

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
Held in the Islamic Council of Europe
at 1730 Hours on July 22, 1987.

Present

Mr. Salem Azzam (in Chair)	Islamic Council of Europe
Dr. M. Anwar	Commission for Racial Equality
Mr. M. Aslam	Cllr.
Dr. Z U Khan	Pakistan Welfare Organisation
Mr. Shuja Sheikh	Cllr.
Mr. Ebrahimsa Mohammad	Islamic Council of Europe
Mr. Tanzim Wasti	U.K. Islamic Mission
Mr. S.M. Ali	Islamic Council of Europe

Apologies

Cllr. Abdul M. Khokhar sent his apologies for his inability to attend.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman said that for quite sometime the Islamic Council of Europe had been concerned that the U.K. Muslim community did not have the political voice and influence commensurate with its size. As a result, it was unable to stand up for its legitimate rights and influence policies and decisions which affected it directly. He attributed the situation to the fact that a sizeable proportion of the Muslim community had not registered as voters and by and large the community did not fully appreciate the importance and advantages of its active participation in politics at the national and local levels. He said that the registration of maximum number of eligible Muslims as voters was the inescapable first step to remedy the situation.

The Chairman said that the Preparatory Committee, which met early in July, had requested members of the Steering Committee to give their recommendations concerning the name of the campaign, its aims and objectives, and the best way to launch and run it. Accordingly, Dr. M. Anwar and Cllrs. Shujah Sheikh and M. Aslam had sent papers containing their recommendations to the Council. A summary of these was prepared by the Council and distributed to the

members of the Committee during the meeting. The Chairman invited members present to give their views. After discussions relating to the aforementioned recommendations, the following decisions were taken by the Committee.

1. Name

The Name of the Campaign shall be: "Muslim Electoral Registration Campaign".

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the campaign shall be:

- a) To encourage Muslims in Britain to register on the electoral rolls.
- b) To foster greater political awareness amongst Muslims and to enable them to participate in the political affairs at local and national levels.

3. Organisation

- a) The Campaign shall be organised under the auspices of the Islamic Council of Europe.
- b) The Secretary General of the Islamic Council of Europe shall be campaign organizer and shall chair the Campaign Committee.
- c) The Campaign Committee shall comprise a maximum of 21 members invited by the campaign organizer. However, subject to the agreement of the Campaign

Committee, the membership may be increased by the Campaign Organiser.

4. Methods and Means

To achieve the aims of the Campaign, the Campaign Committee shall make use of the following:

- a) Meetings, conferences, seminars etc.
- b) Newsletters, leaflets, posters, ethnic minorities', (espeicially Muslim) press, ethnic minorities' radio and T.V. programmes etc.
- c) Mosques, Muslim Organisations and bodies
- d) Non-Muslim organisations to be kept informed about the aims and activities of the campaign.
- e) Parliament, Law Centres, Community Relations Councils and local authorities.

5. Membership of the Committee

It was agreed that the following would be members of the Muslim Electoral Registration Campaign Committee:

- i) Mr. Salem Azzam (Chairman)
- ii) Mr. S.M. Ali
- iii) Dr. M. Anwar
- iv) Cllr. Abdul M. Khokhar
- v) Cllr. M. Aslam
- vi) Cllr. Shuja Sheikh
- vii) Mr. Tanzim Wasti
- viii) Mr. Moinuddin Chaudhry.

It was decided that the members listed at iii through viii above, shall recommend names for nominations to the membership of the Committee by the Chairman. The persons recommended should be committed Muslims, dedicated to the cause, and preferably be belonging to organisations and bodies.

6. Leaflets & Letters

It was decided that Mr. Shujah Sheikh shall draft a letter for M.Ps and a leaflet for general distribution to the Muslim community and forward them to the Islamic Council for distribution under a covering note by the Chairman.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee shall be held in the Islamic Council at 1800 hours on August 10, 1987.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

S. Muhammad Ali

S.M. Ali

London

July 23, 1987

Distribution

Mr. Salem Azzan (2) Dr. M. Anwar (3) Dr. Z.U. Khan
(4) Cllr. Shujah Sheikh (5) Cllr. M. Aslam
(6) Cllr. Abdul M. Khokhar (7) Mr. M. Chaudhry
(8) Mr. Tanzim Wasti.