

# Lewisham Islamic Centre: Constitution

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## **1 PREAMBLE**

- a) We, as members of Lewisham Islamic Centre, previously known as the Lewisham and Kent Islaamic Centre, and hereinafter referred to as Lewisham Islamic Centre
- b) aspiring to be a community enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah (The Quran, 3:110),
- c) conscious of the injunctions to “Hold fast, all together, to the bond with Allah and be not divided” (The Quran, 3:103) and to “Help one another to virtue and God-consciousness and not to help one another to sin and transgression” (The Quran, 5:2),
- d) hereby adopt this Constitution and pledge to abide by its provisions, and in doing so make the following:

## **2 DECLARATION OF INTENT**

- a) Lewisham Islamic Centre shall be informed and guided by the Quran and the Sunnah in all its aims, policies and procedures.
- b) Lewisham Islamic Centre is an independent body working to promote consultation, cooperation and coordination on community affairs.
- c) Lewisham Islamic Centre is a body working for the common good without interfering in, displacing or isolating any existing work in the community.
- d) Lewisham Islamic Centre is a broad-based, representative organisation of Muslims in the London Borough of Lewisham, accommodating and reflecting the variety of social and cultural backgrounds and outlook of the community.
- e) Lewisham Islamic Centre will base its policies and decisions on consensus and the largest practicable measure of common agreement, taking into account the Islamic Law (*Shariah*)
- f) Lewisham Islamic Centre is a formally constituted body with a system of representation and accountability.
- g) Lewisham Islamic Centre will seek to draw on the talents and specialist skills of individuals and the strengths of organised bodies primarily to meet the great challenges ahead in preparing the case for, and advocating, the responsibilities and rights of Muslims living in Lewisham.

### 3 OUR CREED & METHODOLOGY

- a) We believe that the Quran is the Word of Allah.
- b) We do not declare anyone from the people of the *qiblah* to be a disbeliever on account of a sin (as long as that sin is not a major *shirk* or major *kufir*).
- c) We refute every opposition to the *Sunnah* whatever level this might be and give advice to anyone doing this accidentally.
- d) We judge by the Noble Quran and the Authentic and Purified *Sunnah* in every affair of the affairs of life.
- e) Every issue of *aqeedah* (creed), or *ibaadah* (worship) for which the Book of Allah and the *Sunnah* has not provided a text and upon which the Companions never agreed is falsehood, vain and innovated.
- f) Any methodology which is against the Quran and *Sunnah*, and against the way of the companions, is falsehood, vain and innovated.
- g) We affirm what is established in the Book and the Authentic *Sunnah* in every issue of the issues of *aqeedah* and do not resort to *ta'weel* (figurative interpolation) with respect to any of it. We do not delve into argumentation regarding it in that for which there is no place for the intellect.
- h) We do not argue with the People of Innovations and Desires, nor do we listen to their words or present any of their doubts to others.
- i) We follow the Prophetic *Manhaj* (methodology) which is found in the Quran, the *Saheeh* compilations of Bukhaari and Muslim and the remaining books of the *Sunnah* and the sayings and actions of the first three generations of Islam.
- j) We warn the Muslims from *Shirk* (associating partners with Allah) in all its different manifestations, and from innovations, all strange and false thoughts and rejected and fabricated *hadeeth*.
- k) We strive to bring about the *Jamaa'ah* of the Muslims, uniting their word upon the truth and in the truth.
- l) It is our duty to honour and respect the Scholars, the Senior *Shaikhs* - giving them their due recognition and estimation, taking knowledge from them, refraining from attacking them and their honour and keeping far from causing doubt about their intentions. So do not be a helper to those abandoning the Scholars of the *Sunnah*, and by this action of yours, make the people flee from them, from their lectures and gatherings - and forsake them, leaving them as booty for the *Du'aat* (callers) of political agitation and incitement or leave them neglected as prey for the various parties and groups.

