.

The programme aims to develop strategies and action plans to enable the realisation of the full potential of British Muslims and to enhance human resources and leadership capacities to tackle this agenda.

For further details refer to <http://www.mcb.org.uk/training>

MCB meet Indonesian Delegation

On 12 October 2004 Dr Daud Abdullah attended a meeting with a visiting delegation from the Muhammadiyah Movement of Indonesia. The meeting was held at the British Council. The Chair of the Muhammadiyah Movement Prof Syiaf Maarif spoke about the history of his movement and activities. Founded in 1912, the non-political socio-economic cultural movement has a membership of some 25 million people.

Also in attendance were members of the Indonesian Embassy and a number of Muslims representatives from the UK. Dr Daud Abdullah represented the MCB and spoke of the organisation and its activities, mentioning challenges both internal and external. Dr Abdullah made mention of the launch of the Books For School project and presented a gift of the MCB publication the Quest for Sanity to the delegation, offering the MCB's expertise and expressing the hope that the meeting would lay the foundations for a long and mutually fruitful relationship.

Multi Faith Police Service

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, Deputy Secretary General of the MCB was a guest speaker at a Conference organised by Capita Learning and Development whose theme was "A Multi-Faith Police Service for a Multi-Faith Society" on Wednesday 29 September. The conference was geared towards Chief Constables and their Assistants alongside Senior Police Officers and their Staff from Heads of Policy through to Diversity & Equal Opportunity Officers.

Dr Abdul Bari spoke on the subject of 'Perspectives on Overcoming Religious Fear'. He covered issues such as the nature of multi-faith Britain, diversity within the Muslim community, how they are facing the challenge of Islamophobia, particularly post 9/11, the implications of the Iraq war and the 'war on terror' and how religious fears can be overcome.

Cabinet Office Top Management Programme

On 14 September 2004 a Cabinet Office Top Management Programme was held at Sunningdale Park, Ascot. Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, MCB Deputy Secretary General attended the programme as a guest speaker and also ran a session to educate the audience on the principles of Islam. The session discussed the implications of the "war on terror" and in Iraq for Muslims in the UK, the difficulties that face Islam and the west, the way forward for building bridges between communities and what Top Management Programme participants might do to make a difference to people with whom they interact from Islamic communities, who also numbered amongst their staff.

The participants included executives from the government, trusts and corporations who were eager to learn about various aspects of Islam and Muslim Community during the formal session and afterwards during dinner, in order that they could help run their establishments with informed knowledge about the Muslim community.

Consular Strategy Board

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) has created a new Consular Strategy Board (CSB) in order to bring together a broad range of organisations interested in the consular support and assistance provided to British nationals overseas. The CSB aims to help ensure that FCO service delivery to all its nationals is of a consistent, high quality standard within its budgetary constraints. The MCB has accepted the FCO invitation to join the CSB. Unaiza Malik, MCB Assistant Secretary, attended the CSB inaugural meeting which set out the terms of reference for the Board over the next two years.

The MCB's interests include the Hajj delegation arrangements, ensuring that a balance is maintained where security considerations are concerned and timely access to services provision at overseas consulate offices for British Muslims in cases of emergency. An increasing number of British nationals now reside outside the UK, with the FCO noting particular increases in places such as Pakistan and Nigeria.

European Social Forum Conference

The MCB participated in the European Social Forum conference held at Alexandra Palace and Bloomsbury, London to celebrate the social and cultural diversity of Muslims in Europe. More than 20,000 people from nearly 70 countries attended the ESF which took place between 15 and 17 October 2004. The six key themes of the forum were: war and peace; democracy and fundamental rights; social justice and solidarity – against privatisation and deregulation, for workers, social and women's rights; corporate globalisation and global justice; against racism, discrimination and the far

right – for equality and diversity; environmental crisis, against neo-liberalism and for sustainable society.

Representatives from the Muslim Council of Britain including Reefat Drabu, Chair of the MCB Family and Social Affairs Affairs Committee and Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the MCB London Affairs Committee co-organised and contributed to seminars on the topics of “Fighting Fascism and the Far Right Across Europe” and “Muslims in Europe: perspectives and challenges”. A seminar on the subject of “Hijab: a woman's right to choose” was also co-organised by the MCB in conjunction with NAAR, the Muslim Association of Britain Stop the War Coalition, the Assembly for the Protection of Hijab, Collectif des Feministes pour l'Egalite, Collectif des Musulmans de France, Collectif Ecole pour Toutes et Tous, London Pakistani Network, the National Union of Students Black Students Campaign and the 1990 Trust. Mr Iqbal Sacranie, MCB Secretary General chaired a workshop at the ESF on the subject of Islamophobia and Europe on 16 October.

