

SERENDIB

Issue 116
Ramadhan 1436
June 2015

The Newsletter of the Sri-Lankan Islamic (UK) Association

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President's Message

My Dear Respected Elders, Brothers and Sisters in Islam

Assalamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraktuh

All praise to the Almighty Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. I am grateful to have the privilege of serving the community for my final year Inshaa Allah as President of the SLIA.

As it has been clear from my vantage point, the success of the variety of talent, skill and differences in personality still have the cohesion to make the SLIA better and stronger. My brothers and sisters, we are on the brink of something special.

The feedback at the AGM was that the questionnaires were excellent and have been a success in highlighting what is important to you. They confirmed that we should continue to focus on strengthening our membership and ensure that we provide a relevant organisation in today's world.

As we catalogue the achievements over the past year, the ways to help, big or small, from the wisdom of our elders to the creativity of our youth, and from the professionals to the novices, I encourage all members to donate your most valuable asset: time. Only your collective help can make our beloved SLIA better in what it gives back to us all.

Please contact any of the members of the sub committees which are currently in operation if you would like to become involved:

- 1 Vision Sub Committee – chaired by Ishreen Bradley;
- 2 Charity Sub Committee – chaired by Ayesha Ibrahim;
- 3 Membership Sub Committee – chaired by Ahamed Hussain Wahab;
- 4 Constitutional Sub Committee – chaired by Rafat Hashim;
- 5 Building Sub Committee – chaired by Jezri Mohideen;
- 6 Communications Sub Committee – chaired by Khalid Malhar;
- 7 Religious Sub Committee – chaired by Sadat Sadiq

We have tried to utilise the strengths of our members to organise activities relevant to their needs as they forge their unique identities from the foundations of Sri Lankans in Britain to British Sri Lankans.

Without reservation, the groundwork of last year welcomed a new cast of members to our team, proof that the SLIA depth of human capital, willing to answer the call to service remains alive. This includes Rafat Hashim, Ishreen Bradley, Fathima Fuazudeen, Khalid Malhar and Ahamad Wahab. Please join me as a look forward to celebrating their contribution to the SLIA.

As Sri Lankans, our reputation, the world over, is that of our outsized kindness and limitless hospitality to all those who visit our tiny island. It is with this spirit I would like to encourage you to overlook our inherent differences with an eye to channelling what binds us, as we look to ensuring the SLIA culture strengthens for generations to come.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to my patient and wonderful wife and family, for assisting and encouraging me over the past year. I look forward to working with you, the members, over the coming year and am grateful for all the support and help given to myself and the team.

Haleem Ossman, President
Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association

This issue:
The importance of keeping family ties in Islam
Significance of Zakat -ul-Fitr
Serenity Family Fun Day
Members Book Review
Ramadhan Timetable

SLIA invites you to join us for our annual Eid-ul-Fitr Celebrations



Saturday, 25th July 2015 at 6.30 p.m.



Thistle London Heathrow Hotel

Bath Road,

Longford,

West Drayton UB7 0EQ

Venue TBC and ticket prices TBA

Sub-Committee Update

Building

Chair:	Jezri Mohideen
Members:	Gazali Hammard, Shamique Ismail, Jazal Marzook, Haleem Ossman and Althaf Zahir
Date of last Meeting:	9th May 2015
Date of next meeting:	13th September 2015

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, we are pleased to inform you that the SLIA Centre continues to be rented out to the same tenant and we have collected £13,200 in rent. We wish to welcome the two senior members Jazal Marzook and Althaf Zahir and am sure their wealth of experience will prove to be invaluable when making some key decisions this year.

Plans for this year

Key issues that need to be addressed are as follows:

1. Decision on the tenant lease extension and rental review to be made via an EGM over the next 10 months ahead of 2016 AGM. The committee shall formulate a plan of action in this regard. Much of our last meeting was spent on discussing the content and delivery of the EGM.
2. Decision on the management of the rental income:
 - Maintain the accrued monies in a segregated sharia compliant deposit account
 - Use of rental income to subsidise membership activities
 - Use of rental income for charitable purposes
3. Purchase of the flat above the SLIA premises
4. Thoughts on the upcoming sale of the leasehold flat above the SLIA premises.
5. Further roll out of the building sub-committee survey as a larger sample is necessary to further validate the view of the wider membership.
6. Encourage further participation of the membership towards the long-term strategy around the SLIA Centre.

Charity

Chair: Ayesha Ibrahim
Members: Ayesha Abdeen, Shuhama Abdul-Cader (new), Iheshan Faasee, Rafat Hashim, Mohamed Marzook, Thabith Naja, Haleem Ossman and Manjula Ossman
Date of last Meeting: 24th May 2015
Date of next Meeting: 2nd August 2015

Alhamdu Lillah thanks to your continued support and generosity we received donations of £17,071 last year of which £7,031 was utilised for a number of worthy projects in Sri Lanka as detailed in the previous newsletters and the 43rd AGM Pack.

We have also ring fenced £2,500 for the Neeravipitty (Mullathivu District) After School Centre and the residual balance of £7,540 shall be amalgamated along with the collections in 2015 for sub-committee consideration and ExCO ratification on how these funds should be distributed amongst the current projects.

Plans for this year

Inshaa Allah we wish to continue supporting the projects that were started last year and seek your vital support with specific fund raising events planned this year:

Multi-faith Sports Event: 7th June 2015, SLIA has organised a sports event to promote better understanding, improve tolerance and strengthen inter-community ties among Sri Lankans in the UK and with community ties to Sri Lanka. The SLIA is honoured to participate alongside the Buddhist and Christian communities and with V4U UK.

