

NETWORK MCB

The Muslim Council of Britain

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MCB AFFILIATES

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DISCLAIMER

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Please contact the editor or the organisations featured direct as appropriate with any comments and queries.

From the Secretary General Welcome to your Muslim Council of Britain



We encourage you to contact us and give suggestions and ideas to improve upon this and to let us know what you would be interested in.

Ramadan Mubarak

Let me also take this opportunity to wish you all Ramadan Mubarak. With you, I share my personal priorities for this most blessed of months:

1. Fast with awareness of the spirit and soul of fasting.
2. Strengthen our relationship with the Book of Allah.
3. Increase acts of compassion, benevolence, charity, and kindness.
4. Develop the habit of praying with *khushu`* or concentration and pray in congregation (at the Masjid).
5. Make *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah) a second nature to ourselves.
6. Focus on good works to take our community forward to righteousness, glory, and success.
7. Cultivate in us a true sense of community and spirit amongst ourselves but also amongst our fellow citizens.

Muhammad Abdul Bari

Welcome to *Network MCB*, the newsletter for the Muslim Council of Britain's five hundred plus affiliated organisations.

Just as the MCB is *your* organisation, this newsletter is *your* newsletter. By the grace of Allah, we hope *Network MCB* will be the start of many editions in which affiliates share the good work you are doing up and down the country.

Network MCB will also inform affiliates of the many projects and initiatives the MCB is pursuing. Affiliates will be better-informed, further engaged and can give their ideas to help MCB fulfil its aims.

Make MCB work for your community

The Muslim Council of Britain has gone some way in bringing together and collectively working for Britain's diverse Muslim communities.

In ten years it has negotiated often choppy waters to establish a positive presence for British Muslims. It is committed to this goal

even in today's harsh climate. MCB's goal of seeking the common good can only be achieved by its affiliates and its dedicated volunteers. The Muslim Council of Britain owes its success to its affiliates.

Through its democratic structures, and its open-door policy, MCB has benefited from a range of

expertise and perspectives.

If you are member of an affiliated MCB organisation, or a professional wishing to take part in the MCB's many dynamic committees, than please contact the MCB admin@mcb.org.uk.

Contribute to *your* community. As we approach the holy month of Ramadan,

contemplate the following wisdom from Allah, *subahana hu wata ala*:

Verily never will Allah change a condition of a people until they change what is within their souls. [Sura Ra'd 13:11]

In the Committees

MCB has eighteen separate committees, each having a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary. One of the most influential roles you can perform as an affiliate is by encouraging participation in one of these committees. Each committee has its specific objectives, which are linked to MCB's overall strategic aims. You don't necessarily have to be a member of a group or an organisation to become a committee member, as long as you have time and energy to make a positive contribution, you will be made welcome. For more information on how to get involved visit the committees section of MCB website. Below are details of the work undertaken by some committee members over the last few weeks.

Food Standards - Defending Religious Slaughter

The MCB Food Standards Committee and the London Muslim Centre jointly organised a seminar on 'Religious Slaughter - Halal and Humane' on Friday 26 July. Committee Chair Dr Shuja Shafi led the seminar which included speakers Dr Abdul Majid Katme and Dr Yunus Teinaz. The highlight was a presentation by Joe Regenstein, Professor of Food Sciences, Cornell University, USA.

Interfaith - Understanding Darfur

Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra, chair of MCB Interfaith committee was part of Foreign Office-sponsored Muslim delegation to Darfur for a week between 12 and 19 August to assess the humanitarian situation in Darfur. The delegation met with senior government officials, tribal chiefs and leaders of NGOs. On 30 August the delegation briefed the Minister for Africa, Lord Brown about the visit.

Mosque and Community affairs - Enabling the Ulama

Following the committee's successful meeting with British Ulama across the country, the group has followed up their meetings by identifying ways to help alims across the country. Ulama and leaders of Mosques are being encouraged to get involved in the MCB's Mosques100 project (see page 3). Similar meetings will be held in Wales after Ramadhan.

Public Affairs - Engaging with policy

The committee will be organising fringe meetings at the Conservative and Labour Party conferences. The title for both events will be 'The British Muslim Community Ten Years on'. The Labour Party Meeting is due to take place on 26 September, and the Conservative Party meeting on 1 October. For further information email admin@mcb.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting

The MCB held its tenth annual general meeting at the London Muslim Centre on Saturday 16 June.

The AGM, attracting delegates from the MCB's affiliate organisations around the country, began with a well-received address by Brendan Barber, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress and culminated in a standing ovation for Western Cape Premier and ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool, the MCB's main guest speaker. Anna Uzoururu of the National Union of Students also spoke.

Watch the AGM keynote speeches online:
www.mcb.org.uk/agm2007

In addition the Committee has assisted the MCB in engaging with policymakers. It drafted a number of policy responses, including a letter to Dame Pauline Neville Jones, Shadow Security Minister.

Youth and Sports - Believing in young British Muslims

The committee has successfully created links with several other national youth organisations, building relationship for future projects. There have been a number of discussions with the National Youth Agency, discussing funding and project work opportunities. The members are currently working towards organising a camp, in association with the NYA, that aims to further equip our members to further our work.

Other partnerships also include MCB affiliate FOSIS, the largest representative body for student Islamic societies, to organise a Youth Award ceremony. This will highlight the achievements and contributions made to society by young British Muslims. Partnerships are also being established with the Muslim Scout Fellowship and the Muslim Youth Skills organisation.