- m) We love the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and we detest everyone who speaks ill about them.
- n) We encourage *Tasfiyyah* (purification of the religion in terms of *aqeedah* and *ibaadah*) and *Tarbiyah* (nurturing and cultivation upon the pure religion) upon the Straight Prophetic Methodology and the guiding understanding of the First three generations of Islam
- o) We speak the truth, not fearing the censure of those who blame and rebuke, and hold on to the Sunnah with the molar teeth amidst all the controversies and differences, till the worship of Allah is established.
- p) All praise is due to Allah. Prayers and peace be upon His Messenger, Muhammad (peace be upon him), his family and his Companions.

### **3.1 Referred Scholars**

In cases of dispute, we refer to the Scholars who take their understanding from the first three generations of Islam. Please see Appendix 1.

## **4 NAME**

The name of the organisation shall henceforth be 'Lewisham Islamic Centre'.

## **5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- a) To promote cooperation, consensus and unity on Muslim community affairs in Lewisham.
- b) To cater for and provide services for Muslims living in Lewisham.
- c) To establish a position for the Muslim community within the Borough of Lewisham that is fair and based on due rights.
- d) To work for the eradication of disadvantages and forms of discrimination faced by Muslims.
- e) To foster better community relations and work for the good of society as a whole.
- f) To advance the education of Muslims (especially children) in accordance with the teaching of Quran and Sunnah.
- g) The relief of poverty

- h) Provision of facilities for education, recreation and other leisure- time occupation for Muslim children resident in the London Borough of Lewisham, of which such children have need by reason of their youth or social and economic circumstances and which will improve the conditions of life for such children by promoting their physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being.

## 6 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organisational structure of Lewisham Islamic Centre shall comprise:

- a) The General Body (**GB**)
- b) The Board of Trustees (**BOT**)
- c) The Majlis-e-Shoura, or Managing Committee (**MS**)
- d) The Sub-Committees (**SC**)

### 6.1 The General Body

- a) This consists of fully paid up members from which the **BOT**, **MS**, and **SC** shall be appointed.
- b) Shall meet with the **MS** in open quarterly meetings to provide consultation on the affairs of the Centre.

### 6.2 The Board of Trustees

- a) The Islamic Centre shall have a maximum number of 6 Trustees who shall be known as the Board of Trustees and who shall consist of those Trustees in office as at the date of adoption of this Constitution, provided that the appointment of any further Trustees shall be by the **MS** from the list of candidates who are collectively nominated by the **BOT** and the **MS**. A minimum of four Trustees and eleven members from the **MS** must agree to the new appointment.
- b) Trustees shall be appointed on the recommendation of the **MS** and discharged or removed by the **MS**. Removing a Trustee will require a Minimum of four Trustees and eleven members from the **MS** to agree. There must be valid Islamic reasons for such a removal such as in contradiction in part or whole of article 3.
- c) The **BOT** shall hold all land of the organisation and may hold any other property of the organisation that the **MS** shall resolve they should hold.
- d) If so authorised or directed by the **MS**, the **BOT** may for the purpose of the objects hereof Purchase, Sell, and invest any property subject to the said Trusts provided always that all investments shall be made in accordance with the *Shariah* and provided further that such investments as have been made shall subsequently be reported to the **MS**.

- e) Any trustee may at any time resign his trusteeship by writing to the *Naib Ameer* (Chairman).
- f) Only such members shall be appointed Trustees who are practicing Muslims, observe the religion as defined above (in article 3.0) and are persons of integrity, utmost honesty and of good character.
- g) The **BOT** shall elect four of their numbers who shall be known as the Managing Trustees and who shall be empowered to sign all legal and other documents on behalf of the Trustees such documents to be signed by not less than 4 Managing Trustees.
- h) A member must have been living within the Community for at least 7 years to qualify as a nominee for the **BOT**.
- i) They must possess adequate management skills, and this will be determined by the remaining active Trustees.
- j) The Members of the **BOT** are liable for collective actions of the **BOT** except any liabilities incurred through individual culpable negligence, default and breach of duty.
- k) The **BOT** holds the ultimate responsibility for meeting LIC's obligations for financial accounting and reporting under the Charities Act 1993 and as set out in Section 9 of this constitution.