For further information on this event refer to <http://www.fse-esf.org>

Philanthropy for Social Justice Conference

Shiban Akbar, MCB Central Working Committee (CWC) member, attended a conference entitled "Philanthropy for Social Justice in Muslim Societies" held in Istanbul, Turkey from 2 to 4 September 2004. The conference was aimed at examining the charitable habits of Muslims and the effects their giving has on aiding and promoting social justice, in view that charitable giving is important at an obligatory and voluntary level in Islam.

The Conference was supported by the Ford Foundation and hosted and coordinated by the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey and the Centre for the Study of Islam, Department of Theology & Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow. Participating countries included Indonesia, India, Tanzania, Egypt, Turkey and the UK.

Yusuf Islam refused entry to the US

MCB Deputy Secretary General Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari met FCO Minister of State Douglas Alexander on 22 September to raise the grave concerns of the Muslim community on the entry refusal of Yusuf Islam to the US. Dr Abdul Bari said "Yusuf Islam is a deeply respected and very popular British Muslim figure and his detention by the US authorities is completely unacceptable."

Amir Khan - remarkable Olympiad

Writing in the Daily Mirror on 30 August 2004, MCB Secretary General Iqbal Sacranie described the young Olympiad Amir Khan's performance as heart lifting and "delivering a body blow to Britain's far-right hate-mongers".

Ramadan Radios

The MCB has published online information on OFCOM's procedures and regulations for RSL licenses during Ramadan. For further information refer to <http://www.mcb.org.uk/radio2004.html>

Martha Doyle

Martha Doyle, the BBC's religious affairs correspondent, passed away on 18 October, having suffered from cancer. The MCB has conveyed its sadness and feeling of loss to her near ones. Martha was a good and understanding friend of British Muslims and will be remembered for her quiet professionalism.

Affiliate News

Notice to MCB Affiliates

The Muslim Council of Britain would like to remind its affiliates that they can advertise events, news and job opportunities nationally free of charge through the MCB website and MCB E-Newsletter.

- To register events go to: http://www.mcb.org.uk/mcbdirect/event_add.php
- To register community news go to: http://www.mcb.org.uk/mcbdirect/news_add.php
- To register jobs: send and email to: mcbdirect@mcb.org.uk.

Automatic registration will soon be possible insha'Allah.

HRF sends Medical/Educational Equipment to Iraq

In response to the "Rebuilding Humanity in Iraq" Campaign launched by the MCB Affiliate the Human Relief Foundation (HRF); hospitals throughout the UK have been helping HRF for the last 18 months by generously donating various medical aid and supplies. The appeal has gathered great support making it a massive success.

Medical aid in excess of £1 million has been donated from UK hospitals to HRF's medical and educational projects in Iraq. These items shipped within 20 x 40ft containers over the last 18 months include items such as wheelchairs, anaesthetic machines 16 tons of powdered milk, a fully operational ambulance, valuable medical books/journals/periodicals for Iraqi medical schools, brand new hospital mattresses and PCs' for universities, schools and colleges in Iraq.

Project Co-ordinator Mr Yousaf Razaq has expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the help and support HRF has received from NHS hospitals and staff around the UK. Mr Razaq has reported the current humanitarian situation in Iraq has not improved. The people of Iraq are continuing to suffer from the collapse of its infrastructure, demolished homes, hospitals and schools. Lawlessness has created anarchy and mayhem, which has spread throughout all areas in Iraq. If you would like to support the project please contact Mr Razaq on 01274 392727 or e-mail: donate@hrf.co.uk.

Muslim Aid Ramadan Programme

This Ramadan, MCB Affiliate Muslim Aid donated £320,350 worldwide reaching out to 57 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East and the Americas. Several hundred thousand Muslims are expected to benefit from this programme.

Muslim Aid's field offices in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia and partner organisations in over fifty countries will carry out this year's programme. Iftar meals are being provided to the needy in mosques, schools, orphanages and community centres at a cost of £205,800. The Iftar gatherings will also have awareness raising programmes regarding poverty alleviation, health issues, community development, and social, educational and cultural problems. This programme has been running for three years and has proved to be effective, stimulating and thought provoking.

