

The Muslim Woman

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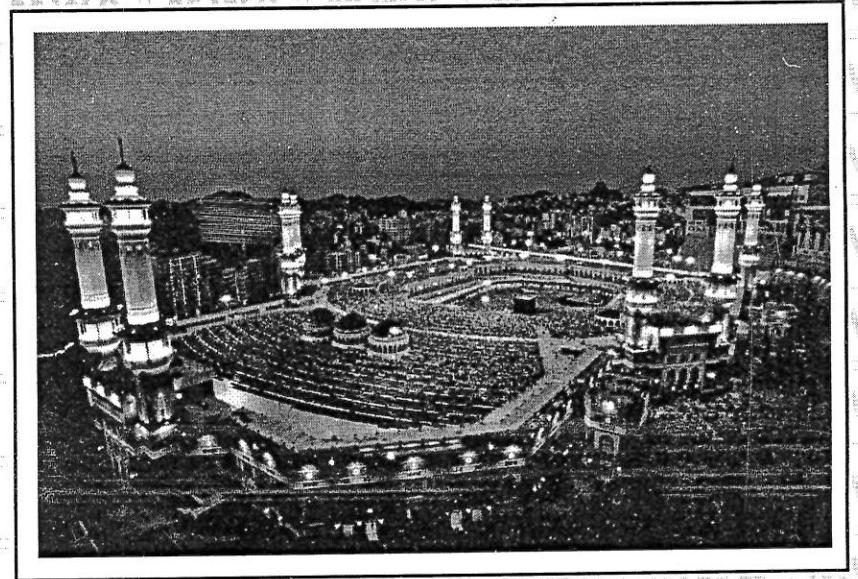
60078 Frankfurt/Main

The MUSLIM WOMAN

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عيد مبارك



Eid MUBARAK

OUR CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

All Correspondence should be sent to our new address
The Muslim Women's Association
P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG



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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 & COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1997 TO NOVEMBER 1999

1. President Mrs. Khanam Hassan	6. Treasurer Mrs. Shafghat Ghaffar
2. Secretary Mrs. Kanza Shah	7. Editor Dr. Zubeda Osman
3. Assistant Secretary Miss Swadeka Ahsun	8. Assistant Editor Mrs. Jasmine Ansari
4. Membership Secretary Ms. Shirin Hassan	9. Religious Advisors Mrs. Souraya Youssef
5. Social Secretary Mrs. Firdous Arif	

EID UL ADHA DINNER

SUNDAY 12th April 1998
at The Islamic Cultural Centre
146 Park Road, London NW8 7RG
Time: 6.30 for 7 pm

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P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG

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 Sunday of each month

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TEAM SPIRIT !

A major obstacle in our teamwork is the pervasive feeling that unless we agree with a person 100%, we cannot work with him or her. Since this does not exist in reality, we find that very few groups among us are working harmoniously. In the majority of cases, one person dominates and dictates his way of thinking and approach on the group. Our institutions are victims of one-man management styles. No nation can progress with this kind of mentality. We have to realize that each person is different. We have about 90% areas of common agreement among ourselves. We should make these agreements the foundation of our cooperation. Today we make the 10% of difference a strong foundation for our disunity.

Moreover, nobody is perfect. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. We should focus on points of strength and put aside points of weakness. This way the dynamic equation of the total group effort becomes the sum of all individual strengths — a very powerful resultant force indeed.

Remember that we shall not find the excellent worker or leader who is devoid of all shortcomings. If we think that someone has it all, it means that we have not yet discovered the negative sides of his personality!

We have to generate a new attitude within ourselves, one which focuses on the strengths of our brothers and sisters, and then work with them and complement them to minimize their weaknesses. Such an attitude is a necessary condition for team spirit and group work.

The single most important deficient aspect of Islamic work in the fourteenth *hijri* century was TEAM SPIRIT!

Team spirit requires much more than knowledge, sincerity, dedication, and sacrifice. It is nourished by a much higher level of understanding, appreciation, and *hikmah* (wisdom). It functions among individuals who are able to sacrifice their own personal differences and learn how to work with others effectively. When we attain team spirit, we can herald the onset of a true modern Islamic civilization. Nothing can stop it then! It will only be a matter of time, because the blessings and mercy of Allah are with the team-spirited brothers and sisters!

