

MOSQUE AND MADRASSAH QUARTERLY

Empowering Communities, Building Standards - 2016 ISSUE 1 Q1



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MM Quarterly Editorial

We begin in the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful and we send our salutations on the final messenger Muhammad (ﷺ).

I welcome you all to this latest edition of the Mosque and Madrassah Quarterly. I start by wishing you all a happy and prosperous Ramadan. We are blessed to be able to partake and benefit from the virtues of this month and hope to use it as a means to change our lives for the better. We must use this month as a time to reflect on our lives and pray for those who are in difficulty and strife, wherever they may be.

The last year of Faith Associates' activity has seen a substantial growth in our work. The Imams Online initiative has taken steps forward in its vision to showcase and promote positive Islam through an increase in its social media following and online campaigns. It has also successfully delivered two regional Digital Summits in Bradford and Manchester, in partnership with Facebook and Twitter, which brought together a diverse range of Imams and faith leaders to a day of networking, presentations and workshops focussed on how, as a community and as religious leaders, we can more effectively engage with young people online. Imams Online endeavours to deliver more Digital Summits in key UK cities in the coming months.

In January 2016, we saw the official launch of **Madrassah.co.uk**. This new online resource and Madrassah accreditation system has been developed to provide expert information and key resources to inspire excellence in the Islamic supplementary education sector. Through this resource, we have been able to provide Level 1 Safeguarding training to Mosques and Madrassah leaders across the UK and have recently consolidated a relationship with the Lancashire Council of Mosques to become their official partner in delivering Madrassah support and training to their affiliates.

This year has also seen the launch of two key Faith Associates publications, *'The Muslim Women's Guide to Mosque Management, Governance and Service Delivery'* and the *'Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Guide for Faith Based Establishments'*.



The **Muslim Women's Guide** has been developed to encourage greater female participation in Mosques by showcasing existing good practice. The **Safeguarding Guide**, launched in Birmingham and adopted by six West-Midlands local authorities, has been developed to help faith institutions with advice and guidance in relation to their safeguarding arrangements. Both publications are free to download from the Faith Associates website.

As has been a tradition for us, this Ramadan will again see campaigns via **Mosquelftar.com** that looks to encourage Mosques around the UK to hold community focussed Iftars as a way of showcasing the openness of Islamic institutions.

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

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Faith Associates - Empowering Communities, Building Standards. Serving Mosques, Madrassahs and Imams for over 15 years.

Safeguarding Children – A Prophetic Practice

“Everyone of you is a protector and guardian and responsible for your wards and things under your care...” The Prophet Muhammadc (ﷺ)
[Sahih Bukhari & Muslim]

The term ‘Safeguarding’ is becoming increasingly prominent in both the public and private sector and denotes the need to implement specific policies that ensure the safety of those at highest risk of abuse.

Having been operating in the Mosque and Madrassah sector for over 20 years, I constantly come across truly dedicated, inspiring individuals that understand the responsibility on their shoulders and endeavour to teach the Qur’an and Islam to children in the best manner. However, as a parent and someone who has been invested in the welfare of Muslim institutions for a number of years now, instances of abuse and betrayal within these institutions highlight that there are issues of accountability and challenges to ensuring certain standards are met and maintained.

We have seen over the last few years that there has been a notable increase in the call for greater safeguards and accountability within both public and private institutions. As of yet, Muslim institutions have not been subjected to widespread investigations into child welfare but public scrutiny seems to be inevitably focussing on the Muslim community particularly in the aftermath of the Rotherham grooming case.

Recently, we have seen increased pressure put on religious educational institutions to ensure that certain standards are being maintained, in particular that safeguards are in place to protect the welfare of children. The Department for Education’s recent call for evidence on ‘out-of-school’ settings identified safeguarding as one of its key concerns and we can see, in the progression of the UKs child protection laws (**Care Act 2014**), how legislation is becoming fortified and the onus is being put on local authorities and councils to ensure the safeguarding of children and adults.

The notion of safeguarding, be it of children or adults, is not a new phenomenon in Islam. We only need to look at the prophetic example of Muhammad (ﷺ) to see both the immense love he had for children and the importance he placed on enshrining a sense of understanding and instilling a love for the religion within them.

