



# NEWSLETTER

*Keeping you updated with activities, information, events and future initiatives of the Council of Mosques - Tower Hamlets*

## Annual Eid Dinner 2014

Council of Mosques held the Annual Eid Dinner on Wednesday 13th August 2014. The dinner was held at the London Muslim Centre.

The Annual Eid Dinner is to mark the occasion for end of Ramadan and an opportunity to bring together both the Muslim and non-Muslim sections of the community to increase

mutual understanding and respect. This also helps everyone to create a relationship and network with one another. Invitations were sent to Mosque members, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Councillors, MP's, local and national Met Police, NHS, School head teachers, Community leaders and various faith group leaders.



## Annual General Meeting & Election 2014

Council of Mosques held the Annual General Meeting & Election on the 22nd November 2014, at the London Muslim Centre.

The AGM gives all members & stakeholders an opportunity to receive updates on all the events & activities done in the past year. It is also a chance for members to have their voice heard for

applauding services and activities taken place.

Election was held and new board of trustees were elected to govern Council of Mosques for the year 2014 - 2016. Mayor of Tower Hamlets Lutfur Rahman was the Election Commissioner along with Councillor Abdul Asad and Mowlana Thohur Uddin.



# Capacity Building Support



## Disclosure & Barring Service

A DBS check may be needed for:

- Certain jobs or voluntary work, e.g. working with children or in health care
- Applying to foster or adopt a child

Council of Mosques in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council can support and check Identification for DBS application forms.

In July 2014 we have supported three members of Hindgrove Cultural and Community Association to apply for DBS check.

Council of Mosques welcomes any members to receive support from us to apply for DBS checks.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) have merged to become the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). CRB checks are now called DBS checks.

### CRB Application Forms changes – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013



In December 2012, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) merged and became the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).



From 1st February 2013, only DBS branded application forms will be accepted for processing by The FA CRB Unit.



## Developing Policy and Procedures

Council of Mosques supported Bow Muslim Community Centre to develop the following policies in September 2014.

- Child Protection Policy
- Finance Policy
- Equalities and Diversity Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

## Mosque AGM & Election

Council of Mosques have contributed by supporting various member Mosques Annual General Meetings and Mosque Committee Elections.

An unbiased body is required to support the process of democratically electing new board of management.

Council of Mosques acts as a neutral party to ensure the smooth operation of AGM and Elections.

The following member Mosques were supported in managing their AGM & Elections:

- Madina Jamme Masjid on Sunday 8th June 2014
- Baitul Aman Mosque & Cultural Centre on Sunday 31st August 2014
- Westferry Community Organisation on Tuesday 9th September 2014
- Wapping Bangladesh Association on Sunday 9th November 2014

## Child Protection Training

Child protection training is organised regularly by Council of Mosque in conjunction with Tower Hamlets Council for our mosque members.

We have supported the following mosque members to receive child protection training at their centre.

- Globe Town Mosque & Cultural Centre on 30th September 2014
- Bow Muslim Community Centre on 16th September 2014

# Addressing Misconception in Islam

A workshop on addressing misconception on Islam was held in June 2014 at the Kingsley Hall Community Centre.

The event was organised by Council of Mosques and supported by Poplar HARCA. Local residents from various faith groups and officers from Poplar HARCA were invited to attend the workshop.

Chair of Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum Rev Alan Green were also invited to attend and participate.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- Answer questions about Islam
- Clarify common misconceptions
- Build bridges and improve community cohesion