### 6.2.1 Meetings

- a) Meetings of the **BOT** shall be held on a written request of not less than four of their Members, and a copy of this request should be given to the General Secretary who shall send notice of such meetings to all Trustees.
- b) The quorum for a meeting of the **BOT** shall be four.
- c) The **BOT** must meet at least once yearly.

### 6.3 Majlis-e-Shoura, or Managing Committee (15 members)

- a) All adult Muslims living in the London Borough of Lewisham, who are registered members and have paid an annual subscription as defined by the *Majlis-e-Shoura* shall be eligible for membership of the *Majlis-e-Shoura*, or Managing Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "**MS**" provided that:
  - b) They are regular worshippers at the Centre.
  - c) They accept that the Imam, teachers and religious education shall be according to article 3.0.

- d) They are Sunnis and not Ahmadies, Shias or Extremists as defined by the Quraan and Sunnah and the statements of the Scholars mentioned in Appendix 1.
- e) If any member of the MS is or has been convicted on indictment of any criminal offence, he shall cease to be a member of the MS.

### 6.3.1 Functions

- a) The **MS** shall be responsible for the efficient and proper functioning of The Islamic Centre, taking into account the best interests of the Muslim community of Lewisham within the folds of Shariah.
- b) Be responsible (along with the **BOT** in part) for the management of the Centre, its properties, insurance (only that which is mandatory by UK Law), and to carry out any other projects of work suitable to the advancement of the objectives hereof, the discharge of any liabilities and expenses, to procure funds and donations, and generally to see to the proper and efficient management of the affairs of the Islamic Centre in consultation with the Subcommittees.
- c) Appoint and dismiss the Imam, religious teachers or any other employees, and determine their remuneration.
- d) Hold open quarterly meetings to consult the community (members of The Islamic Centre) of the affairs of the Centre.
- e) Members of the **MS** are liable for the collective actions of the **MS** except any liabilities incurred through individual culpable negligence, default and breach of duty.

### 6.3.2 Meetings

- a) Meet at least once a month, or as often as summoned by the General Secretary of the **MS** or on such occasions as shall be required by not less than 75% of members of the **MS** who shall sign a requisition and call upon the General Secretary to summon a meeting. Nine members present shall form a quorum for a meeting of the **MS**. The Ameer shall have a casting vote in case of a tie. **MS** meetings shall be called with at least 7 days' notice and an agenda for the meeting, but in case of emergency, the **MS** may hold meetings with at least 24 hours notice.
- b) Any member of the **MS** who misses three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause may be disqualified from attending further meetings if the **MS** passes a motion supported by at least 75% of members declaring that member as disqualified.

### 6.3.3 Office-bearers

- a) The **MS** shall propose (choosing those best suited to fulfill the responsibilities that come with the post), from among its members, the following office-bearers:
  1. The *Ameer* – Chairman
  2. The *Najib Ameer - Imam* or Most Knowledgeable in the Deen
  3. The *Najib Ameer* – One rotating member from among the **BOT**
  4. The General Secretary
  5. The Treasurer
- b) The following posts are subject to change depending on the requirements of Lewisham Islamic Centre at the time, and only require a 75% **MS** approval and 75% **BOT** ratification:
  6. The Building Officer
  7. The Social and Welfare Officer
  8. The IT Officer
  9. The Public Relations Officer
  10. The *Da'wa* and Education Officer
  11. Women's Affairs Officer (to inform in writing to the General Secretary of discussions & issues of concern to women and children)
  12. The Youth Affairs Officer
  13. Nominated Member (Senior Advisors)
  14. Nominated Member (Senior Advisors)
  15. Olive Tree School Representative

### 6.3.4 Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Office Bearers will be as defined by the **MS**.

### 6.4 Sub Committees

- a) Each sub-committee will be headed by the appropriate **MS** member.
- b) The **MS** shall identify tasks and assign those to the sub-committees. The subcommittees shall work on those tasks and produce reports. The Representatives shall present those reports to the **MS** for approval and implementation.
- c) Sub-Committees shall be formed consisting of members who shall assist the **MS**.

