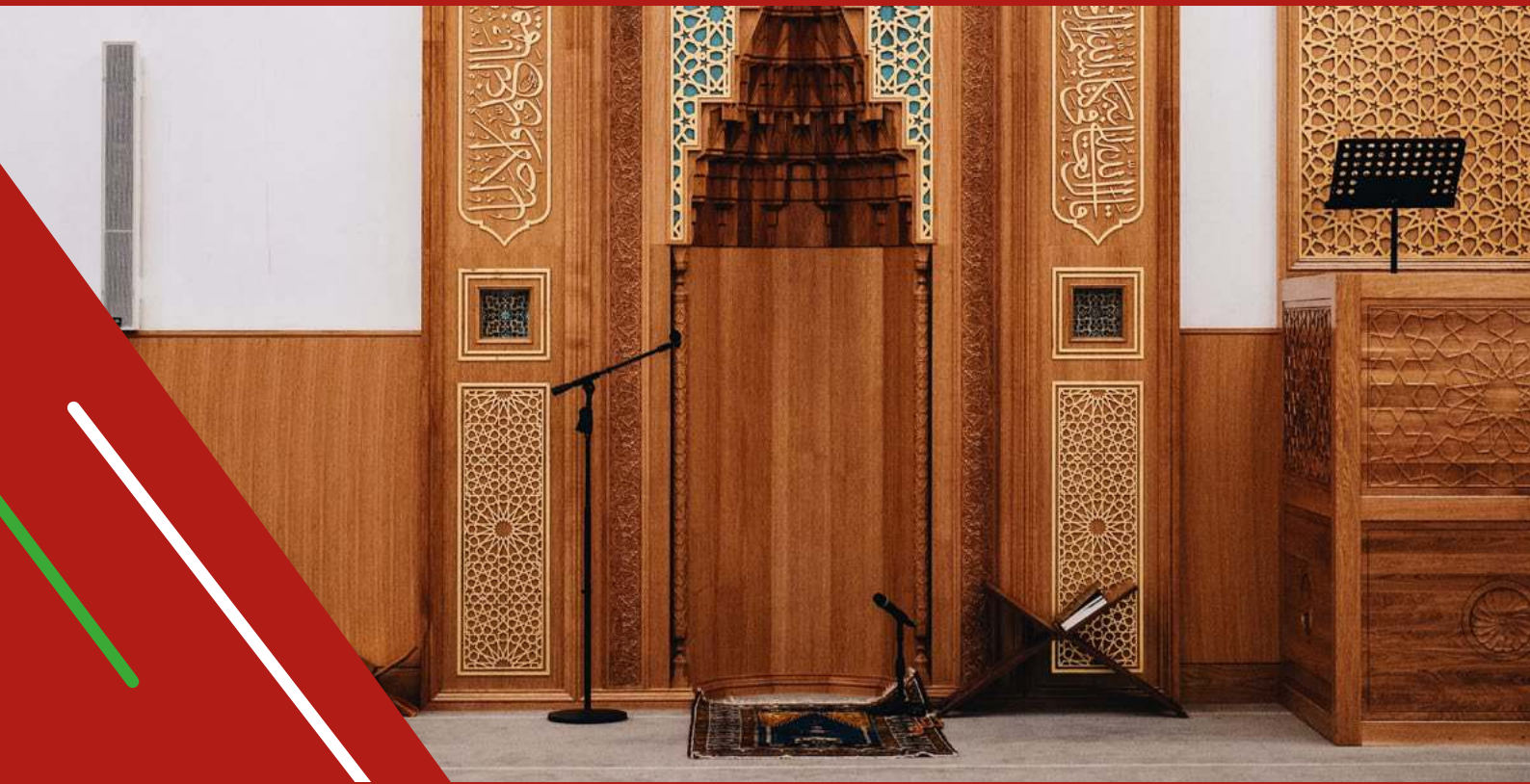


October 2021



The Muslim Council of Britain's 6 Step Guide to Keeping Mosques Safe & Secure



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Muslim Council of Britain

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is the UK's largest and most diverse national Muslim umbrella organisation with over 500 members including mosques, schools, charitable associations and professional networks.

Our mission is empowering Muslim communities to achieve a just, cohesive and successful British society. Founded in 1997, we lead community projects and initiatives around the country.

For more information contact: mosques.queries@mcb.org.uk

This guide is a non-exhaustive list of key tips for keeping your mosques premises and congregation members safe and secure. It should be interpreted in the context of your mosque and local community with input from your community members, Imams and staff/volunteers.

