

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Mrs Ifath Nawaz  
Chair, Legal Affairs Committee  
Muslim Council of Britain

Dear Mrs Nawaz,

I hope you are well. Thank you for your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> May and thank you for reaching out to me in this way.

It is vital that the Labour Party and the Muslim Council of Britain have a strong relationship, I was pleased to speak with the Muslim Council of Britain in my first week as Leader and keen we have a constructive and positive ongoing partnership between our two organisations'. I am therefore delighted to accept your invitation to host a roundtable with me, and my team will be in contact to arrange a suitable date and time for this to take place.

Let me use this opportunity to address some of the points raised in your letter and reiterate that under my leadership the Labour Party will always uphold and respect international law and will always stand up for human rights and for the rule of law.

Our position on Kashmir has not changed, we support and recognise previous UN resolutions on the rights of the Kashmiri people but maintain that if we are to find a lasting settlement, to end this ongoing conflict, that can only be achieved if India and Pakistan working together, with the people of Kashmir.

As I outlined in my leadership campaign, my approach to international relations will be to always promote peace and put human rights first. I look forward to building a relationship with you to help me make that case and work within our communities to promote unity over division and stand up for what is right.

I will also ensure that Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lisa Nandy, follows up on this correspondence and reaches out to you to discuss how we can ensure the voices of our Kashmiri communities contribute to Labour's policy making processes.

Thank you once again for contacting me I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keir Starmer', with a horizontal line underneath.

Keir Starmer MP