In the last week of Ramadan our Field Offices and Partner Organisations will distribute Zakatul Fitr amounting to £114,550 to the less fortunate of our brothers and sisters to join the Muslims the world over in the Eid festivities. Further, food parcels will be delivered to widows, orphanages, old people's homes, prisons and hospitals.

Farooq Murad, Chairman of Board of Trustees of Muslim Aid, urged: "The noble month of Ramadan is a great opportunity to remind ourselves about the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us. During fasting we experience a little of the hunger millions in this world have to go through every day in the year. By sharing a small portion of our wealth with the needy we not only multiply our rewards in this special month but also enable millions to quench their on-going hunger and thirst. Furthermore, we contribute to building a more equitable and fairer world for tomorrow. Muslim Aid totally depends on the donations received from the community in the UK to serve the needs of the deprived and the dispossessed."

For further information refer to www.muslimaid.org or telephone 020 7377 4200.

Islam Awareness Week

Launching this year from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Islam Awareness Week (IAW) is now in its 11th year. Initiated by the MCB Affiliate Islamic Society of Britain, the week has gone from strength to strength. This year many activities and events are planned up and down the country. From an eight page newspaper supplement in Birmingham to an extensive exhibition at Slough Museum - the events are varied.

"The idea of IAW is to reach out to others of all faiths and backgrounds to bring about a common understanding and to break down some of the misconceptions that exist in all areas of our society," said Julie Siddiqi, one of the team involved in co-ordinating the events this year.

"The idea is that we encourage individuals and organisations to get on board and arrange events and activities in their area. That way we can benefit from an exciting launch at The Globe which will

generate local publicity for events going on around the rest of the country."

For more information log on to www.iaw.org.uk or call 07092 359611

Iftar held by IFE

Islamic Forum Europe (IFE), a national affiliate of the MCB, held an iftar gathering at the London Muslim Centre on 18 October 2004 as part of the "Islam Awareness Project" (IAP). Sir John Stevens, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner attended the iftar after fasting for a day in Ramadan where he welcomed the opportunity to emphasise the important relationship between the Met and London's Muslim communities. He discussed how critical community confidence is to the effectiveness of British policing and how to help combat Islamophobia it was necessary to draw a clear distinction between the actions of a minority and the beliefs of the majority.

He said: "Those who freely interchange the terms 'Islamic', 'Terrorist' and 'Extremist' are not only denying the facts - they are insulting the overwhelming majority of Muslims in this country: people who are peace loving and law abiding and who completely reject all forms of violence. It is therefore vital that we challenge every inaccurate perception and uninformed stereotype."

Sir John encouraged Muslims to report every instance of Islamophobia, assuring that concerns will be recorded and will be taken seriously. He went on to recognise how the Met is supporting its Muslim employees, by backing the Association of Muslim Police, ensuring female Muslim police officers can wear the hijab whilst on duty, that their male counterparts can retain their amamah whilst on duty and grow their beards, the provision of prayer rooms and that Muslim recruits are catered for at the appropriate times during Ramadan.

The programme was organised by Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, MCB Deputy Secretary General and Chair of the East London Mosque. Iqbal Sacranie, MCB Secretary General also addressed the gathering.

Iftar gathering

MCB Secretary General Iqbal Sacranie was the Chief Guest at the Iftar (breaking of the fast) gathering organised by Da'watul Islam UK & Eire on Sunday 24 October 2004 held at Darul Ummah Arena and attended by more than 400 guests. The Secretary General spoke on the importance of unity and how the MCB has carried out its work over this difficult period. The Amir of Da'watul Islam, Mahmudul Hassan Khan, presided over the meeting.

Mohammed Mamdani is Whitbread Young Community Achiever 2004

Mohammed Mamdani, 21, the founder of MCB Affiliate, Muslim Youth Helpline, was awarded the Whitbread Young Community Achievers Award 2004 on 28 September 2004.

The Whitbread Young Community Achiever Award, sponsored by Costa and the Active Community

Unit, is one of four awards that forms part of Whitbread Young Achievers, an awards scheme that aims to recognise and reward exceptional contributions by young volunteers, aged between 16 and 25. Other category awards include arts, the environment and sport.

Mohammed was nominated by Sandra McDermid, an advisor at the London Business School. In her nomination, she said: "To make MYH happen, Mohammed has demonstrated an extraordinary level of ingenuity and commitment. One young man's dream is now a reality for over 2300 young people who have contacted the helpline in distress to date."

