



On 15th February 2014, The Council of Mosques organised a joint training seminar with Commonwealth Police Association at the London Muslim Centre.

The Safety & Security Seminar was held in order to create awareness of security threats on mosques and gain valuable knowledge and discuss practical steps on how to prepare and respond accordingly.

The areas of focus were:

- Working with the press
- Managing events and working with volunteers
- Far Right demonstrations and Mosques
- Working with the local police and partners

Several high profile guests shared their thoughts in their own fields of expertise including:

- Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP (*above centre*)
(Chair of Home Affairs Select Committee)
- Lutfur Rahman (*above right*)
(Mayor of Tower Hamlets)
- Dalwardin Babu
(Chief Executive Commonwealth Police Association)
- Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari
(Former Secretary General of MCB)
- Stuart Johnson
(Head of TH Youth Offending Services)
- Dave Stringer
(Borough Commander of Tower Hamlets)



CoM holds Annual General Meeting for 2013



CoM's Annual General Meeting took place on the 5th of October 2013. The annual report for the financial year 2012-2013 and audited accounts were passed, a lot of valuable discussion, suggestions and constructive criticism was noted for further enhancement of CoM's work. Member mosques in Tower Hamlets were represented by more than 70 delegates.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

CoM organised a training and policy development with Sitra - Training & Consultancy to help us develop up to date policy for the Council of Mosques and its members. The training was held across January and early February 2014 at the London Muslim Centre. In total 21 different organisations participated and 36 representatives were trained.



The following training sessions covered the following areas:

- Health & Safety Policy Development
- Equalities & Diversity Policy Development
- Finance Policy Development
- Effective Management Training
- Equality & Diversity Training
- Finance Management Training
- Good Governance Training
- Health & Safety Training
- Fundraising & Bidding Training

Charity Commission Delivers Seminar

A valuable full day seminar was organised with the Charity Commission to equip our member mosques with vital information and awareness of Charity Commission. This presented mosques members the opportunity to ask questions that is more suited to their centres. A total of 68 participants attended, ranging from

32 organisations and gained coverage by local & community media. The seminar held at the London Muslim Centre, and the following topics were covered:

- Trustee duties & governance
- Speakers and literature
- Financial controls
- Safer giving & safer collecting



The Council of Mosques Hosts Annual Eid Dinner



The Council of Mosques hosted its Annual Eid Dinner with 250 guests on 21 August 2013. This annual event provided a perfect opportunity for the Council of Mosques members and partners to come together and celebrate the end of Ramadan and their successful working relationships.

In attendance were local political leaders, councillors, headteachers, faith leaders and committee members from mosques in Tower Hamlets.

We were particularly delighted by the attendance of so many important people and community leaders. Amongst whom were; Mayor of Tower Hamlets Lutfur Rahman, Rev. Alan Green, Deputy Asst Commissioner Mark Simmons, Unite the Union Regional Secretary Peter Kavanagh. CoM Secretary General Hira Islam said "It was wonderful to have people from so many different fields and an honour to host them".



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In Brief

FUNDING

CoM has assisted five organisations in exploring and applying for local funding opportunities.



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CoM can support and advise organisations when developing various policies including Child Protection, Finance and Equal Opportunities. Please get in touch!



GUIDANCE BOOKLET FOR MOSQUES



Our long awaited publication

which we hope will serve as a handbook for those involved in running mosques in Tower Hamlets. The booklet is being put together and will be sent for publication as soon as possible.

TRAINING/SEMINARS



In partnership with Tower Hamlets, CoM arranged Child Protection training sessions with East London Mosque Evening Madrasah, Stepney Shahjalal Mosque, Locksley Estate Cultural Centre & Mosque

WHAT MAKES GOOD FAMILIES?

In November 2013, we organised a seminar with Tower Hamlets Working with Muslim Families Sub Group on 'What Makes Good Families'. The seminar was held at the London Muslim Centre in Whitechapel. More than 150 people attended.



DO'S & DON'TS DURING RAMADAN

Ramadan will continue to fall in the summer months for the next few years. This means Taraweeh will be very late, therefore we must be cautious of the impact our behaviour has on our neighbours and the community. This is a blessed month so we should not destroy our good deeds by being unmindful of our neighbours, many of whom are not Muslim, who could be disturbed or upset because of our bad actions — we will no doubt give a bad image of Islam and Muslims if we are inconsiderate.



MOSQUE MANAGEMENT

- Advise the congregation about the following issues and reinforce this by displaying this poster on the noticeboard.
- Mosque sound system should be at a level that does not disturb neighbours.
- Volunteers should be deployed to maintain basic order and be well aware of and trained to deal with issues that may arise.
- Make sure fire exits are not obstructed.
- Make sure any incidents are recorded.



MOSQUE SECURITY

- Ensure people keep an eye open for suspicious behaviour.
- Be alert for unattended bags.
- Mosque volunteers should perform regular patrols.
- Do not confront individuals, call the appropriate authority:

24-hour helpline

- **Non-emergency** – dial 101
Textphone 18001 101
- **Emergency** – always dial 999
Textphone 18000



PARKING

- It is highly recommended to use public transport or walk.
- Do not block gates, entrances and exits.
- Park only in legal areas, there are no special arrangements for parking during Taraweeh.
- Do not park inappropriately, you may get fined by the local authority.



NOISE

- When traveling to and from the mosque, be mindful of residential areas – children may be sleeping and many people have early starts.
- Do not shout or talk loudly when coming and going from Taraweeh. Advise young people not to make noise politely.
- Mosque sound system should be at a suitable level.
- Keep the volume at a low level if you are listening to the radio, recitation or nasheeds.



WATER/LITTER

- Do not waste water.
- Put all your litter in bins, recycle water bottles and reuse where possible – do not throw away unwanted bottles.
- We should aim to keep our neighbourhood clean.



LOITERING

- Please do not gather in groups on street corners late at night.
- After Taraweeh prayers please go straight home – do not loiter on the streets. Too many people situated in one area can be intimidating for others.



SAFETY

Children and young people:

- Be aware of young peoples' whereabouts. If they are coming to pray then they should be accompanied by an adult.
- Always try to travel in small groups for safety.
- Parents should keep children with them during and after prayer.

Crossing the road:

- Be careful when crossing the road, use pedestrian crossings safely.

Your behaviour will have an effect on how people perceive Islam and Muslims. Considerate, unselfish, quiet, courteous – this is what people should see us as, not the opposite! All good characteristics are encouraged in the Quran and hadith and all negative ones are prohibited. Please, let us not destroy our good deeds during Ramadan by causing hardship and inconvenience to others.

Our officers are here to help you in variety of issues including mosque development, policies, training advice, child protection, DBS (formerly CRB) checks, fundraising applications, youth engagement, tension monitoring, liaising with local authority and more.



COUNCIL *of*
MOSQUES

Contact Us

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