THE EVER-LIVING AND THE SELF-SUBSISTING

These two beautiful Names of Allah Taatla were mentioned together in the Qur'an: "Allah, None has the right to be worshipped but He, The Ever-Living, The Self-Subsisting. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep,"[2:255]

The first thing one should know about the name Al-Ha'yee, the Ever-Living, is that Allah's Life does not resemble the life of any of His creation. It is a Life that is suitable and compatible to Him being the Creator of Life itself, the Eternal, and Whose existence has neither a beginning nor an end. Allah, the Exalted, says: "And put your trust in the Ever-Living Who dies not." [25:58] The meaning of the name Al-Qayoom, The Self Subsisting, entails that everything in this universe and in this life is in need of Allah's Subsistence, but He is in need of nothing. Allah has given everything its being, existence and ail that it needs to sustain life, but for Him, the very act of existence is His essence. Together, these two names, mean that Allah Has absolute control and power over everything. He has created everything in life by ordering it to 'be, and it was'. However, it would be a mistake for us to think that Allah did that, then let it continue according to certain laws (physical and otherwise) such that nothing in it can change.

Although things in the universe seem to run perfectly smooth, Allah actually changes these laws whenever and for whoever He wishes. We should not rely on the causes and laws and forget about Who Has full control of them.

Allah Says, "To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows female (offspring) upon whom He wills, and bestows male (offspring) upon whom He wills. Or He bestows both males and females and He renders barren whom He wills." [42,49-50] If one can not have children and has tried all medicine available but to no avail, one should not loose hope, for Allah, Al-Hatyee and A-IQayoom is always there; He neither slumbers nor sleeps; He listens and controls all things. He has directed us to seek Him when in need even for things that seem impossible. When facing a problem that seems to have no solution, just remember the story of prophet Ibrahim alayhes salam.

EID UL ADHA DINNER

OUR ANNUAL EID DINNER
WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY
12th APRIL 1998

at

THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE
146 PARK ROAD, LONDON NW8 7RG

TIME
6.30 pm for 7 pm

Tickets:
Adults: £5.00
Children: £2.50

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE MCB

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) held its first General Assembly Meeting in Wembley, at Brent Town Hall on 1 March 1998. The Muslim Women's Association joined the MCB early this year and two delegates, Jasmine Ansari and Karima Mustafa were asked by the President, Mrs. Hasan to represent the MWA at the conference. The purpose of the MCB meeting was to elect a central working committee from over 200 delegates that were present. The working committee is made up of 51 members, and one of our members is on the working committee, because the MWA is one of the national organizations affiliated to the MCB.

The MCB is acting as an umbrella organization, and aims to provide a forum for Muslim bodies in the UK on important issues that affect us all i.e. youth, education, the elderly, etc. The aims and objectives of the MCB are in the constitution and the meeting adopted the resolutions in order to implement these aims. The six resolutions are listed below:

1. Encouraging and strengthening all existing efforts being made for the benefit of the Muslim community
2. Establishing a position for the Muslim community within British Society *that is fair and based on due rights* and working for the eradication of disadvantages and forms of discrimination faced by Muslims
3. Working for a more enlightened appreciation of Islam and Muslims in the wider society, and fostering better community relations & working for the good of society as a whole
4. Promoting cooperation, consensus and unity on Muslim affairs in the UK
5. Establishing a position for the Muslim community within British society *that is fair and based on due rights*
6. Encouraging and strengthening all existing efforts being made for the benefit of the Muslim community

Continued from page 7

KITCHEN TALK

CARAMEL CUSTARD

You will need ...

For the Caramel:

- 3 oz. granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons water

For the Custard:

- 4 eggs
- 1 pint milk
- 1-1/2 oz. castor sugar
- few drops of vanilla essence.

Preparation Time:

15 minutes

Oven Setting:

33 centigrade.

Gas Mark: 3

Serve for 4-6 people.

Put granulated sugar into a heavy pan with water and dissolve without boiling. When it has dissolved, bring the syrup to boiling point and boil until it is golden brown. Pour the caramel into dariole moulds and make sure the bases are evenly covered. When cool, butter sides of moulds.

Blend together eggs and castor sugar. Warm milk, then pour it on to egg mixture. Mix well and add a few drops of vanilla essence. Strain the custard into the moulds. Place moulds in a meat tin half filled with hot water. Bake in a very moderate oven for about one hour or until a knife inserted in the centers comes out clean.

Leave the custards in a cold place overnight before turning out on to a flat serving dish.

QUICK TIP

When baking the custard do not cook too quickly or there will be bubbles in the mixture. Turn out just before serving, having left it in the refrigerator for at least 12 hours so that the moist custard has fully dissolved the caramel.

Continued from page 6

The resolutions above are broad and provide a framework for the working committee. The office bearers i.e. Secretary General, Deputy and Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer can only hold their positions for 2 years and can not be re-elected to the same office for more than one consecutive term. In this way the organization will avoid the possibilities of being driven by personalities or one ideological school of thought.

