



Muslim News

26 December 2010 , 17 Muharram 1432

Representative Farah Pandit visits FIANZ and talks about new US policy of engagement with Muslims

On her recent visit to New Zealand, Ms Farah Pandith, the special representative on Muslim Affairs to US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton interacted with Muslim communities in Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington.

In Wellington Rep Pandit, in the company of US Ambassador to New Zealand was received in FIANZ office by the organization's Secretary Dr Mohammed Musa, Chairman of Ulama Board Sheikh Muhammad Amir, FIANZ Executive Manager Sultan Eusoof, IMAN President Mr Asif Koya and other members of the Wellington Muslim community.



After signing the visitors book in the FIANZ office Rep Pandith was led on a tour of the Mosque by

Sheikh Muhammad Amir. She expressed delight at the sensible use of space in the Mosque.

During the tour Rep Pandith interacted with children undertaking Arabic and Qur'an lessons whom she said 'reminds me of my childhood as a growing Muslim girl' learning the Qur'an.

Later, Rep Pandith held an interactive session as well as had dinner with the Muslim community in the FIANZ conference room.

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FIANZ president meets Minister Tim Groser

FIANZ president Dr Anwar Ghani met with Minister of Trade Hon. Tim Groser (*photo*) at the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce meeting held at Eden Park, Auckland on 27th November. The Minister explained New Zealand trade policies and opportunities to expand trade ties with countries in the sub-continent including Pakistan.

Dr Anwar Ghani discussed various issues with the minister including the current discussion on FIANZ's Halal certification for Indonesia.

Minister congratulated Dr Anwar Ghani on his appointment as the Chairman of the Halal Standards Advisory Council and wished him



well in his endeavour to provide leadership in maintaining high Halal standards.

OIC seeks reconciliation between Muslims and West

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has emphasized the importance of cultural and interfaith dialogue to promote world peace and stability, and said it was seeking a historic reconciliation between the Muslim world and the West.

"The OIC reflects the true and real image of Islam, based on tolerance, peace, pluralism and acknowledgement of diversity. It advocates dialogue with other faiths and civilizations," said Abdul Rauf Bin Rajab, spokesman for the 57-member organization. He said Islamophobia has evoked global concern because of its negative impact on world peace and security. He also disclosed the OIC's plan to hold a seminar in Warsaw on Dec. 8-10 to discuss the situation of Muslim communities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Bin Rajab refuted press comments attributed to the OIC secretary-general in Fars News Agency that the West has hatched plots to spread Islamophobia in a bid to block growing conversions to Islam. "The agency's report is inaccurate and misleading."

He said the issue required joint international efforts. The increasing manifestations of Islamophobia in the West shows inadequate knowledge about nations and cultures,

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ISLAM CAME TO STOP DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALE!

BY FARID AHMED

About 14 hundreds years ago a female child was considered a burden on parents not a blessing. Parents used to burry their female children alive for financial excuses. The attitude towards female children was a false mind set without wisdom. They did not see the tremendous potential in female children at all until Islam taught mankind that female children like male children are a great blessing of Allah.

Allah sent Prophet Muhammad [saw] to teach that female or male children both are His most favorite creation. One is not better than the other. Both genders are Allah's honorable ambassador on earth. Allah says in holy Quran: 42.49

"To Allah belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wants. He bestows female [children] upon whom He wills and bestows male [children] upon whom He wills according to His will [and His plan]"

Muhammad [saw] came to inform mankind that female children are never a disadvantage economically. Ignorant people did not see that before. Muhammad [saw] also declared that killing female child for the fear of poverty is a crime. Allah [swt] orders in holy Quran: 17. 31 "And do not kill your children because of the fear of poverty: We shall give livelihood to them and also to you. Surely, killing them is a terrible sin."

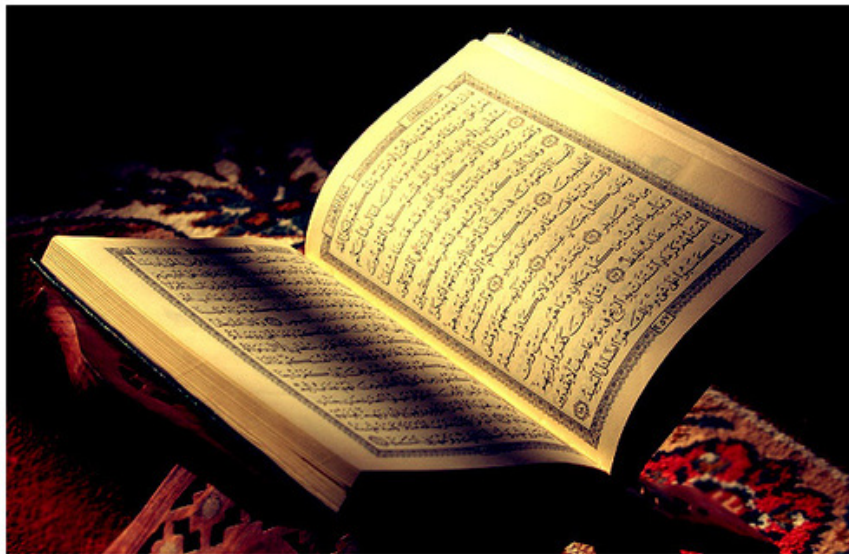
Muhammad [saw] created a society where male and female were respected. Islam taught people that sustenance actually comes from Allah. People need to work hard for progress not to kill or discriminate. When people believed in Allah's teachings they stopped discrimination to their female children.

Islam warns mankind about

killing and discrimination of children just because they are female children. Islam teaches about fairness and human rights. If the man made law fails to do justice still justice will be done in Allah's court. In Allah's court no one can hide evidence;

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Islam warns mankind about killing and discrimination of children just because they are female children. Islam teaches about fairness and human rights. If the man made law fails to do justice still justice will be done in Allah's court.



no one can do forgery or trickery because Allah will bring the intention and action out for proper justice. Allah's promise will come true in the Day of Judgment: [Quran 81. 8-9] "When the female [infant] buried alive, is questioned for what crime she was killed."

Islam teaches both boys and girls are special. In holy Quran Allah gives example of righteous boys and girls. For example: Ishmael the son of Ibraheem [a.s] and the special girl Maryam daughter of Imran and Hannah. Holy Quran gives us wonderful story of Maryam, the mother of Jesus from her childhood. Just a verse below as an example: 3.37

"Rightly [and] kindly did her

[Maryam's] Lord accept her: He made her grow with good manners, purity and beauty: to the care of Zakariyya was she assigned. Every time he entered [her] chamber to see her he found her supplied with items of food. He said: 'O maryam! From where does this food

[come] to you?' She said: 'This is from Allah: For Allah provides sustenance to whom He pleases, without measure.'

Islam announces the female children are rather blessing from Allah. They are blessing for the society and for mankind at large. Just look at the following two saying of Prophet Muhammad [saw]:

[1] Anas R.A narrated that holy prophet [saw] said, "Whoever will look after two daughters until they are matured or married to husbands, will be with me in the Day of Judgment like this [He S.A.W brought his two fingers close to show that how close the parent would be with him]" [Muslim]

[2] Ibn Abbas R.A narrated that holy prophet [saw] said, "If anyone has a female child, and he doesn't burry her alive, doesn't belittle her and doesn't give preference to the male children over her, Allah will grant him paradise." [Abu Dawood]

So let me summarize the teaching from this essay:

- Islam came to stop discrimination towards female
- Islam taught both male and female are Allah's favorite creation
- Islam taught both male and female are Allah's honorable vicegerents
- Islam taught both male and female as equally responsible for doing the right thing and equally will be rewarded for their good deeds. Allah [swt] says in holy Quran: 16.97 "Whosoever works right, [be it] man or woman, and had faith [in Allah], surely, to him/her will We give a good life, a life that is good and pure, and We will bless upon those their reward by the best of their actions."

U.S. Rep Meets With WOWMA Members

Bringing a message that Muslim youth should stay connected and be informed, the Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the United States of America, Farah Pandith, met with Muslimah from the Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA) for nearly six hours last Thursday during her stay in Hamilton. Ms. Pandith, who reports directly to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was appointed to engage with Muslim communities around the world.

During the visit, the Representative travelled with WOWMA youth and leaders up to the Pirongia Forest Park Lodge where WOWMA holds its youth camps. At the Lodge, the youth had the opportunity to share their stories of growing up as Muslims and minorities in Hamilton and discussed how they are making an effort to connect to the Waikato and to New Zealand. Ms. Pandith, in turn, shared her experiences of growing up as a migrant and a Muslim in the United States and stressed the importance of education, staying informed and working hard. During the discussions, Ms. Pandith emphasised the opportunities and the need for the youth to stay connected with other Muslims around the world and to share their stories through modern technology.

