

# SERENDIB

Issue 117  
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September 2015

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

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## Executive Committee

### President

Haleem Ossman  
07957362444  
president@slia.org.uk

### Vice President

Ishreen Bradley  
07734 209809  
ishreen@hotmail.com

### Secretary

Sadat Sadiq  
07967658516  
sadat\_sadiq@yahoo.co.uk

### Asst. Secretary

Alan Wahab  
07970103160  
alanwahab@hotmail.com

### Treasurer

Firaza Fuazudeen  
07941393134  
firaza68@googlemail.com

### Asst. Treasurer

Khalid Malhar  
07752729009  
Emperor\_mal@hotmail.com

### Committee Members

Jezri Mohideen  
07595982510  
jezrim@gmail.com

Ayesha Ibrahim  
07947 960 521  
ayeshabrahim75@gmail.com

Rafat Hashim  
07984 604420  
rafathashim@hotmail.com

Fathima Sulaiman  
07914 398019  
fmsulaiman@virginmedia.com

Fazly Wahab  
07795 643654  
fazlywahab@hotmail.co.uk

## President's Message

Dear Respected Elders, Brothers and Sisters;

Assalamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraktuh. All praise and thanks to the Almighty Allah, the Most Merciful.

As the blur of Ramadan fades out from our rear-view mirror and the start of school is just barely a month away, I am reminded of the flurry of SLIA activities we have packed into this year.

I am particularly proud of all the effort you made toward supporting the four Iftar events held on each Saturday during the holy month of Ramadan. The challenge of an extended stretch of British summer daylight was only surpassed by our communal spirit, celebrating our Sri Lankan culture, prayer, dua and delicious food. Alhamdulillah, while we indulged ourselves in the UK, the selfless member donations helped feed in excess of 225 families in Sri Lanka; parcels of dry rations were distributed to the less fortunate. Notwithstanding our religious imperative to focus mind, body and spirit, during Ramadan, our community's generosity was elevated. Our Permanent Toilet programme to preserve the dignity and safety of women and children has a goal to construct 100 toilets. We are currently 35 toilets behind our target. Finally, on 26th July, the annual SLIA Eid-ul-Fitr celebration was held, where incoming feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

This summer, the SLIA participated in the first ever UK-based Sri Lankan Multi Cultural event. "Serenity" brought together Sri Lankan communities, where our national diversity was celebrated. Participation in outdoor sports demonstrated acceptance and tolerance; longstanding hallmarks of our cultures heritage. The immense success of the event was recognized by way of a personal letter from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, and an acknowledgement by the Sri Lankan High Commission of the SLIA's leading role in this event.

Inshaa Allah the SLIA is also organising an Umrah trip which is expected to take place this December and if you are interested in joining us please register your interest with Sister Fathima Sulaiman. For further SLIA activities including the celebrations of Eid-ul-Adha please refer to the calendar of events included in this newsletter. I look forward to your participation and feedback to ensure our future experiences are collectively improved.

The expansion of broader member participation reflects the growing demands of our community and the need to serve. As many have stepped in to give back, it is worth contextualising one of the most valued commodities Allah (SWT) has bestowed upon us; our time. I cannot ignore the generous donation so many of you have given of your time. Thank you. Despite the progress made, it is the unenviable duty as President that I have to inform you of sister Zahira Ismail's decision to step down as Association Secretary. Her tireless contributions have touched all who have attended many of the events hosted over several years. Her approach has provided a valuable reference toward future event-planning. Thank you Sister Zahira for your service.

We draw close to the annual season of Hajj, where the pilgrimage emphasises the manner in which our body and soul traverse, reminding us all that the journey is just as important as the destination of Jannah. Attaining greater awareness, living an Allah-centric life, pursuing sincerity in our intention can only be matched by the intensity of our effort. Your effort invested into our community over this past year and during the years leading up to the present, is truly what unifies us. JazakAllahu khairan to the executive and sub committees who provide breadth and scale in planning. We have all played a role in cultivating the SLIA into the special community we have come to cherish. On behalf of the Executive Committee; Eid Mubarak and May the guidance and Blessings of Allah (SWT) be with you all.

Haleem Ossman, SLIA President

## SLIA 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.*

# Sub-Committee Update

## Building

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

### Current Status

The plans from the last meeting entailed familiarizing the new sub-committee members on the decision process from the previous EGM and be fully informed of this.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah we are pleased to announce that the SLIA Centre continues to be rented and is receiving the rental income and has not resulted in any concerns or issues.

Currently the rental income is held in a sub-account of the main SLIA bank account pending decision by all concerned as to the most appropriate use of these funds.

### Plans for this year

Since the original lease had a 4 year break clause, it is important to determine whether we wish to continue with the current tenant or, consider alternative options. Should we consider the latter we are required to provide the tenant 12 months' notice and, therefore need to inform him by September 2016.

With this end in mind, we are currently processing through a revised questionnaire, to obtain a greater level of response from as many members as possible.

