



COUNCIL of  
MOSQUES

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 4  
June 2015

## Attack on Charlie Hebdo Paris, France

After the attack on Charlie Hebdo, Council of Mosques (CoM) held a special meeting in January 2015 to discuss the incident and to identify if this could create issue within the Muslim community. A press release was issued condemning the action of those individuals involved in the attack. A letter was sent to mosque members advising to keep peace in the community and to avoid escalating the situation.

Another separate letter was sent to all Mosques with the following guidance on the current issue in January 2015.

- ✓ To condemn this incident
- ✓ To convey this message to the worshippers to maintain peace by not escalating it further by means of social media and other means
- ✓ To take extra precaution to keep Mosques and Community safe
- ✓ To provide advice to worshipers and community members to be vigilant
- ✓ If there are any emergency incidents, report it to the Police by dialling 999 or 101 if it's not emergency
- ✓ Contact Council of Mosques to keep us informed with any incidents



Policy Development  
Mosque AGM & Elections  
Child Protection

## Mosque AGM & Election

Council of Mosques have contributed by supporting various member mosques Annual General Meeting and Mosques Committee Elections. An unbiased body is required to support the process of democratically electing new board of management to govern the organisation.

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

Council of Mosques attended the AGM & Election of Lansbury Estate Muslim Association in May 2015. New trustees were elected and have welcomed them as members of CoM.

*How should schools help students who are sitting examinations during Ramadan?*

Publication made in partnership with CoM, SACRE and Tower Hamlets Council

## RAMADAN GUIDANCE FOR FASTING STUDENTS

The next few years Ramadan will be coinciding with public school exams. This creates a difficult situation for students sitting exams and fasting at the same time.

CoM in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council developed a guidance booklet for students who are observing fast during Ramadan.

This was developed for the standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE) forum to disseminate to all schools in Tower Hamlets. Purpose of the booklet is to provide advice from an Islamic perspective on how to best support students and guide them to maintain their fast while sitting public school exams.

## DISCLOSURE BARRING SERVICE (DBS)

Council of Mosques is an umbrella organisation and through the Tower Hamlets Council we are able to perform identity checks and provide help filling in the DBS application forms.

In April 2015 we have supported six individuals for DBS checks from the following mosques:



A DBS check may be needed for:

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

- Al Aqsa
- Shoreditch Masjid Trust
- Stepney Shahjalal Masjid

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.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



### Policies Developed

- Child Protection Policy
- Equalities & Diversity Policy
- Finance Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Protection of Vulnerable Adult Policy

### Policies developed for the following mosques

1. Bow Muslim Community Centre
2. Shadwell Jamme Masjid
3. Shoreditch Masjid Trust
4. Hindgrove Masjid & Cultural Centre
5. Locksley Estate Cultural Association and Mosque
6. Dorset Community Association (DCA)
7. BBCA Prayer Centre
8. Shahporan Masjid & Islamic Centre Trust
9. Lansbury Estate Muslim Association
10. Bishops Way Community Centre UK
11. Limehouse Mosque and Muslim Cultural Association

CoM received positive feedbacks from organising the various trainings based on governing charities in 2014.

CoM members requested to improve or develop further more policies to put in place to safeguard the Mosques and trustees.

During 2014-2015 CoM organised many one to one consultations / workshops for Mosques members, on policy requirements and legal responsibilities.

Also tailoring policies to suit/match each Mosque and highlighting individual responsibilities and how to implement them:

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014 - 2016 OFFICE BEARERS



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Hafiz Moulana Shamsul Hoque



Secretary General

Sirajul Islam (Hira Islam)



Abdur Rob

Shahporan Masjid & Islamic Centre Trust



Barrister Kutubuddin

Ahmed Shikdar  
Bow Central Mosque



Shomsul Hoque

Bow Muslim Community Centre



Senior Vice Chair  
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MD Zakir Hossain  
Lansbury Estate Muslim Association (LEMA)



Mafijur Rab  
Docklands Community Organisation



M Khoyrul Shaheed  
Darul Ummah Jamme Mosque

## CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

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

We have supported Hindgrove Cultural Centre for child protection in May 2015.



## 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
- ✓ Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

### Contact Us

Council of Mosques - Tower Hamlets  
3rd Floor London Muslim Centre  
46 Whitechapel Road London E1 1JX  
Charity Number 1124554

T: 020 7650 3040  
F: 0207 138 2522  
info@councilofmosques.com  
www.councilofmosques.com

# DO'S & DON'TS DURING RAMADAN



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Ramadan will continue to fall in the summer months for the next several years. This means Taraweeh will be very late and therefore worshippers must be cautious of the impact of our night prayers.

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 actions – we will no doubt give a bad image of Islam and Muslims if we are inconsiderate.

We have produced this leaflet to remind everyone about some important aspects to consider during Ramadan.



## 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 designated parking areas, there are no special arrangements for parking during Taraweeh.
- Do not park inappropriately, you may get fined by the local authority.



## NOISE

- When travelling 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 the Mosque. Remind young people not to make noise.
- 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.
- We should 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.

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.