Over the last two and half years, WOWMA has run programming to allow their youth to connect with each other, to the wider community, and to the traditions of Aotearoa. The programme and goals were also discussed with Ms. Pandith and the youth talked about how much it meant to them to have such opportunities. Upon returning from the Lodge, Ms. Pandith spoke with over 100 adult Muslim women at a WOWMA meeting

and dinner. At the meeting, Ms. Pandith heard about the brief history of Muslims in the Waikato as well as the national women's programming for Muslims that is occurring around New Zealand.

Ms. Pandith then shared with those present the Obama administration's goal of having a relationship with Muslims around the world based on mutual interest and mutual respect. She emphasised the importance of

youth in society and the need to support them and then reemphasised the message of staying connected and sharing stories. A question and answer session followed where a variety of topics were addressed including, but not limited to, the situation in Kashmir, the impact of the Wikileaks controversy, and how diplomacy works within the State Department. The visit concluded with Ms. Pandith meeting with the WOWMA leadership for a short private session.

Aliya Danzeisen, the WOWMA youth coordinator, handled the logistics for Ms. Pandith's visit to Hamilton on behalf of WOWMA. Also playing an official role in the day's activities for WOWMA were: Radiya Ali, Dr. Asma Rahman, Sakina Bibi, Qamar Rahman, Anjum Rahman, Mominah Ahmed, Zahrae Benaiche, Jannat Maqbool, and Aisha Boulanouar. WOWMA, which is affiliated to the Federation of Islamic

Associations of New Zealand and the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand, would like to thank the Ministry of Social Development, the Trust Waikato, the Office of Ethnic Affairs, the U.S. Embassy to New Zealand, FIANZ and IWCNZ, all of which have also been supportive of WOWMA's programmes and this event.



“ Ms. Pandith spoke with over 100 adult Muslim women at a WOWMA meeting and dinner. At the meeting, Ms. Pandith heard about the brief history of Muslims in the Waikato as well as the national women's programming for Muslims that is occurring around New Zealand.

News in Pictures: Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Secretary of State Hilary Clinton on Muslim Affairs visited New Zealand in early December 2010





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The session started with recitation of the Holy Quran by Sheikh Muhammad Amir who also translated the recited verses from Surat Al Rahaman (The most Gracious).

In a welcome speech FIANZ Secretary Dr Musa expressed delight and gratitude of New Zealand Muslims by Rep Pandit's visit.

Dr Musa seized the opportunity to thank the US ambassador for the continuous support and especially the recent ones given to Muslim women to attend a conference in Hong Kong as well as to the Islamic Women Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ) in acquiring funding for their projects.

FIANZ Secretary outlined efforts of the organization in the integration of Muslims in wider New Zealand society by focussing on youth and women through initiatives such as Muslim conventions, Islam Awareness Week, Youths Awards, Interfaith activities as well as partnering government in the 'Building Bridges' project.

Dr Musa added that even though New Zealand is a small country, the rest of the Western world could borrow its template on co-existence with its Muslim communities. He opined that a mutual empathy exists between New Zealand Muslims and the wider society.

In his brief remark, the US Ambassador Mr David Huebner says he has positive relationship with New Zealand Muslims and faith communities generally. He says it is because of this that he always cherishes any opportunity that would bring him into contact with Muslims.

In her remark Rep Pandit disclosed that it is the first time in US history that her position is created and she reports directly to Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.

The creation of this position according to her is to underline the importance of engagement with civil society. She says the administration of President Obama is committed to engagement and dialogue with Muslims all over the world. The

President, she said, made this clear immediately after his inauguration. He reiterated that in both his Ankara and Cairo speeches in 2009 where he explained his vision for engagement with Muslims on mutual interest.

Rep Pandit opined the need for partnership through dialogue and respect for common good.

She made a call to all Muslims to accept the challenge and seize the opportunity to build new partnership. In doing this, she said, it is worthwhile to appreciate the importance of the youth who constitute a majority out of the World's Muslim population of about 1.6 billion. This 'face book generation', she says, are asking questions as they negotiate the complex issues of identity and citizenship.

Ms Pandit's visit was rounded up with a dinner that also featured conversations as well as Q&A with brothers and sisters in attendance.