- d) Each Sub-Committee shall maintain a record of its proceedings and resolutions in a Minutes Book, and retain copies for the General Secretary.
- e) All Sub-Committees shall meet with the **MS** on a regular basis.
- f) In case there are no suitable candidates from the London Borough of Lewisham available to participate in the Sub Committees , then only under a special directive of the **MS**, other persons from adjoining London Boroughs may participate but must become members (without voting rights) of The Islamic Centre. Under such circumstances, the **BOT** must ratify the decision of the **MS**.

## 7 SELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- a) The Management of the Islamic Centre shall be vested in the 15 members of the **MS**. Its term of office shall be 3 years. At the end of this term **MS** members may offer themselves for re-appointment for a further term of 3 years, based on nominations from within the **MS**. The yearly system will be based on the *Hijri* calendar and the new **MS** shall be established by the 1st of *Muharram* at the beginning of the 3 year tenure. All members shall be volunteers without any remuneration unless otherwise stated.
- b) The **MS**, in their responsible capacity, shall make the selections of members for the new **MS** from the **GB** nominations.

### 7.1 For All Positions

- a) All Nominees and serving members of the **MS** must read and agree to implement the principles in this Constitution if they are selected to office.
- b) The seriousness of the position, what each position exactly entails, and the responsibility to Allah (SWT) that each candidate will have after accepting a position. (*The Prophet (peace be upon him) invited us and we took the oath of allegiance, the oath to obey him in willingness as well as in unwillingness, in difficulty as well as in easiness, and (to be) above our selfishness and that we would not challenge the authority of its rightful holders unless we saw clear kufr for which you have proof from Allah (SWT). Narrated by Ubadah bin al-Samit as an authentic tradition*).
- c) A candidate should not refuse the nomination without valid justification.
- d) Before accepting any nomination, the candidate must read and agree to the duties and responsibilities of that position.
- e) No Nominee or serving members of the **MS** may actively campaign for a position. If they do so, then the **MS** may immediately disqualify them from the Selection. However, Nominators must submit, in writing, two reasons as to why they feel a particular candidate is qualified for a position. (*O Abdur Rahman bin Samarah, never ask for leadership, for if you were given it on asking, you are lost to it. If you are given it without asking you are helped with it. Narrated by Abdur Rahman Bin Samarah as an authentic tradition*), (*I and two of my cousins came to*

*the Prophet (peace be upon him), one of them said, "O Prophet of Allah appoint to us some office entrusted to you by Allah." The other one also said something similar to this. The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied "By God, we will never entrust this job to one who asks for it or aspires to it." Narrated by Abu Musa al-Ashari an authentic tradition).*

- f) All appointments of **MS**, Sub-Committees (**SC**), Trustees (**BOT**), *Ameer* and *Naib Ameer*s shall be made by the **MS** of the Centre at its Special or General Meetings. The *Ameer* shall give 21 days' notice of such a meeting and display the Agenda on the Centre's Notice Board. At the same time he shall invite nominations on the prescribed nomination form for the vacant positions allowing 10 days for their submission. On the 11th day he shall display names of the nominees on the Centre's notice board inviting objections to these nominations allowing 7 days for their submission. The *Ameer*, on receipt of any objection(s), shall forward a copy to the nominee concerned. Appointments shall be made in the meeting of **MS** out of the nominees with nil or least number of valid objections. If there is more than one eligible nominee, the final decision shall be made by the *Ameer* and the two *Naib Ameer*s.
- g) The new appointment shall take effect immediately and any member(s) holding such position(s) shall vacate the same and hand over the charge within 7 days, passing over documents and correspondence that they possess.
- h) It is necessary for the purposes of the Centre's balanced continuity, that the 'old **MS**' will form 40% of the 'new **MS**' which will consist of 60% selected members. The remaining 60% will be selected as outlined in the process above. This is to ensure that the changing of the committees will not adversely affect the community work already underway. The selection of the 40% will be done within the presently running **MS**. It shall be based on performance and nominated by the existing **MS** members and ratified by the **BOT**. Both *Naib Ameer*s and the treasurer shall remain to continue for a second tenure.
- i) In case of resignations during the **MS** tenure, the **MS** shall nominate the most suitable candidate for the vacant position, which shall require an agreement by a minimum of 11 **MS** members and ratified by 4 members of the **BOT**.