Ramadhan Appeal 2015: Inshaa Allah during the holy month of Ramadhan we plan to continue with the food distribution programme to the Tsunami Village for 110 families and also extend project to include the Neeravipitty village in Mullaithivu for 100 families.

Permanent Toilet Construction Programme: building an additional 100 toilets at a current budget of £315 per toilet structure per household. A specific SLIA fundraising event has been provisionally scheduled for the 1st week in September to collect funds for this project.

Running of the Neeravipitty Civil Empowerment Education project: This project seeks to foster a spirit of self-sufficiency through education in Mullaithivu to empower the community to improve their own conditions by teaching youth leadership courses as well as support primary to O'level and A'Level tuition. £2,500 was raised in 2014 and has been allocated for the infrastructure of the after-school tuition centre.

Water Pipes project: Brother Nissther Annis has already expressed interest in working with the SLIA to support the region in Neeravipitty to assist in the installation with the possibility to also jointly fund this project.

Communications

Chair: Sadat Sadiq
Members: Zahira Ismail, Khalid Malhar, Haleem Ossman and Mohamed Saleem
Date of last Meeting: 24th April 2015
Date of next Meeting: 12th June 2015

The Communications Sub-Committee is new this year and the inaugural meeting was held in April. This group was formed primarily to ensure that the different forms of communication we have at our disposal are used effectively. We quickly established the need to liaise and support our events, newsletter and sub-committee functions.

Plans for this year

We aim to focus on how we can effectively update the new SLIA website with individual membership details and our upcoming events. Also, as financial transactions now move away from the traditional payment methods of cash and cheque, we wish to explore how the website can better accommodate membership information and electronic payment. This shall however, require some amendments to our current Treasury processes to ensure that as a charitable organisation we continue to maintain strong governance.

Whilst regular updates by SMS are very popular with the members, we shall also explore the possibility of a more effective method of maintaining this important link with our community by utilising a dedicated web based system for SMS updates.

The next step for this group is to ensure we work closely with the different teams both within and outside the ExCo to enable us to raise the standard for communications with our community.

Constitution

Chair: Rafat Hashim (New from April 2015)
Members: Haleem Ossman, Farook Saleem, Ishack Thahir, Azahim Mohamed, Sadat Sadiq and Manjula Ossman.
Date of last Meeting: 30th May 2015
Date of next Meeting: 12th September 2015

Following the inaugural meeting in February 2015 and liaising with the Charity Commission, it was established that the current constitution needed to be updated, as a minimum, in line with the Charities Act 2006 - to accommodate the new financial, reporting and governance requirements.

In addition, given the changing nature of activities currently being organised by the SLIA, with potentially more social and sports events being organised, the original constitution needs modifying to include these within the Ethos of SLIA; as primarily an Islamic organisation in the UK living in an increasingly multicultural society.

Plans for this year

Looking ahead, the constitution is being updated to reflect the maturity of SLIA as a 40+ year old organisation and to allow for any future challenges that SLIA will face.

Since the AGM in April 2015, a core group of Sub-Committee members have started work on a line-by-line review, with the aim of drafting a working document, which will then need to be discussed and scrutinised further, culminating in wider discussion and legal input before being ready for circulation for comment.

Membership

Chair: Ahamad Hussain Wahab (New from April 2015)
Members: Parveen Vilcassim, Firaza Fuazudeen (new), Ashkaq Macan, Khalid Malhar (new), Faizal Musafar Jnr and Haleem Ossman
Date of last Meeting: 18th April 2015
Date of next meeting: 27th June 2015

The membership sub-committee are continuing to update record keeping procedures to ensure that information held about members is complete and accurate. Progress has been made but there is still much work to do and if any of your details have changed, we encourage you to please get in touch with us.

Despite certain challenges, we made every effort to oversee collection and receipt of annual membership fees; we have been partly successful but are continuing to find solutions to these challenges.

Plans for this year

Our main priorities this year shall be to enhance communication with our members to inform them of their membership status and continue to provide additional incentives to our members so that they are able to benefit from being part of the Association. A key existing benefit includes discounted prices at our ticketed events.

We would like to encourage existing and joining members to consider subscribing to a standing order mandate which will make our task much easier when chasing for annual payments. Thank you to those who have paid their 2015 membership subscriptions and we would like to kindly remind those who haven't yet paid, that the fees were due on 1st January 2015 and seek your co-operation in early settlement. Please see page 5 for more information.

We have a number of receipts in 2015 for annual subscription from members who have not quoted their membership number, which we are unable to trace. Whilst this only affects a small number of individuals 'we need your assistance to ensure all payments have been correctly attributed.

Religious

Chair: Sadat Sadiq
Members: Shaharan Deen, Nizam Ismail, Mohamed Mufallal and Haleem Ossman
Date of last Meeting: 8th May 2015
Date of next meeting: 31st July 2015

The first meeting for the Religious sub-committee took place on Friday, 8th May at the Harrow Central Mosque. The purpose of this sub-committee is to facilitate the organisation of various religious events to support the SLIA community with a view to increasing their understanding and knowledge of Islam.

We had a productive discussion on strategies for ensuring greater unity within the community, taking into account the variations in interpretation on Islamic matters.

Plans for this year

The initial focus is to support the successful delivery of the four Iftar events this Ramadhan. We have also tentatively agreed to organise an Islamic educational function in November with the provision of afternoon tea. We will subsequently also look at other activities that SLIA can deliver to bring people together, whilst increasing our knowledge of Islam.

Vision

Chair: Ishreen Bradley
Members: Khalid Malhar, Jazal Marzook (new), Haleem Ossman, Sadat Sadiq and Althaf Zahir (new)
Date of last Meeting: 2nd May 2015
Date of next Meeting: 16th June 2015

The Vision sub-committee reconvened following the AGM and welcome our two new members Jazal Marzook and Althaf Zahir. At our first meeting after the AGM, we tested our Vision and Mission statements from the perspective of different groups in our membership including the young adults, the pensioners, the newly arrived in the UK and the married into our community etc. As a result, we have revised our statements as follow:

Vision: SLIA's Vision is to connect our members with their Sri Lankan heritage.

Mission: SLIA's Mission is to promote charitable, social, cultural, sports and educational activities to achieve unity and strengthen relationships in line with our religious and cultural values for the benefit of our members and the communities we engage with.

Examples of how Vision and Mission can be realised:

Scenario 1: Annual fundraising cultural event where children act out plays relating to religious and cultural heritage and learn about Sri Lankan/Islamic history.

Scenario 2: Developing a summer camp learning and development initiative in a deserving area in Sri Lanka in partnership and sponsorship with Sri Lankan organisations.

Scenario 3: Multi-cultural sports meets with other Sri Lankan or British communities to develop friendships and cultivate fraternity.

Next Steps: The plan for this year is to work on SLIA's values, objectives, strategy and plan for how we fulfil on our Vision and Mission. We welcome your input and ideas to help create our future.

SLIA Membership Subscriptions 2015

Please can all members pay the 2015 subscription which was due on 1st January 2015. In addition to paying any previous outstanding subscriptions could you also ensure we have your current contact details. If not already in place, please also consider paying your subscriptions by standing order.

Should you wish to action any of the above, please contact one of the following:

Firaza firaza68@googlemail.com
Khalid emperor_mal@hotmail.com

Any new members who wish to join the SLIA, please contact any member of the Committee for Membership Application and Standing Order mandate.

Bank Account Lloyds, Walthamstow Branch
Sort Code 30-99-08
Account No. 01663411

Membership Type	Price
Life Membership (Single)	£250
Family Membership (Husband, wife & children under 18)	£30
Family Membership (Husband & wife over 60)	£15
Individual Membership	£15
Individual Membership (Over 60)	£7.50
Student Membership	£4

Zakat 2015—Charity Projects

Alhamdu Lillah thanks to your continuing support and most generous donations last Ramadhan the SLIA distributed food parcels totalling £1,800 to households worthy of Sadaqa and Zakat in the Tsunami Village, an area which is located 5 Kms away from Hambantota town.

This village currently houses 135 families of which around 90% are Muslims and the houses built are basic and mainly consist of a hall, room, kitchen and an outdoor toilet facility. The main occupation of people living in this area is fishing or farming.

A mosque has been constructed within the area for prayers and religious activities and during the month of Ramadan, kanji is distributed to the people in the area from money collected by way of donations. The mosque is not complete and requires a lot of construction work and which is halted due to the lack of funds and support.

Inshaa Allah SLIA would like your support in continuing with the **Ramadhan food distribution programme** to the Tsunami Village for 135 families and, further extend the project to include the Neeravipitty village in Mullathiwu for 100 families with a view to Inshaa Allah help our Muslim brothers and sisters to be in a position to participate in Ramadan along with us all.

Permanent Toilet Construction Programme: This project was initiated last year for resettled households in Neeravipitty in Mullaithivu. Targeting families in extreme poverty to protect the safety and dignity of the elderly, sick and vulnerable who can face assault in remote areas when they seek privacy for the basic human right to relieve themselves. Alhamdu Lillah last year we donated £4,730.85 including the supplemental donations from Ladies High Tea fundraising event.



The funds were divided into 3 cheques to construct 15 toilets in batches of 5. The local organisation co-ordinating the toilet building programme is the Volunteer Organisation for Social Development (VOSD) and the 3rd cheque shall be released once the SLIA have a completion report for the previous tranche of 5 toilets.

Construction of the first 5 toilets started on 20 Feb 2015 and was completed under budget and inspected by members of the Charity Sub-Committee in March 2015 who travelled to Neeravipitty and met the householders who had received toilets from SLIA funds and have attached some photographs for reference. The next tranche of 5 toilets are near completion.

We were thankful to learn from them that the toilets had alleviated some of the distress caused, particularly to the elderly and sick, and that they were remembering the SLIA in their duas. It was distressing for us to note that the condition of the new toilets were better than that of the families' living quarters. We were also moved to meet one of the local VOSD typists who had produced some of the reports for SLIA on poor Muslim households, and to learn that this young lady (a Christian) had not been paid for 6 months due to lack of funds.

Please contact Ayesha Ibrahim, chair of the Charity Sub-Committee, if you would like a copy of the VOSD toilet construction budget, the completion reports, householder details, or information about VOSD projects to help needy people, irrespective of religion or race, analysed according to the 8 categories eligible for zakat.

We urge members of the SLIA who are able to travel to Neeravipitty and see first-hand how your donations have helped transform people's lives to please contact the President, Haleem Ossman, if you need any assistance with arrangements.

Continued overleaf.....

The **SLIA's Neeravipitty Civil-Empowerment Education project** was initiated last year and seeks to foster a spirit of self-sufficiency amongst poor Muslim communities through education. Whereas OSMET's university scholarship programme helps meet an essential need in the Muslim community for educated Muslim professionals to lift the community out of poverty, our Muslims brothers and sisters in Mullaithivu community are being empowered to improve conditions by seeking out with local established educational experts to teach their children youth leadership courses as well support primary to O'level and A'Level tuition. As a result of this after-school support, there has been an improvement in O'level pass rates, which the community is seeking to build on by expanding the number of classes.

Alhamdu Lillah we raised £2,500 in 2014/15 and SLIA has specifically allocated these funds for the infrastructure of the after-school tuition centre.

In March 2015 Charity Sub-Committee representatives visited the temporarily loaned site in Neeravipitty where classes had been run successfully as part of the after-

school tuition project in previous years, but which is no longer available. There is potential to secure Sri Lankan government owned land but until this has been secured VOSD has offered the building they use as an office as a site for the teaching of community children to support their learning in continuing up to O'Levels and A'Levels. Funds currently remain in the SLIA account until the building/land for the project is secured or until VOSD send a new project funding proposal to the Charity Sub-Committee.

Inshaa Allah we seek your support and assistance to enable SLIA to take over the monthly (currently £400) running costs for teachers salaries, books, stationery etc. used to teach Muslim children which is currently being met by non-Muslim donors in the UK. Please contact us to donate money, we would also encourage you to consider being a volunteer to help set up vocational training programmes or teaching via Skype programmes.

Jazak Allahu Khayran to all our donors and May Allah accept our deeds and actions and continue to help us in our efforts towards helping our Ummah Inshaa Allah.



Your generous support can help the SLIA make a difference. To make a donation please complete this form

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other _____ Forename _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Post code _____ Cheque No. _____

Zakat £ _____

Sadaqah £ _____

Permanent Toilet fund £ _____

After school programme £ _____

Ramadan Food Parcels £ _____

Sponsor event £ _____

Please specify event _____

Please make cheques payable to Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association and return to:

The Treasurer, SLIA (UK), 7 Broadway Buildings, Boston Road, London W7 3TT

Direct/Electronic payments to the **Lloyds Bank Account** below:

Account Name Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association

Account Number 21061860

Sort Code 30-99-08

Gift Aid (UK Taxpayers)

The importance of keeping family ties in Islam

Compiled by M Nabil Abdul-Cader

A modern day confirmation of the benefits of keeping ties is found in the example of the residents of Reseto, Pennsylvania, USA, referred to as Rosetan people. Compared with their neighbours they had the same conditions of living such as water source, income levels, conditions of work, conditions of discrimination, same high cholesterol food consumption. Yet these Italian immigrant Americans had less heart disease than the national average. These people were living longer than the average Americans.

Investigators in 1962, studied this community and the survey report showed, for the Roseto people keeping ties was very important. They had strong traditions that closely knit Italian families have. Where everyone was supported and welcomed in their communities. As a consequence they had a zero crime rate. They were physically and emotionally healthy; they had stability and predictability, resulting in long life spans. They were a nourished people.

However this had changed in 1992. The new survey report now showed that the Roseto people no longer were above the national average. The change came about because the Roseto people became more Americanised. The inter marriage mix of Italian-Italian was changing. Unlike before when no one ever lived in isolation to be snowed under by everyday problems, this society became to lose this tight social cohesion. Previously there was a taboo against showing off wealth, this changed as the American values of materialism and individualism took hold. In 1971 the first person under 45 died of a heart attack. They no longer kept ties.

This is a lesson that Islam taught us more than 1400 years ago. In Islam, our beloved prophet (SAW) taught us social etiquette that resulted in a society that in the space of 23 years during which the Qur'an was revealed, a society changed from an age of ignorance (Jahiliya) to a refined society that is morally superior to anything found in the 21st century.

A religion that teaches reverence and obedience to parents. This injunction exists right next to obedience to Almighty Allah himself. This message is reiterated in different contexts over and over again in the Quran and even in the Hadiths. It shows the importance Almighty Allah places on treating your parents well and keeping good ties with your relations.

In the Qur'an in Suratul Luqman (31:14), "...Show gratitude to me and thy parents .." Again, in Suratul Baqarah (2:83), Allah takes a covenant with the Children of Israel, "...that they should worship no one but Allah, that they should serve their parents, relatives," There are many more passages reiterating this message. Severing ties with relations is compared to that of "doing mischief in the land" Surathul Ra'ad 25:13.

A hadith narrated by Jubair bin Mut'im in that he heard the Prophet (PBUH) saying, "*Al-Qati* (the person who severs the bond of kinship) will not enter Paradise." (Hadith No. 5984, Book of Al-Adab, Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 8).

How do we become (Al waasil), someone who keeps the bonds of kinship (*silat ur-rahm*)? Some ways of doing this is visiting them, spending money on them, supporting them in what they do. Forgiving and forgetting for the sake of Allah.

Some reasons people cite for not keeping ties are lack of time, money and undue influence of other family members.

How then can one bring back stronger ties that genuinely foster love, loyalty and laughter, ties that enable parents to show leadership, based on mutual respect. This is something that needs to be fostered from whichever place the family finds themselves at the moment. This is a religious duty. We must ask dua from Allah for strong families.

What are the characteristics of strong families? Strong families are committed to each other's well-being. They value the family unit. They appreciate what others contribute to the family. They are also protective of those who cannot contribute. They nurture the weak members and build up and supplement each other skills. They look for the positive instead of the negative. Strong families communicate effectively. They share their lives, speaking of the trivial as well as the deep issues they face in life. It is said that "a family that prays together stays together". This is the Islamic way of life. These are also values shared by all the great religions. This is the way we were ordained to live, because this is the better way of living.

Holy Qur'an:

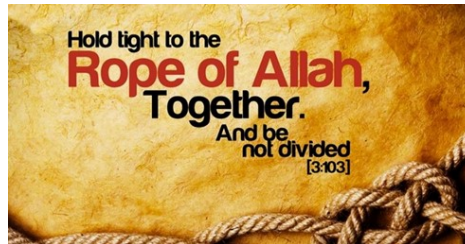
<http://corpus.quran.com/>

<http://islamawakened.com/quran/31/14/default.htm>

Other Sources:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rock-positano/the-mystery-of-the-roseta_b_73260.html

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/1229-strengthening-family-relationships>



SLMRA

Sri Lanka Muslim Refugee Assistance (UK)

Sri Lanka Muslim Refugee Assistance UK was formed in 1990 to help the Muslims who became refugees in Sri Lanka, due to ethnic violence committed upon them. During the last 25 years, we have been able to collect Zakath, Sadaqah and Fitra to help the refugees in Sri Lanka during the Holy month of Ramadhan. Although the ethnic war was concluded in May 2009, to-date very limited resettlement of the Muslims has taken place, as a number of major issues need to be resolved by the government of Sri Lanka, to ensure the long term success of the resettlement and rehabilitation program. Since December 2004, SLMRA has also helped and supported those rendered homeless due to the Tsunami.

SLMRA's Zakath and Fitra distribution in Ramadhan 2014, covered a large number of camps and our own coordinators were able to personally cover all the affected regions; Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Mannar, Polonnaruwa and Jaffna, housing returning IDP's. The families were given Fitra provisions (Rice, Dhal, Sugar, Salt, Milk Powder & Tea) or cash, depending on their particular circumstances and need. SLMRA provided assistance to over 1,600 Muslim refugee families in Sri Lanka. The refugee families supported include widows, orphans, reverts and the disabled spread across the whole of Sri Lanka. They also include a few families that have returned to their original land, although their new living conditions remain unsatisfactory. SLMRA also distributed Rs.20,000 to each of the 3 Orphanages in which the SLMRA supports individual orphans. The above additional support during Ramadhan, is to help all the Orphans in their care to have a blessed month of Ramadhan and to celebrate Eid.

Your generous donation is invaluable, to provide the essential relief to these refugee families. This is their time of need and more needs to be done; to return and resettle these refugees back in their homeland, after 25 years. We continue to increase the proportion of help rendered towards resettlement and re-starting the livelihood of these refugee families, and appeal for your generous donations to this worthy cause.



Polonnaruwa: Widows in Sungavila



Vavuniya



Jaffna; Mankumpan Mosque



Jaffna; IDP Houses in Pommaveli

SLMRA receives a number of requests for help, but due to limitation of funds, we are often forced to turn down or scale-back our support. We appeal for your generous support so that more families can benefit and rebuild their lives.

Jazakallah Khairun

Name _____

Address _____

Donation Details:

Fitra £ _____
(£5pp recommended)

Zakath £ _____

Sadaqah £ _____

Resettlement/Rehabilitation £ _____ (Housing Restart/Livelihood restart/Livelihood training/Facilities enhancement)
(Please specify if reqd.)

Total Donation: £ _____

Please post direct to:
Direct/Electronic payments:

The Treasurer, SLMRA (UK), 35 Northway, Kingsbury, London NW9 0RD
Sri Lanka Muslim Refugee Assistance (UK)
HSBC Bank, Kingsbury Branch, London NW9
Sort Code: 40-04-06 Account No.: 71444980



SERENITY

Working together for a Sri-Lanka

PRESS RELEASE dated 7th May 2015

Email: info@serenity.london; Web: www.serenity.london

Facebook: [/serenitylondon2015](https://www.facebook.com/serenitylondon2015)

Twitter: [@serenity_london](https://twitter.com/serenity_london)

Inaugural Sri Lankan Multicultural Sports and Family Fun Day Sunday 7th June 2015

Serenity in partnership with four UK based Sri Lankan charities is organising the UK's first ever Sri Lankan multicultural sports and family fun day on Sunday 7 June 2015.

The festival will kick off at 9.30 am at Northwood Football Grounds, Chestnut Avenue, HA6 1HR. It will start with 7-a-side Football tournament, followed by Netball for ladies and Elle (Sri Lankan style baseball) tournaments.

Not forgetting teenagers and younger children, the festival will also have a number of competitive games for young people as well as a large kiddies' corner with bouncy castles (different types), slides, face painters, henna artists and lots more!

In addition, trained artists will provide cultural shows covering Bharathanatyam, Kandyan Dance and a Fashion show.

There will also be handicraft and garment stalls, as well as stalls selling traditional food, including specialities catering to the palates of the different communities.

So come along and join in the celebrations! Profits from the festival will be utilized to support the under-privileged in Sri Lanka.

Serenity is a not-for-profit organisation based in the UK, focused on encouraging cultural interaction and peaceful coexistence among Sri Lankans at home and abroad. Serenity recognizes the importance of promoting peace, happiness and prosperity in the island of Sri Lanka.

Mission Statement:

To strive for excellence, revere our forefathers, enlighten our fellow countrymen towards tolerance and navigate our future through the talent of our youth

Vision Statement:

A vibrant Sri Lankan culture that celebrates diversity in people

It is inspiring that the UK Sri Lankan community has come together to celebrate the diversity of Sri Lanka. This is a great initiative which would not have been possible without the support of the multi-faith groups and other local organisations. It is hoped that this is the first of what will become a series of events for SERENITY.

Serenity is working in partnership with the following four UK charities:

Sri Lanka Islamic Association (SLIA)

Athula Dassana Multicultural Buddhist Community Centre

V4U (UK)

Sri Lanka Christian Association

If you are interested in funding Serenity's activities, please make transfers to SLIA bank account (A/c No.01663411. Sort code 33-99-08 Lloyds Bank). Please state your name and quote payment reference as "Serenity".

For more information on the sports and family fun day and to obtain Forms to enrol for the Tournaments, register to operate a stall, provide adverts for inclusion in the Fun Day Souvenir or if you wish to have your corporate Banner displayed at the grounds on the day, please contact:

Alan Wahab 07970 103 160; Venerable Kassapa 07794 537 118

Shirani 07956 954 087; Param 07773 516 468

or email to: info@serenity.london

We hope you have a successful and enjoyable day at the festival.



SERENITY

Working together for a Sri-Lanka

Email: info@serenity.london

Web: www.serenity.london

Facebook: [/serenitylondon2015](https://www.facebook.com/serenitylondon2015)

Twitter: [@serenity_london](https://twitter.com/serenity_london)

SRI LANKAN MULTICULTURAL SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, 7 June 2015

9.30am to 7.00 pm

Northwood Football Grounds,

Chestnut Avenue, HA6 1HR

Tickets - £2 per adult and children above 12 years
if pre-purchased, or £3 at the Gate

Further information

Alan Wahab 07970 103 160 |

Venerable Kassapa 07794 537 118

Shiran 07956 954 087 |

Param 07773 516 468

Or email: info@serenity.london

SERENITY, is a not-for-profit UK based organisation, focussed on encouraging cultural interaction and peaceful coexistence.

In partnership with four UK based Sri Lankan charities, they are pleased to organise the UK's first ever Sri Lankan community festival to celebrate the diversity of Sri Lanka, which will include:

- Tournaments - 7-a-side football, Netball & Elle (Sri Lankan style baseball) in addition to Competitive games for youngsters
- Cultural shows covering Bharatanatyam, Kandyan Dance & Fashion Shows
- Stalls: Traditional mouth-watering food, including the different community specialities; Handicraft & Garment
- Kiddies corner with Bouncy castles & Slides
- Face painting & Henna drawing

This is an inspiring Sri Lankan community festival to celebrate the diversity of Sri Lanka - please come along and join in the celebrations!

All profits from the event will be utilized to support the under-privileged in Sri Lanka.



Athula Dassana Multicultural Buddhist Community Centre | Sri Lankan Christian Association (SLCA) | Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association | V4U (UK)

Significance of Zakat-ul-Fitr

The word *Fitr* means the same as *Iftar*, breaking a fast. Islamically, *Zakat ul-Fitr* is the name given to charity which is distributed at the end of the fast of *Ramadhan*.

Zakat ul-Fitr is a duty which is *Wajib* on every Muslim, whether male or female, minor or adult as long as he / she has the means to do so. The proof that this form of charity is compulsory can be found in the *Sunnah* whereby Ibn 'Umar reported that the Prophet (*sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) made *Zakat ul-Fitr* compulsory on every slave, freeman, male, female, young and old among the Muslims; one *Sa'* of dried dates or one *Sa'* of barely.

Zakat-ul-Fitr plays a very important role in the development of the bonds of community. The rich are obliged to come in direct contact with the poor, and the poor are put in contact with the extremely poor. This contact between the various levels of society helps to build real bonds of brotherhood and love within the Islamic community and trains those who have, to be generous to those who do not have.

The main purpose of *Zakat ul-Fitr* is to provide those who fasted with the means of making up for their errors during the month of fasting. *Zakat ul-Fitr* also provides the poor with a means with which they can celebrate the festival of breaking the fast (*'Eid ul-Fitr*) along with the rest of the Muslims.

This charity becomes obligatory from sunset on the last day of fasting and remains obligatory until the beginning of *Salat ul-'Eid* (i.e. shortly after sunrise on the following day). However, it can be paid prior to the above mentioned period, as many of the *Sahabah* (companions of the Prophet *sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) used to pay *Sadaqat ul-Fitr* a couple days before the *'Eid*.'

Ibn 'Abbas reported that the Prophet *sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam* said, "Whoever gives it before the *Salah* will have it accepted as *Zakat*, while he who gives it after the *Salah* will be considered as *'Sadaqat'*."

Hence, the goal of *Sadaqat ul-Fitr* is the spiritual development of the Believers. By making them give up some of their wealth, the believers are taught the higher moral characteristics of generosity, compassion (sympathy for the unfortunate), gratitude to God and the righteousness. But, since Islam does not neglect man's material need, part of the goal of *Zakat ul-Fitr* is the economic well-being of the poorer members of society.





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SLIA Community News

Births

2nd March 2015: Nasheeth and Laila Hussain, Bristol, on the birth of their twin daughters **Lyana Zainab** and **Yasmin Zahra** (sisters to Hafiz Sulaiman)

9th March 2015: Matheen and Imara Khalid, Mill Hill, London, on the birth of their twin sons **Umar Shafi** and **Umair Khazim** (brothers to Yunus Thalal and Yasir Usman)

16th March 2015: Murad and Thaiza Ismail, Muswell Hill, London, on the birth of their daughter **Leila Safiya** (Grand-daughter to Mr & Mrs ACM Ismail, Muswell Hill, London)

May Almighty Allah bestow on them His Mercy and show them the correct guidance in this world and the hereafter

Marriages

2nd May 2015, Alexandra Palace, London: Wedding of **Lizama Thahir** (daughter of Ishack and Khadji Thahir, Palmers Green, London) and **Mark English** (son of Terry and Isabel English, Liverpool).