South Auckland Muslim Association Inc.

26 Mangere Rd
Otahuhu
Auckland

Ph: (09) 276 6725
secretary.sama@xtra.co.nz
www.sama.co.nz

P O Box 22807
Otahuhu
Auckland

Press Release

The former Imam of Masjid Al-Mustafa, Mufti Abdul Qadir Siddiqui had tendered his resignation on 11th December 2010 in order to be with his sick mother in Pakistan.

South Auckland Muslim Association (SAMA) vehemently refutes the allegations against Mufti Siddiqui in the Dominion Post article that says he proclaimed Holy War. The information provided to the press is by Abdul Abbas Karim, a disgruntled ex-member who was banned from the Mosque on 2nd September 2009 because of his controversial beliefs.

At no time Mufti Siddiqui preached Holy War either in his speeches or pamphlets in the Madrasa, nor did he ever preach killing of people of other sects. The Youtube video referred to is disputed as being genuine. The teachings of the Madrasa are for boys and girls, based on Islamic tenets and is well monitored by SAMA. Madrasa teachings are equivalent to Sunday Schools. SAMA has always denounced any act of terrorism.

South Auckland Muslim Association is a non-profitable, charitable and religious organisation. It is a community based, multi cultural, organisation whose membership consists primarily of Muslim residents from South Auckland. The Association strongly refutes and condemns the claims made in the article and believes this has been propagated by individuals who intend to bring disrepute to SAMA. SAMA is a founding member of Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) which is the national body representing Muslims of New Zealand.

The allegations in the article are being referred to our solicitors.

Mohammed Hasim Khan
President
South Auckland Muslim Association
021777705

We also provide these Services:

SAMA Dawah SAMA Youth SAMA Sports SAMA Womens Wing SAMA Funeral Services
SAMA Madrasa SAMA Welfare SAMA Interfaith

Pakistan – New Zealand Chamber of Businesses and Professionals

7 December 2010

Press Release

The Chamber is very pleased to announce that Hon Tim Groser, Minister of Trade, Minister of Conservation, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations) New Zealand delivered a talk on Trade Opportunities between New Zealand and Pakistan on Saturday 27 November 2010 at Eden Park, Auckland.

The event was attended by Hon Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner for Pakistan; Hon Dr. Ashraf Choudhary MP Labour and several key business persons and professionals from New Zealand and Pakistan communities of New Zealand.

The programme began by everyone observing one minute silence in the memory of 29 killed as a result of Pike River Mining Tragedy.

Trade Minister Hon Tim Groser mentioned that New Zealand had expanded its trade and commerce ties from a single country [when New Zealand had 90% of its trade with UK 40 years ago] to the most parts of the world during the last 40 years' time! The Minister elaborated that today's trading ties of New Zealand with the other countries were seeded 15-20 years ago; hence, as the Minister added, the development in trading ties between New Zealand and Pakistan shall be a steady and a long term process. The Minister however acknowledged that development in the trading ties between New Zealand and Pakistan was very important for New Zealand. The Minister also acknowledged that in today's dynamic and ever-changing world, things could advance sooner than anticipated. The Minister in his talk provided an overview of New Zealand's trading strategic focus, such as recent developments in trade and commerce between New Zealand and Russia.

Hon Dr Ashraf Choudhary complimented the Minister for his good work and acknowledged that the Minister continued to build upon some of the key strategies and policies of the past [Labour] government.

Hon Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner for Pakistan admired the Minister for signing a number of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the other countries. In his word of thanks, the High Commissioner thanked the Minister for delivering the talk and spending his valuable time with the Chamber. The High Commissioner also thanked Hon Dr Ashraf Choudhary for his continuing contribution towards the New Zealand Ethnic communities. The High Commissioner acknowledged and thanked Pakistan – New Zealand Chamber of Businesses and Professionals for organizing the event. Finally, the High Commissioner thanked all the participants for attending and supporting the programme.

The net-working took place after the talk. The Minister was introduced to the invitees who exchanged their views with the Minister.

Pakistan – New Zealand Chamber of Businesses and Professionals

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new relationship and understanding through respect for cultural diversity.

The OIC spokesman commended Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah's interfaith initiative. "We, in the OIC, are determined to work hard and continue to maintain our strong belief that diverse cultures should complement one another. Tolerance, stability and prosperity are nurtured only when nations and cultures communicate and respect each other."