Inshaa Allah in addition, we shall also to explore the viability of purchasing the flat above the SLIA premises which is at an early stage and under discussion.

It is important that our membership have as much say as possible in this process, as the building is the greatest asset we have, and as such, should be of interest to the entire membership.

Should anyone wish to contribute to this forum or wish to serve on this sub-committee, then please contact Brother Jezri.

## Charity

Chair: Ayesha Ibrahim  
Members: Ayesha Abdeen, Shuhama Abdul-Cader, Iheshan Faasee, Rafat Hashim, Khalid Malhar, Mohamed Marzook, Thabith Naja, Haleem Ossman and Manjula Ossman  
Date of last Meeting: 2nd August 2015  
Date of next Meeting: 6th September 2015

### Current Status

- **Ramadan Food Distribution Programme**
  - a. Tsunami Village - Hambantota for 135 families: **£2,682.65.**
  - b. Tsunami Village - Neeravipitty village for 100 families: **£1,264.81.**
- **Permanent Toilet Construction Programme** for the poor and needy resettled families in Neeravipitty to help protect the safety and dignity of women: **£4,725.** (10 toilets completed and 5 pending completion).
- **Running of the Neeravipity (Mullathivu District) Civil Empowerment Education project:** Provision of £2,500 still exists within SLIA account.

## 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:

- **Zakat funds** to enable people to settle debts and help individuals towards marriage.
- **Permanent Toilet Construction Programme** – provision of £15,703.62 exists for further 50 toilets and Inshaa Allah our aim is to complete construction by the end of December 2015.
- **Permanent Toilet Construction Programme** - A specific SLIA fundraising event has been scheduled for Sunday, 22nd November 2015 to raise funds of £10K. There will be a sponsored walk as well as activities for the family to join in and have a fun day.
- **Water Pipes project.** – Brother Nissther Annis has shown interest in working with the SLIA to support the region in Neeravipitya. We are presently waiting for a proposal from him.
- **Running of the Running of the Neeravipity 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. Provision of £2,500 exists within SLIA account for the infrastructure of the after-school tuition centre however, we need to secure a building/land from the SL government and build a school or utilise existing buildings/schools to conduct classes for the community. The monthly running cost for the project is estimated at £400.

Should anyone require any further details on any of the above projects or wish to make a donation please contact Sister Ayesha Ibrahim.

## Communications

Chair: Khalid Malhar  
Members: Zahira Ismail, Haleem Ossman, Sadat Sadiq and Mohamed Saleem  
Date of last Meeting: 20th June 2015  
Date of next Meeting: TBC

### Current Status

Our objective is to ensure that the different forms of communication we have at our disposal are used effectively and, recognise that we need to work closely both within ExCO and outside to raise the standard of communication within our community.

### Plans for this year

We are currently concentrating on completion of the handover from Mohamed Saleem and Zahira Ismail following their departure from the Committee and the resultant reduction of their duties and redistribution within the sub-committee.

Our aim is to focus on how best we can automate the current SLIA website to enable the following:

- Integration of the current membership database so that members have a personal membership portal and are responsible for updating changes.
- For distribution of information Upcoming events/announcements.
- 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.

Should you wish to join the sub-committee or make any contributions to this forum please contact Brother Khalid.

## Constitution

Chair: Rafat Hashim  
Members: Azahim Mohamed, Haleem Ossman, Manjula Ossman, Sadat Sadiq, Farook Saleem and Ishack Thahir  
Date of last Meeting: 30th May 2015  
Date of next Meeting: 19th September 2015

## Current Status

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.

We are pleased to report that we have successfully reviewed the SLIA Constitution up to Article 13. At our next meeting we shall aim to spend the entire day (if necessary) and complete the review of the other sections of the constitution. Following this, we shall be in a position to draft a working document, which will then need to be discussed, scrutinised further and include legal input. Once we are satisfied we shall submit a formal proposal to ExCo for circulation and comment.

## Membership

Chair: Ahamad Hussain Wahab  
Members: Firaza Fuazudeen, Ashkaq Macan, Khalid Malhar, Faizal Musaffer Jnr, Haleem Ossman, Fathima Sulaiman and Parveen Vilcassim  
Date of last Meeting: 12th July 2015  
Date of next meeting: 26th September 2015

## Current Status

The Sub-committee has established a process for welcoming new members to our Association and providing information of the current benefits that membership affords.

The President following EXCO approval will contact the new member and then follow up with a 'Welcome letter'. This process has already been implemented and appreciated by the new joiners.

We are delighted to report that since April there have been a number of new members and further applications are being processed following promotion during our annual Eid-ul-Fitr event. The Committee have been instrumental in engaging with prospective members.

We are also pleased to report that many of the members have come forward and settled their outstanding 2015 subscriptions which has resulted in a record level of income for the Association.

