



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

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

Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Tuesday 16th July 2015

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), David Snoxell, Mark Macaulay, Martin Davis, Helen Byrne, Tawfiq Abdin, Daniel Sullivan, Tawfiq Abdin, Zafar Iqbal, Amjed Mahand, Nick Andrews, John Bajina, Greg Livingstone, M Raja, Jeff Singleton, Paul Bowen, A Mohammed, Simon Vivien.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all and welcomed the guest speaker Prof. Dr Nayer Fardows, Principal of Edwards College, Peshawar in Pakistan.

2. Apologies

Ann Bowker, Karen Johnstone, Tom Courtenay, Riaz Ahmed. Karen Johnstone is leaving her current post as co-ordinating Chaplain at Bucks New University. In her absence the Chair thanked Karen on behalf of the CCMR for all her help and support of CCMR and wished her well in her new post.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 28th April 2015.

The meeting agreed they were a true record of events.

Matters Arising from these minutes and from the special CCMR meeting on 25th June 2015 –

With reference to the minute that John Parry had offered to liaise with Dr Shabbir Akhtar (Oxford Centre for Christian & Muslim Studies) to look at scriptures from other faiths with a view to identifying common underpinning beliefs and values which would help to support the work of CCMR. Mark Macaulay reported that he himself had been trying to make contact with Dr Shabbir Akhtar, but had not received a response, however he will continue to chase him.

With reference to the special meeting on 25th June 2015 -

The CCMR press release which had been issued in response to the terrorist incidents in France, Kuwait and Sousse Beach, Tunisia was reported in the Bucks Free Press and met with the wholehearted approval of CCMR members as a high quality piece of production. John Bajina reported that it will be put on the front page of the CCMR website.

The meeting reflected on the recent speech by the Prime Minister in Bratislava in which he stressed the need for the Muslim community to do more to root out extremism and radicalisation. However, no

reference was made in his speech to any good work being done across the country. The meeting heard that there had been a strong reaction to the Prime Minister's accusations against the Muslim community and the risk that this will significantly contribute to Islamophobia and the demonization of a whole community and thus this approach was potentially very dangerous for the future of community cohesion. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi was also reported to have shown a strong disagreement with the content and the tone of the speech as well as the fact that it was made in a foreign country.

It was agreed to set up a working party, to develop a consensus around the idea of organising a march and/or a public gathering to protest against so called Islamic terrorism under the banner of 'Not In Our Name'. Laurence Smy kindly agreed to be the co-ordinating chair of this working party. Zafar Iqbal, Chairman of the Mosque Committee agreed to arrange a meeting with the Imams for this purpose.

4. Presentation by the guest speaker

Prof. Dr Nayer Fardows gave an interesting personal account of his life and professional career and emphasised that he had experienced no discrimination or unequal treatment as a Christian citizen of Pakistan which is a Muslim majority country. Following his presentation there was a fascinating and lively discussion from various points of view about the experiences of religious and other minorities in different parts of the world and in particular in Pakistan.

5. Vote Of Thanks

The Vice-Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Dr Nayer for his contribution to the meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged