

THE MUSLIM WOMAN

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Membership of The Muslim Women's Association is open to all Muslim Women.
Membership Fees
 (which includes the subscription to "The Muslim Woman")

UK £10.00 Abroad £15.00
 Life Membership
 UK £80.00 Abroad £100.00

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THE EXECUTIVE

FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1993 TO NOVEMBER 1995

1. President Mrs. Khanam Hassan	5. Social Secretary Mrs. Firdous Arif
2. Secretary Ms. Khadija Knight	6. Treasurer Mrs. Ghanivat Hoodless
3. Assistant Secretary Mrs. Shafqat Ghaffar	7. Editor Dr. Zubeda Osman
4. Membership Secretary Ms. Shirin Hassan	8. Religious Advisor Mrs. Gul Amin

H a d i t h

"I am leaving two things among you after my death. If you stick to them firmly, you will never go astray from the right path. One is the Qur'an and the other is my Sunnah."

Articles, letters and other matter appearing in this publication do not necessarily express the official views of the Executive Committee of the Muslim Women's Association.

Meetings of the MWA take place on the second Saturday of each month

EDITORIAL

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
 Assalaam-o-Alaikum

Allah has sent his message through our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to announce glad tidings to those who believe and do good works according to His teachings that for them are gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will have all the fruit they wish for, and beautiful companions, and there they shall abide forever. However, they will have to work hard on this earth to attain this reward, and sometimes they will have to make great sacrifices.

Today's Muslims are beginning to realise how hard they have to work and, how much they will have to sacrifice. It is gratifying to see the Muslims of today beginning to awake from a long sleep of apathy and unbelief. At last the truth is becoming visible through the mists and fogs of corruption that seemed to have engulfed them for so many centuries.

Today's Muslims, men and women, and also young people, are starting to mobilise towards the betterment of their fellow beings. Some are teaching and preaching Islam, some are trying to become good Muslims themselves, and some are forming organisation that are charitable, and help the poor and needy, and only Allah knows how many poor and needy there are in this world. The Muslim Women's Association was formed in this country nearly thirty years ago,¹ and from that time members have worked towards the establishment of charitable deeds especially for the care of homeless children. Our project was geared towards the buying of a childrens' home which we did thirteen years ago, and called it Madina House. In this home nearly four hundred children have been looked after and placed in foster homes or returned to their parents. We now need funds urgently to buy a bigger place, and refurbish the present place for conversion into flats. We need to raise at least £300,000.

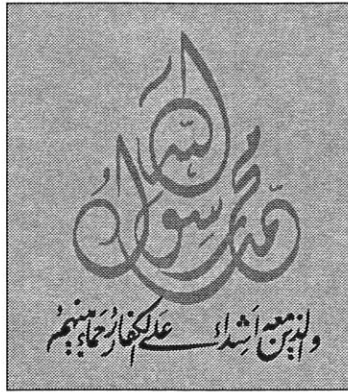
Please, readers, and members, the Muslim Women's Association requests you to give generously to this project, not only money, but ideas for fundraising as well. Please write to the Editor or other members of the Executive Committee, and send in your contributions as soon as possible. Remember time is short and we are being given a chance to work for the reward that Allah has promised us in the hereafter.

May Allah guide us all in His kind and generous way. Ameen

Dr Zubeda Osman

¹ The MWA was established in 1962, in other words, 32 years ago.

MILAD AL-NABI



The Anniversary of the Birth of the greatest benefactor of mankind, the last Prophet and final Messenger of Allah, is being celebrated on 12th Rabi al-Awwal by Muslims all over the world. While congratulating the Ummah on this auspicious occasion, "may we remind our brothers and sisters"¹ the necessity of moulding our lives in accordance with the teachings and exemplary life of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) who came as Saviour of mankind and Mercy for the whole creation.

Due to our deviation and misdeeds, the Religion of Islam is misunderstood and misrepresented everywhere. It is the duty of the Ummah, and especially of religious scholars and leaders, that misunderstandings and apprehensions are removed and Islam portrayed in its pristine purity.

The Muslim World, number 8, August 1994.

1. Original wording: 'The Muslim World' weekly would like to remind our brethren the necessity ...

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

A PERSONAL VIEW BY FAWZIYA SHIMALI

Not so long ago, we loaded up the car with kids and luggage and headed off into the sunset ... Our mission: to explore and suss out a possible new life elsewhere. For many reasons, the place where we had been living was getting us down, and we decided it was time to see if the grass really was greener elsewhere.

Of course, it's never quite as easy as that for us mere mortals with our set routines. We may have been in a rut, but ruts are comfortable and at least you know where you are. But after a couple of days, I began to feel very depressed. We had left a house for a flat in a block (at least it wasn't a high-rise!); we had moved from a sometimes-quiet suburb to a frantic city-centre; and we had exchanged a fairly easy-to-navigate town with ample parking for a city with a devilish one-way system ...

On top of that, the flat wasn't exactly childproof, the beds were uncomfortable, the fridge was miniscule and there was a revolting smell emanating from the sink. The kids were fractious, going stir-crazy in the flat, refusing to settle easily at bedtime, and demanding to know when we were going "home".

We hadn't quite burned our boats yet - we could still scuttle back to the place we had come from, back to the friends we missed, the schools and streets and shops we knew. After all, better the devil you know ...

But wasn't this the coward's way out? Where was our get-up-and-go? It may prove to be the easy way out - for now. There were several reasons for this "mini Hijra", and the more I thought about it, the more I realised that we had to stay put and get to grips with the new situation.

Islam doesn't tell us that Hijra is easy. If we read between the lines of history, we can see that Hijra may very well be a screaming tearing-up of one's roots.

Most of us have an attachment to "home", wherever it is and however imperfect it may be. Those of us who move to new places will sooner or later get used to the new place and put down roots there. The longer we stay, the more attached we get.

But I began to realize that this is not necessarily an altogether good thing. Whilst we need to be a part of, and contribute to, the society around us, we should always be prepared to be adaptable and flexible. Who knows when we may need to move elsewhere? Recent history should teach us that it's all too possible. After all, we could be a lot worse off; at least this move had been more or less our own choice, we spoke the language, we knew the ropes and we were all together. No war, persecution, death or famine had stalked us or driven us out. What was I complaining about? So I've decided to stick it out, lumpy beds, stinky sinks, freaky traffic and all. It's good training for all of us, children included. They will have broader horizons, and feel the excitement of discovering new places and new friends. Unlike their parents, who each remained in one town until adulthood, and thus found the shock of a new place quite overwhelming, they will have had the experience of discovering and adapting to new situations. This, I believe, will enrich their lives, in shah Allah.

Meanwhile, we grown-ups can hope to meet new people too. We can find out what happens beyond the confines of our former rut, and maybe too we'll have something to offer from our own experiences. In sha' Allah it will be an interesting time for all of us.

USRA, number 64, July 1994.

POETRY:

MIRACULOUS POWER OF FAITH

Not sword nor artifice prevail in slavery,
But before the man of faith the bondage-chains fall off.

Who can assess the strength of his right arm
Whose glance can change the very course of fate?

Sainthood, dominion, world-embracing knowledge,
What are all these but the subtleties of faith?

Abraham's insight we but hardly gain,
For furtive lusts within our hearts alluring pictures paint.

Each thing in essence is the same, be it light or dust;
The sun's blood will flow if the atom's heart be rent.

Firm faith, a constant striving and world conquering love,
These are men's weapons on the battlefield of life.

The wealth of nations lies in man's faith,
This power alone can shape the nation's fate.

Man's faith is the rock for nation's building
Man's faith is the architect of its destiny.

by Allama Muhammad Iqbal

On the occasion of the Birthday of
THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD



MWA SIRAH CELEBRATIONS

Saturday 10th September 94
4.30 pm

Islamic Cultural Centre
146 Park Rd. London NW8

Opening Recitation of Qur'an -
President's Address -
Young Speakers -

Main Speaker -
Qur'anic Recitation -
Naat -

Song of Welcome for the Prophet (swas)

Salaam -

Introductions -

The Imam and Miss Fidan
Mrs Khanam Hassan
Miss A Ansari
Miss M Arif
Mr Umar Hegedüs
Master S al-Ghamdi
Mrs S Sherif
Mrs F Kazmi
Dr S Iqbal
Miss M Khan
Miss A Muhammad
Everyone to join in

Mrs K Knight

KITCHEN TALK

BLACKBERRY AND APPLE PEARS

SERVES 4

Ingredients:

4 firm pears, washed
4 tsp lemon juice
1 x 7 1/2 oz/213g can blackberries in natural juice, drained
1 Bramley apple, cored and chopped
pinch of ground cinnamon

Method

1. Preheat oven to Gas 4, 350° F, 180° C.
2. Core pears and slice in half lengthwise. Sprinkle cut side with 2 tsp lemon juice to prevent browning.
3. Carefully mix together remaining ingredients and lemon juice. Pile into centre of each pear half.
4. Place pear halves, stuffed side up, in a baking dish and pour in 1/2 pt/300 ml water. Bake for 15-20 mins until just softened.
5. Drain and serve hot accompanied by low-fat natural fromage fraise or a can of low-fat custard.

Tip - frozen blackberries can be used instead of canned.

FRUITY RICE DESSERT

SERVES 4

Ingredients:

1 x 15 oz/425 g can low-fat rice pudding
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg or mace
1 x 14 1/4 oz/411 g can unsweetened apricot halves in fruit juice, drained.

Method:

1. Lightly mix all the ingredients together.
2. Fold into four dessert bowls to serve.

Tip - try canned peaches and raspberries or canned pineapple and kiwi fruit.

Tip - add grated lemon rind for some extra flavour, with a sprinkling of muesli or toasted oat flakes on top.

The Muslim Women's Association (U.K.)

Headquarters London

Registered Charity No. 264608

Date

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear

Your yearly MWA-Membership (which includes the subscription to "The Muslim Woman") was due for renewal on January 1994.

We trust you have enjoyed the past meetings/functions and the "Muslim Woman". We look forward to your renewal of membership and request you kindly to pay the fee of £10.00 within the next thirty days.

Please fill in the form below and send it together with your payment to our Membership Secretary. Thank you for your continuous support.

P.S. Perhaps you would like to consider becoming a Life Member. Life Membership subscription is still only £80 (£100 for Overseas).

----- cut and post -----

To:

Membership Secretary
Shirin Hassan, 63 Coombe Lane, London, SW20 0BD
(Tel: 081-946 1052)

In order to renew my Membership of the Muslim Women's Association (U.K.) and the subscription to "The Muslim Woman", I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order for £10.00 payable to the "Muslim Women's Association (UK)".

Title (Dr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., other) First Names

Surname

(PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS)

Address: Street

Town County Postal Code

Country

Telephone number Date

3. Hijaz University - A one day meeting/luncheon party was held on Sunday, 4th September 1994 to celebrate the most exciting project of the decade for the Muslims: the establishment of the first ever Islamic University in the Western World. For further information regarding this project please contact: Faiz Siddiqi, Watling Street, Nuneaton, CV11 6BE, Tel: 0203 444504, Fax: 0203 455118.

4. Sirah Celebrations

Sat 10th Sept 94

Islamic Cultural Centre
146 Park Rd. London NW8
From 4.30 pm

Opening Recitation of Qur'an -
President's Address -
Young Speakers -

The Imam and Miss Fidan
Mrs Khanam Hassan
Miss A Ansari
Miss M Arif
Mr Umar Hegedüs
Master S al-Ghamdi
Mrs S Sherif
Mrs F Kazmi
Dr S Iqbal
Miss M Khan
Miss A Muhammad
Everyone to join in

Song of Welcome for the Prophet (swas)

Salaam -

Introductions -

Mrs K Knight

Proposed Programme

Would all members note - please arrive by 3.30 pm.

Refreshments - Mrs K Mustapha - table supplies
Mrs F Arif - pakora
Mrs Y El Essawi - tea etc
Dr Z Osman - soft drinks
Mrs Bashir - samosas

Donations of sandwiches, cakes and sweets are welcome.



MWA BUSINESS - AUGUST 1994

1. MWA Business - August 13 1994

Khadija Knight

The meeting was opened with a recitation from Qur'an by Mrs Saida Sherif.

Apologies were received from Mrs Gul Amin and Mrs Bashir.

The meeting was addressed by Mrs Saida Sherif who showed photographs related to her work in Bosnia. She is teaching English in the mosque to children and to adults in the evening. From the pictures members were able to see for themselves how beautiful the country is and how much damage has been done. Mrs Sherif told us how much help was needed for the people there and how much being needed to know about Islam. She reminded us that if we Muslims don't act we will find that all the beautiful lands are being taken away from us.

The President Mrs Hassan thanked her and urged us all to contribute to those in need in Bosnia and Rwanda. She also thanked the member who gave £500 for Madina House.

Problems have occurred with delay in members receiving the magazine. Mr El-Droubie has kindly suggested that he will dispatch them from source which will undoubtedly speed things up.

The main item of business concerned the programme for the annual Milad al-Nabi meeting to be held on September 10th from 5 - 7.30.

There was discussion about the choice of speaker and young peoples involvement. We will cater for 300 - 400 people therefore all refreshments will be finger food. All committee members can be contacted about donations of food, money, and offers of help.

Please, bring your family and friends to keep the knowledge of love of our beloved Prophet alive and thriving in 21st Century Britain.

The meeting closed with Dua from Mrs Sherifa Sherif after some discussion about Women's role for the future of the Muslim community arising from Dr Ahmed's talk on the 10th Aug. Members agreed that Islam empowered women to take an active role in society.

2. Reminder

If your subscription is due, please fill the renewal form on page 9 and send with your remittance to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. Thank you.
S. Hassan

Continued from page 10

Front Cover Picture

"And Surely thou hast sublime morals" Sura al-Qalam, Aya 4
Design taken from Zukhruf Clip Art software published by Minaret House, Croydon.