

29<sup>th</sup> June 2009

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All praise be to Allah and salutations upon our Prophet, his family, his companions and his Nation

Assalamu Alaykum

I am delighted to be appointed chair of the MCA. To be chair is an honour, privilege and a responsibility. My intention is to focus on the three groups of people for whom the organisation was set up for.

- The Muslim Chaplains – My vision is to provide a unique holistic support mechanism and development opportunities for all my colleagues working in prison establishments.
- The Prisoners – I hope to use my period as chair to enhance the support, care and service delivered to all our Muslim prisoners
- The Community – I will endeavour to seek the support of the wider community to engage with prison establishments for resettlement, rehabilitation opportunities, reduce re-offending and repair broken lives.

Prisoners are people. Their issues are real. Their families face trauma and distress. My colleagues work in an emotional and highly charged atmosphere. Our journey over the next three years will be challenging, difficult and tiring. We will encounter obstacles and barriers. Some expected, some not. However, the executive committee and the members of MCA are all hard working, committed and devout individuals, and together, all united, we will reach our goal.

I pray to Almighty Allah that he sends his mercy upon the organisation, blesses us with Prophetic wisdom and character, grants us good health, enables us to perform our duties with sincerity, accepts our efforts and grants us eternal Paradise. [Aameen]

Ismail Isakji

MCA Chair