The primary role of the Madrassah is the nurturing of Islamic children in an environment that encourages them to explore their surroundings and understand their religion relevant to their social setting. The Islamic tradition has a rich history of nurturing imaan in children by emulating the Prophetic example which focussed on praising their achievements, fostering a sense a responsibility, incentivising their learning and above all else providing them with a loving, caring atmosphere.

As a community, we need to be introspective and acknowledge the regulatory shortcomings of our institutions. The trustees and management personnel of Mosques and Madrassahs need to make a conscious effort to demand a certain level of competency and quality standards from their staff and teachers. The welfare of children and the nurturing of a new generation of quality Islamic leaders must be the driving force behind Islamic education.

For advice on safeguarding and the implementation of comprehensive quality standards in your institution, visit: www.faithassociates.co.uk or contact info@faithassociates.co.uk.

Shaukat Warraich
CEO – Faith Associates



Download the ‘Madrassah Management & Safeguarding Handbook’ from the Faith Associates website.

Imams Online Regional Digital Summits 2016

By Furqan Ali

Managing Editor - Imams Online

Following on from the success of the inaugural Imams Online Digital Summit that was held on 26th March 2015 in London, there was an opportunity to regionalise the concept and deliver 'Regional Digital Summits' for Imams, Scholars and Aalimahs across key UK cities.

Having established partnerships with social media giants Facebook and Twitter, Imams Online reached out to a diverse range of faith leaders to be part of a day of networking, presentations and practical workshops focussing on showing faith leaders the scale, power and benefits of being effective and engaged on social media.

Imams Online has so far delivered Regional Summits in Bradford (January 2016) and Manchester (April 2016).

Imams Online Digital Summit Bradford (January 2016)

On 23rd January, Imams Online delivered the first in a series of Regional Digital Summits in the city of Bradford. The day was attended by Imams, Mosque leaders and community activists from across West Yorkshire. The day consisted of presentations, workshops and discussions on how, as a community and as religious leaders, we can more effectively engage with young people online.



Imams Online was pleased to have partnered with Facebook and Twitter for this event alongside: British Muslim TV, Media Cultured, Alchemiya and Penny Appeal. Each organisation presented and highlighted how media can play an important role in promoting positive Islam, tackling Islamophobia and engaging the youth. It was important to highlight to the audience the work being done and how much further there is still to go in the efforts to capture the imagination and attention of a young Muslim generation.

As a means of showcasing a practical example of how modern communication could be used to promote a message or have a conversation, Imams Online was able to live link Imam Adam Kelwick from the Holy City of Madinah. Through this powerful online tool, Imam Adam was able to talk to an audience in Bradford about the importance of using social media to spread a positive message whilst sitting near the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

About the Summit, Shaukat Warraich (Chief Editor) said it was time for, "Traditional Imams to keep up with the new ways of communicating" and that "Imams are doing great work but we need to help them communicate in an innovative way to the younger generation, there are lots of good imams doing great work in mosques - what we need to do is showcase that online."





The Digital Summit was covered by ITV News and Bradford's Telegraph & Argus.

Imams Online Digital Summit Manchester (April 2016)

On Saturday 30th April, Imams Online delivered the second in a series of Digital Summits in the city of Manchester. The day was attended by over 150 Imams, Mosque leaders, Madrassah teachers & Social Media practitioners. The event was held in partnership with the Lancashire & Manchester Councils of Mosques.

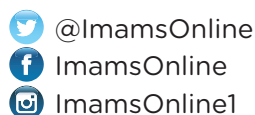


As well as focusing on how and why it is important to use online platforms to engage the youth, our speakers and attendees discussed how we can tackle Islamophobia, how to maintain the integrity of Muslim institutions and how to bridge the generational gap. There was a particular focus on the rise of right wing extremism and presentations on the influence they wield online through specific messaging and by employing deliberately provocative language.

In addition to discussion around digital communication, a key aspect of this Digital Summit was the delivery of certified E-Safety training to Mosque leaders and Madrassah teachers. E-Safety has become an integral component of safeguarding training and provides Imams, Mosque Leaders and Madrassah Teachers with the necessary information and advice on how to safeguard children from harm and abuse.



The feedback and support we have received has been positive. Imams Online will continue to support the fantastic work being done by Islamic leaders across the UK and are here to help in the development and training of future generations of Islamic thought leaders.