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The MCB 6 Step Guide to keeping Mosques safe and secure

The Muslim Council of Britain recognises the ongoing challenges places of worship face both as a result of the pandemic but also in light of increasing Islamophobia and hate crime. Mosques are places of sanctuary, worship and reflection. They also serve as support centres for communities for education, social and welfare issues, bereavement and loss as well as celebration.

This guide has been designed to provide useful advice and tips on how Mosque management, staff, and volunteers can mitigate any risks and potential harms to their service users. We want to make sure all visitors, congregants, and mosque teams can all be safe when using places of worship.

Summary

- Prepare a safety plan and review it on a regular basis
- Ensure your security systems are in place and fully functioning
- Continue engaging with local partnerships
- Remain vigilant and calm
- Report hate crime and abuse



Please find our **6 Step Guide** which will outline some key advice on what you can do to be better prepared.

-  **1** Appoint a Mosque Safety Team 
-  **2** Review Mosque safety operations 
-  **3** Complete Mosque safety checklist 
-  **4** Keeping congregation safe 
-  **5** Utilise local partnerships 
-  **6** What to do in an emergency 

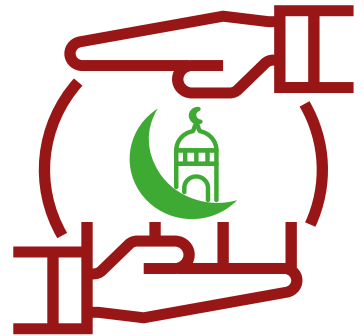
1 Appoint a Mosque Safety Team



- Appoint a lead security person for the Mosque
- Train safety officers for supplementary schools/Madrassas
- Arrange or update an urgent risk assessment for Mosque security process
- Consider holding relevant drills to ensure procedures are working when needed
- Keep an incident report log to record
- Appoint a spokesperson for the Mosque for any media queries and only that person should liaise with media or when making statements (contact The MCB for support on this)

2 Review Mosque safety procedures

- Ensure there is adequate security at busy times such as Jummah
- Increase security at times of your supplementary school and communicate with parents
- When the Mosque is not in use ensure doors and windows are locked and limit access points to the Mosque
- Keep gates closed when Mosque is closed
- Have a member of staff or volunteer on site throughout Mosque opening hours
- Implement a safe lone works policy if any staff are working alone at Mosque
- Prepare a lockdown policy for your Mosque and supplementary school



3

Complete Mosque safety checklist

- Ensure building is well-lit externally
- Check your CCTV is fully working and covering mosque premises and always recording
- Fire exits and related paths must be kept clear and unobstructed
- Have an evacuation plan clearly displayed
- When locking up, check all windows, doors and points of entry are locked and secure
- Ensure fire, smoke, burglar and carbon monoxide alarms or detectors are working properly and tested regularly
- Have visitors sign in and accompany them throughout their visit
- Make sure unused halls and spaces are locked
- Seek professional advice to make sure the Mosque building is insured adequately and is renewed in a timely manner
- Report suspicious packages to the police immediately.
- Ensure any instances of hate, whether online, mail or phone calls are reported and do not engage with them
- Report all Islamophobic attacks at a hate crime reporting centre and look at a system to record them at your mosque or buddy up with a hate crime reporting centre where it can be recorded no matter how small or insignificant you think the incident may be. www.gov.uk/report-hate-crime or call 101 to report it to the police.



4 Keeping congregations safe

- For early or late prayers in the dark do not walk alone in secluded areas and try to travel with others
- Consider having a personal alarm with you
- Have an emergency setting on your mobile phone if ever need to call the police
- Walk in well-lit areas and busy main roads where you are more likely to have people around
- Always inform family or friends of routes taken when traveling

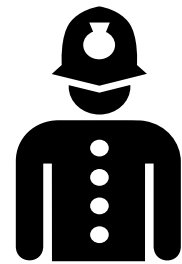


5 Utilise local partnerships

- Local relationships are a great way to build partnership to tackle common safety issues
- It is important to develop good relationships with Counselors and police/fire/emergency services in your locality as well as meet with your local MP to discuss community concerns and ensure your premises are compliant with building regulations on fire safety
- It would be important to set up a meeting with local police community support officers (PCSO) who can support the mosque and visit regularly
- Build a close relationship with local interfaith groups or set up a local interfaith group if you do not already have one in place
- Create a good relationship and security arrangement with surrounding local mosques and other places of worship in the case of an attack or in an emergency to support each other
- Develop a local social media contact group for emergencies if needed and for keeping in contact and supporting others
- Maintain regular contact and share updates with your congregation and parents of pupils

6 What to do in an emergency ?

- Call 999
- Have emergency contact list of local community support
- Install emergency police alarm in reception to use if needed
- Remain vigilant and calm



What to do in the event of a potential hate crime or incident?