Bin Rajab also called for action to prevent hatred against other religions. "We do not negate existence of hatred against other religions and we extend our hand of cooperation to counter anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and misperceptions about Western culture." He said the

OIC Charter and its Ten-Year Program of Action were based on a vision of moderation and modernization.

Speaking about the role of Muslims living in Western countries to counter the apprehensions of local populations, the OIC official said Muslims in the West should play a critical role in removing misperceptions and portraying the true image of Islam.

Muslims should voice their perspectives through peaceful and political channels available at the local, national and regional levels in the West. "It is important to exercise restraint and act responsibly in the wake of motivated provocations like the blasphemous cartoons or the hoax pertaining to burning the Qur'an."

A Story of A Great Muslim Woman

By Haneen Alayan

Bismi Allah Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem

Umm Salamah was one of the lady companions. Her life was full of interesting events. Her first name was Hind. Umm Salamah and Abu Salamah were one of the first to become Muslims. As soon as the news of their becoming Muslims spread, the Quraysh reacted with extreme anger and began persecuting them but the couple did not waver and remained strong in faith.

Unfortunately, the persecution of Muslims became very intense. Therefore, the Prophet, peace be upon him, gave permission for Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia. Abu Salamah and Umm Salamah and some other Muslims travelled across the sands of Arabia and sailed the red sea to Abyssinia seeking the pleasure and reward of Allah. In Abyssinia, Umm Salamah had her first baby. They named him Salamah.

After sometime, news reached the Muslims in Abyssinia that the number of Muslims in Makkah had increased.

Among them were Hamzah ibn Abdumuttalib and Umar ibn al-Khattab who greatly strengthened the Muslims. Meanwhile, the Quraysh, they heard, had eased the persecution somewhat. Urged on by a deep longing in their hearts to be with the Prophet, the Salamah family decided to return to Makkah. The easing of the persecution was but brief as the returnees soon found out. The dramatic increase in the number of Muslims following the acceptance of Islam by Hamzah and Umar only infuriated the Quraysh even more. They intensified their persecution and torture to a pitch and intensity not known before. So the Prophet gave permission to his companions to emigrate to Madina. Umm Salamah and Abu Salamah were among the first to answer the Prophet.

This hijrah of Umm Salamah and her husband and child was a bitter and painful experience. When Abu Salamah decided to leave for Madina, he prepared a camel for Umm Salamah, hoisted her on it and placed her son on her lap. Her husband then took the lead and went on without stopping or waiting for anything. Can you imagine, before they were out of Makkah some men from Umm Salamah clan stopped them and said to Abu Salamah: "Though you are free to do what you like with yourself, you have no power over your wife. She is our daughter. Do you expect us to allow you to take her away from us?" So Abu Salamah's family said 'you cannot take our grandson away from us' so they pulled the baby away

from them but Umm salamah's clan wanted him too so they pulled him as well to a point that dislocated his arm. Abu Salamah's Clan took the baby and Umm Salamah was left alone. Can you imagine the distress Umm Salamah had experienced! Alhamdu li Allah, she returned to Makkah and Allah The Merciful rewarded her patience as after sometime she joined Abu Salamah in Madina.

The next event in Umm Salamah's life is a big lesson for all of us, men and women and even children. The Muslims fought the mushrikeen in the battle of Bader. Abu Salamah had many wounds. Then the Muslims fought in the battle of Uhud and Abu Salamah had more

wounds. In a while, the many wounds of Abu Salamah closed a little then opened again and caused his death. Umm Salamah was alone again. Umm Salamah thought that she will never find a person better than her husband Abu Salamah. But she said the dua that her husband used to say: "O Lord, with you I leave this plight for consideration. O Lord give me something good from it." Allah answered the prayer of Umm Salamah and gave her better than Abu Salamah.

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) asked if he could marry her, She said: "O Messenger of Allah, I have three characteristics. I am a woman who is extremely jealous and I am afraid that you will see in me something that will anger you and cause Allah to punish me. I am a woman who is already advanced in age and I am a woman who has a young family." The Prophet replied: "Regarding the jealousy you mentioned, I pray to Allah the Almighty to let it go away from you. Regarding the question of age you have mentioned, I am afflicted with the same problem as you. Regarding the dependent family you have mentioned, your family is my family."