Website : www.imamsonline.com

Email: info@imamsonline.com

Launch of the 'Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Guide for Faith Base Establishments'



On the 16th January 2016, Faith Associates officially launched its 'Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Guide for Faith Based Establishments' at the Muath Trust in Birmingham.

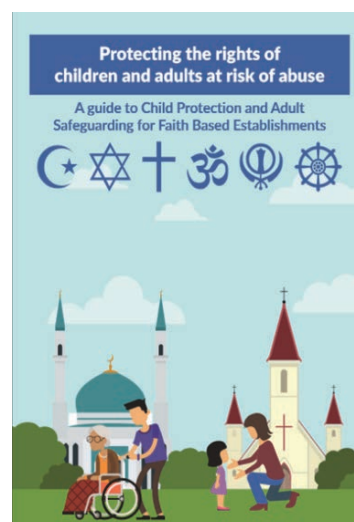
The launch event, which comprised of presentations, workshops and discussions with key council leads, members of the local police and the authors of the guide was attended by representatives of the Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish faith communities.

The Safeguarding guide came about following a practice review conducted by the Birmingham City Council LADO service in 2012. The key authors of the guide, Shaukat Warraich and Steve Suckling, have paid particular attention to the developments in safeguarding legislation and conducted a comprehensive literature review of good practice in the sector.

The guide has been developed to help faith institutions with advice and guidance in relation to their safeguarding arrangements. It takes you through a six step process that provides the necessary information, procedures and advice to ensure the establishment of a safe environment.

Currently, the guide has been acknowledged and adopted by six West Midland Local Authorities and includes contact information for local and national bodies that can be approached for help, guidance and advice.

The guide is free to download from the Faith Associates website (www.faithassociates.co.uk).



Marrakesh Declaration 2016 – Reaffirming the Madinah Charter

*By Qari Muhammad Asim MBE
Senior Imam – Makkah Mosque, Leeds
Senior Editor – Imams Online*

I was one of the many Imams and Scholars invited to a summit of global religious leaders in Morocco to look at the rights of religious minorities living in the Muslim world. The summit, held between 25-27 January, brought together 300 influential thinkers and faith leaders from across the globe to reassert the principles stipulated by the Charter of Madinah. The Charter, written in 622 C.E, enshrined the Islamic principles of tolerance, co-existence and pluralism.

The summit was co-hosted by Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, President of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Explaining the background to the summit, Shaykh Bin Bayyah told the summit that extremists were committing violence against Christians, Jews and other faith minorities under the banner of "Jihad".

As Muslim leaders, it was our responsibility to ensure that the principles enumerated in Islam were not toppled by those who have territorial aims and wish to create divisions between communities.

Muslim scholars gathered at the summit made it clear that religious minorities living in Muslim majority countries must enjoy unconditional safety and security, as is granted by Islam. Conflicts, tensions and divisions amongst faiths that are feeding animosity must be resolved through mediation, diplomacy, and dialogue. The Charter of Madinah provides an exemplary foundation for peaceful co-existence between diverse communities.

Peace in our time can only be achieved through exemplifying the multi-ethnic, multi-belief and multi-cultural society that is celebrated by Islam. The message of the various religious ministries in attendance was the need to implement the constitution of Madinah in order to establish peace in their societies.

Extremist entities such as Daesh, Boko Haram and Ash-Shabaab have severely misconstrued the Islamic values and principles found in the Quran and Sunnah with anti-humanistic ideology. The leaders from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, Morocco to Pakistan, Russia to Indonesia and many other countries reaffirmed that protection of religious minorities is a human rights issue, and must be a priority for the Muslim world.





Charitable collections during Ramadan – making a real difference

Muslims are often identified as the most generous faith group in British society. It is estimated that British Muslims will give over £100 million to charitable causes in Ramadan alone. I think this is amazing.

As I am fond of saying when we (the Commission's Outreach team) go out to speak to people, giving money to charity is not like most other forms of spending. When you buy a product: a house, a car, a watch, some groceries, you personally spend your money and can then see – and often touch – what you have bought.

With charitable giving things are often different. You give money which you expect to be spent on something good. You expect that it will be. But you trust that somebody else will do that spending for you, and in many cases you will never see the direct results your money has made.

