

Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

www.ccmr-wycombe.co.uk

Steering Committee Meeting

15th September 2010, 10.30am

Minutes

1. Apologies: Laura Gould, Marcus Smeeth, Singa Vunipola, Imam Sultan Mahmood

Welcome to visitor: David Grice

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique, (Chair), Revd David Picken (Vice-Chair) Zafar Iqbal, Azher Raja, M L Raja, Dr Siddiqui, Laurence Smy, Anne Bowker, David Snoxell, Greg Livingstone, John Bajina, Helen Byrne.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: AGREED and adopted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

(i) Revd David Picken mentioned to the CCMR that there will be a Wycombe Deanery Open Evening Meeting on 1st November, in the Oakley Hall, 8 Castle Street on the Common Word. The Revd Canon Guy Wilkinson will address the meeting together with a speaker from the Muslim tradition.

(ii) The Chair advised the meeting that Ed Husain of the Quilliam Foundation had regrettably cancelled his proposed visit on 5th October, so this meeting date is now cancelled. The CCMR are working at securing a date in November for him to speak.

(iii) Think Tank Group

Laurence Smy advised the meeting that the Think Tank will meet again on 22nd September, continuing on their discussion of islamophobia, using Ed Husain's book 'The Islamist' as a reference.

(iv) American Embassy Contacts

David Snoxell advised the meeting it would be highly unlikely given the current financial climate, that the American Government would fund a trip to the USA.

(v) Website

Laurence Smy suggested to the meeting that we put more current articles on to the website. He offered to write a piece following Guy Wilkinson's visit on 1st November. A request was made to remove David's Easter article, and to include a piece on the recent Eid celebrations.

4. The Chair welcomed the guest speaker, Ms Remona Aly. Remona, the campaigns director at Exploring Islam Foundation. She addressed the CCMR on the topic 'Does Islam Need PR?' Notes of Remona's talk are attached with these Minutes. The website reference Remona referred to is www.inspiredbymuhammad.com

During the course of the seminar a powerful message was read out on behalf of a large number of local priests and vicars. The message had been prepared by Anne Bowker and Rebecca Hickman of Sharing of Faiths Group to show solidarity with the muslim community in the context of the American Pastor Terry Jones threats to burn the Holy

Quran on the 9th anniversary of 9/11. The message read as follows;

'We deeply regret that the words and actions of a small church in America are causing you hurt and anguish, particularly at this holy time in the Islamic calendar. We stand in solidarity with you in deploring the deeply offensive views preached by Pastor Terry Jones in Florida, and give you our heartfelt assurance that his beliefs do not represent a christian position as we understand and practice our faith.

It is beyond our comprehension that a pastor should abuse his role as leader of a church community by stirring up hatred. We too feel pain and distress at his actions.

We value what we as christians share with you- values of love, peace and mutual respect. And we welcome the long tradition of positive engagement between muslim and christian communities in High Wycombe.

We state again our wish to be an active part of ongoing efforts to build understanding across different faith traditions locally, through dialogue and friendship.'

5. Date of next meeting:
None discussed