At the award ceremony, held in Central London, Mohammed was selected from amongst three short-listed nominees to win the award. Mohammed was praised by the judges for 'being an inspirational example of what young volunteers can do in their communities, through determination and commitment.'

Mohammed was delighted to win the award and he paid his gratitude to those that had contributed to his success and that of MYH: "I would like to thank my friends and family for their support over the past three years. Muslim Youth Helpline would not be here without the dedication of all our volunteers who take time out to contribute to the betterment of society."

Iddah and the Islamic Will

MCB Affiliates, The Council of European Jamaats Bereavement Support Group held a fiqh Seminar for ladies in Peterborough entitled "Iddah and the Islamic Will" on 9 October 2004. Speakers included Fatma Asaria and Madelaine Mason of Harrow Bereavement Services.

IMWS Islamic Awareness Week

MCB Affiliate IMWS Al-Hikmah Centre was the focus of attention for the third Islamic Awareness Week organised by the Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS).

IMWS hosted a unique four-day programme from Tuesday 5 October to Friday 8 October designed to promote better understanding of Islamic values, culture and tradition. Musa Kazi, Centre Manager at the Al-Hikmah Centre said, "the awareness programme was designed to give an insight into Islam and Muslims for people from every walk of life and profession".

This year's Islamic Awareness Week included a series of exhibitions and tours of mosques and madressas in and around the Batley area. In addition, dedicated seminars were held on numerous topics which included Muslim Birth Marriage & Death; The Role of A Woman in Islam; Community Cohesion - an Islamic Perspective; A Guide to the British Media - A Muslim Perspective; Islam & Drugs; Christian & Muslim Relations - Past & Present; and a special Question and answer session on 'Dispelling Myths about Islam'.

Almost 200 pupils from various schools in Kirklees and Bradford participated in the exhibitions and seminars designed specifically for school children called 'Basic Principles of Islam'. The tour of

mosques and madressas was another very popular attraction, with daily trips in a minibus - taking delegates to see in and around local places of worship. There was also an opportunity given to observe the Muslim Friday prayer at one of the local mosques which was very well received.

Speakers at the launch on Tuesday included Bashir Karolia, Chair of IMWS; Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the MCB Media Committee; Dr Hanny Elbanna OBE, Managing Director of UK's largest Muslim Charity 'Islamic Relief'; Mohammed Akhram Khan Cheema OBE, an educationalist; Mike Wood MP for Batley & Spen and Iqbal Bhana IMWS member acted as Master of Ceremonies at the launch.

For further information contact Musa Kazi, Centre Manager, Al-Hikmah Centre tel. 01924 500 555.

MYH Online Social Guidance Channel

On 6 October 2004 the MCB Affiliate, Muslim Youth Helpline (MYH) launched muslimyouth.net, Britain's first online support and guidance channel for young Muslims. The launch ceremony took place at Brondesbury Park Hotel in London.

muslimyouth.net is a comprehensive portal of information profiling the social issues affecting young Muslims in the UK . It utilises the universality and anonymity of the internet to interact with marginalised youth, challenge community perceptions and stimulate discussion and debate on some of the most controversial issues facing young Muslims.

"The inability of mainstream service providers to engage young Muslims has left many young people unable to access support and guidance on a range of social issues. muslimyouth.net is a positive community response led by young people that will reach out to the most vulnerable in society", said 20 year old Mustafa Suleyman, Chair of MYH.

"By profiling the real experiences of Muslim youth in a public forum, muslimyouth.net aims to confront the cultural stigma attached to common social issues such as mental health, drugs and sexuality," added Suleyman.

muslimyouth.net is an entirely youth-led project bringing together over 30 young volunteers from diverse Muslim communities, many of whom have personal experience of the social issues involved. All volunteers are required to complete a writing skills and media workshop provided by BBC and freelance journalists. Besides detailed guidance pages, muslimyouth.net includes bi-monthly campaigns, an events diary, new board, moderated forums, chat rooms, online polls, competitions and a comprehensive database of local support services.

For further information go to www.muslimyouth.net or contact 0870 774 3518, email info@muslimyouth.net



Since its conception in 1991 the Human Relief Foundation has saved lives and relieved suffering amongst hundreds of communities, through aid, education and care. Originally established as a response to the first Gulf War, HRF has become the first point of reference for donors and sister agencies who wish to help the people of Iraq. HRF have conducted projects around the world: in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. HRF offices are now located in London, Birmingham, Rotterdam, Damascus, Peshawar, Baghdad and Basra.

