



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

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Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Rybak, Toni Brodelle, Nabeel Ashfaq, Raheel Ashraq, Fawfiq Abdin, Aman Ullah Choudhary, Omar Al-Nimmer, Shanthi Wortmann, G Rabbani shah, Chrisitan Puritz, John Bajina, Jenny Taylor, Sadat Khan, Laurence Smy, David Snoxell, Mark Macaulay, Dr Sheikh Ramzy, Muhammed Ilyas, Dr Guyas Siddiqui, Zafar Iqbal, Andy Smith, Khalid Zaheer, Riaz Ahmed, Nazar Hussain, Imam Sultan, Sajid Ali, Tony Dickinson.

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. Shafique paid tribute to Paul Bowen for his wise and steadfast support and assistance to CCMR and its work over a number of years and wished him well for his new role in Oxford. Shafique welcomed PC Andy Smith as Paul's replacement on the CCMR.

2. Apologies

Anouar Kassim, Tony king, John Parry, Simon Crisp, Praveen Liyanage, Daniel Sullivan, Jenny Ellis, Mazhar Shah.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 16th August 2016

These were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

Shafique confirmed that he had circulated a Press Release from the Mosque Committee and a copy of the Summary Investigation Report about the issue of sermons in which the local Imams referred to Mumtaz Qadri as 'Shaheed' (martyr). He went on to explain in some detail that this matter had gone on for some time due to the lengthy investigation procedures and that the Mosque Committee had started considering the recommendations in the report and any actions that may be agreed by the Mosque Committee. As the matter is therefore continuing to be subject to due process, Shafique made it very clear that it will be inappropriate at this stage for the CCMR to discuss the issues involved further in a formal way.

5. Think Tank

Laurence Smy gave an update on the school visits programme including the most recent visit at Sir William Ramsay School accompanied by Dr Sheikh Ramzy from Oxford, representing the Muslim faith. Shafique paid a handsome tribute to Laurence Smy for initiating, developing and successfully completing the script material for use in the schools visit programme. This was done through the Think Tank group with additional support from Dr Sheikh Ramzy and verification from an Islamic scholar in Cambridge University.

6. Guest speaker

Chauhdry Shafique the Chairman introduced the guest speaker and thanked him particularly for not only accepting the invitation at short notice during his visit to the UK from Pakistan but also for agreeing to give a presentation on Blasphemy in Islam, a topic which is of great significance to us locally due to recent circumstances. Due to the nature of the subject matter involving theology and jurisprudence in Islam it is impossible to capture the detail of the content accurately for the purpose of the minutes. However, Dr Khalid Zaheer's scholarly presentation was both clear, thought-provoking and informative. His opening remarks are worth quoting when he began by saying that "there is no punishment for blasphemy in Qur'an or the Sunnah which are the two primary sources of belief in the religion".

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 Dr Khalid Zaheer for his presentation and his trip to the UK.

8. Date of next meeting

No date was set for the next meeting.