## Plans for this year

Our priorities are to continue to update record keeping procedures, to ensure that information held about members is complete and accurate and collect annual membership fees that are still outstanding for 2015.

Other goals include enhancing communication with our existing 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.

It has become apparent that there are many families within our community who are not aware of our existence and we encourage members to introduce them to the Association for mutual benefit.

## Religious

Chair: Sadat Sadiq  
Members: Shaharan Deen, Rafat Hashim, Mohamed Mufallal and Haleem Ossman  
Date of last Meeting: 8th May 2015

This Sub-Committee was setup by the current ExCo with the intention of increasing our members' understanding of Islam in the community by introducing additional talks in relation to Quran and Sunnah.

The title and association of this Sub Committee has generated great confusion amongst some of our members. The primary motivation was in fact to bring an increased understanding of the Quran and Sunnah to the community. However, following discussions within the group and the ExCo, we regret that we feel obliged to wind down this

present group, to avoid further misunderstanding and maintain unity within the community.

It was agreed that delivery of religious activities was always in the hands of the ExCo and additional educational activities such as Tafseer, Hadith, Fiqh and Seera will now fall back on the ExCo.

Members are most welcome to contact the ExCo to make suggestions on improving the religious and educational activities.

## Vision

Chair: Ishreen Bradley  
Members: Khalid Malhar, Jazal Marzook, Haleem Ossman, Sadat Sadiq and Althaf Zahir  
Date of last Meeting: 2nd May 2015  
Date of next Meeting: 5th September 2015

### Current Status

The new Vision and Mission statements developed on 2nd May have been presented to and approved by ExCo. It has also been presented to the membership in the last Newsletter as well as at the Eid Lunch. The feedback has been positive and so the Vision and Mission of the SLIA are 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.

### Plans for this year

The next step is to develop objectives, goals and work streams that will deliver on the Vision and Mission over a 10 year period. This will be discussed at and developed at a workshop with the ExCO and the Vision Sub-committee members at 0930-1230 on 5th September. The outcome of this workshop will determine the future path to be taken by the Vision Sub-committee.

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# The month of Hajj: Benefits & Opportunities

**Bismillahi, Alhamdulillah, was salathu was salamu  
alah rasoolillah**

*In the name of Allah, all (our) thanks and grateful praise belongs to Allah and may the prayers and the peace be upon the Rasool (messenger) of Allah*

Ramadhan is now over and the month of Dul Hijjah is now approaching. This article covers some interesting facts on the importance of this month to muslims and we discuss some of the benefits and the rewards that Allah (SWT) has promised us for worshipping him during the month of Dhul Hijjah and Ashoora.

Allah's Messenger (SAS) said, "Do good deeds properly, sincerely and moderately and know that your deeds will not make you enter Paradise, and that the most beloved deed to Allah (SWT) is the most regular and constant even if it were little." [Book 81, Hadith 52, Vol. 8, Book 76, Hadith 470]

This means that good deeds alone will not admit us to heaven and are only a means to attain the pleasure of Allah (SWT). May Allah (SWT) guide us to do deeds that please him. So it is important that we do these good deeds and direct our worship only for Allah's sake, not for the praise or approval of others or for any other reason. This principle is vitally important and cannot be emphasised enough. It is known as Tawheed Uloohiyyah (Belief expressed in thought and action that Allah (SWT) has the sole right to be worshipped exclusively as the only being worthy of worship. It is Allah (SWT) we worship and nothing else can be an object of worship). This is the first Kalima (word), said when someone becomes a muslim - "Lailaaha illallah". ("There is no God except Allah"). The rewards for those who live their lives with this exclusivity of worship in their hearts and their actions is in the words of the Quran "Come back to thy lord well pleased (thyself) and well pleasing unto him, Enter thou, then among my devotees, yea enter thou my heaven" [Surathul Fajr 89:29-30].

Allah (SWT) blessed the nation of Muhammad (SAS) with opportunities to reap rewards and blessings every day of the year. In addition to this, muslims have been given special months where the blessings can be multiplied. Just like the last ten nights of Ramadan is blessed, the first ten days of Dhul-Hijja are also the best days of the year and the most beloved to Allah (SWT) as they combine acts of worship in a way unlike at any other time.

We have chosen some categories of meritorious acts that please Allah (SWT). Some of these can be performed only in the month of Dhul Hijja, but others can be performed any time one gets an opportunity.

## 1. Performance of Hajj

The performance of Hajj and Umrah is beloved by Allah (SWT).

Allah's Messenger (SAS) said, "...Umrah is an expiation for the sins committed (between it and the previous one). The rewards of Hajj Mabruur (the Hajj accepted by Allah (SWT) is nothing except Paradise" [Sahih al-Bukhari 1773]



As pilgrims and those performing 'Umrah are Allah's guests, their prayers are answered and their supplications for forgiveness are granted.