## Islam & the Environment Booklet

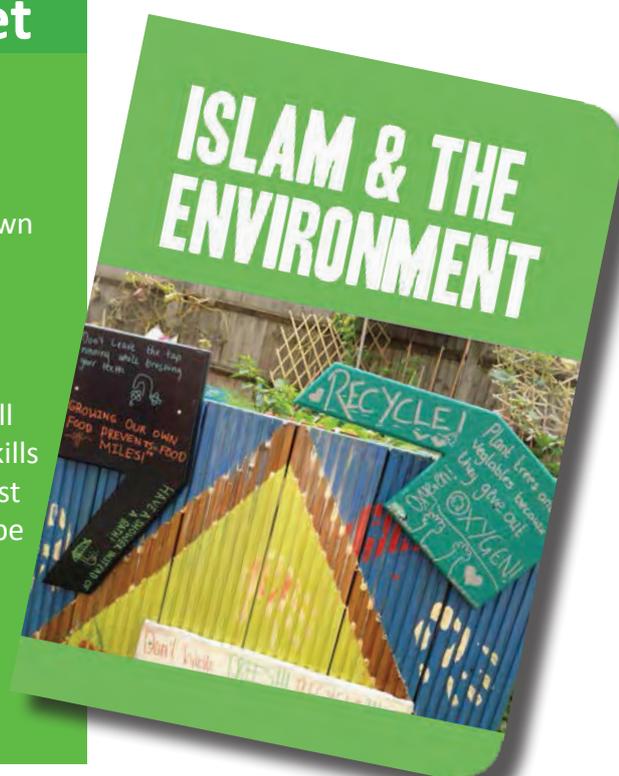
Council of Mosques in partnership with Poplar HARCA and Made in Europe have developed a booklet for the community on how to be greener, save energy and be less wasteful.

The booklet is about creating awareness on how individuals and organisations can help contribute to waste less of the resources and conserve more, also finding alternative solutions.

The information provided are examples from Islamic & worldly perspective.

Getting involved in local initiatives will give the community the skills and experience to harvest their own fruit & veg.

It is worth getting involved in local initiatives related to environmental issues. This will give an opportunity to gain skills and experience on how to best utilise limited resources and be less wasteful.



# Seminars

## Seminar on Emotional Abuse & Neglect

Council of Mosques Jointly organised a seminar with Tower Hamlets Council on Emotional Abuse & Neglect on May 2014. The seminar was held at the Maryam Centre, Fieldgate St London.

The seminar covered the following topics:

- Improve an understanding of neglect and explore the consequences of it
- Identify signs and symptoms of neglect
- Discuss ways to meet your children's emotional needs

The seminar was a success with huge number of attendees ranging from various professional backgrounds, community leaders and parents.



## Tension Monitoring Seminar

Council of Mosques organised a tension monitoring seminar in June 2014.

The aims and objective of the seminar was as follows;

- To share and report back on good practice with Mosques, partners and stakeholders
- To feedback on localised projects and what has worked well
- To identify any other issues around community cohesion that CoM can work towards
- To bring local Mosques together to identify any barriers to community cohesion and how work can be undertaken to overcome these barriers
- To report back on the work carried out this year by CoM



# Imam's Seminar



Council of Mosques Jointly organised a seminar with Tower Hamlets Council on Emotional Abuse & Neglect on May 2014. The seminar was held at the Maryam Centre, Fieldgate St London.

The aim of the seminar was to create awareness of the roles & responsibilities of committee members and imams.

The following topics had been discussed at the seminar:



- What are the roles and responsibilities of committee members & Imams, and how can they be improved to help our children learn better and be safeguarded against physical and mental harm
- Mosque committee members to initiate projects and activities to meet needs of the community
- Engaging youth by initiating attractive youth activities for both genders and keeping them out of trouble

# Capacity Building Training Award Ceremony

Council of Mosques organised training with the Training and Consultancy group Sitra to help provide up to date knowledge and skills in capacity building for their organisation. The training was held during January and early February 2014 at the London Muslim Centre.

In total 21 different organisations participated and 36 representatives were trained.

The training were based on the following topics:

1. Effective Management
2. Equalities & Diversity
3. Good Governance
4. Finance Management
5. Health & Safety
6. Fundraising & Bidding

Certificates were awarded for all those who attended the capacity building trainings. Guest Mayor of Tower Hamlets Lutfur Rahman presented the award certificates.



Council of Mosques in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council have organised an event called "Connecting with the Next Generation".

The purpose of the event was to create awareness for Islamic schools, maktabs & madrashas to improve the standard of their school and teaching quality. This event was an introduction seminar to many courses available from Faith Associates. In current times the need to improve Islamic schools, maktabs and madrashas are a must.

## Connecting with the Next Generation

We had a large number of organisations showed interest. 19 Organisation attended and total of 33 people were present.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014 - 2016

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# Here to Help

## ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

Council of Mosques can provide capacity building support for our members.

The following capacity building supports are available:

- Finance Policy
- Child protection Training
- Workshop on Policy Development
- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equalities and Diversity Policy
- Applying for Disclosure and Barring Service - DBS
- Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

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