

MOSQUE AND MADRASSAH QUARTERLY

Empowering communities, Building Standards – 2018 Issue 1 Q2



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Faith Associates, Empowering Communities Building Standards



Editorial

It is with both pleasure and gratitude that I welcome you to this latest edition of the Mosque and Madrassah quarterly. By the grace of Allah, we are blessed to welcome the holy month of Ramadan; may we all embrace the purity of this month and benefit from its virtues. May we utilise this time to reflect, re-evaluate and better serve humanity.

For Faith Associates, this past year has seen substantial growth in its activities - both online and offline, domestic and global. The two guiding principles of this past year, and near future, are safety & security and Mosque & Madrassah standards. In light of the growing anti-Muslim and Islamophobic sentiment spanning across Europe, not only do we need to protect our congregations and communities, but ensure strong and sustainable faith institutions.

Safety and security for Muslim communities, leaders and institutions in both the online and offline domains has been a priority of Faith Associates. November 2017 saw the UK parliamentary launch of our global 'Keeping Muslims Safe Online' safety guide in partnership with, and for, Facebook. This guide has been produced to empower Muslim users on the Facebook platform with the tools, resources and knowledge to identify and deal with harmful content to keep them and their friends safe online.

January 2018 saw Imam's Online partner with Google for the 2nd annual digital summit at the YouTube Space in London - where the digital world and civil society meet. The focus of this year's summit was to

strengthen Muslim leadership, support and encourage female scholarship and tackle the alarming surge in far-right ideology and extremism. Through digital workshops, panel discussions and open networking, this summit garnered international leadership, scholarship, politicians and activists to address some of the most pressing issues affecting the Muslim community today.

A major push this year has been the roll out of global benchmarks for Mosques, Islamic centres and Madrassah that help existing and emerging leadership to effectively run these facilities for the benefit of the entire community, be they of the Muslim faith or not. To revive the prophetic Mosque and exercise the integral role of the Mosque in civil society, Faith Associates has firmly established the Beacon Mosque initiative. Beacon Mosque has been developed to recognize that the role Mosques and Islamic Centres play in the macro infrastructure of towns and cities is being felt and their impact on the social and cultural fabric of society can be measured.

As has been a tradition for us, this Ramadan will again see our mosques open their doors to the wider public via Mosquelftar.com. This year we will see over 300 mosques join the national programme.

Shaukat Warraich
Chief Executive Office (CEO) Faith Associates

For advice on Mosque and Madrassah management, information on Faith Associates activities and engagements or to get involved with our work, visit www.faithassociates.co.uk or contact us on info@faithassociates.co.uk.



Kite Mark of Quality for Mosques

Build capacity in faith-based institutions is a core principle of Faith Associates work, with the launch of the global Beacon Mosque Standards cementing the integral role of the local mosque within their respective communities.

The Beacon Mosque initiative fosters, encourages and promotes the revival of the prophetic Mosque. Faith Associates offers expert advice through practitioners with 20 years experience in Mosque management, offering three tier accreditation - three star, four star,



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five star standards - against a set of criteria to improve the governance of the Mosque.

The foundation of a Beacon Mosque lies on 10 global standards, which if met, form the policy, management and governance infrastructure to ensure sustainable, inclusive and forward-looking faith based institutions:



Management & Governance



Policies & Procedures



Facilities Management



Staffing & Employment



Financing & Fundraising



Community Development



Accountability & Transparency



Additional Services



Madrassah



Communication

The Beacon Mosque Project endeavours to establish core competencies and recognise and reward those institutions that go above and beyond in providing services and opportunities to both their congregations and the wider community, exercising an inclusive and open door policy.

Faith Associates facilitates independent audits and reports for Mosques and Islamic Centres, and works to implement a set of policies and procedures that will ensure their institution is recognised as a Beacon Mosque.

Al Manaar Mosque is one the first recognised Beacon Mosques and one that has achieved 5 star certified Beacon Mosque accreditation. This cultural community hub does not simply provide worship facilities but serves both its congregation and the wider community through the provision of services such as feeding and sheltering the homeless, outreach programmes, sports and recreational activities for the youth, counselling and chaplaincy and MP services. A true beacon of the community, Al Manaar was at the heart of the Grenfell disaster emergency efforts, with continued support for victims and the wider West London community.



