

The Role of Faith Based Organisations in Preventing Crimes, Promoting Peace and Justice (In Preparation for UNDC Congress 2020) Spirituality and Justice

BY IMAM SHEIKH MOHAMMAD ISMAIL DL

The Role of Faith Based Organisations in Preventing Crimes, Promoting Peace and Justice (In Preparation for UNDC Congress 2020) Spirituality and Justice

Honourable Chair, Right Honourable Dignitaries, Grace and Reverence the Religious Leaders, Excellencies Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today in this beautiful city and in this great country which constituted and protected freedom of religion for all.

I would like extend my thanks to KAICIID for enabling me to participate in this programme, Thanks to my employer The University of Sheffield for providing me relief from my responsibilities and I am grateful to Central Mosque Birmingham where I am the lead Imam since 2003 for providing me the opportunities for nationwide multifaith activities. I also express my gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for taking care of faith communities in the UK and worldwide.

Looking towards UNDC Congress 2020, This event is a great opportunity for Faith Based Organisations to highlight their important, positive and active role in the society in addressing crime prevention and promoting peace and justice all around the world. One such important element of crime is extremism which is the root cause of problems leading to hate crimes which derives from Hate Speech. Thanks to KAICIID worldwide efforts in eradicating Hate Speech but most importantly, the recent KAICIID Conference on 'Stop Hate Speech' was an excellent opportunity of bringing various different faith communities from East and West to form a programme of unity against Hate Speech. There are excellent recommendations which could be adopted by faith-based organisations.

In addition to this, first time in Europe, with help from KAICIID a Jewish Muslim Leaders forum MJLC has been formed.

Nationally, The United Kingdom has successfully addressed the issue of hate with faith-based organisations since 2007 by launching a religious interfaith and dialogue training programme for faith leaders which was successfully working for 5 years and as a result of that success there are continuous different such programmes offered regularly. One such programme is in progress at Birmingham University, Cadbury Century for faith leaders training. Another good example of continuation of such activities is a global multifaith HE chaplains conference is taking place in university of Sheffield June 2020.

The Role of Faith Based Organisations in Preventing Crimes, Promoting Peace and Justice (In Preparation for UNDC Congress 2020) Spirituality and Justice

BY IMAM SHEIKH MOHAMMAD ISMAIL DL

In the past 3 years in the UK, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments formed various taskforces working groups. I was involved in one of them which was tasked to investigate the curriculum of religious seminaries and bringing them closer to work with mainstream universities under the chair of Prof Scot Bauman of SOAS London. The report is complete and will be launched soon.

Locally, in Sheffield region all faith based organisations are active partners in prevention of young people from crimes which is taking place through extensive safeguarding training for faith based organisations. This training includes, safeguarding children and young people from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuses. Raising awareness about FGM, domestic abuse, drugs abuse and knife crimes. Provide faith-based organisations with training to prevent and recognise extremism, hate crimes and hate speech. Raising awareness about Islamophobia, Antisemitism and all other forms of discriminations.

In addition, local police commissioners maintain very close working relationships with faith-based organisations to seek their support in prevention of crimes in the community. The list is long for good practices and worthy examples. Considering all the above I suggest the following to be included in the recommendations:

1. Review the curriculum of all religious seminaries for eradicating and addressing hate speech (seminaries that are preparing and training leadership for faith-based organisations).
2. Offering training and development to the leadership of faith-based organisations to raise their awareness about various social crimes.
3. Establishing close working relationship between faith-based organisation to prevent crimes.
4. Interaction and establishing working relationships with decision making bodies.
5. Adopting KAICIID recommendations from Vienna Stop Hate Speech Conference.
6. Defending religious freedom for minorities.
7. Promoting respect and tolerance among faith-based organisations.
8. Protecting religious minorities.
9. More cooperation and help with faith based.
10. Promoting UN charter for religious freedom.