E-Mail: donate@hrf.co.uk website: <http://www.hrf.co.uk>

Committees Update

Media Committee (MC)

Article in the Times

On 2 October 2004, Secretary of the MCB Media Committee, Inayat Bunglawala's credo article on the subject of al-Akhirah (The Afterlife) and the Day of Judgement was published in The Times, in which he related: "A believer in the afterlife should be fully seized of the consequences of his deeds, and will try to look upon worldly gains and losses as transitory: he will think twice before risking eternal loss for the sake of an unlawful and fleeting gain."

The full article can be found online at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-118-1289774,00.html>

Article in the Guardian

Faisal Bodi and Inayat Bunglawala took part in a "Take 2" discussion in the Guardian published on Saturday 21 August 2004 entitled "Our Own War on Terror". This can be found online at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1287655,00.html>

The Role of the Media

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, delivered a presentation on 'The Role of The Media' at a meeting organised by Stop Political Terror at the London Muslim Centre on Saturday 2 October 2004. The meeting was organised to highlight the numerous cases where the human rights of British Muslims have been abused since 9/11.

"Reaching out to Muslim Communities"

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, spoke on the topic 'Reaching Out To Muslim Communities' at a seminar for regional officers of the Government News Network, on 1 October 2004.

Inayat gave an overview of the current state of the Muslim media in the UK and offered advice on how government agencies could convey useful information to British Muslims.

Talk at Tottenham Islamic Centre

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, gave a talk after Maghrib (evening) prayers about the MCB's Pocket Guide on 'Know Your Rights and Responsibilities' at the Tottenham Islamic Centre, London on Sept 11 2004. Inayat talked of the need for British Muslims to engage more with mainstream political parties, the media, and also to take greater interest in and responsibility for the education of Muslim children.

MCB Letter to the Guardian

Writing in response to an article by Polly Toynbee which appeared in the Guardian on 18 August 2004, the MCB Media Committee wrote a letter published on 23 August 2004 which pointed out a number of inconsistencies in the article. The letter asserted that Ms Toynbee's criticism of the call to outlaw incitement to religious hatred and accusation that British Muslims want 'religion placed in a realm beyond ordinary argument' was an unfair misrepresentation as Muslims do not seek to end criticism of their faith but deserve - as any community deserves - an end to incitement against them. For the full letter refer to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1288575,00.html>

Meeting with OFCOM

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee and Zahid Amin, Chair of the MCB's Youth Committee met with representatives of OFCOM at their new headquarters on Southwark Bridge Road, London on Thursday 26 August 2004 to discuss the huge rise in applications from British Muslims for Restricted Service Licences (RSLs) to broadcast during the month of Ramadan. Together they discussed ways in which the application system could be made more transparent.

JIMAS 11th International Da'wah Conference

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, spoke on behalf of the MCB at the opening session of JIMAS annual International Da'wah Conference in Leicester on Friday 27 August 2004.

Inayat thanked Abu Muntasir, Amir of JIMAS, for the kind invitation to address the conference and expressed the MCB's admiration for the consistent dedication of JIMAS and all its many volunteers throughout the UK over the years in promoting a return to sublime Qur'anic values amongst British Muslims. Abu Muntasir also kindly gifted Inayat a copy of the three volume word-by-word translation of the Qur'an by his father Muhammad Mohar Ali.

Dr Abdul Hayee, Vice Chair of the MCB Education Committee and Dr Abdul Bari also ran a session at the Conference on 28 August.

British Muslims and the Media

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, visited the Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley, West Yorkshire on Tuesday 5 October 2004 to deliver a presentation and workshop about British Muslims and the Media at the launch of al-Hikmah's annual Islamic Awareness Week. Inayat was also given a tour of the excellent facilities on offer at al-Hikmah's four and a half acre site by the Centre Manager,

Hafiz Musa Kazi. Inayat complimented the al-Hikmah Centre's workers for their exemplary work in bringing the Muslims of Batley together to work for the common good. Six mosques in Batley are now affiliated to the al-Hikmah Centre.

