



LONDON CONFERENCE ON ISLAM AND WORLD PEACE

London, 9th April 2016

Venue:
The London Muslim Centre,
46 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1JX.



Organised by
The Muslim Association of Nigeria UK (MANUK)

In collaboration with

Muslim Council of Britain, Islam Channel, Council of Nigerian Muslim Organisations



And other Major UK Islamic Organisations

Preamble

Whereas Islam is today a widespread global religion professed by an estimated 1.6 billion adherents spread across every region of the modern world; and

Whereas Muslims strongly believe, as emphasised by the Qur'an, that Islam is a religion of peace (Q2:208), that Allah (God) invites to peace (Q10:25) and that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent by God as a messenger of peace and mercy to the world and to all humanity (Q21:107); and

Whereas life is the greatest treasure and gift of God to humanity and that Islam emphasises the sanctity of life (Q5:32), prohibits mischief and disorder on earth (Q7:56), and enjoins justice and kindness to all (Q16:90); and

Considering the lack of global peace today and that different parts of the world, mostly Muslim-majority countries, are afflicted with serious conflicts and warfare that have adversely affected the lives of millions of innocent people, including women and young children; and

Considering that some Muslim-majority countries have been confronted by conflict and warfare for so long that young children and adolescent youths in those countries have not known anything in their lifetime except a life surrounded by warfare and wanton destruction of life and property; and

Considering that there have been many unjustified wars and acts of aggression perpetuated by both state and non-state actors against innocent people in different parts of the world in the last century and still continuing in this century; and

Considering that many abominable acts of aggression and terrorism have been perpetuated by so-called "Islamist" terrorist groups callously and erroneously in the name of Islam, based on their misrepresentation of Islamic teachings on *jihād* and warfare; and

Conscious of the Qur’anic confirmation that God created humanity from a single pair of male and female and made humanity into nations and tribes so that they may know each other and co-exist peacefully with each other and not for conflict or self-destruction (Q49:13); and

Conscious of the Qura’nic injunctions that Muslims should incline to peace and kindness and deal equitably with humanity generally, particularly with those who do not wage war against them or drive them out of their homes (Q60:7-9); and

Conscious of the Qur’anic injunctions of no compulsion in religion (Q2:256) and of human cooperation in righteousness and not in evil (Q5:2); and

Conscious of its obligation to promote peaceful coexistence as an Islamic religious organisation registered in the United Kingdom and heedful of the Qur’anic duty of Muslims to enjoin what is right and denounce what is evil (Q3:104);

Hence, the Muslim Association of Nigeria UK (MANUK) identifies the need, calls for and commits itself to organising, in collaboration with other major UK Islamic organisations, the *London Conference on Islam and World Peace* at the London Muslim Centre, 46 White Chapel Road, London, E1 1JX, on Saturday 9th April 2016.

Objective

The main objectives of this important conference are:

1. To stimulate a wake-up call to the world generally, and to Muslims in particular, on the need for humanity to avoid quick recourse to aggression or warfare in human relations but rather to seek to address their disagreements through pacific resolutions of disputes. It is high time that the true strength of nations and communities is recognised on the ability to settle disagreements and disputes peacefully rather than the ability to wage war and cause disorder on earth.
2. To provide a platform for collective discussion and reflection about the general peaceful message of Islam, the need for contextual understanding of particular Qur’anic provisions on warfare, and the role of Islam and Muslims in contributing to the realisation of a sustainable peaceful world.
3. To provide a platform for bringing together Muslim leaders and Islamic organisations in the UK to discuss and collectively denounce and condemn the atrocities and un-Islamic acts of aggression and terrorism being committed by so-called “Islamist” terrorist groups erroneously in the name of Islam in different parts of the world today.
4. To advocate and collectively call for an end to all ongoing conflicts and warfare in different parts of the world, especially in Muslim-majority countries as enjoined by Q49:9-10.

Outcome

An agreed Communiqué to be titled the *London Declaration on Islam and World Peace* will be issued after the conference to be widely circulated and promoted globally. The Declaration will serve as a formal global call for the promotion of world peace in accordance with Islamic tenets.

It is hoped that this London Conference will lead to the hosting of follow-up rotational conferences on Islam and World Peace and the consequent adoption of a *Declaration on Islam and World Peace* in each capital city of other countries worldwide. We will be

liaising with major Islamic organisations in different countries of the world to facilitate this.

Format

The Conference will be a full-day event commencing from 10.00am to 7.00pm (PROMPT), divided into 3 sessions - morning, afternoon and evening. There will be four keynote lectures by invited scholars from Nigeria and the UK in the morning and afternoon sessions. Apart from the key lectures, representatives of invited major religious organisations in attendance will each have a 5-minute slot at different intervals to deliver short statements within the context of the Conference theme. The evening session will feature group workshops by participants and representatives of the different organisations in attendance to discuss the outcome of the Conference and next steps for the actualisation of the *London Declaration on Islam and World Peace* to be issued after the Conference.

The provisional schedule of the Conference is as follows:

Morning Session: 10.00 am – 1.00pm

1. Arrival and Registration
2. Welcome and Introduction of Conference
3. First Keynote Lecture: “Contextual Understanding of *Jihād* in Islam with Particular Reference to the Different Qur’anic Provisions on Warfare” by Sheikh Abdur Rahman Ahmad, Chief Imam and National Missioner of Ansar-ud-deen Society of Nigeria.
4. First round of short 5 minute Statements from representatives of major organisations in attendance.
5. Second Keynote Lecture on: “Islam Enjoins No Compulsion in Religion and Promotes Peaceful Co-existence among Humanity with Particular Reference to Peaceful Settlement of Disputes” by Dr. Shuja Shafi, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB).
6. Second round of short 5 minute Statements from representatives of major organisations in attendance.
7. Summary and round up of morning session.

Break for *Zuhr* Prayer and Lunch

Afternoon Session: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

8. Third Keynote Lecture on: “Causes and Solutions of Muslim Youth Radicalisation: Global and Local Perspectives” by Mohamed Ali Harrath, CEO of Islam Channel Television Station, London.
9. Third round of short 5 minute Statements from representatives of major organisations in attendance.
10. Fourth Keynote Lecture on: “Islam and the Protection of Women in Times of Peace and War”: by Dr. Zaza Alsheikh, Senior Partner, Commercial & Medical Dispute Solutions LLP, Kent, London.
11. Fourth round of short 5 minute Statements from representatives of major organisations in attendance.
12. Summary and round up of afternoon session

Break for *Asr* Prayer and Tea

Evening Session: 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm

13. Workshop: Participants divided into Groups to discuss outcome of Conference and Next Steps
14. Discussion and Adoption of Conference Communiqué

15. Vote of Thanks
16. Close of Conference

Call for Collaboration and Participation

Consequently, MANUK hereby issues a call for collaboration and participation to all UK Islamic organisations in making this important Conference a success. We also welcome the participation and attendance of other interested faith groups in the UK. We will also be inviting and expect the attendance of Ambassadors/Representatives of Embassies of the different Muslim-majority countries in the UK.

Chief Host

The Chief Host for the Conference is Professor Mashood Baderin who is currently Professor of Law at SOAS, University of London, where he teaches and researches in Islamic law, Human Rights Law and International Law. He is also the Resident Islamic Consultant at the Muslim Association of Nigeria UK (MANUK).

Registration

Registration for the Conference is free on the MANUK website at: <http://manuk.org/>

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