However for those of us who are not fortunate to have been invited to His House this year, there are still many other ways to earn the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

## 2. Fasting on the 'Day of Arafah'

The Prophet (SAS) said: "Fasting the Day of 'Arafah is an expiation for (all the sins of) the previous year and expiation for (all the sins of) the coming year." [Muslim] On every day a muslim fasts for Allah's pleasure, Allah (SWT) will keep his face away from the (Hell) fire for (a distance covered by a journey of) seventy years." [Bukhari, Muslim]

In the UK, the winter months days are shorter so, by the grace of Allah (SWT), it is easier to fast more often. The Prophet (SAS) used to fast on the first nine days of Dhu'l-Hijjah and the day of 'Ashoora', and three days each month, the first Monday of the month and two Thursdays. [Narrated by al-Nasaa'i, 4/205 and by Abu Dawood; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood, 2/462]

## 3. Perform Dhikr and Takbeer



Remembering Allah (SWT) and praising and glorifying Him is good for us as it strengthens our Eeman. The Quran says "remember me and I shall remember you, be grateful to me and do not turn away (Kufr)" [Quran 2:152]

As Allah (SWT) loves good deeds on this blessed month, we should recite much Tahleel (saying Laa ilaaha illallah), Takbeer (saying Allahu Akbar) and Tahmeed (saying Alhamdu Lillah)."

These recitations of Dhikr are performed individually and not in congregation; this is the correct practice and is the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAS) and his companions.

Remembering Allah in this way at any time during the day is a forgotten Sunnah.

The Prophet (SAS) said: "Whoever revives an aspect of my Sunnah that is forgotten after my death, he will have a reward equivalent to that of the people who follow him, without it detracting in the least from their reward." (Tirmidhi- Hasan).

#### 4. Stand during the last one third of the Night or part of night in Prayer (Qiyamul Lail/ Thahajjud)

Muslims who spend their time in devotion contemplating the nature of Allah (SWT) and seeking Allah's forgiveness and humbling themselves in front of Him in supplication and prayers during the latter part of the night have felt a peace that strengthens their Eeman and flows into their daily lives making them better people. The Quran refers to this time: 73:2-4.

Allah (SWT) calls out to His servants in the latter part of the night: "Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to his invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?" [Bukhaari, Muslim].

We should seize this opportunity and beg Him for His Divine Generosity and Mercy. We should ask Him "Our Lord, bless us with the best of this world and the best of hereafter and save us from the fire of Hell."

#### 5. Make Sincere Repentance



Allah (SWT) loves those who repent to Him in complete submission. It is said that Allah (SWT) does not love sin but He loves to forgive those who sin for He is Most Forgiving the Most

Merciful. The act of sincere repentance to Allah (SWT) with intention to never return to His disobedience and sin, is very dear to Him. Return to Allah (SWT) by giving up all the sins, done openly and in secret. Be repentful of your sins and disobedience and firmly adhere to the path which Allah (SWT) loves.

Allah (SWT) says, "But as for him who repented, believed and did righteous deeds, then he will be among those who are successful." [Al-Qasas 28:67].

#### 6. Return to the Book of Allah (SWT)

The language of the Quran is acknowledged as a masterpiece of Arabic literature none can emulate. Revealed to an unlettered prophet who could not read or write, who by no stretch of imagination could be its author. It is truly a revelation "from Him who created the earth and heavens on high" [Quran 20:4].

Read the Quran daily and seek the gems and guidance contained within its pages. Recite its verses and you will reap its blessings; understand its message and implement the commandments of this book in your life.

This relationship with the Quran is a guide and will open the doors to happiness and success in this life and the Hereafter.

#### 7. Some good deeds can be small and effortless and done almost habitually

The prophet (SAS) said "Your smile for your brother is charity." Other simple acts "...enjoining good, forbidding evil, removing harm from the road, listening to the deaf,

leading the blind, guiding one to the object of his need, hurrying with the strength of one's legs to one in sorrow who is asking for help, and supporting the feeble with the strength of one's arms - all of these are charity prescribed for you." [Fiqh-us-Sunnah, Volume 3, Number 98]

"So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it; and whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it." [Al-Zalzalah 99:7-8]

#### 8. Slaughter an animal and distribute the meat (sacrifice)

Qurbani, the sacrificing is an essential rite of Hajj and is compulsory. Even those who are not pilgrims also make this Qurbani. This was the Sunnah (the practice of the Prophet (SAS)). It commemorates the amazing act of obedience when prophet Ibrahim (AS) in total submission was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice and passed the test of Allah (SWT).

Our beloved Prophet (SAS) was asked, What is Qurbani? The Prophet (SAS) answered: 'It is the Sunnah of your father Ibrahim (AS). For every hair of the Qurbani you receive a reward from Allah (SWT).' [Hadith - Trimidhi]

#### 9. Attending Eid prayers

Attending Eid prayers is from the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (SAS). We should be keen on practicing this Sunnah and performing it according to the teachings of our Prophet (SAS). Eid is a time of joy and happiness. We should spend time with family and friends.