## **8 GENERAL FINANCE**

- a) Lewisham Islamic Centre shall be financed by affiliation fees, contributions, donations and funds from other legitimate sources. All monies raised by or on behalf of Lewisham Islamic Centre must be applied to further the aims and objectives of the Islamic Centre and for no other purpose.
- b) That they are expected to treat funds of the Islamic Centre more carefully than they would treat their own and should attempt to keep all expenses at a minimum. It is highly encouraged that all activities be self-supportive if possible.
- c) Any **MS** member who spends money in an emergency situation does so at the risk of not being reimbursed. All individuals involved in the decision process will only be reimbursed after the decision process has been reviewed and accepted by the **MS**.

Anyone who must spend money in an emergency situation must do their best to contact as many **MS** members as possible especially the Chairman and the Treasurer. All **MS** members that consent to the decision to authorize funds share an equal risk in the consequences of the decision. It is imperative that the Chairman and the Treasurer be contacted as soon as possible after the decision has been made. Limited cap for such emergencies is £500.

- d) For general spending, each **MS** member should keep in mind the limited resources available.
- e) The fact that they are spending the Ummah's money.
- f) **MS** members are free to purchase with previously authorized funds (i.e. funds that are allocated to the **MS** during budgeting). It is suggested that **MS** members use their own personal funds for small, approved purchases and then get reimbursed.
- g) Cheques will be kept with the treasurer and another authorized signatory. The Ameer, Naib Ameer (**BOT**), Treasurer, and General Secretary shall be the official signatories.
- h) Each Officer will be responsible for presenting final budgets to the Treasurer at the deadline set by the **MS**.
- i) The **MS** will have authorization to approve all spending and budgets as well as audit all spending.
- j) The annual budget agreed in the **MS** shall be ratified by the **BOT**.

## 9 ANNUAL REPORT AND RETURN AND ACCOUNTS

- 9.1 The Trustees must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 with regard to:
  - a) the keeping of annual accounts for the Charity
  - b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Charity
  - c) the transmission of the statements of account to the Charity
  - d) the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commission
  - e) the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission
- 9.2 Accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Commission, unless the Trustees are required to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions of such a Statement prepared by another body.

## 10 REGULATIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE – JURISDICTION

- a) All members of Lewisham Islamic Centre and other selected representatives shall be subject to this procedure for failing in their duties and responsibilities;
- b) All Members shall be subject to this procedure for bringing the Islamic Centre into disrepute;
- c) All other unacceptable behaviour shall be referred to the **BOT**.

### 10.1 Minor matters: Warnings

- a) The authority and responsibility for issuing disciplinary warnings rests with the **MS**, and the **BOT** must be informed.
- b) A warning may take the following forms:
  - 1. A verbal warning, which may consist of a discussion of the problem. A record of this will be made;
  - 2. A written warning, which shall be copied to the Secretary.
  - 3. The **BOT** is to be informed of the warning;
  - 4. The person being warned must be informed of his rights of appeal

### 10.2 Serious matters: Procedure for disciplinary motions

- a) Motions shall be proposed by a Member of Lewisham Islamic Centre, and seconded by 4 other Members, with names and signatures.
- b) The motion must state clearly the ground of the complaint, including details of parts of the Constitution, Regulations and Policies, which are alleged to have been breached.
- c) The petition shall be handed to the Ameer, **MS** or **BOT** (whichever would be the appropriate authority present), at least seven days before the **MS** meet.
- d) Upon receipt of the motion, the Ameer or **MS** shall inform the **BOT** immediately and take all reasonable steps to inform the person of the motion.
- e) No person shall be subject to more than one disciplinary motion in a single meeting.
- f) The person may be represented by a person of their choice, but not a lawyer acting in a legal capacity. Either person may address the meeting and have full right to reply.