The management, governance, safety and security of Al Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre has laid strong and sustainable foundations for inclusive community support and development - core principles of what constitutes as a Beacon Mosque.



For more information or to get your Mosque and Islamic Centre accredited, visit www.beaconmosque.com or contact us on info@faithassociates.co.uk or 01494 416202

Imams Online YouTube Summit

January 31st 2018 marked our 2nd annual digital summit - a partnership between Faith Associates, Imams Online and Google UK facilitated an insightful, impactful and important event hosted at YouTube HQ in London.

Through drawing global talent, scholarship and leaders to London, we hosted over 200 attendees from a diverse cross-section of the Muslim community which included senior religious leaders, male and female scholars, community activists, civil society actors, technologists, students and educationalists to a day of panel discussions and practical sessions delivered by YouTube specialists.



The event was centred around 3 key panel discussions with speakers and panellists representing media, government, social media, education, faith institutions and universities. The 3 discussions were titled:

1. Islamic leadership in Tomorrow's World
2. Reviving Female Islamic Scholarship
3. Islamophobia and Rise of Far Right

One of the key interests on the day for the attendees were the interactive YouTube practical sessions delivered by their team. The 3 sessions delivered by YouTube were as followed:

1. YouTube Live
2. Storytelling on YouTube
3. Virtual Reality on YouTube

The open floor nature of the event allowed participants the opportunity to engage in a robust conversation with panellists to present their ideas and talk through some of the challenges faced by the Muslim community.

Feedback from participants at the event was positive with participants encouraged by the frankness of conversations taking place and appreciative of the opportunity to network with individuals, institutions and organisations from within the Muslim community.





The full list of speakers on the day included:

- Shaukat Warraich CEO Faith Associates/ImamsOnline
- Ismail Amla – IBM
- Dr Mahmoud Chandia – University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)
- Shaykh Haroon Sidat – Cardiff University
- Shaykh Adam Kelwick – Chaplin, Broadcaster and Humanitarian
- Shaykh Amer Jamil – Chaplin and Author
- Dr Atif Imtiaz – Cambridge Muslim College
- Professor Sophie Gillet-Ray – Cardiff University
- Anse Tamara Gray – Rabata
- ShaykaSafia Shahid – Muslim Women's College
- Saleha Islam – PennyAppeal
- Myriam Francouis – Academic/Journalist
- Dr Sadek Hamid – Researcher
- Nigel Bromage– Former Far Right Leader
- Karim Palant– Facebook, Policy Manager
- Tom Hurd – Director General, Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism (Home Office HMG)
- Imam Qari Muhammad Asim – Makkah Mosque, Leeds/Imams Online



Facebook's Global Guide to Keep Muslims Safe Online



Faith Associates was honoured to be asked by Facebook to develop a guide to keep its Facebook Muslim community safe online. The 'Keeping Muslims Safe Online' safety guide had its UK Parliamentary launch in November 2017. The guide is aimed at providing easy to understand tips and advice outlining best practice to help keep Muslims safe online. This is the first time

that Facebook has partnered up with a Muslim organisation to produce any such resource for the Muslim community worldwide.

This guide has been produced to empower Muslim users on the platform with the tools, resources and knowledge to identify and deal with harmful content to keep them and their friends safe online. The guide outlines the risks that exist online for Muslim users and provide them with a breakdown of the tools and resources Facebook has produced to help report, flag and block hateful content.

For us, this safety guide serves several key purposes:

1. It helps build confidence and resilience in Muslim users on Facebook in the face of hate speech and extremism as it will equip them with the knowledge and tools to effectively deal with it.
2. It empowers traditional faith leadership, who are not always experts in the online world, to both deal with threat themselves and disseminate this to their students.
3. It dispels pervading negative perceptions that Muslim communities have of platforms such as Facebook, who are often deemed to be ambivalent to the hate and prejudice that they receive online.