The charitable causes we give money to are often the most important causes we can think of. And as the many people who work for the vast array of wonderful charities can tell you, giving to those charities does make a real difference. Charitable giving provides relief – often to children – affected by war, famine, illness. It builds schools and gives people education. It helps animals. It promotes the arts and scientific research. It provides people with places of worship. It advances human rights. It does a huge range of things beyond these.

We give to these causes because we care deeply about them. And there is never a shortage of causes which need our money. It is so important that we make sure that the charities we support are legitimate and well-run. We deserve for our money to make a real difference.

This is why we give guidance on fundraising for, and giving to, legitimate charities. We don't want people to stop giving or fundraising. People should give as much as they can. We just want your (and in a personal capacity, our) money to get to the charities which can make the real difference that we hoped for when we gave in the first place.

Tips for Mosques running charitable collections for third parties during Ramadan:

- If another English or Welsh charity wishes to conduct an appeal at your mosque, or you wish to collect on their behalf, check whether they are registered – you can find details of all registered charities on the Charity Commission's website www.gov.uk/charity-commission (click on 'Find Charities – search the Charity Register').

Even if they are registered, satisfy yourselves that they are a legitimate charity: ask questions about how the funds you raise will ultimately be used. Check their website and any other relevant sources, such as their references, for further information about how they have used funds raised in the past.

- Checks are also very important where fundraisers from overseas want to raise money on your premises, and can be more difficult to undertake. Check that the overseas charity is registered with any relevant overseas regulators, ask to see references and evidence of previous projects they have undertaken, and look out for suspicious signs, such as a lack of clarity on how the money raised will ultimately be used.

- After the appeal, obtain information to satisfy yourselves that the money has been spent for the purposes it was raised. It is good practice to provide feedback on how the funds have been used (for example, via a noticeboard).

If you are raising/holding money in cash.

- Ramadan collections often generate significant cash donations. Trustees should ensure that cash received is properly counted, kept securely, and banked quickly. The money should then be issued to the fundraiser's charity via formal banking methods, such as cheque or bank transfer.
- Collection boxes should be sealed before use so that it is clear if they have been opened before they are returned.
- Trustees should obtain receipts for cash payments to other charities and these should be promptly recorded in the accounting records.
- If cash is kept on the premises overnight, it should be kept securely in a safe or locked box. Trustees should consider obtaining adequate insurance cover for cash which is held on the premises.

**Nick Donaldson, Outreach Manager
Charity Commission**



Launch of 'Muslim Women's Guide to Mosque Management, Governance and Service Delivery'



On the 5th April 2016, Faith Associates officially launched its 'Muslim Women's Guide to Mosque Governance, Management and Service Delivery'.

This guide has been written, compiled and edited by Faith Associates' CEO Shaukat Warraich and contributed to by six leading female scholars, leaders and activists which include: Shaykha Ruqaiyya Waris Maqsood, Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Shaykha Safia Shahid, Razia Bismillah, Batool al-Toma and Julie Siddiqi.

Women in the Prophet's Mosque

The official launch of this publication followed on from the 'Women in the Prophet's Mosque' conference that was organised by Faith Associates at the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre (MCHC) in London on the 13th February. The setting for the conference was deliberate as the director of the MCHC, Ms Saleha Islam, was appointed in 2014 as the first female chief executive of an established Islamic Institution in Europe.



The aim of the conference was to explore the vital role being played by Muslim Women in institutional settings and the need to further empower and support their development as leaders in the community. The conference consisted of presentations from authors of the guide on the need for Muslim Women to have a role in Mosque Management and looking at ways this can be achieved in communities around the UK.

The Muslim Women's Guide

The 'Muslim Women's Guide to Mosque Governance, Management and Service Delivery' has been launched at a time of heightened scrutiny on Islamic Institutions, particularly on the apparent lack of women's involvement in key decision making roles.

This guide seeks to firstly, make clear the prophetic practice when it came to women in the Mosque (which was one of openness and inclusion) and to then set out specific practical examples and advice for current and prospective Muslim women operating in faith institutions, giving them the tools to become beacons of effective support and service delivery.

Faith Associates is confident that having women play an active part in the services delivered by the Mosque will make the Mosque a living, breathing, sustainable institution for the whole community.