Meeting with BBC Middle East Ombudsman

A meeting was organised on 9 September 2004 between several members of the MCB and Malcolm Balen, the BBC's Middle East ombudsman, to discuss concerns in the British Muslim community about the BBC's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Attendees included Iqbal Sacranie, Secretary-General of the MCB, Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee, Ibrahim Hewitt, Assistant Secretary General, Khurshid Drabu, MCB Constitutional Advisor and Reefat Drabu, Chair of the MCB Family & Social Affairs Committee. Following the meeting a letter outlining key concerns was sent to Mr Balen. This can be found online in the Letters to the Editor/Producer at www.mcb.org.uk

OFCOM Consultation on Proposed Broadcasting Code

The MCB's Media Committee submitted a response, led by Tariq Hameed, to OFCOM's consultation on the proposed Broadcasting Code. Welcoming the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Code in a move towards transparent, and collaborative process the MCB response sought to overturn the paradox whereby the viewer is given the task of bringing producers and broadcasters to account after an inappropriate programme has been broadcast. The report observed with some concern that there has been a progressively greater prevalence in the depiction and of inappropriate violence, profanity, sexual intimacy and drug use in material broadcasted in the UK. Of greater concern was the freedom and lack of scrutiny that broadcasters of documentaries and drams have in the depiction of the Muslim community and of Muslim beliefs.

The MCB report recommended that socially responsible broadcasting ought to be an imperative when it came to broadcasting programmes that include material on Muslims or Islam in general, particularly in the current climate. Furthermore, the observation that manifest inaccuracy is not conducive to educating a largely uninformed audience was put forward with the request that "Every attempt should be made to ensure that broadcasters maintain the truth, are responsible in the content of their programmes, and fair in their assessment of a community that the Census 2001 shows is suffering from the lack of investment, resources and opportunity. An additional lack of understanding, fairness and consultation and will not help that community integrate into British society." The full report can be found online in the MCB Library, Submissions section at <http://www.mcb.org.uk/MCBOfcomResponse.pdf>

Letter to Channel 4

On 12 October, Tariq Hameed, MCB Media Committee member, wrote to Channel 4 regarding the documentary entitled "The Great British Asian Invasion" broadcast at 9pm on Thursday 8 October 2004. Pleased with the light-hearted and well-presented portrayal of the diversity of the British Asian community, Mr Hameed however noted that a number of strenuous objections had been received by the MCB, amongst them the programme's misrepresentations regarding Guantanamo Bay, Salman Rushdie and the suggestion that Islam, in contra-distinction to the other faiths portrayed on the programme, restrained a British Muslim's ability to integrate into British society. The full letter can be found online in the Media, Letters to Editors/Producers section at <http://www.mcb.org.uk/letter80.html>

Letter to the Telegraph

On 15 October 2004, a letter by Dr Daud Abdullah, Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, to the Editor of the Daily Telegraph was published regarding a piece published on 8 October 2004 entitled 'Israel must never give up the moral high ground' which displayed a disturbing offer of tacit support for the expansion of settlements in response to a statement by Dov Weisglass. Dr Abdullah drew attention to the fact that it is common knowledge internationally that Ariel Sharon has no interest in a political settlement of the conflict in Palestine, recalling his Likud predecessor Yitzhak Shamir who was forced by the Bush [snr] administration to attend the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991. The letter states that "He vowed on that occasion that he would drag negotiations out until he had filled the occupied territories with Israeli settlements to make it impossible to reach a peaceful solution."

The full letter can be found online in the Media, Letters to Editors/Producers section at <http://www.mcb.org.uk/letter79.html>

Research & Documentation Committee (ReDoc)

Ramadan timetable

ReDoc has provided a compilation of Ramadan timings to The Guardian newspaper. These are published daily.

Demographic overview

On 6 October 2004, Jamil Sherif presented a paper on 'The British Muslim Community: A demographic overview and current trends' at the 'Muslim Cultural Awareness & Diversity Workshop', organised by MCB affiliate Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre (MCHC), West London. The audience were mainly local government service providers.

MCB Survey highlights myth of multi-faith chaplaincy in hospitals

Professor Aziz Sheikh, Professor of Primary Care Research and Development at the University of Edinburgh and Chair of the Research and Documentation committee of the MCB, with colleagues from hospitals in the Midlands and London and a researcher from the Muslim Council of Britain, undertook the survey of hospitals chosen from all NHS hospital trusts in England and Wales.

