



Council for
Christian Muslim
Relations

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Council for Christian Muslim Relations (HW)

Thursday 28th January 2016

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Hugh Ellis (Vice-Chair), David Snoxell, Mark Macaulay, Helen Byrne, Daniel Sullivan, Zafar Iqbal, John Bajina, Azma Ali, Asif Sajid (WISE), Stephanie Rybak, Dr Siddiqui, Ann Bowker, Asmat Mohammed, Amjad Mahand, John Richey, Ben Childs, Mazhar H Shah, Ghulam Rabbani Shah, Mohsen Al-Khoei, Greg Livingstone, Barbara Lambert, Awouar Kassim, Paul Bowen, Tony King, Laurence Smy, Sajid Ali, Ghalib Hussain, Imam Sultan.

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 our guest speakers

2. Apologies

Dr Shabbir Akhtar, Riaz Ahmed, Richard Cayzer, Jenny Taylor, Tawfiq Abdin.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 4th November 2015

The meeting agreed they were a true record of events.

Matters arising from these minutes:

'Not in my name' – no date at the moment.

Laurence Smy spoke about the Channel 4 documentary and how well it was put together and presented.

Prevent Training was considered important for the benefit of young people and staff in schools.

Hugh Ellis spoke about the forthcoming meeting known as 'Acting together in Loving Kindness', which will take place on 13th March 2016, 2.45-4.00pm in All Saints.

4. Current Issues

The Chairman's trip to Pakistan proved very fruitful and he spoke about some good networks being further developed and consolidated in Abbotabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore with positive results.

Our partners in Pakistan are very keen to welcome our Christian colleagues to visit them whenever possible.

Louise Casey has visited High Wycombe. Daniel Sullivan helped to co-ordinate the visit and she was scheduled to meet with Shafique (CCMR Chair) and other CCMR members but unfortunately it was not possible on the day due to a mix up in the programme. Through Daniel she offered to speak to the CCMR in due course but again this was also not possible as she has started to write her report.

The new Mosque Committee has recently been elected and new officers appointed to various key positions.

The American Presidential Elections were mentioned in the light of recent comments by Donald Trump regarding banning all Muslims from entering the United States.

5. Think Tank Update

Regarding a meeting of Think Tank with all the Wycombe Imams, it was noted that this was still pending.

Laurence informed the meeting that the visits to schools programme is continuing in good shape and had received a very positive response at Millbrook.

6. Islamic Art Project – there is to be a Unity Interfaith Arts Exhibition, curated by Anouar Kassim, on Saturday 7th May at Bucks New University. This is primarily youth led and will involve many mosques in Milton Keynes and other towns. 5.30pm- 8.30 pm downstairs in the university foyer.

7. Guest Speakers

Shafique welcomed the guest speaker Fuad Nahdi to the meeting and introduced him as the only Muslim to have addressed the Assembly of The General Synod of the Church of England, in addition to his many other achievements in the field of interfaith dialogue and community relationships. Fuad's topic of conversation was '**Understanding Extremism, Embracing Diversity; and Islam in Modern Britain**'. Fuad gave a wide ranging presentation based on his long experience of working in this field through many organisations including governments and NGOs. This was followed by a lengthy and lively discussion and debate in which everybody participated with interest and passion.

8. Vote of Thanks

Hugh Ellis thanked Fuad for his interesting and wide-ranging thoughts and views on issues that are central to the work of CCMR.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th March 2016