Karima Mustafa, who is a teacher by profession will inshallah voice our concerns in future MCB meetings particularly pertaining to the youth - an area which has always been very important to the MWA.

Jasmine Ansari



”لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تَحِبُّونَ وَ مَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ

“You shall not attain righteousness unless you spend on others of that which
you love, and whatever you spend, verily God has knowledge of it.”
(The Qur'an 3:92)

MADINA HOUSE

دار المدينة

✂

From _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

I would like to make a donation/Zakat and enclose a cheque for
the amount of £ _____ payable to Muslim Women's
Association 'Account Madina House'.

To be send either to:
THE PRESIDENT,
MWA, P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG

or direct to:
The National Westminster Bank, Royal Garden Branch,
Kensington High Street, London W8 5EQ (Acc no 25941364;
Sort Number 50-30-10).

MADINA HOUSE

**A Muslim Home for Children
in Need of Care in London**

AN APPEAL

MADINA HOUSE is a Muslim home for children in need of care,
established in 1981 under the auspices of the Muslim Women's
Association (a registered charity which has been functioning since
1962).

From its inception the organisers worked closely with the Department
of Health and Social Security and all other Social Services Agencies
in order to comply with the current guidelines on the running of
Children's Homes. Subsequently Madina House was registered by the
Department of Health & Social Security under the Child Care Act.

Aim - The main aim of Madina House is to provide an alternative
home for children who for whatever reason, are temporarily unable to
live with their parent/s. At Madina House we provide a stable, caring
background, founded on Islamic principles and practices. Since its
founding we have cared for over 400 children.

The present home does no longer comply with today's regulations and
we have been asked to find more suitable accommodation. Thus, we
are in desperate need of finance to buy an appropriate building. Failing
to do so, the future of Madina House is in question.

Please help us by giving generously to continue to care for our children
in need.

Donations, whether by Cheques or Banker's Orders would be greatly
appreciated.

POETRY

THEIR GUNS DO ROAR*

O my Lord! Their guns do roar
While tears of grief my eyes do pour
My brother, father, lying still
Slain for bowing to Your Will.

O my Lord! My home they seize
While I pray upon my knees
My mother's covered flesh they tore
And raped for being pure.

O my Lord! My sons they steal
Your soldiers on the battlefield
Left to rot in dungeon halls
My grieving heart upon You, calls.

O my Lord! My eyes doth see
A vision! Faces beckoning me
Amidst tall thrones of pearls and silk
In Springs of wine and Fountains of milk!

O Kind Lord! My life, accept
For You I struggled, to You I wept
But now You willeth my departure
To Paradise O slave! Forever after!

*From Rays of Truth, Poems on Islam, by Ayesha bint Mahmood,
The Islamic Foundation, United Kingdom.

Children's Corner

NIGHTMARE DREAM. WHAT'S IN THE CELLAR ???!!!

M. Hasan Shah

It was first time he had seen it and he hated it. John Cedric was standing in front of his new house and he couldn't bear to live there for a day, let alone a few years.

Just add a few cobwebs and it would be Dracula's castle he thought.

It was a big building with 7 or 8 rooms and a cellar. Inside, the rooms were tall and square and they made him feel small.

The first night he stayed there he had a horrible dream. In his dream John had heard a strange noise from the cellar; he started going down into the cellar even though his parents had told him not to. He got closer to the door, and closer, and closer and closer ...

The door creaked as he opened it.

He peered inside but it was too dark to see anything, then he saw two pinpricks of red. Suddenly a hand reached out and grabbed his throat. John let out a scream and woke up in cold sweat. His heart was pounding quickly and his head was aching with pain.

The next day he felt the urge to check out the cellar for real. As he opened the door to check the cellar he felt a shiver.

He looked inside and it was very dark.

Then he saw two pinpricks of red,

LIKE TWO GLARING RED EYES ...

**IF TWO PEOPLE ALWAYS AGREE
WITH ONE ANOTHER,
YOU NEED ONLY ONE OF THEM.**



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

Headquarters London

Registered Charity No. 264608

P. O. Box 6119, London SW20 0XG

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE AND YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE MUSLIM WOMAN"

U.K. £10.00 Overseas £18.00 (airmail)

Life membership in U.K. £80.00 Overseas £100.00

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to our Association. We are looking forward to working together for the cause of Islam.

Cut and Post

Date:

To:

Miss Shirin Hassan

I wish to become a member of the Muslim Women's Association (U.K.) and receive "The Muslim Woman". I enclose a crossed cheque/Postal Order in the amount of £ made payable to "The Muslim Women's Association UK".