Facebook's commitment to keep its users safe and free from bigotry and harm, has to be welcomed and the support Faith Associates has received is an indication of the partnerships Facebook are willing to forge to maintain that commitment. We look forward to developing further initiatives to keep communities safe on, and offline.

facebook.



For further information or to download the 'Keeping Muslims Safe Online' guide visit www.faithassociates.co.uk or www.facebook.com/safety



Faith Associates & Imams Online host leading UK Muslim Voices & Scholars

Faith Associates and Imams Online, in partnership with the Forum for Peace, host senior Muslim voices and scholars gathered in London to share an evening with H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah (President, Forum for Peace), Shaykh Hamza Yusuf (President, Zaytuna College) and Dr Mohammad Matar Salem bin Abid al Kaabi (Minster of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, UAE).

The scholars in attendance listened to a special address from H.E. Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah where he emphasised the critical role positive religious guidance plays in today's complex and confusing world and how strong faith leadership and adherence to the ways and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) were the perfect antidote to the ills and evils that have become predominant in today's world.





CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Commission - The benefits of registering your Mosque as a charity with the Charity Commission

Registered Charity Number:

Nick Donaldson

Head of Faith Charities Engagement

Is your Mosque registered as a charity with the Charity Commission? If not, did you know that you are likely to legally required to be, and that there are huge benefits to doing so, including tax breaks?

A large proportion of Mosques in England and Wales are already registered with us as charities. Under the Charities Act 2011, nearly all charities with an income of over £5,000/year are required to be registered with us, and that includes charities which advance religion and education like Mosques, Churches, Synagogues, Temples and so on.

Charities registered in England and Wales are a very illustrious – and very diverse – group. Registered charities deliver healthcare, education, aid, development and other services in the UK and abroad. They help people seeking asylum, promote human rights, prevent diseases, help people with disabilities, protect animals, clean up beaches, deliver food, relieve poverty, promote community integration, rescue people from seas and mountains, provide schools, run sporting activities for children and much more besides. They include organisations which people know to be charities: Hospices, Homeless Shelters and Cancer research institutions, as well as those not so well-known as charities like Beekeepers, Velodromes, Ballet Schools and Castles.

As well as being a legal requirement, registering your faith organisation with the Charity Commission brings a great number of benefits. It:

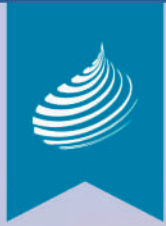
- Gives you access to a wide variety of tax breaks, including gift aid (which means HMRC will give you up to an extra 25% of all your donations back) and an 80% - 100% reduction in business rates
- Increases public trust and confidence in you as an organisation
- Makes it much easier to apply for grant funding
- Keeps you up-to-date with key information from the Commission on charity governance

I think there is another key reason as to why registration as a charity is a good thing. It is something you should want to be. It means that you aspire to get things right, and show that you are getting things right. It shows the people who matter most to you – your beneficiaries – that you are an organisation that wants to run itself properly, keeping yourself up-to-date with any legal requirements and making sure you get the most income possible to maximise your impact.

Registering as a charity with the Charity Commission is a simple process, and is all done online. You can find more information about it at: <https://www.gov.uk/setting-up-charity>. You'll need some details, like a copy of your governing document and details of who your trustees are. If you would like any support with registration, the Charity Commission has a dedicated Faith Outreach team who would be very happy to help you.

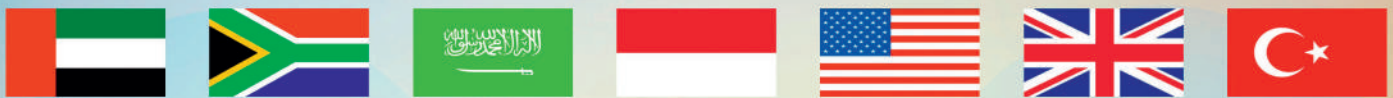


For more information, email faith-outreach@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk or call Lin Ashby, Faith Charities Outreach Manager on 0300 065 2029.



