



Muslim Chaplain's Association



Letter from the Chairman

5th January 2007/16th Dhul Hijjah 1427

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear Respected Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Praise is due to Allah subhanahu wa Ta'aala Most Gracious, Most Merciful. May Peace and Blessings be upon our Beloved Prophet Mohammad, his family and companions.

Alhamdu lillah, over the past four years full-time and part time Muslim Chaplains have been meeting regularly, to share good practices and act as a support group. These informal studies/discussions have been very useful. We have shared many experiences and learned from good practices and discussed the challenges we are facing. If you have not been involved in the initial work of MCA this is because we understand that many of you are employed on a sessional basis and have many other commitments. Rest assured it was purely due to logistical reasons and not undervaluing your contributions in any way or form.

The aim of the MCA is:

1. To support Muslim Chaplains.
2. To work towards the resettlement of prisoners and prevention of re-offending behaviours.
3. To engage with the Muslim and wider Communities

The MCA is supported by Phil Wheatley, Director General, The Venerable William Noblett, Chaplain General, Ahtsham Ali, the Muslim Advisor and Beverley Thompson, Head of Race and Equality Action Group and other organisations outside the Prison service

A letter from the Director General, circulated on 21st December 06, urges all Governing Governors to support Muslim Chaplains' meetings. As a result, we hope to see greater participation in our future meetings. We will continue to hold our quarterly meetings and will encourage more regular area meeting, where appointed *Voluntary Area Muslim Chaplains* operating in your locality will be easily accessible for support and consultation without undue travel.

Members of the Executive Committee were appointed on the 2nd November 2006; at the Peterborough meeting. The constitution was approved in the previous meetings and a leaflet that underlines our aims and objectives was produced. After four years in the making, we will officially launch the MCA in May 2007. We are indebted to all those who have given their time and attended meetings at their own expenses and have taken the MCA on the road it is today.

Every Muslim Chaplain should be a member of the MCA and this association belongs to each and every of us. We are unique in the sense that we understand and appreciate the umbrella of Islam and are all working together to help our brothers and sisters to become responsible and law abiding citizens.

I rely on each and every one of you for your support for the success of the MCA. I look forward to working with you and seek Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'aala's guidance and help in fulfilling the responsibilities you have entrusted upon me.

Wa alaikum Salaam Wa Rahmat'ullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

Harroon Raschid Sohawon
Chairman

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