The paper, published in the British Medical Journal on 11 September 2004, highlighted the fact that hospital patients and staff of non-Christian religions have limited access to religious and spiritual care. A survey of 72 hospitals in England and Wales reveals that although more than 54 of them had a dedicated place of worship for Christians, only four had similar facilities for Buddhists; six for Hindus; four for Jews; 13 for Muslims; five for Sikhs and four for other faith groups. Fourteen hospitals had facilities for gender segregation in prayer areas and 34 had facilities for performing ablution before prayers.

Prof Aziz said: "The Human Rights Act 1998 and the Patient's Charter place a legal responsibility on

public bodies to ensure the rights of individuals to religious observance. However, concern had been expressed that access to spiritual care in hospitals for those of non-Christian faith is limited, so we carried out this survey. Our findings show comparative disadvantage to non-Christians in relation to access to space for worship, chaplaincy staff and quality of chaplaincy care."

For the full article refer to: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7466/626?ehom>

Muslims and Depression

Dr Shahid Dadabhoy, adviser to ReDoc, has written a chapter on 'Muslims and Depression' which is due to be published in 'The Primary Carers Big Brain Book'.

Chaplaincy Survey

The MCB's chaplaincy survey has been accepted for publication by the BMJ. For further details contact ReDoc at redoc@mcb.org.uk

Shelter & Host Collaborative Ventures

Dr Sangeeta Dhami of the MCBDirect Team has met with Shelter and HOST charities and collaborative ventures are now being considered.

Youth Committee (YC)

Youth Committee Meeting

On 2 October 2004 the Youth committee met for the first time at the London Muslim Centre. The meeting was attended by various affiliate youth organisations including Young Muslims, FOSIS, WAMY and many others.

The aim of the MCB Youth Committee is to set targets and give advice to affiliates and other committees on youth issues. The committee's remit includes undertaking projects that will form a basis for policy, to better the conditions of Muslims in Britain, whilst upholding good practise.

Issues discussed at the meeting ranged from education to political participation and it was decided that the main focus of the youth committee would rest upon proactive projects. Under this heading many objectives of the committee are covered, such as networking with established organisations, both Muslim and non-Muslim and providing a voice for the youth on issues such as Islamophobia and discrimination.

By the end of the day the committee agreed upon undertaking their first project: The Muslim Youth Charter. This study aims to provide empirical evidence for the deteriorating conditions of the Muslim community on issues such as housing, education and crime. For further information or to participate in the activities of the MCB Youth Committee please email youth@mcb.org.uk

Family & Social Affairs Committee (FSAC)

FSAC Seminar

The Family & Social Affairs Committee (FSAC) is organising a conference entitled 'Muslim Families in the Capital - Challenges and Opportunities' to be held on Saturday 11 December in co-operation with the Mayor's Office. The seminar will provide an opportunity for Muslims living in the Capital to hear and debate their views on marriage, conflict in marriage, fostering and adoption in Islam.

For further details please contact admin@mcb.org.uk

Interfaith Committee (IC)

Dr Abdul Jalil Sajid attended the OSCE Conference in Brussels between 13 and 14 September 2004 on the theme of "Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination". Dr Sajid spoke on the subject of "The Role of Governments and Civil Society in Promoting Tolerance, Respect and Mutual Understanding, Particularly through Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue and Partnerships", conveying the MCB message that "The MCB works with a number of government forums such as the Inner Cities Religious Council and the Race Relations Forum and many other major faith communities to promote the well being of all. Cultural diversity and religious pluralism inspire healthy competition between communities and nations, and God enjoins us to direct that competition towards the seeking of the common good for all humanity."

Winchester Three Faiths Forum

On 1 September 2004 Dr Abdul Jalil Sajid attended and spoke at the Winchester Three Faiths Forum representing the MCB. Issues discussed included the need for legislation prohibiting incitement to religious hatred. Further speakers at the event included Rabbi David Soetendorp of the Bournemouth Reform Synagogue and Rt. Revd Trevor Willmott, Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke. Judge Khurshid Drabu and Dr Reefat Drabu, Chair of the Family and Social Affairs Committee were also in attendance.