They were married and so it was that Allah answered the dua of Umm Salamah and gave her better than Abu Salamah. From that day on Hind al Makhzumiyah was no longer the mother of Salamah alone but became the mother of all believers, Umm al-Mumineen.

We learn from this great story to;

- 1- Have strong faith and you will succeed.
- 2- Be patient
- 3- Always have high hope in Allah The Exalted.
- 4- Dua is a very powerful tool.

With this I conclude my speech. Thank you for your time, wa As-Salam alaikum wa rahmat Allah wa barakatoh.

The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand

INVITES ALL MUSLIMAH ADULTS AND MUSLIMAH YOUTH
IN NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND THE:

2011 IWCNZ National Conference

to be held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton

January 21-23, 2011

The Conference will address:
Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives

Why not make a summer family holiday to the Waikato?

The Waikato Muslim Association is providing an informal bar-becue for the men, while the sisters attend their Dinner and Awards Ceremony and the Women's Organisation of WMA have a list and brochure of exciting activities that families can do in the area. WOWMA is seeking discounted rates from these providers and as well as reduced motel rates for families that come on that weekend.

Accommodation, food and workshops are provided for the sisters at the conference and they just need to register.



(Waikato River, Hamilton, New Zealand)

For more information about the event, to preregister for the conference and to receive notices about the activities, please send an email with your contact details to:

conference@yourwowma.com

Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand and Women Empowerment

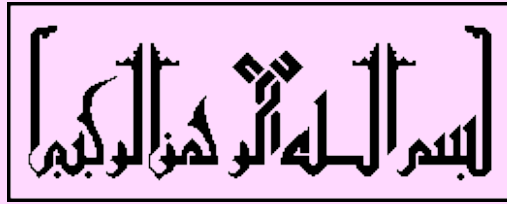
The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand's Education programme on Muslim Women Empowerment in New Zealand has been successful in its application for an EAP Public Diplomacy Small Grant from the American Embassy. The funds received would be used to organise workshops and seminars to educate Muslim families about:

- basic human rights education and awareness for women and children;
- their responsibilities around raising children, including the legal consequences of using violence as a form of discipline
- their legal rights in cases of disputes, and the processes involved.
- understanding of the justice system and court processes, victims rights, rights to legal representation, and separate representation for children.

The IWCNZ will also train Muslim women to provide effective advocacy for other women.

This project will be launched in January 2011 at the IWCNZ National Conference and then it will be implemented in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

It is hoped that the project will be completed by January 2012.



THE ISLAMIC WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

INVITES ALL MUSLIMAH ADULTS AND MUSLIMAH
YOUTH IN NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND THE:

2011 IWCNZ

National Conference

to be held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton

January 21-23, 2011

The Conference Theme is:

Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives

There will be workshops and activities targeted to different age groups and an afternoon outing for all participants is being arranged. Participants may choose from: Horse-riding/Canoeing, High Ropes/Waka Ama, or the Mystery Bus Tour to two special Waikato locations. All instructors and guides will be female. All Muslimah age 12 and over are welcome to attend.

Accommodation is also provided for Muslimah from out of town.

Registration is now open and registration forms are now available. If you need a form or have additional questions, please email : conference@yourwowma.com

Registration for outings and accommodation closes January 6, 2011.



A picture of the Char Bagh Garden at Hamilton Gardens, N.Z.

People, Take Care of Your Teenagers

Leila Adam

Recently I heard two true stories.

The first was of a teenage boy (not in New Zealand) who emailed a website, asking a simple question: "Why doesn't my family eat halal meat?" Not long afterwards, this boy was caught trying to kill himself and others, as a suicide bomber. (The website had drawn him in and influenced him.)

How did it happen? Why did this child email a stranger to ask a question he should have been comfortable enough to ask his own family, or at the very least, someone from his family friends, relatives or local community?

Quite apart from the issue of the internet being a potential source of danger with predatory groups ready to hijack our children's minds; let's focus on the matter of why our children would feel the need to email strangers in the first place.

What does this mean? Firstly, it means that the parents of these children are not the first port-of-call for their concerns; that the lines of communication aren't open. It probably means that these children fear censure and reprimands from their parents if they open up and speak their minds. It could mean that these children feel stifled in their own homes, aren't free to express themselves and develop their own religious personalities, and aren't getting satisfactory and sensible answers to their questions.