May Almighty Allah shower His Blessings on them and Grant them Peace and Happiness

Obituaries

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raaji'oon - 'Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return'

15th February 2015, Southgate, London: **Sister Ayshathul Faiza Hashim**, beloved wife of Late M.Ajwad Hashim (Snr). Loving Mother of Rafat (UK) and Gamal (Qatar); Mother-in-law of Sumaiha and Milhan; Grandmother of Ajwad, Salma, Aaqil and Waamiq. Beloved Sister of late Ayne Mohideen, late Abdul Rahim Saleem, Late Obaid-ul-Wahid Saleem (SL) and Kadija Thahir; Sister-in-law of Ishack Thahir, Zeenia Saleem & Zuhri Saleem (SL). Aunt to Mohamed Saleem, Inshrah, Yusra, Lizama, Shazia, Hyfah, Habeera & Hasniya. *Janaza prayers took place at Palmers Green Mosque, London and burial at Gardens of Peace Ilford on the same day.*

28th April 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Sister Fawziya Rahim**, beloved mother of Reza, Rumaiz and Zimara; Mother in Law of Dr Mohamed Mubarak; Grandmother of Dr Shamil Mubarak and Adhib Mubarak. *Janaza prayers took place on Wednesday, 29th April at Dehiwela Muslim Burial ground.*

30th April 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Brother Ismeth Ahamed** beloved husband of Khadija (Faisha); Loving Son of late Proctor Ahamed M.Ismail of Fort,Galle & late Mrs.Talha Ahamed; Son in law of late Mr & Mrs M.A.Samy of Galle. Loving Father of Ahsif (Farzana, Norway), Riyadhha (Nasoordeen Mohamed, Riyadh, KSA) & Rizna (Riyaz Ahamed, USA). Beloved Brother of Izzeth Ahamed (Leicester UK, ex Ambassador to Saudi Arabia), Illyas Ahamed, Fuwaisa, Fathima, Hilmy Ahamed, late Ayesha, Khadija, Anver Ahamed & Fawzi Ahamed. Brother in law of Rizvi (Marikar-Bawa), Minha (Aziz), late Mohideen Kiyas, late Jadeed Hameed, Fawzi Marikar, Cader Marikar, Kulsum, Shama, Ayesha & Jehan K. Cassim, Sithy and late Nuhas Markar. *Janaza was taken from his residence 25/35, Kalinga Place, Kirulapona for burial after As'r prayers at Dehiwela Muhiyaddeen Masjid.*

3rd May 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Sister Nasooha Abdul Cader** passed away peacefully today. Wife of Late mahroom Niyas Abdul Cader; daughter of mahroom H.L.A.Meydeen and mahrooma Hafeena Meydeen; **sister** of mahroom Azhar Meydeen and mahroom Hassen Meydeen. Niyas Abdul Cader and Nasooha were resident in London in the seventies and were members of the SLIA. *Janaza took place on same day after Asr prayers to Dehiwela Muslim burial grounds.*

10th May 2015, Hounslow, London: **Brother Abu Ma'ad Hammard** passed away peacefully today aged 82. Husband of Sithy Neumath Hammard; father to Gazali Hammard and Ilma Tariq; father in law to Shazreen Hammard and Adeel Tariq and grandfather to Yaara, Yusuf Ali, Zachariya and Sama. *Janaza took place on Monday, 11th May after Zuhr time at Hounslow Central Mosque, Hounslow, and burial thereafter at Borough Cemetery, Powder Mill Lane, Whitton.*

15th May 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Brother Rashid Ibrahim** (Sri Lanka) passed away peacefully following a long standing illness. Wife to Fawziya (Sri Lanka); father to Ayesha (UK) and Tamara (Qatar); Brother in law to Florinda Hamidon (UK). *Janaza took place on same day after Asr prayers to Dehiwela mosque and burial grounds.*

May Almighty Allah grant them Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen

To keep up to date with news and events, join the SLIA messaging service by texting 07525 364491 and access our facebook page 'The SLIA UK'.

SLIA Upcoming Events

Serenity Multicultural Sports and Family Fun Day

Sunday, 7th June 2015

Please see flyer for details

Ramadhan Iftars

Saturday, 20th June 2015

Al Diaya/SLIA

St Vincent De Paul Church
2 Witham Road, Isleworth
TW7 4AJ

Saturday, 27th June 2015

Venue (TBA)

Saturday, 4th July 2015

St Vincent De Paul Church
2 Witham Road, Isleworth,
TW7 4AJ

Saturday, 4th July 2015

St Vincent De Paul Church
2 Witham Road, Isleworth,
TW7 4AJ

Saturday, 11th July 2015

SLIA Hizb
St Vincent De Paul Church
2 Witham Road, Isleworth,
TW7 4AJ

Eid-UI-Fitr Dinner

Saturday, 25th July 2015

Details TBA

Charity Fund Raising Event

September 2015

Details TBA

Eid-ul-Adha Lunch

Sunday, 4th October 2015

Details TBA

Meelad un Nabi

Saturday, 20th December 2015

Venue TBA

SLIA Umrah 2015

24th December - 3rd January

Please see flyer for details

Nakshabandhi Zikr

February 2016

Details TBA

44th Annual General Meeting

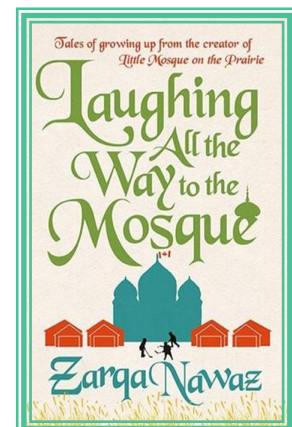
Sunday, 28th March 2016

Details TBA

Member's Islamic Book Review

By Sister Zohara Saleem

Title: Laughing All the Way to the Mosque
Author: Zarqa Nawaz
Publisher: International Islamic Publishing House
ISBN-10: 1443416932
ISBN-13: 978-1443416931