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Mosque & Madrasah Management Training in Africa

Mosque and Madrasah governance programme in partnership with UNDP

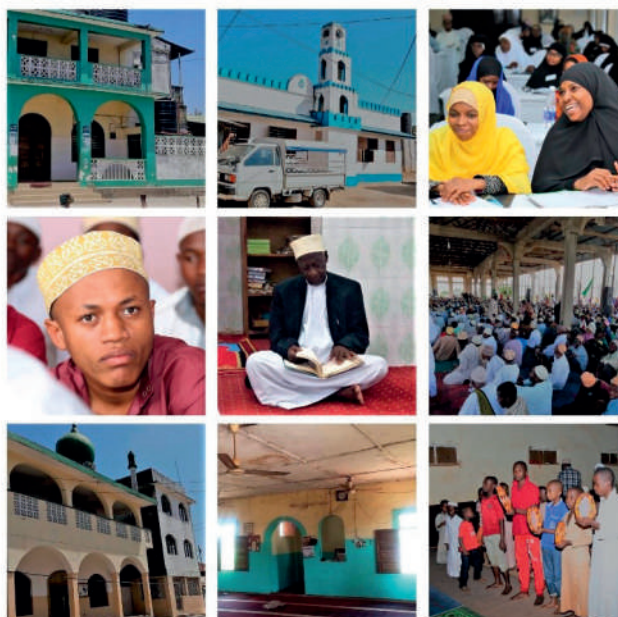


*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Faith Associates, in partnership with the United Nations Development Project (UNDP), has just completed an international development pilot project in Tanzania in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The one-year pilot - Building Resilience in African Faith Based Institutions (BRAFI), from June 2017 - 2018, built the capacity and strengthened the resilience of local Tanzanian mosques and madrasah.

The key activities of the BRAFI project were:

- Improving organisational, management and governance efficiency in mosques and madrasah
- Supporting curriculum development in madrasah and improving learning outcomes
- Fostering effective partnerships with local, regional and national faith-based institutions, public bodies and authorities.



Working in partnership with national and regional religious and political authorities, Faith Associates worked in Zanzibar, Pemba and on the mainland of Tanzania. A series of national training workshops and consultations have resulted in the production of guidance to further support the effective management of mosques and madrasah in Tanzania.



Imams fair wage campaign

2017/18 saw ImamsOnline.com officially launch its Fair Wage Campaign for Imams which sparked a much needed conversation in the Muslim community around the role of a 21st Century Imam and the establishment of defined duties and viable remuneration that will help effectively compensate the role, support and reward Imams for their hard work and enthuse young seminary graduates in pursuing it as a career.

The role and responsibilities of an Imam in 21st Century Britain has changed over the last few decades. With the advent of new age communication and a growing generation of young Muslims eager for religious guidance and a contextual understanding of their faith, the expectations on the Imam has grown.



Taking into the account the duties and expectations of the Imam in contemporary society, it is crucial that employers i.e Mosques and Islamic Centres, afford them their employment rights as laid down in a formal contractual agreement between the Imam and his employer.

Arguably the biggest grievance from today's Imams is that their commitment and hard work is not accurately reflected in their salary. As we are committed to encouraging young seminary graduates to pursue this as a viable career, it is crucial that salaries are reflective of this hard work.

The campaign also highlighted the varied roles an Imam needs to fulfil. Almost 24 activities were identified where Imams and Alimah's need to perform. The need for female scholarship was also highlighted; Alimah's need to be employed and compensated, especially if mosques are going to truly cater for female spiritual needs.



For more information on the Imams 'Fair Wage Campaign', visit www.imamsonline.com, www.alimahsonline.com or contact info@imamsonline.com

Mosque Lunch Club



2018 will witness the launch of Faith Associates Mosque Lunch Club initiative. As part of the Beacon Mosque and Standards guidelines, we have identified the need to establish lunch clubs within faith based institutions to serve and support the elderly.

Faith Associates has designed a good practice guidance pack to provide essential information, contact details and advice for anyone currently running, or wanting to establish, a Mosque Lunch Club. It offers useful information including:

- Details of individuals and organisations who may be able to provide specific advice or guidance.
- Addresses of web sites which provide useful information.
- Template forms which are designed to support the administration side of running a Mosque Lunch Club. These include membership forms, referral forms, volunteers' application form, payment and attendance register and food temperature chart.
- Advice about quality standards which must be monitored and maintained in the running of a Mosque Lunch Club.