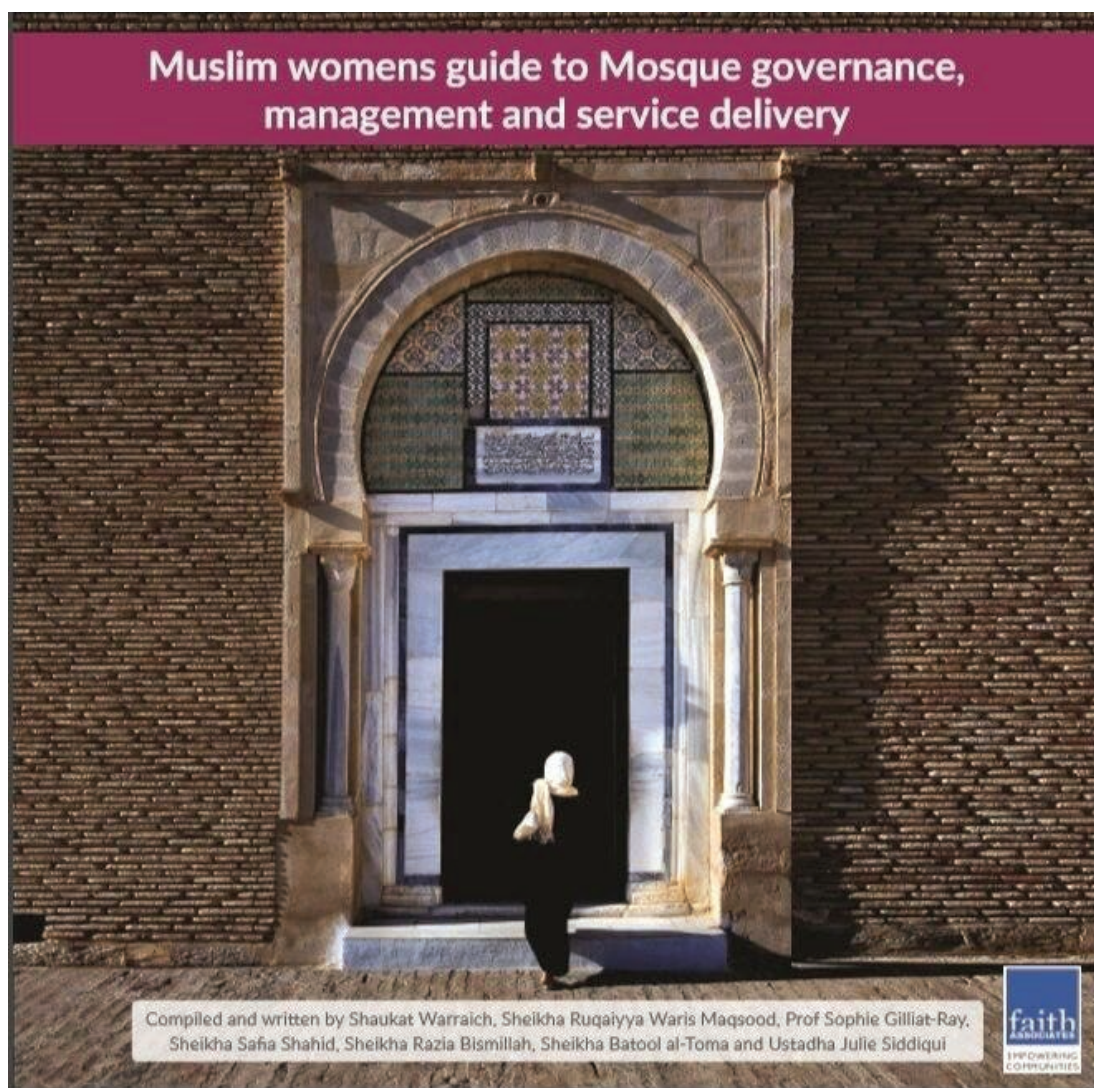
Today, there are many barriers to the issue of women's roles in Islamic institutions, barriers which did not exist in the time of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). This guide has been published to encourage those women who are already engaged in or aspiring to engage with Mosques and Islamic Centres and to help them overcome these barriers.

To download your free copy of the Muslim Women's Guide, visit: www.faithassociates.co.uk.