Education - Raising Attainment

With the Al-Hijrah Trust, the committee has organised twenty seminars across the country examining the educational priorities for Muslim children. The series aims to raise awareness of important issues and priorities with a view to promoting effective participation and engagement from the Muslim community as governors and teachers.

Research & Documentation - Fostering evidence bases

The MCB is partnering with the King's College London Department of Education & Professional Studies on a PhD project undertaken by Matthew Wilkinson. He is investigating the teaching of history in the National Curriculum and issues relating to self-esteem and the pastoral development of Muslim boys.

This is a three year project and MCB hopes the research will provide an evidence-base for curriculum development. For further information, and if schools wish to participate in the field study, contact redoc@mcb.org.uk

Find out more about your MCB online www.mcb.org.uk

- Press releases and responses to the media
- The latest MCB initiatives
- Community news and information
- Advertise your community event or initiative

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND MCB INITIATIVES

Improving Mosques to Serve British Muslims



The Muslim Council of Britain is launching a capacity building programme to improve the sustainability of Mosques and Muslim charities in the United Kingdom. Applications are welcome from all mosques and Muslim organisations.

The Programme will target 100 medium sized established and emerging Mosques and Muslim organisations from across the country to empower and capacity-build within a year.

It will aim to put them firmly on the road to achieve their tasks

better in everything they do.

Spaces are limited. This project is open to all MCB affiliates. To apply, contact:

Dr. A. Salman Al-Azami
Project Manager, Mosques 100,
MCB, P.O.Box 57330, London E1 2WJ

Telephone: 020 7492 4985
Email: s.alazami@mcb.org.uk

TEN YEARS OF MCB: Have you completed the Survey?

The MCB celebrates its tenth anniversary this year – our inaugural meeting was held on 23rd November 1997 in Brent Town Hall, London.

This is a good opportunity to look back and reflect over the developments during the ten years and draw lessons and ideas for the future.

To assist in this process, the Research & Documentation committee (ReDoc) has prepared a questionnaire that has

been sent to all affiliates, together with a stamped return envelope.

The questionnaire seeks affiliates' ideas and views on three interrelated matters: **the challenges, issues and options facing Muslims in Britain, MCB's performance as the umbrella organisation working for the service of the Muslim community and suggestions on priorities and direction for the future.**

Completing the form may seem a time-consuming and daunting task but the responses are essential in planning and preparing for the challenges ahead, Insha Allah. Affiliates that have not yet completed their questionnaire are urged to do so as soon as possible. If a questionnaire has been misplaced or not received, then please contact M. Rafi m.rafi@mcb.org.uk.

Celebrating Eid in Trafalgar Square

20 October 2007

Rich colours and sounds of the Muslim world come together in the heart of London to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Qur'an from Shaykh Ahmad Saad

- Mesut Kurtis
- Nazeel Azami
- Comedy from the world's only Somali comic - Prince Abdi
- African Drummers and many more...

PLUS

Live Entertainment, Islamic Exhibition, Arabian Souk

For further information, visit www.mcb.org.uk/eid2007



Footsteps

- Seeking inspirational role models



- Can you inspire young Muslims to succeed in Britain today?
- We are looking for role models who can give time to impress young Muslims to succeed.

• MCB's Footsteps Project aims to:

- Improve Self Esteem and Aspiration of the Muslim students
- Challenge the Stereotype Image of Muslims and Islam held by non-Muslims
- Encourage participation

• Contact:

- **Farrukh Hassan (Project Manager) on 020 7492 4984 or**
- **Email f.hassan@mcb.org.uk**

Successful British Muslim charities demonstrate generosity of community

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, *Network MCB* highlights affiliates who are major Muslim charities, raising money to help the needy in the UK and around the world. These are specialist charities and NGOs that are now on par with major British and international aid agencies. The Muslim community is rightly proud of their selflessness.

This Ramadan, consider donating to any of these charities. Our Beloved Prophet said, "...Whoever draws nearer (to Allah) by performing any of the (optional) good deeds in (this month), shall receive the same reward as performing an obligatory deed at any other time; and whoever performs an

obligatory deed in (this month), shall receive the reward of performing seventy obligations at any other time. It is the month of patience, and the reward of patience is Paradise . It is the month of charity, and a month in which a believer's sustenance is increased. Whoever gives food to a fasting person to break his fast shall have his sins forgiven, and he will be saved from the Hell-Fire, and he shall have the same reward as the fasting person, without his reward being diminished at all."

(Reported by Ibn Khuzaymah)

Islamic Relief

www.islamic-relief.com

Muslim Aid

www.muslimaid.org

Muslim Hands

www.muslimhands.org

Helping Hands for the Needy

www.helpinghandsworldwide.com

Human Relief Foundation

www.hrf.co.uk

Interpal

www.interpal.org

UKIM Relief

www.ukim.org

Organising an event in Ramadan?

Is your mosque or organisation planning to share Ramadan with fellow Britons? Are you holding special Ramadan events in your locality? Or perhaps you are launching a special charity initiative during this holy month? If not, why not tell us about your event? MCB is planning to list all events and initiatives on its website which has national and international coverage. We want to promote good practice, and let others know of how British Muslims are observing this most blessed of months.

Email your event to us at: f.hassan@mcb.org.uk

Share the work of your organisation on these pages

This section will be expanded to include more information about our affiliates. If you have good practice to share or tell us about an event you are organising, email us at: f.hassan@mcb.org.uk