



Council for  
**Christian Muslim**  
Relations

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## **Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), Mohammed Azad, Greg Livingstone, John Parry, Tony King, Guyas Siddiqui, Mark Macaulay, David Snoxell, Laurence Smy, Jackie Lock, Helen Byrne, Asmat Mohammed, John Richey, M Ahmed, A D K Raja, M L Raja, Zafar Iqbal, Imam Sultan Mahmmod, Ann Bowker, Tony Dickinson, Sebert Graham, Riaz Ahmed, David Sullivan.

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all.

#### **1. Apologies**

Azher Raja, Steve Clifford, John Bajina, Martin Phillips, Simon Cronk, Jeff Singleton, Karen Johnstone, Levy Santana, Bilal Sheik, Dr Katy Simmons, Sajid Ali.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

The meeting agreed they were a true record of events, with a correction:

- 3 Current Issues – Laurence Smy was asked to draft a press release but not issue it until after the week of collective prayers and worship.

The meeting made comments on the notes that had been circulated with regard to the CCMR workshop. These notes were presented under the following headings:

- What can the Muslim Community do more of to tackle radicalisation of the young Muslims?
- Why do some young people get radicalised?
- What aspects of Islam cause concern in the wider community?

Shafique invited the meeting to consider writing a paper on the points. It was acknowledged that there needs to be a balanced response, not just negative points. The Think Tank group were asked to consider the points raised and report back to the CCMR with a view to writing a position paper possibly for publication. . Zafar Iqbal, Chairman of The Mosque Committee offered for CCMR members to visit the local Mosques to see some of the classes on religious teaching taking place with young people. Those interested should speak with Zafar direct to make the necessary visit arrangements.

### **3. Current Issues**

- The Chair asked Daniel Sullivan to update the meeting on the 'counter terrorism' research project currently taking place with regard to local community profile. He explained that a report had been written by the consultant but that it was not yet available for general distribution. However, in broad terms he said that there were 13 recommendations being made, some general, and some specific. He said that he would bring the final report to CCMR once the WDC has completed its internal review.

- Joint Prayers Initiative. The meeting was given some feedback following the Joint Prayers initiative between Christian and Muslims which were held at The Totteridge Road Mosque and at All Saints Parish Church on 20 December and 22 December 2013 respectively. The events were almost universally deemed to be a huge success with generosity of welcome and spirit within both the Christian and Muslim congregations and the wider community. People understood why an initiative like this was so important in the current national climate. They also felt that in fact there was much greater closeness between the two faiths than they had recognised before. It was suggested that similar initiatives could be done in collaboration with other churches represented on the CCMR.

- Shafique informed the meeting that he himself and Imam Sultan had accepted to participate on a week long course in St George's College, Jerusalem, between 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March. The course is called 'Sharing Perspectives – Muslims and Christians in the Holy Land', and it is being coordinated by Bishop Dr Richard Cheetham – Southwark.

Shafique informed members about a recent report of a major study called 'Youth on Religion' by Professor Nicola Madge of Brunel University. This research was based on a sample of 10,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 from Bradford, Hillingdon and Newham. Its key aim was to understand the relationship between faith, culture and ethnic identity and how they inter-play on a day-to-day basis in the lives of young people. Shafique then explained that he had been in touch with Professor Madge and agreed for her to come and speak to CCMR for a presentation. This will now happen on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

### **4. Committee Matters**

- Think Tank Update – The Think Tank met on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014, and had a very useful meeting discussing John Parry's talk.

- Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer reported that there is a correction from the previous minutes and that is that the Nationwide a/c has not been closed but David Picken will be removed as a signatory and replaced with Hugh Ellis.

**5. Workshop/Discussion** – The topic 'Does the EDL (English Defence League) represent a view particularly with regards to Islam and the Muslim Community that needs to be heard?

There was a brief discussion on this topic but members generally felt that although all kinds of views can be heard but that we need not spend too much time on this subject on this occasion.

Dates of next CCMR meetings – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 10.30am for 11.00am.

Date of next Think Tank Meeting – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 10.30am