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

(Block letters please)

Surname

Address: Street

Town County Postal Code

Country Telephone number

Signature Date



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

Headquarters London

Registered Charity No. 264608

P. O. Box 6119, London SW20 0XG

Date:

RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dear

Your yearly MWA-Membership (which includes the subscription to "The Muslim Woman") will be/was due for renewal on

We trust you have enjoyed the past meetings/functions and reading "The Muslim Woman". We look forward to your renewal of membership and request you kindly to pay the annual fee of £10.00 within the next thirty days (Life Membership £80.00).

Please fill in the form below and send it together with your payment to our Membership Secretary. (Please ignore this form if you are a life member, or if you have already paid this year's subscription). Thank you for your continuous support.

Cut and Post

To:

Membership Secretary

Miss Shirin Hassan

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 £ payable to the "Muslim Women's Association (UK)".

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

(Block letters please)

Surname

Address: Street

Town County Postal Code

Country Telephone number

Signature Date

ANGLO-ARAB ASSOCIATION

In an Anglo-Arab Association reception, held recently in the foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Rt Hon. Robin Cook, MP relaunched the relationship between Britain and the Arab World. He said that there was a "strong partnership based on a large understanding" between the two and said the British government would work to make the partnership stronger.

Among some of the issues, Mr. Cook launched a plan for the European Union to reinvigorate the Middle East Peace Process in three parts:

First: Six immediate measures to restore confidence, including a substantial Israeli redeployment, the opening of the Gaza airport, and specific security commitments.

Second: Practical assistance from the EU, including help to boost the Palestinian economy and to fight terrorism.

Third: Renewed diplomatic activity and a strengthening of the European role including forthcoming visits to the region by both Mr. Cook and the Prime Minister.

On Islamic Issues, Mr. Cook did not forget to mention the 600 mosques built in Britain as well as the two recently funded Islamic schools.

Mr. Cook also addressed the question of Arab extremists claiming asylum in Britain. He said that Britain was "trying to steer a course that meets both the shared opposition to terrorism and our commitment to political asylum and free speech". He said that the answer to cooperate to fight terrorism.

On Iraq, Mr. Cook announced that Britain would promise a meeting to discuss how Europe and others can help the UN implement the oil for food programme most effectively including the UN and NGOs, to the fullest advantage of the Iraqi people.

Swadeka Ahsun

MWA BUSINESS - MARCH 1998

The well attended meeting was opened with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by the Religious Adviser, Souraya Youssef. The items for discussion were:

- The Annual Inspection of Madina House Report by the President, Mrs. Khanam Hassan.
- The Eid Dinner to be held in April.
- A report on the Muslim Council of Britain meeting.

THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF MADINA HOUSE

The Inspection was led by the Chief Inspector Linda Goldsmith, her assistant and the consultant Mr. Strettle were also present. The Trustees of Madina House were represented by Mrs. Khanam Hassan, as the chair, and Mrs. Badawi.

The inspection team were positive and helpful in their comments. The inspectors promised to direct more children to Madina House. Madina House is insh'Allah, not closing down, although efforts need to be made by everyone to ensure it stays open.

EID DINNER

The Eid Dinner is to be held on the second Sunday in April. We aim to cater for 250 people. It was agreed that members would try to sell tickets in advance. Tickets would be sold at £5.00 per adult, and £2.50 for children. Those present volunteered to be responsible for providing trays, spoons, table cloths and serviettes.

MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

Jasmin Ansari and Karima Mustafa attended the Muslim Council of Britain meeting as MWA delegates. The meeting was held on Sunday March 1st, at Wembley.

Jasmin gave a short account of the philosophy and structure of the MCB. She also informed the members that Karima Mustafa had been selected as one of 2 women members to sit on the National Committee.

MWA BUSINESS

- The main speaker at the Eid Dinner will be Sulthanath Ara, M.A., B.Ed., who will talk on 'Rights of Women in Islam'. Mrs. Ara is a qualified teacher who used to work in ILEA, before dedicating her life to teach the Holy Qur'an. She has been lecturing on the translation and commentary of the Holy Qur'an for the last 16 years. She offers guidance on many issues of Muslim home life.
- Mr. Khalid Ahmad who is working with Palestinian children will speak on the subject.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Azra Rekki, our committee member and trustee on the marriage of her son, Saeed Rekki.
- Congratulations to Osman Hasan, son of Samina Hasan, on his graduation. He is now teaching English in Madrid.

OTHER NEWS

- Congratulations to Yousuf Islam, trustee of Madina House, on gaining recognition of Islamia School.
- Congratulations to Dr. Ali Mughram Al-Ghamidi on the birth of his grandson.