

Vote 2010 Ulema Statement

Muslims urged to vote for the common good

Historic joint statement from Islamic Scholars in the UK about participation in the forthcoming local and general elections.

Ulema from all schools of thought and traditions urge British Muslims to get involved.

Indeed all praise belongs to Allah, we praise Him, seek His aid and His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls and the evils of our actions. Whomsoever Allah guides, there is none to misguide and whomsoever Allah misguides, no one can guide him. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone. He has no partners and we testify that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. Prayers and salutations upon His chosen Prophet, upon the Prophet's household, his companions, and all the Prophets.

Allah, subahanahu wa ta'ala says:

"Verily never will Allah change the condition of a people until they change it themselves (within their own souls)."

Ar-Ra'd 13:11

"There is no good in much of their secret conferences save (in) whosoever enjoineth charity and fairness and peace-making among the people and whoso does that, seeking the good pleasure of God, We shall bestow on him a vast reward."

An-Nisa', 4:114

1. As ulema, scholars belonging to traditionally rooted Islamic schools of thought, **we come together today to encourage our brothers and sisters to take part in the forthcoming elections and vote.**
2. Participation in the democratic processes of political life is vital. As citizens we have struggled for the right and the duty to choose and remove the people who represent us and make decisions that affect our daily lives. As Muslims, we have an obligation to join hands with others to elect those who will seek the common good.
3. In Britain of late, the political class has been embroiled in expenses scandals and the public has lost trust in them. Muslims too are less inclined to support untrustworthy individuals and might be tempted to **stay away from the forthcoming elections.**
4. We urge all to resist this tendency and any other tendencies towards apathy. **Muslims should still exercise their judgement and use the opportunity to vote for trustworthy candidates. Candidates who they believe will represent their needs better than others, and honourably discharge their duty to seek the common good in a spirit of public service. This election is critical to the health of the parliament.**
5. The forthcoming General Election will be one of the most important in a generation. **With so many MPs standing down, the very character of Parliament will change. It is an ideal opportunity for voters to reconnect and hold to account their representatives. It is imperative for Muslims to vote on issues that concern them as citizens.**

It is also vital that we all vote to counter the rise of racist and Islamophobic far right political parties which have made considerable gains in recent years.

Signatories

1. Sheikh Qari Mohammad Ismail - Lead Imam (Khateeb) of Central Mosque Birmingham
2. Ayatullah Sheikh Fadil Milani – Imam Al Khoei Centre

3. Sheikh Abbas Ismail – Head of Islamic Education, World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Muslim Communities
4. Hujjatul Islam Sheikh Arif Abdul Hussain – Imam and Khatib Clifton Road Mosque, Birmingham
5. Dr. Mawlana ASM Abdur Rahim – Imam & Khatib, Jame Mosque, Small Heath, Birmingham
6. Mawlana Ibrahim Amin –
7. Imam Yunus Dudhwala – Chaplaincy Manager, Newham Teaching Hospital
8. Moulana Suleman Gani – Imam Balham Mosque
9. Sheikh Muhammad Abdur Rahman Madani – Imam and Khatib Jameatul Ummah
10. Mawlana Mohammad Madni – President UK Islamic Mission
11. Mawlana Hafiz Shafiqur Rahamn – Dawatul Islam UK and Eire
12. Sheikh Abdul Mabud – Islamic Institute, Cambridge
13. Imam Tarik Nasrullah -
14. Imam Ibrahim Mogra – Leicester
15. Maulana Uwais Namazi –
16. Maulana Shahid Raza – Chairman, Mosque and Imams' National Advisory Board (MINAB)
17. Imam Sufyaan Iqbal –
18. Mufti Mohammad Zubair Butt – Bradford
19. Imam Mohammad Ismail –
20. Imam Said Ahmed –
21. Imam Abduljalil Sajid – Brighton
22. Imam Inamul Haq Malik –
23. Hafiz Abu Bakr Sajjad – Imam, Plaistow Masjid
24. Moulana Mohammad Jahan Zeb – Masjid Belal, East Ham
25. Moulana Sher Ali – Imam Ilford Islamic Centre
26. Mawlana Abul Hossain – Imam East London Mosque
27. Mufti Mohammad Aslam – President, Jamiat Ulama Britain
28. Moulana Islam Ali Shah – Imam, Central Mosque Wakefield
29. Hafiz Mohammad Iqram - Imam, Central Mosque Rochdale
30. Mawlana Musleh Uddin Faradi – President, Islamic Forum Europe
31. Mawlana Abdul Mohaymen – Imam Masjid Ayesha Tottenham
32. Moulana Shamsul Haq – Chair – Council of Mosques, Tower Hamlets
33. Imam Syed Amir Hussain Naqvi – Imam Hussainya Mosque, Small Heath Birmingham
34. Sheikh Ayub Rashid - Director of Islamic studies and Arabic in Spring Education, South London
35. Syed Mohamed Naqvi - Resident Alim, Birmingham Al Muntazar Mosque
36. Imam Shaeb Ahmed - Banbury, Secretary General, Markazi Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadith

ACT NOW! We urge our respected scholars and Imams to discuss these five points during their Jumuah Khutbahs in the run up to the elections. We urge all, young and old, men and women, to mobilise for 6th May. Please ensure that all members of your families, localities and other networks are registered vote together.