#### 10. Thank Allah (SWT)

One of the essential forms of worshiping Allah (SWT) is to thank Him, deeply, sincerely and continuously.

Alhamdu Lillah in Arabic means "Praising only Allah and expressing thanks with a connotation of grateful awe for the blessings bestowed on us, in the past and even the hope of blessings in the future." In fact, we wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for the Mercy of our Creator. So thank Him for all that He has given and still gives to you: the blessing of Islam, the blessing of life and every other blessing you possess. Thank Him for the opportunity to experience these ten days. Ask Him for His mercy, forgiveness and guidance. We are in awe and praise Him.

Our five daily prayers are a physical act of thankfulness. Almost in every movement we say "Alhamdu Lillah" which is thanking Allah (SWT) with this heartfelt grateful praise.

May Allah (SWT) keep us all on the right path that pleases Him. May He guide us and give us all the good of this world and the hereafter.

#### Related Articles:

By Javaid Siddiqi, Chairman, ICNA Tarbiyah Department

By Shaikh Abdullaah Ibn Jibreen

#### Source:

<http://www.al-manhaj.com>

<http://www.islamawareness.net/Eid/azha.html>

<http://www.icna.org>; <http://sunnah.com/bukhari/81/>

[http://islamawareness.net/Hadith/htopic\\_charity.html](http://islamawareness.net/Hadith/htopic_charity.html)

<http://www.islamic-life.com/tawheed-divine-unity/article-tawheed-uloohiyyah-worshipping-oneness-allah>





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# Sri Lankan Multicultural Sports & Family Fun Day

## 7th June 2015

**SERENITY** held its inaugural Sri Lankan Multicultural Sports and Family Fun Day to celebrate the diverse cultures of Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Christian communities living in the UK. This Festival became possible due to the partnering of Athula Dassana Multicultural Buddhist Community Centre, V4U (UK) with support from Britannia Hindu Temple Trust, Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association and Sri Lanka Christian Association, all UK based charities.

Guest Speakers included Minister Counsellor Niranjan Pathiratne, Representative of The High Commission of Sri Lanka to the UK; Brother Azahim Mohamed, Vice Chair, COSMOS; Sheikh Muiz Bukhary, Scholar of Islam from Sri Lanka; Cllr George Cooper, Mayor of Hillingdon Borough Council; Cllr Krishna Suresh, Mayor of Harrow Borough Council. Other invitees included Cllr Sister Kareema Marikar, Harrow Borough Council and Cllr Lakmini Shah, London Borough of Newham.

The event was well attended with some 500 people, and commenced with 7-a-side football followed by Elle and Netball tournaments. Other activities included children's short races and traditional cultural dance performances by talented artists. Many congratulations to the SLIA Netball Team who won the trophy and a very special thank you to each and everyone who participated in the various tournaments, all the stall holders and willing volunteers who provided much valuable contributions towards the success on the day.

Events like these are never successful without your kind support - JazakAllahu khairan. All proceeds from this event shall be utilised towards helping the underprivileged families in Sri Lanka.

Islamic teachings instruct Muslims to respect and co-operate with the followers of other religions and treat them equally provided they reciprocate the same feeling. In the Qur'an special attention has been given to the people of the Book, that is, Christians and Jews, because their religions are based on the heavenly book, Torah and Bible. The Qur'an says: *"Do not argue with the people of the Book, unless it is in the politest manner."* (29:46). So, Islamic teachings concerning social responsibilities are based on kindness and consideration of others. Muslims and non-Muslims alike have the right to live in peace and harmony hence the Islamic constitution ensures justice for all.



# Muslim Funeral: End to End Process

Written by M. Gazali Hammard

It can be a daunting task arranging a funeral and in many cases, a sudden death means some things that should be arranged are overlooked. When I was told by doctors that my father had months to live, I had the opportunity to be organised on the days running up to his passing. However, I found that Literature on this matter was scarce, and all I had to draw on were others' conflicting experiences. I had no facts. The young and the old of today have little to rely on – where some people are alone, their children may not follow Islam or they do, but as one person described “they have their head in the sand” when death is on the agenda. I write this so our community and beyond have a standard reference point when practically preparing for someone's death. This is a working document and is subject to changes in the NHS and Local Council Policy.



The “Muslim Funeral End to End Process” as I like to call it, is not just what happens at a funeral, it is about pre and post death. This is guidance for us all in preparing for our funerals whether we are in good health now Inshaa Allah or whether we are terminally ill.