- g) The motion shall be carried by a 75% majority in an open ballot.
- h) Upon the motion being carried, the Ameer shall immediately inform the person of the result. If he is absent, all reasonable steps shall be taken to inform him of the result.
- i) The Ameer shall remind the person of his right to appeal.

### **10.3 Matters of Censure and no confidence**

- a) Motions of censure and no confidence apply only to Lewisham Islamic Centre members, **MS** members and Trustees;
- b) The **BOT** may amend a motion of no confidence (passed by the **MS**) to a motion of censure.
- c) If a motion of censure is passed, the person will be reminded that further action can only take the form of a motion of no confidence.
- d) If a motion of no confidence is passed, the person shall be dismissed immediately.

### **10.4 Motions of suspension, dissolution and expulsion**

- a) Motions of suspension and expulsion apply to members of the **GB**, **MS**, and **BOT**.
- b) The **MS** may amend motions of expulsion and dissolution to a suspension.
- c) A person shall have his privileges of membership withdrawn under this procedure, save that he shall not be unfairly disadvantaged with regards to provision of services or otherwise.

### **10.5 Appeal Procedure**

- a) Any person warned as per the aforementioned may appeal to the **BOT**. Such an appeal must be lodged with the aforementioned 5 days in advance of their meeting.
- b) The **MS** and/or **BOT** may appeal to the Sharia Council (Appendix 01), whose decision shall be final.
- c) Disciplinary motions passed by the **BOT** may be appealed by giving notice to the **MS** within two days. A **MS** meeting must then be petitioned, under the Constitution, within five days. If the **MS** meeting is not successfully petitioned, then the appeal shall fail. The decision of the **MS** meeting shall be final.

## **11 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- a) The Preamble, Declaration of Intent, Our Creed and Methodology of this Constitution **are not subject to amendment under any circumstance.**
- b) The Appendices may be amended and added to meet ongoing community needs. This requires at least 11 **MS** members to agree and 4 **BOT** members to ratify.
- c) The remaining part of the Constitution may only be amended by a special resolution of all paid members (comprising a minimum of 75% total membership), and requiring 75% of the **MS** and 75% of **BOT** to agree.

### **11.1 Dissolution**

- a) The organisation known as Lewisham Islamic Centre may be dissolved by a special resolution of the **GB** of all members and a resolution that shall oblige the office-bearers expeditiously to realise all the assets of Lewisham Islamic Centre, to pay all debts and liabilities, and to donate any surplus funds to a registered charity which supports Islamic causes with similar views as those outlined in item 3.0 above. This is to be ratified by the **BOT**.

### **11.2 Interpretation and Promotion**

- a) The decision of the **MS**, the **BOT**, and the Sharia Council (Appendix 1), on the interpretation of any clause contained in this Constitution shall be final and based on the Quran and Sunnah as described in item 3.0 above.
- b) The **MS** may endeavour to promote this constitution to other communities and offer advisory assistance in setting up a balanced structured organisation for their communities. The key principle for this, is that the communities are well represented and will not suffer from any abuse of power by any individual in their respective **MS**. This will also enable all our communities to have a consensus in organizational structure.

### **11.3 Constitution Ratification**

- a) Finalised on Wednesday, February 6, 2005 by the Majlis-e-Shoura
- b) Ratified on Thursday, April 7, 2005, by the terms in item c) below.
- c) As per the previous constitution, a special meeting consisting of not less than 75% of the total membership can amend this constitution, and which requires approval by 2/3rds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. It is henceforth effective from the date in item 10.3b above.