For further information, or to download the free guide, visit www.mosquelunchclub.co.uk.

Mosque Support HelpLine



The Mosque Support HelpLine has been created as a simple, direct way to contact Mosque Management experts for training, advice and guidance.

Faith Associates is committed to supporting the development of Mosques and Islamic Centres who wish to become beacon institutions within their communities.



To get in touch, visit www.themshl.org or call the Mosque Support Helpline on +44 (0) 1494 416202.

Mosque Security Training



Mosque Security
Training : Support : Protect
01494 416202
www.mosquesecurity.com

The mosque security website is a project of Faith Associates, it is a resource available for Mosques to provide advice and support on security, safety and management.

Following the tragic events in 2017, where we witnessed horrendous terrorist attacks

in London and Manchester, we have seen reports of an escalation in anti-Muslim hate crime that have targeted Mosques and Islamic Centres. A key component of ensuring good governance within Mosques and Islamic Centres is for management to appreciate the need to implement steps that safeguard their institutions from threats and develop relationships with the community and local authorities to help dispel suspicion and negative sentiments.

In preparation for Ramadan, the Mosque Security team in partnership with the Jewish Community Safety Trust (CST) & the London Metropolitan Police provided a one day 'Mosque Security Training' workshop to Mosque managers, trustees, volunteers and Imams at Hayes Muslim Centre on the 6th May 2018. Security experts conducted presentations to critically look at the safety of mosques, provide information on how to prevent attacks and protect faith-based institutions.

The newly developed mosquesecurity.com website was also launched. at the event.



For further information please visit www.mosquesecurity.com or tel 01494 416202.



Safeguarding Training Across UK

Safeguarding the vulnerable, women and children in Mosques and Madrassah is paramount. A place of worship should be a place of safety and sanctuary. Legislative compliance and trustee/management awareness of safeguarding has propelled Faith Associates to deliver accredited training as well as online materials to amplify and implement good practices; resulting in a national call for safeguarding training

Safeguarding training is delivered by one of a team of expert trainers who have been delivering safeguarding training programmes to Mosques and Madrassah for over 15 years. Faith Associates has helped train over 1000 imams, teachers and management personnel spanning across Britain.

For further information visit www.faithassociates.co.uk, or to book level 1 safeguarding training at your Mosque or Madrassah, contact info@faithassociates.co.uk.



**MOSQUE
& MADRASSAH**
SAFEGUARDING



Bristol Council adopts Faith Associate "Protecting the rights of children and adults at risk of abuse".



In partnership with Barking & Dagenham Council, Faith Associates has started to implement Madrassah Quality Standards (Mizan) to Madrassahs in the borough. The programme covers capacity building workshops and training in the field of Governance, Safeguarding, improving teaching methodology and performance.



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COST
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MATERIALS PROVIDED
FOR UP TO 20
PEOPLE

AIMS OF THE TRAINING

- To increase knowledge, awareness and the ability to act on concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people in Islamic Institutions.
- To identify policies & good practice in Child Protection.
- To develop an understanding of reporting procedures.
- An increased understanding of the indicators of child abuse.
- To explore the impact of abuse & neglect on children and how to support them.
- Knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities under current guidelines, local county procedures and those of the Islamic Institution.

MAIN TOPICS COVERED

- 1) Safeguarding in Islam
- 2) National Safeguarding Agenda
- 3) Definition of Abuse
- 4) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- 5) E-safety (Social Media Policies & Safeguarding)
- 6) Child Development
- 7) Reacting to Disclosure
- 8) Roles and Responsibilities in Islamic Institutions
- 9) Information Sharing and Confidentiality
- 10) Allegations Against Staff
- 11) Summary of an Islamic Institution



Manchester



Walsall

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EMPOWERING

Certification

All attendees receive a certificate in level 1 Child Protection. The certificate remains valid for three years from the date of the training.

How to Book

For enquiries and bookings contact Faith Associates on

+44 (0) 1494 416202 | or visit **www.madrassah.co.uk**