


In the name of Allah, the all-Merciful, the most Compassionate

A special meeting of imams (leaders) and ulama (scholars) held at the Islamic Cultural Centre, Regents Park, London on 15th July 2005 endorsed the following declaration:

Along with all Londoners and the people of Britain, we are deeply shocked and saddened by the bombing attacks of 7 July 2005 that caused the loss of at least 52 innocent lives, wounded hundreds and disrupted the peace and order of the civic and community life of the metropolis. We regard these acts as utterly criminal, totally reprehensible, and absolutely un-Islamic.

On behalf of our communities and congregations, we express heartfelt sorrow and extend condolences to the families and friends of the victims. We pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. We extend our sympathy to the entire British public, a nation to which we all belong by the Grace of God.

There can never be any excuse for taking an innocent life. The Qur'an clearly declares that killing an innocent person was tantamount to killing all mankind and likewise saving a single life was as if one had saved the life of all mankind. (The Qur'an, Al-Maidah 5:32)  this is both a principle and a command.

We are firmly of the view that these killings had absolutely no sanction in Islam, nor is there any justification whatsoever in our noble religion for such evil actions. It is our understanding that those who carried out the bombings in London should in no sense be regarded as martyrs.

It is incumbent upon all of us, Muslims and non-Muslims – to help the authorities with any information that may lead to the planners of last week's atrocity being brought to justice. The pursuit of justice for the victims of last week's attacks is an obligation under the faith of Islam.

Islam is the middle path and the Qur'an designates Muslims as the *ummatan wasata*

– the middle community. Any form of extremism is to be utterly and completely rejected. What we need, therefore, in our troubled world, more than ever before is to stick to the middle and balanced way of Islam.

We need also to remind ourselves, young as well as old, that the solution to our problems and concerns lies in following and adhering to the noble discipline of Islam and to the way of the Prophet, peace be upon him, and not falling prey to a culture of conflict and discord. The social culture of Islam is based on the principle of inviting people towards good, courteously and wisely – with *Hikmah* and *mawizah Hasana*. (The Qur'an, Al-Nahal 16:125) The Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him, was sent as a mercy to mankind and that is the ideal and norm that we ought to be following all the time.

The tragedy of 7th July 2005 demands that all of us, both in public life and in civil and religious society, confront together the problems of Islamophobia, racism, unemployment, economic deprivation and social exclusion - factors that may be alienating some of our children and driving them towards the path of anger and desperation. Islam prohibits both anger and desperation. Anger and desperation are *haram* (forbidden) and may lead to some people being targeted by people with a sinister and violent agenda. There is, therefore, a great deal of positive work to be done together with everyone in our own and wider community in order to channel the energy and talent of our youth particularly into constructive avenues, serving God and society for the common good. The youth need understanding, not bashing.

We do naturally feel deeply for the sufferings, injustices and oppression the world over. Yet we also remind ourselves of the verse of the Qur'an, "O you who believe! Be steadfast witnesses for Allah in equity and let not abhorrence of any people make you swerve from justice. Deal justly, that is nearer to God-fearing. Fear Allah. Allah is aware of what you do." (Al Maidah, 5:8)

We also call on the international community to work towards just and lasting peace settlements in the world's areas of conflict and help eliminate the grievances that seem to nurture a spiral of violence. We also urge the media to refrain from character

assassinations of our reputable scholars and denigration of the community.

We reiterate our resolve and commitment to work towards nurturing an identity that is true to its faith and its rights and responsibilities of British citizenship. Finally, we pray to God Almighty to bless all the people of the world with His Peace and Mercy. *Wa akhiru da'wana ani-lhamdulillahi rabbil-alameen.*

The meeting was convened by The Muslim Council of Britain with the British Muslim Forum and other leading national and regional organisations from across the country. Signatories to the Declaration included:

Shaykh Dr Maulana	Ali Manazir Jomshed Hussain	Ahdash Ahsan Ali Ali	Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, London The Islamic Foundation, Leicester The Council of Mosques, Tower Hamlets The Council of Mosques, Tower Hamlets
Mufti Khateeb	Muhammad Muhammad Iqbal Muhammad	Aslam Awan Azim	Jamiat Ulama-e-Britain UK Islamic Mission, Luton Kashmir Forum UK
Mufti Imam	AbdulKader Driss	Barkatulla Boumzough	Senior Imam, Finchley Mosque Imam, Moroccan Muslim Community of London
Maulana Shaykh Dr	Abdal Abdal Ahmed Ahmed	Choudhury Choudhury Dahdorh Dubyan	British Muslim Action Front The Council of Mosques, Tower Hamlets Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, London Islamic Cultural Centre & London Central Mosque
Shaykh Shaykh Maulana Shaykh Dr Maulana Hafiz Hafiz Maulana	Abdel Shaheed Muslehuddin Rached Moudood Suhuib Usama Mahmoudul Shamsul Shamsul	El-Ashal Faradhi Ghannoushi Hasan Hasan Hasan Hassan Hoque Hoque	Muslim Association of Britain Islamic Forum Europe Uleman Council of Da'watul Islam Islamic Shariah Council Imam, Masjid Al-Tawhid, Leyton Da'watul Islam Imam, Eshatul Islam Mosque, Ilford The Council of Mosques, Tower Hamlets
Dr Maulana Shaykh Professor	Aboochitar AbddulKarim Masood Alam Hokei Sayyid Fadhil Ahmed Sheikh Hasan	Khaled Khalil Khan Majouli Milani Mohamed Mueenuddin	International Muslim Committee Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, London Jamia Islamia, Birmingham Muslim Welfare House Trust International College for Islamic Studies Muslim Association of Britain Da'watul Islam UK & Eire
Maulana Maulana Professor	Gul Farooq Dawud	Muhammad Mulla Noibi	British Muslim Forum Lincoln Mosque Nigerian Muslim Community & Imam, Old Kent Road Mosque
Maulana	Muhammad Imdad Hussain	Pirzada	Jamia-al-Karam, Nottingham
Maulana	Bostan	Qadri	Confederation of Sunni Mosques, Midlands

Shaykh Maulana	Abdul Muhammad Shahid	Qayoom Raza	Imam, East London Mosque The World Islamic Mission & Imam, Leicester Central Mosque
Maulana	Sayyid Mohammad	Sabzwary	Al Asr Community & Education Centre
Maulana Maulana	Ismail Ali Muhammad Akram	Shah Khan	Jamiat Ulama-e-Britain UK Islamic Mission, Luton

Messages of support were received from other ulama including Dr Musharraf Hussain, Karimia Institute, Nottingham, and Maulana Ismail, Birmingham Central Mosque.