I will now refer to the “dying person” as “The Individual”. In the circumstance that The Individual is a patient in hospital a family member must take control (if The Individual is unable to understand or make decisions on their own). In a scenario where The Individual is discharged from hospital and they subsequently die, it may be difficult to obtain the medical death certificate if the hospital have not written to your GP on time. The GP will then have no option but to request for a Post Mortem and a Coroner's Report. It is therefore advisable that if The Individual is in hospital, that a family member either has a copy of a letter from a Consultant of The Individual's condition and delivers the information to the GP. Where The Individual is deceased in hospital, the Death Medical Certificate can be provided by the Hospital Administration, however this office is likely to be closed at the weekend. Also note that most GP practices are closed at the weekend. The order of documentation required for burial to take place is as follows:

1. Initial Death Medical Certificate given by the on call doctor or hospital.
2. GP death Medical Certificate once Point 1 has been produced /or the NHS internal IT system has been updated to inform the GP.
3. Certificate for Burial “Green Form” from the Local

Council Death Registry allowing the Funeral Director to bury The Individual.

It is very important at this point for family members to be calm and there should never be any rush to a funeral you can only do as much as you can given the circumstances. If the Council Death Registry is closed or they have an on call service this would render useless as you would require the Death Medical certificate (from the GP point 2) to obtain the Certificate for Burial “Green form” (point 3) for the funeral director to start burial proceedings (as per below flow chart).

Foremost as the individual or a family member we should all set aside the cost of our own funeral. Islamically, a funeral cost should not be a burden on others. A good way of paying such a cost would be to invest in a local Muslim Funeral Society. This is a pre-plan payment for all the family funeral costs, currently in 2015 prices this would cost

£100/year for a family of four (2 Adults and 2 Children under 18). The cost of the funeral is always a concern and actual collection of the deceased from home/hospital to mortuary then burial should not cost more than £4,000 as of 2015 (local council burial). Further investigation to Gardens of Peace and of recent members passing away that the cost is the same depending on the distance for the collection of the deceased. It should also be noted that Local Councils have an obligation to the resident to provide burial facilities within the borough and is subject to a discount. If a resident of a local borough wants to be buried in another district he/she is subject to a premium fee of that district/borough.

In my opinion the easiness of the funeral day on family and friends and focus on prayer should be considered when choosing a suitable burial ground. The distances of the family home Vs mosque Vs cemetery should be a consideration. Already in my short experience I have visited the Kabr Ade (grave) a few times and remembered the gone. For some it is about remembering what is to come for all of us and have respect for the dead, this is very unlikely to happen if the grave is far from home.

## Key Assumptions/ Notes

### The illness that leads to death

- GP has seen deceased within 14 days is significant as if a patient is either sent home for being terminally ill or has been discharged for a non-serious issue and died as a result, acquiring the death medical certificate should be straightforward.
- If the GP has not seen the patient within 14 days for whatever condition it will get transferred to the Coroner for a Post Mortem.



- The local GP (your own Doctor) is key to signing and receiving the Death Medical Certificate.
- Therefore the GP should be informed by the family when a patient is admitted to hospital. There seems to be a gap between the hospital diagnoses of the patient to the GP being informed of the patient's condition.

## The Administration

A Muslim Funeral Director will be available in every mosque that provides funeral/mortuary facilities.

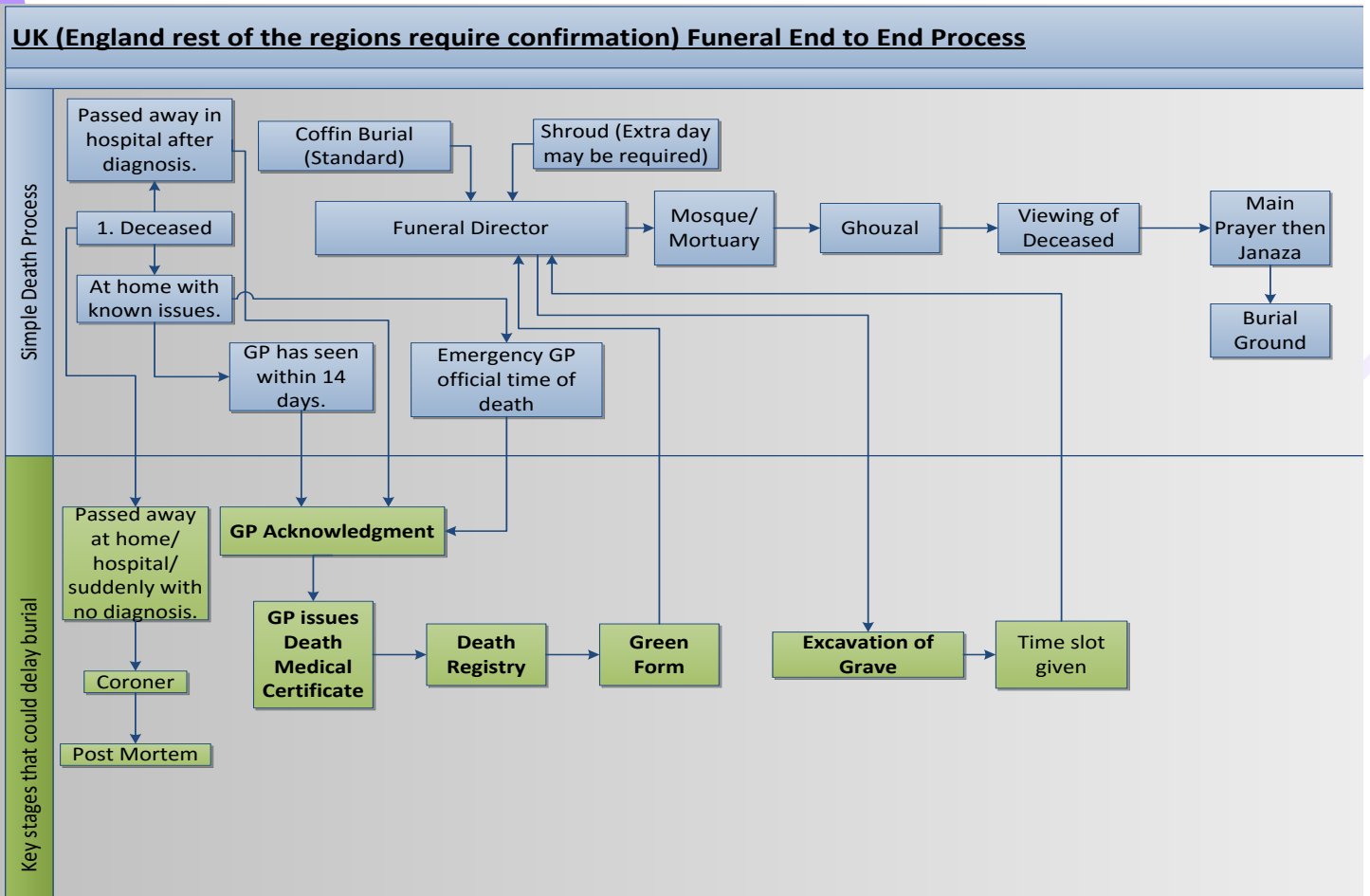
Funeral Director's role:

- To provide transport of the deceased to the mortuary (once the hospital/doctor has instructed to do so).
- Arrange all costs associated with Muslim burial.
- To know all Sharia compliant procedures when burying a Muslim deceased.
- To liaise with Cemetery's Director of the local borough where the deceased is located.
- To decide with the family of the deceased of whether they require a coffin or a shroud burial. This is significant as the coffin burial is standard and a shroud burial requires more work with the excavation with the use of wooden planks and may require further days' notice in advanced to complete. This is also dependent on the relationship that the Funeral Director has with

- the Director of Cemeteries of the Borough/District.
- To invoice the deceased family of the cost of the funeral

## Family and the Deceased responsibilities

- The Deceased when alive should have set aside his/her own funeral costs.
- If the family of the Deceased want a burial outside their local district there will be a premium extra cost of up to £1,500.
- A cost of a funeral (as per below process flow chart) within their own district should not exceed £4,000 (as of 2015).
- I have been informed of two burials in the last 5 years that the cost of the Garden of Peace does not exceed £4,000.
- The cost of the shroud burial in the London Borough of Hounslow was an extra £580 from a normal burial cost.
- (In my opinion) The easiness of the funeral day on family and friends and focus on prayer should be considered when choosing a suitable burial ground. The distances of the Family Home vs Mosque vs Cemetery should be a consideration.



with Guest Speaker  
Sheikh Muiz Bukhary

# Eid-ul-Adha Celebrations

Sunday, 4th October 2015 from 12.00p.m.

Holiday Inn London-Kingston South  
Portsmouth Road  
Surbiton  
Surrey  
KT6 5QQ

## Tickets

Adult Member	£23.50
Adult Non-Member	£28.50
Child 3-12y	£10

Please contact Committee for tickets



Alhamdu Lillah on the 26th July, we held our annual SLIA Eid-ul-Fitr celebration at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Ealing. The lunch provided an excellent opportunity for family and friends to celebrate the end of Ramadan and enjoy an eventful afternoon which included children beautifully performing a Nasheed.

The lunch was well attended, with over 200 guests and included members, friends and special guests. We were honoured by the attendance of the Councillor Mayoress Harbhajan Kaur Dheer, London Borough of Ealing and the Minister Counsellor Mr. Niranjan Pathirathne, Representative from the High Commission of Sri Lanka to the UK. It was a privilege to receive their acknowledgment of the valuable contributions made by the SLIA to the wider community.

The President, Haleem Ossman and the Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that attended. Eid Mubarak and may the guidance and blessings of Allah (SWT) be with you and your loved ones.



# SLIA Community News

## Births

Alhamdulillah we would like to congratulate the parents and families of the following new arrivals:

1st July 2015: Hussain and Ayesha Ismail, Toronto, Canada, on the birth of their son **Jibreel Mehmet Sabir Ismail**. Grandson to Hanum Ismail and Marhoom Sabir Ismail both founder members of SLIA.

