

# Template Friday Sermon (Khutbah):

## #SafeRamadan 2021 under COVID

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا ، من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل فلا هادي له وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن محمدا عبده ورسوله يا أيها الذين ءامنوا اتقوا الله حق تقاته، ولا تموتن إلا وأنتم مسلمون.

As-salamun-alaikum, Peace be with you,

### PART 1

Brothers and Sisters,

Ramadan is upon us, a month of **contemplation, connection** and **correction**. We welcome Ramadan 2021 with faith, hope and determination that we will do our best to protect ourselves and we place our total trust in Allah for Allah is sufficient for us - *حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ* ("Allah is enough for us; and how excellent a guardian is He!") (3:173)

It is a blessed Month of opportunity for gaining maximum blessings, forgiveness and developing our resilience; to train ourselves to build our internal capacity to face the daily challenges of life and prepare ourselves for the hereafter

In similarity to the Ramadan last year, the global COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. We must ask ourselves:

1. How can we have #SafeRamadan this year?
2. How do we connect with Allah **meaningfully** while connecting with family and friends **safely**?
3. How do we make **the best of Ramadan** under the current lockdown restrictions?

### 1) STAYING SAFE

- We must be preparing ourselves for Ramadan not only spirituality, but **also from a Health & Safety point of view too**
- Let us not forget that this COVID19 has so far **caused over 120,000 deaths in Britain**, and nearly **3 million deaths globally**. Not to mention the immense loss of livelihoods and economic impacts. And the impact of so-called "**long COVID**" is only just starting to be understood.
- Many of us may have lost beloved family members of friends in the past few months, including **mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives**.
- It is our moral duty to minimise the transmission of the virus by abiding by the rules and guidance advised by public health experts.

## 2) VACCINATION

- Part of *Taqwa* and *Tawakkul* is to recognise that there is remedy for every illness as stated by the Prophet (Peace be upon him) - **“There is a remedy for every malady, and when the remedy is applied to the disease it is cured with the permission of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious.” (Muslim)**. We must do everything in our capacity to find the cure because looking for the cure and applying the cure are both part of *Taqwa* and *Tawakkul*.
- Now that we have vaccines for COVID19, it is important that we speak to our healthcare professionals and ask them about our risk and whether they recommend it for us.
- If you have concerns about the vaccines, then we advise the best course of action is to speak to those who have knowledge about the vaccine and to avoid listening to misinformation that may be spread knowingly or unknowingly from persons unknown.
- It is useful to note the absolute majority of Muslim healthcare professionals of all backgrounds, Islamic scholars of all backgrounds, as well as the Muslim Council of Britain, the British Islamic Medical Association and the British Board of Scholars and Imams – have all recommended the vaccines for Muslim communities.
- Remember our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) has taught us that we should rely on Allah and seek protection from Him but we should also do our bit as well. **A man said, “O Messenger of Allah, should I tie my camel and trust in Allah, or should I leave her untied and trust in Allah?” The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Tie her and trust in Allah.” (Tirmidhi)**

## 3) VACCINATION WHILST FASTING

- For some of us, the call for the 1<sup>st</sup> dose or the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose may come during Ramadan and this might worry us, but it should not.
- The opinion of majority of Islamic scholars is that vaccination does **NOT** invalidate fast.
- It should not delay you from getting vaccinated if you are invited to book an appointment during Ramadan
- A very small fraction of people may get side effects after vaccination that make them feel unwell which may necessitate breaking their fast, but our deen is flexible and our fast can be broken for those days we feel unwell and made up another time in the year. Without getting vaccinated, should be God forbid catch COVID19, it will certainly make us break our fast for far longer in addition to potentially serious symptoms.

## PART 2

### HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THIS RAMADAN 2021?

- 1. Month of Ramadan is the month of giving, feed the poor in your neighbourhood:** We should donate generously to local feeding and supporting initiatives. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ***“He is not a believer who eats his fill whilst his neighbour beside him goes hungry”*** [Bukhari]  
**ACTION:** Many people are suffering from unemployment or financial difficulties in the country. Find them out via the mosque or local charities and offer them support. Orphans, refugees, international students, taxi drivers who have lost a big part of their livelihood... many are in need but do not say.
- 2. Month of Ramadan is month of connecting, connect with your neighbours who are vulnerable:** Check on your neighbours to ensure they are ok: Many in our neighbourhood could be spending days and nights on their own. They could be lonely and vulnerable. As Muslim we should show care and show concerns about our neighbours. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: ***“Whoever relieves a believer’s distress of the distressful aspects of this world, Allah will rescue him from a difficulty of the difficulties of the Hereafter. Whoever alleviates [the situation of] one in dire straits who cannot repay his debt, Allah will alleviate his lot in both this world and in the Hereafter.”*** (Muslim)  
**ACTION:** There are many ways of doing this, including delivering shopping to the elderly or sick as well as helping exhausted frontline workers in clinics, hospitals or elsewhere.
- 3. Month of Ramadan is a month of Charity:** Give your *zakat* and *sadaqat* to support causes, both local and international. Giving charity will not diminish your wealth, in fact it will multiply exponentially, and you will reap its benefits in this world and the next. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said, ***“Charity does not decrease wealth, no one forgives another except that Allah increases his honor, and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises his status.”*** (Muslim)  
**ACTION:** Give donations to reputable charities helping the most vulnerable affected by COVID19.
- 4. Month of Ramadan is a month of family - make du’a to be with our families indoors again soon, but in the meantime, have lots of “Zoom Iftars” instead.** The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said, ***“Every action is judged by its intention”*** - In the month of Ramadan we usually invite many people for Iftar but this Ramadan with COVID19 threat not completely gone, we need to limit this.  
**ACTION:** Consider virtual iftars. These are an important way to re-connect with our communities, from the elderly to the disabled, to reverts and refugees, as well as home and international students. Virtual iftars are vital in bringing people together and contributing to a safe and happy Ramadan.
- 5. Month of Ramadan is a month of forgiveness so get your sins forgiven:** Spend as much time as possible in contemplation and seeking forgiveness from Allah. Allah's Messenger (Peace be upon him) said, ***“Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven.”*** (Bukhari)  
**ACTION:** Spend some of the lockdown time taking self-accountability of yourself, your relationship with Allah, with your family, friends and community.

*Closing Dua and Ends.*

*Template khutbah drafted by Imam Ajmal Masroor, Executive Director at Abdullah Quilliam Mosque in Liverpool - Britain’s First Mosque, with contributions from organisations listed below.*