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In an emergency, call 999

For non-emergencies:

- Report to Police using 101 or
- www.report-hate-crime.org.uk/organisations_that_can_help

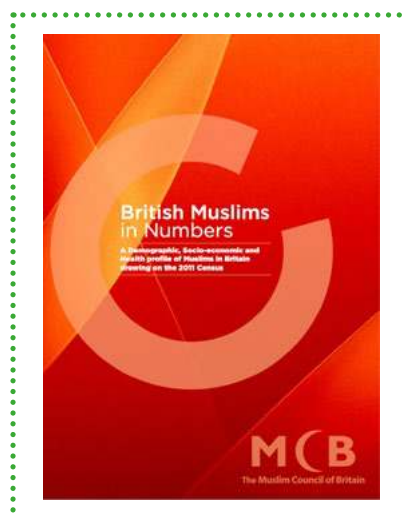
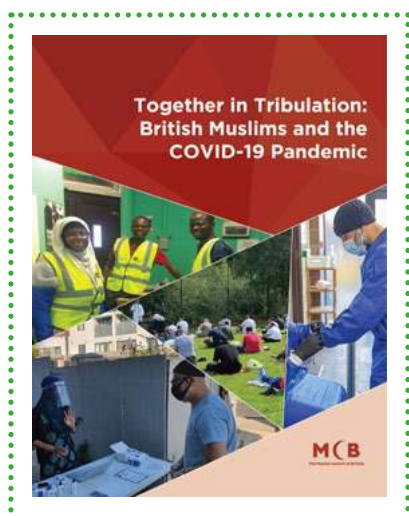
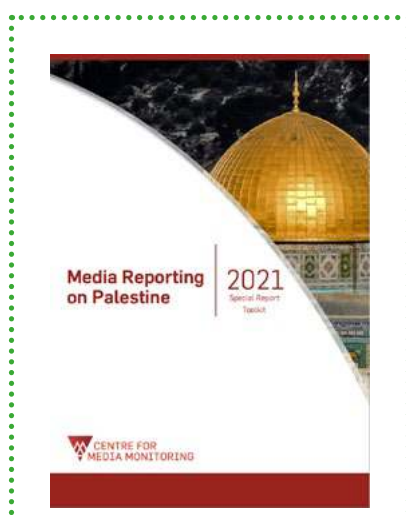
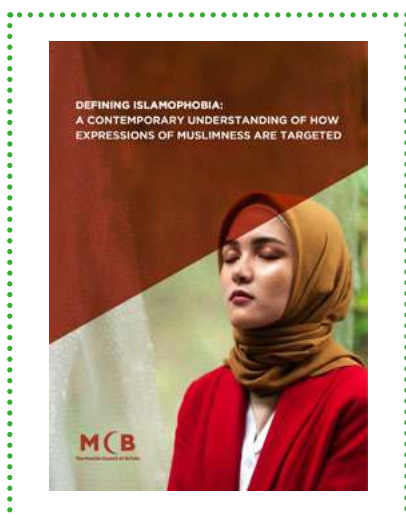
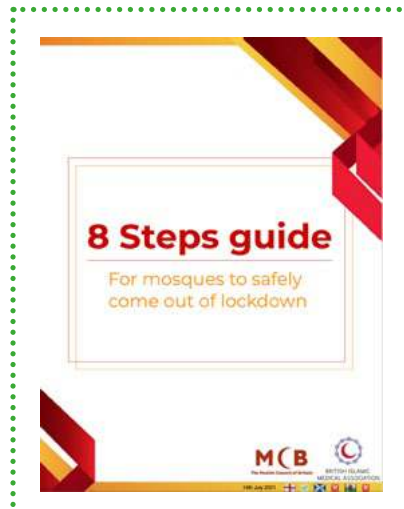
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To report any suspicious activity:
Contact the anti-terror hotline on 0800 789 321 or report online at act.campaign.gov.uk

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MCB's recent publications available on website: www.mcb.org.uk





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