Get in Touch

Faith Associates has been a practitioner in the Mosque and Madrassah sector, delivering bespoke training, management advice and facilitating community development for over 20 years.

If you would like to get in touch with Faith Associates for advice, guidance and support or to organise a similar programme in your area, contact info@faithassociates.co.uk.



Faith Associates Launches Madrassah.co.uk

Faith Associates has launched its new, dedicated hub for Madrassahs and Islamic Supplementary Schools - Madrassah.co.uk. This online resource aspires for excellence in the Islamic education sector by providing advice, guidance and support on improving standards and developing 21st Century learners.

Madrassah Quality Standards Framework

A key aspect of the Madrassah.co.uk initiative is the introduction and implementation of the Madrassah Quality Standards Framework (MQSF) which has been written, developed and piloted by Faith Associates. The MQSF is specifically designed for the Islamic education sector and brings together legal requirements and good Madrassah practices that will enable Mosques, Madrassahs and Supplementary Schools to meet standards for: Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Effective Teaching & Learning and Organizational Governance.

The defining aspect of the MQSF is the three tier, self-accreditation it offers to Madrassahs and Supplementary schools.

This accreditation promotes the excellent work a Madrassah is doing that can then be showcased on a national and international level as an exemplar for other Madrassahs to follow. The accreditation levels include Mizan (Bronze), Kausar (Silver) and Firdaus (Gold).

Partnership with Lancashire Council of Mosques

In January 2016, Faith Associates consolidated its partnership with the Lancashire Council of Mosques, an umbrella organisation with 90 affiliate institutions in the Blackburn and greater Lancashire area.

Faith Associates and the Lancashire Council of Mosques are now official training partners, working together to deliver Level 1 Safeguarding & Madrassah training to the 90 institutions affiliated to it. Both parties are also committed to implementing the MQSF to as many Madrassahs as possible, providing high level support and improving Madrassah standards.



National Association of Madrassahs

The second key aspect of Madrassah.co.uk is the creation of a 'National Association of Madrassahs' (NAM). The NAM will serve as an information and resource hub of Madrassahs across the UK. The adoption of the Madrassah Quality Standards Framework will convert into automatic inclusion to the National Association of Madrassahs.

The NAM's defining feature is its built in Madrassah finder database and the user generated Madrassah rating system that allows parents the opportunity to rate their child's madrassah on specific criteria as a way of keeping prospective parents in the know and encouraging the Madrassah itself to strive for excellence in all areas.

Faith Associates prides itself on the success it has achieved in providing governance and strategy services to the Muslim community. We remain committed to providing aid and assistance to Mosques, Madrassahs and Imams wherever it is required.

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Twitter - @NAMadrassah
Facebook - NAMadrssah

Contact details
Website: www.madrassah.co.uk
Email: info@madrassah.co.uk



Mosque Projects'



Mosque Iftar

Mosque Iftar will bring the community together during the month of Ramadan. The Mosque should be more than just a place people come to just to pray. It should be the hub of the community. Having an Iftar at the Mosque, inviting people of faith and no faith to experience the unity of breaking the fast is a beautiful experience. Hosting a Mosque Iftar can build relationships and open the door to the Mosque.

The Mosque Iftar team can help Mosques and individuals host an Iftar during the holy month of Ramadan. The team has facilitated community Iftar's since 2012. The Mosque Iftar website is an easy platform for Mosques to promote their Iftars.

For more information on how to be involved with this project, visit www.mosqueiftar.com or contact admin@mosqueiftar.com.

Add Social Media icons and handles: @MosqueIftar/Facebook Page



Mosque Gift

"Your neighbour is 40 houses ahead of you and 40 houses at your back, 40 houses to your left and 40 houses to your right." - The Prophet Muhammad.

The Mosque Gift initiative seeks to revive the Prophetic tradition of neighbourliness by encouraging the Muslim community to package and deliver small gifts (by hand) to houses of predominately non-Muslim residents that live around the Mosque.

The initiative will raise awareness amongst Muslim and Non-Muslim communities about the rights given to neighbours in Islam and emphasises the importance placed on showing them kindness.

Visit www.mosquegift.com to see practical, step by step guides on how to successfully run a Mosque Gift campaign and sign up with your Mosque to show your support.



The 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.

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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



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How to Book

For enquiries and bookings contact Faith Associates on

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