#### 11.4 Acceptance

- a) We, the undersigned servants of Allah, The Most Merciful, and Most Beneficent, acting as the official representatives of Lewisham Islamic Centre, hereby declare on this day, Wednesday 25th of February 2004, that this document sets forth the organizational guidelines of this local community and shall hence be considered the principal governing law of Lewisham Islamic Centre. This document was adopted by the written *shoura* of the General Body and was approved by over 75% of members present.
  
- b) All serving **MS** members have read and signed their agreement to uphold this constitution and to perform their respective roles and responsibilities, and remember that The Almighty oversees everything that we do and say.

## **12 ACCEPTANCE SIGNATORIES OF THE SERVING COMMITTEE ON THIS CONSTITUTION**

Brother Imam Shakeel Begg, IMAM  
020 8695 5574/ 07939443517  
shakeelbeg@mail.com

Brother Ghulam Shabbir, CHAIRMAN  
020 8859 2925/ 07789510108  
gshabbir@aol.com

Brother Mohammed Kroessen, GENERAL SECRETARY  
020 8299 3309/ 07752811397  
Communications@muslimaid.org

Brother Sameel Meer, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY  
020 8698 6859/ 07956825277  
sameelmeer@yahoo.com

Brother Jaafar El-Murad, MEDIA RELATIONS  
020 7652 4186/ 07799534899  
muradj@westminster.ac.uk

Brother Aziz Siddiqui  
020 8461 1253  
siddiqui.family@ntlworld.com

Brother Ameenuddin Meer, TRUSTEE  
020 8244 3533/ 07989463362  
ameenmeer@freeuk.com

Sister Dr. Sabiha Saleem, TRUSTEE  
020 8467 2764/ 07855788316

Brother Mohammed Chaudhry, TRUSTEE  
00966501196448  
iamabusaalim@yahoo.com

Brother Yusuf Assiddiq (Joseph Brown) DA'WA & EDUCATION OFFICER  
07859 047027/ 020 8297 1487  
yassiddiq@hotmail.com

Brother Zahid Begg  
020 8297 1830/ 07733 430509  
beggco@aol.com

## **APPENDIX 1 – REFERRED SCHOLARS**

### **Renowned Scholars of our Generation**

It should be noted that these scholars cover issues that concern our present 3 – 4 generations, and hence are seen as only for reference purposes. We expect that in the future there will be other scholars who will equally become renowned and hence will be references for those generations. Our Current renowned Scholars, (who clearly take their understanding from the first three generations of Islam) and whom we refer to, are:

- a) Shaykh Abu 'Abdullaah Shaykh 'Abdul-'Azeez ibn 'Abdullaah ibn 'Abdur-Rahmaan Aal-Baaz (died on Thursday 27 Muharram 1420 A.H./May 13 1999 C.E. May Allah (Subhaanahu wa Ta'aala) have Mercy upon his soul, aameen)
- b) Shaykh Abu 'Abdullaah Muhammad ibn Saalih ibn Muhammad ibn 'Uthaymeen at-Tameemee an-Najdee (died on Wednesday 15 Shawwaal 1421 A.H. / 10 January 2001 C.E. He was 74 years of age. May Allah (subhaanahu wa ta'aala) have Mercy upon his soul, aameen)
- c) Shaykh Muhammad Naasiruddeen al-Albaanee (died on Saturday 22 Jumaadaa ath-Thaanayah 1420 A.H. / 2 October 1999 C.E. He was 87 years of age. May Allah (Subhaanahu wa Ta'aala) have Mercy upon his soul, aameen)

### **Referred Scholars in the Local Community**

Our Current Local Scholars, (who clearly take their understanding from the first three generations of Islam) and to whom we refer, are:

- a) Dr Suhaib Hasan (Secretary of the UK Sharia Council). It should be noted that present and living scholars will always be in need of guidance and hence their state may change – may Allah protect them and keep them steadfast on the Haq (truth). They will therefore always be under review to ensure adherence to the creed and methodology as presented in this constitution, which is the primary defining guideline.