Synopsis: This book contains Zarqa Nawaz' stories of growing up as a somewhat "modern" Muslim in Toronto and her life as a wife and mother in Saskatchewan - interviewing prospective husbands, going for hajj, explaining to a contractor the need to have a water jug within reach when using the toilet, the impact of being Muslim after 9/11 and having to pray in separate areas from the men in mosques.

Author: Zarqa Nawaz is a Canadian film maker and comedy writer whose material is inspired by the challenges of being a practising Muslim in North America. Her parents were from Pakistan and moved to Toronto when she was young. She created a comedy called Little Mosque on the Prairie for Canadian television and has written this frank book about her life. She married Sami and moved to Saskatchewan where they have four children.

Assalamu' Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Brothers and sisters, this is a hilarious, informative and well written book which is highly recommended. You can purchase it on the internet, Amazon or at the Sunday Times Bookshop (0845 271 2135 for £10).

If you have an article to share with the community please e-mail: fmsulaiman@virginmedia.com for inclusion in a future edition of newsletter

To receive an online version of the Serendib Newsletter, please contact
Fathima Sulaiman - fmsulaiman@virginmedia.com or Khalid Malhar - emperor_mal@hotmail.com
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Enquiries: Falthima Sulaiman ~ 07914 398019; Haleem Ossman ~ 07957 362444; Shuhama Abdul-Cader ~ 07913 902535



Ramadan Timetable 2015

This timetable is in accordance with Islamic Relief UK

Date	Day	Ramadan	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib / Iftar	Isha / Taraweeh	
June	17th	Weds		02:39	04:40	01:06	05:24	09:23	10:43
	18th	Thurs	1	02:39	04:40	01:07	05:25	09:24	10:43
	19th	Fri	2	02:39	04:40	01:07	05:25	09:24	10:43
	20th	Sat	3	02:40	04:40	01:07	05:25	09:24	10:43
	21st	Sun	4	02:40	04:40	01:07	05:25	09:24	10:42
	22nd	Mon	5	02:40	04:40	01:07	05:25	09:25	10:42
	23rd	Tues	6	02:42	04:41	01:08	05:26	09:25	10:42
	24th	Weds	7	02:42	04:41	01:08	05:26	09:25	10:41
	25th	Thurs	8	02:42	04:41	01:08	05:26	09:25	10:41
	26th	Fri	9	02:44	04:42	01:08	05:26	09:25	10:41
	27th	Sat	10	02:44	04:42	01:09	05:26	09:25	10:40
	28th	Sun	11	02:46	04:43	01:09	05:26	09:25	10:40
	29th	Mon	12	02:46	04:43	01:09	05:26	09:24	10:38
30th	Tues	13	02:47	04:44	01:09	05:26	09:24	10:37	
July	1st	Weds	14	02:48	04:44	01:09	05:27	09:24	10:36
	2nd	Thurs	15	02:50	04:45	01:10	05:27	09:24	10:36
	3rd	Fri	16	02:51	04:46	01:10	05:27	09:23	10:35
	4th	Sat	17	02:53	04:47	01:10	05:27	09:23	10:34
	5th	Sun	18	02:53	04:47	01:10	05:26	09:22	10:33
	6th	Mon	19	02:54	04:48	01:10	05:26	09:22	10:33
	7th	Tues	20	02:56	04:49	01:10	05:26	09:21	10:31
	8th	Weds	21	02:57	04:50	01:11	05:26	09:21	10:31
	9th	Thurs	22	02:59	04:51	01:11	05:26	09:20	10:30
	10th	Fri	23	03:00	04:52	01:11	05:26	09:19	10:28
	11th	Sat	24	03:01	04:53	01:11	05:26	09:18	10:27
	12th	Sun	25	03:03	04:54	01:11	05:26	09:17	10:26
	13th	Mon	26	03:04	04:55	01:11	05:25	09:17	10:25
	14th	Tues	27	03:06	04:56	01:11	05:25	09:16	10:24
	15th	Weds	28	03:08	04:58	01:11	05:25	09:15	10:23
16th	Thurs	29	03:09	04:59	01:12	05:25	09:14	10:21	
17th	Fri	30	03:11	05:00	01:12	05:24	09:13	10:20	
18th	Sat		03:12	05:01	01:12	05:24	09:12	10:19	

The timetable is not based on actual sighting of the moon, which is required for the beginning of the month of Ramadan and Eid.

Therefore, for the beginning of these months you should contact your local mosque.

Dua for keeping fast at Sehar:

وَبِصَوْمٍ غَدَرٍ نَّوَيْتُ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ

Wa bisawmi ghadinn nawaiytu min shahri Ramadan (I intend to keep fast today for the month of Ramadan)

Dua for breaking fast at Iftaar:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُمْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

Allahumma inni laka sumtu wa bika aamantu [wa 'alayka tawakkaltu] wa 'ala rizq-ika aftarthu

(O Allah, I fasted for You and I believe in You and I break my fast with your sustenance)