



## Great News - LIC Active Across London

### Promoting Dialogue, Understanding & Community Cohesion.

God almighty mentions in the noble Qur-an, “a good word (is) like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches extend to the sky...” (Qur’an Ch 14, V24). So it was that the good work of civic engagement and promoting dialogue, understanding and community cohesion by the Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC) was recognised in a London Borough of East London.

Emulation being the greatest form of flattery, Imam Shakeel Begg of LIC was greatly honoured to be invited on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to host and speak once again about the 5 Pillars of Islam to an audience of school children and their chaperones.

After the Declaration of Faith in Allah (God Almighty) and the Prophethood and message of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be with him always), Imam Begg spoke about that second most important pillar – Salah (prayer) – and the importance and inescapable benefit of this pillar in a Muslim’s life. Predictably however, Imam Begg could not get away from naming that prolific and arguably most famous contemporary Muslim footballer, Mohammed Salah of Liverpool, whose customary “Sujud (prostration)” goal celebration is emblematic of a Muslim’s display of submission to Allah and gratitude to Him in all occasions. Sadly lacking from Imam Begg’s portrayal of Mo Salah was the latter’s fleet of foot, grace and sheer brilliance. We pray Imam Begg doesn’t give up his day job.



A niggling criticism continued to be raised by the LIC media team – notably from those ardent Manchester United supporters – as to why Imam Begg rarely mentions other fellow Muslim Footballers like Paul Pogba, Marouane Fellaini, and even Sadio Mane or Riyad Mahrez? Imam Begg resigned to include Sadio Mane and Riyad Mahrez of Liverpool and Manchester City respectively in future discussions, but said about the other two, “It is difficult for me to reconcile my faith with anything that is connected with ‘Red Devils’!”

Imam Begg and the LIC sincerely thank The Mosque in East London for facilitating another wonderful and successful experience sharing the true principles of Islam and Muslims with our youth, their parents, teachers and staff. We look forward to similar fruitful events as we all carry on the work of maximising society’s shared values to the benefit of all.

**Thank you for reading! Don’t forget to share as much as possible!**

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