



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

www.ccmr-wycombe.co.uk | info@ccmr-wycombe.co.uk

Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Wednesday 1st March 2017

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), Helen Byrne, Barbara Lambert, Dr Ramzy, Daniel Sullivan, Andy Smith, Jeffrey Singleton, Shanti Wortmann, Kamalesine K, G Rabbani Shah, Mazhar H Shah, John Bajina, T Abdin, Asmat Mohammed, T Hussain, Imam Shams Tameez, Sajid Ali, Laurence Smy, Jenny Taylor, Anne Bowker, Dr Afzal Ashraf, Farhar Raija, Mohid Nawaz, Mark Macaulay, Maqsood Mir, David Snoxell, Martin Gorick.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all and especially a warm welcome to those joining the CCMR meeting for the first time and the guest speaker.

2. Apologies

John Parry, Prav Liyanage, Simon Crisp, Zafar Iqbal, Riaz Ahmend, Imam Sultan.

3. Statement by CCMR on sermons by three High Wycombe Imams concerning the assassination of the Governor of Punjab Province in Pakistan

A draft statement was circulated at the meeting for discussion and approval. In response to a members question as to why the statement wasn't circulated in advance, the Chairman explained that the draft statement had been issued to the three Imams plus Steve Baker MP as part of 'Maxwellisation' process so that the Imams and the MP would have the opportunity to comment or rectify any factual errors in the statement. By the time of the meeting we had heard from Steve Baker who was quite happy with the statement. However, there had been no feedback from any of the three Imams.

There was a good discussion on the statement. It was agreed to take out the italicized paragraph *'Anyone who kills or threatens anyone else, except in personal self-defence, is disobeying God (Allah). Such a person is not a martyr (Shaheed) but an evil doer. Such evil acts will be punished by God (Allah).'*

The remaining statement was strongly approved as both thoughtful and constructive and the Council gave the go-ahead to consider the next action on it with any necessary minor linguistic corrections in order to improve clarity and precision.

4. Minutes of the last meeting 3rd November 2016

The minutes were approved as presented with the following amendment which was agreed as a

correct position. **Item 5 Think Tank** – “....Ramzy with the help of the Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge. The two sets of 10 principles were then submitted to all members of the CCMR for comments and amendments. The two suggested amendments received were incorporated into the text. The two sets of principles were then submitted to the CCMR where they were adopted.”

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Think Tank

Laurence Smy reported that the card containing the 10 principles of the CCMR was used for the first time at Sir William Ramsay School in their most recent presentation. He went on to say that it had proved an extremely effective tool for articulating the key messages for the young people from joint religious perspectives. We learnt afterwards that there had been a very positive feedback from the parents of a pupil who had taken the statement home and shared it with them.

6. Guest speaker

The Chairman welcomed the guest speaker The Venerable Martin Gorick, Archdeacon of Oxford, who spoke on the topic of blasphemy within a Christian perspective and tradition. The presentation was followed by a very interesting and constructive range of questions and answers.

7. Vote of thanks

The Reverend Hugh Ellis, vice-chair of the CCMR gave an appreciating vote of thanks to Martin for his informative and enlightening presentation.

8. Date of next meeting

No date was set for the next meeting.