8th July 2015: Ahmed and Fadiya Ismail, Toronto, Canada, on the birth of their daughter **Aria Sabir Ismail**. Grandson to Hanum Ismail and Marhoom Sabir Ismail both founder members of SLIA.

27th July 2015: Nabeel and Parveen Vilcassim, Mill Hill, London, on the birth of their son **Usman Noor** (brother to Imani). Grandparents: Nawaz and Yasmin Vilcassim; Marhoom Mohamed Noor Deen and Ilham Ismail.

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

## Marriages

The SLIA is pleased to announce the following wedding that took place with Allah's grace:

28th July, Ramada, Colombo: Wedding of **Dr Mohamed Liyawdeen** (son of Aroos and Risniya Liyawdeen, Edgware, Middlesex) and **Sahala Mohideen** (daughter of Dr Rifdy and Fahariya Mohideen, Galle Fort, Sri Lanka).

*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'*

12th July 2015, Harley Street, London: **Dr Zackariya Marikkar**, Chairman, Change Group International PLC, Patron of The Tree Foundation, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. Beloved husband of Helena Vesela and loving father of Sacha and Claudia; youngest son of Marhoom I.L.M Mahdooom Marikkar and Marhooma Yakeenthumma of Weligama; loving brother of Dr. M Yehiya (Country Director, The Tree Foundation, Sri Lanka), Misiriya, Zuhuriya and Marhooma Noor, Baila, Jiffriya and Marhoom Dr. M Mohamed; brother-in-law of Sithy Alaviya Mohamed (Australia) and Noorliya Yehiya of Ratmalana; uncle to Minha Shariff (Bristol) and Riza Yehiya (Harrow). *Janaza took place on 27th of Ramadan at Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking, Surrey.*

1st August 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Brother Nowfel Jabir**, beloved husband of Fawzia and father of Ashkaq (UK), Mushtaq, Tariq, Altaf and Fadia. *Janaza and burial took place on 2nd August at Beruwela.*

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

## New Members in 2015

We would like to welcome the following members to the Association:

*Mr Abdul & Mrs Khairun Salahudeen*

*Mr Imthiaz Quwalid*

*Mr Imran & Mrs Inshara Harris*

*Miss Suraiya Abdul-Cader*

*Mr Dilshard Mansoor*

*Dr. Ghefari Dulapandan*

*Mr Sadikeen Azad & Mrs Dina Azad*

## Announcement

The Zahira College OBA Annual Sports Event shall be held on Sunday, 20th September 2015 at the Harrow Cricket Club, Sudbury, Middlesex. They have invited the SLIA to field a cricket and football team and if you are interested in participating and representing the SLIA please e-mail Fazly Wahab: fazlywahab@hotmail.co.uk or Khalid Malhar: emperor\_mal@hotmail.com

If you wish to place an advertisement or submit an article to share with the community please e-mail: [membership@slia.org.uk](mailto:membership@slia.org.uk).



## UMRAH PACKAGE 2015/16

Provisional Dates: 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 3rd January 2016

5 Nights Makkah, 4 Nights Madinah, 5\* Accommodation, double occupancy, B&B

Return flights from LHR, visa & transfers included

Adults £1,650\* Children £1,440 (2-11y), £500 non-refundable deposit required to secure place

\*Additional surcharge £20 Admin fee applicable for members who have not paid Annual Subscriptions

Enquiries: Fathima Sulaiman ~ 07914 398019; Haleem Ossman ~ 07957 362444; Shuhama Abdul-Cader ~ 07913 902535



## 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

# SLIA Upcoming Events

### Eid-ul-Adha Lunch

**Sunday 4th October 2015**

Please see flyer for details

### Religious Programme

**Sunday 18th October 2015**

**Sunday 20th December 2015**

**Sunday 24th January 2016**

**Saturday 27th February 2016**

Please see programme flyer below for details

### Charity sponsored walk & family fun day

**Sunday 22nd November 2015**

Double Tree Hilton, Hangar Lane

Details to follow via e-mail shortly

### SLIA Umrah 2015

**24th December - 3rd January**

Please see flyer for details

### 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 10th April 2016**

Details TBA

## Religious Programme for Autumn Winter 2015/16

SLIA in partnership with The Centre for Spirituality & Cultural Advancement invite you to the following religious events which will Insha Allah take place at CSCA, The Manor House, Manor Lane, Feltham, TW13 4JQ.

**OCTOBER 18th 2015** – Talk on Quran and Sunnah. Light refreshments provided. Starting after Dhur.

**DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> 2015** – Meelad un Nabi for men and ladies. Lunch provided. Starting after Dhur.

**JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup> 2016** - Halara for men, Zikr for ladies and Quran thamaam on behalf of SLIA members and their families who have passed away; followed by Sohbet. Subject to be confirmed. Light refreshments provided. Starting after Dhur.

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup> 2016** – Naqshbandi Zikr for men and ladies. Dinner provided. Starting after Maghrib.





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