Further information can be found at <http://www.threefaithsforum.org.uk/Events/Events.htm>

New on the MCB Website

Media/Press Releases -

- 11 Oct 2004; MCB Launches Educational Resources for British Schools
- 08 Oct 2004; MCB Appalled by Cold-Blooded Murder of Kenneth Bigley
- 06 Oct 2004; MCB Holds Fringe Meeting At Conservative Party Conference
- 28 Sep 2004; Muslims Welcome Outlawing of Religious Discrimination
- 24 Sep 2004; MCB Launches 'Know Your Rights & Responsibilities' Pocket Guide
- 24 Sep 2004; British Muslims Call For Release of Ken Bigley
- 22 Sep 2004; MCB Holds Fringe Meeting At Liberal Democrats Party Conference
- 22 Sep 2004; MCB Raises Yusuf Islam Detention with FCO Minister
- 21 Sep 2004; MCB Calls for Immediate Release of Hostages In Iraq
- 01 Sep 2004; MCB Welcomes British Council Decision, Calls On Telegraph Group To Follow Suit
- 31 Aug 2004; MCB Condemns Murder of Nepalese in Iraq, Appeals For Release of French Journalists

13 Aug 2004; MCB Demands End To Carnage And Sacrilege in Najaf al-Sharif

Media/Letters to the Editor -

13th October 2004; Channel 4; "The Great British Asian Invasion", by Tariq Hameed

8th October 2004; The Daily Telegraph; Dov Weisglass's statement, by Dr Daud Abdullah

Library/Articles & Essays -

2nd October 2004; The Times, Thinking about the afterlife will help our lives right now, by Inayat Bunglawala

12th August 2004; The Times, This Demonisation of British Muslims Must Stop, by Inayat Bunglawala

Library/MCB's Submissions and Responses To Consultation Requests

22nd October 2004; OFCOM Consultation on the proposed broadcasting code

30th August 2004; Response to Government Discussion Paper: Counter-Terrorism Powers

27th August 2004; Response to Government White Paper: Fairness for all- a new Commission for Equality & Human Rights

New on the MCBDirect Website

MCB*Direct* is the Muslim Council of Britain's community information service. The Internet plays a central role in the provision of the service - visit the project's redesigned website at www.mcb.org.uk/mcbdirect. MCB*Direct*'s objectives are to widen the sharing of information and expertise within the community, increase awareness of best practice initiatives and services, and promote a more informed understanding of Muslims and Islam throughout our society. The project is an initiative of the MCB's Research & Documentation Committee.

MCBDirect Helpline

MCBDirect's helpline number is 0845 1 23 23 63.

MCBDirect has posted many exciting features on the website. These include reviews of books, events, individuals etc.

The Sickening State Of Muslim Health In Britain

Medical Relief Mission to Darfur

Ramadan Diary: 'Tea and Toast'

Ramadan Corner Competition

Environmentalism – How Muslims can get on board

Books for Schools Captures the National Educational Community's Imagination

Ramadan Diary

Ken Bigley: MCB appalled by cold-blooded murder
 Books for Schools Resource Packs
 Have Your Say on Police 'Stop and Search' Powers
 Diary of a Muslim GP: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 Charles Clarke to Attend Launch of Books for Schools
 The Bloodshed Must Stop
 Ziauddin Sardar- Desperately Seeking Paradise
 Muslim Remarriage – What, Marriage Again
 Shaykh Hamza Yusuf - Prime Time at ISNA Conference 2004
 The Colour of Home
 MCB Survey highlights myth of multi-faith chaplaincy in hospitals
 Open Days to Reveal Heritage Secrets
 Harun Yahya - Discovering the divine truth
 Amir Khan – British, Muslim and Proud
 The End of Time: The Hidden Truth by Dr Shahid Masood
 The 786 Cybercafe by Bina Shah- Is religion becoming a commodity?
 Britain Gives the Green Light to Islamic Banking
 MCB Leadership Development Programme: Investing in our Future
 Diary of a Muslim GP: Type 2 Diabetes – Lifestyle Adjustment
 Ahmed J Versi - Giving Muslims a Voice
 General Medical Council casts doubt on Mail on Sunday's slur against Muslim GPs

**To advertise community news and events please
 contact mcbdirect@mcb.org.uk**

Events

Event:	Family & Social Affairs Committee Seminar - Muslim Families in the Capital - Challenges and Opportunities'
Date:	11 December 2004
Time:	10.00am – 6.00pm
Held By:	The Muslim Council of Britain in cooperation with the Mayor of London's Office
Venue:	City Hall, Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA
Contact:	admin@mcb.org.uk
Information:	The seminar will provide an opportunity for Muslims living in the Capital to hear and debate their views on marriage, conflict in marriage, fostering and adoption in Islam.



INTERPAL is a non-political, non-profit making British charity that focuses solely on the provision of relief and development aid to the poor and needy of Palestine the world over, primarily in Palestine and the refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon.

The Muslim Council of Britain

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