I urge myself (being an older, less energetic mother of a pre-teen), and everyone else, to take the advice of Imam Ali, radhiAllahu 'anhu, and befriend our teenage children. Find at least one thing you can enjoy doing on a regular basis with your child, because when you are both relaxed the conversation will flow.

Play tennis / ping pong / badminton / frisbee together. Go fishing / beachcombing / shopping together. Ask them their opinions on family decisions and plans. Watch comedies together. Play family board games. It doesn't matter what you do as long as you do it together, at least once a week. Do anything to save

But where are the female Muslim role models for our daughters? Do they look towards their mothers, grandmothers or aunts and hope to be like them? Do they look towards teachers and scholars, or even Sahabah? (By the way, where are our female Muslim scholars?) Why do our children's minds turn to TV idols to answer a question that should find an answer within our own ummah, if not within a known circle of acquaintances?

your teenage child from the horrible possibilities. Make the effort and the rewards will be sweet InshaAllah.

The second story I heard was about a group of intelligent, clued-up teenage Muslim girls who were asked the question: Who do you look up to as a role model? They couldn't think of anyone besides Oprah.

When I tried this same question out on my own teenage Islamic Studies class, they couldn't think of anyone either. When I told them what the other group had said, their response

was, "Yeah! Oprah rocks!" Which, of course, she does.

But where are the female Muslim role models for our daughters? Do they look towards their mothers, grandmothers or aunts and hope to be like them? Do they look towards teachers and scholars, or even Sahabah? (By the way, where are our female Muslim scholars?) Why do our children's minds turn to TV idols to answer a question that should find an answer within our own ummah, if not within a known circle of acquaintances?

When my daughters were teenagers I was fortunate enough to have a good friend who would invite them over, together with their close friends. These events provided a forum for the girls to talk, offload their worries, share thoughts and also be gently guided by the wisdom of my friend, who became a role model and mentor for them all. May Allah reward her greatly for providing something that my children desperately needed at that time.

Let's all try to put our growing young women and men in the company of people of knowledge and goodness, so that they can benefit from them. Let's also try to be as good ourselves at being role models for our children, and maybe other people's children too. I believe this is a community issue and we should be addressing it together.

Write to us

Muslim News is published fortnightly by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand. We welcome news and information about the Muslim community in New Zealand and the world. Please email news, views and photos, to nzmuslimnews@gmail.com



ISLAMIC WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NZ, NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

Assalamalaikum

The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand is pleased to announce that their annual Conference will be held in Hamilton from Friday January 21 to Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the University of Waikato's Hamilton Campus. The theme of this Conference is "Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives." This year's Conference is being coordinated by the Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA), and a variety of workshops as well as outdoor adventures are being planned for the weekend.

Several workshops will be run simultaneously over two sessions, offering participants a choice based on interests and needs. For example, there are two workshops designed for youth, another two designed for the elderly, two workshops addressing active citizenship and legal rights and responsibilities, two workshops designed for educating and raising children, and two workshops of more general interest.

Participants will also be allowed to choose from one of three outdoor adventures: a) canoe and horse-riding trek; b) a high ropes course and Waka Ama experience or c) a Mystery Tour to two special spots in the Waikato for those who would prefer a less physically strenuous afternoon. All instructors and guides are female. All sisters must be at least 12 (twelve) years of age to participate in the outdoor adventures; however, an three-hour visit to the Hamilton Zoo is being offered to those who would like to spend the afternoon with their younger children.

This conference is open to sisters throughout New Zealand and its aims are to:

- ☐ Provide a forum for the Islamic Women's Council
- ☐ Facilitate the discussion of issues relating to Muslim women in NZ
- ☐ Promote the physical, spiritual and intellectual values of Islam
- ☐ Create an enjoyable opportunity for Muslim women to meet and know one another.

On the Saturday evening, there will be a Formal Dinner and Award Ceremony for the Muslimah attending the event.

Items for Sale

The Conference will also provide a venue for Muslim entrepreneurs. Anyone wishing to sell items at the Conference is invited to register with the Conference Coordinators by emailing interest to conference@yourwowma.com or you may call 07-855-4978 and ask for Aliya. Items could include scarves, coats, dresses, prayer mats, tasbeeh, jewellery, foodstuffs, books, educational resources, gifts, etc.

Conference Logistics

The Conference is open to all sisters twelve and above. The Conference and meals are provided free of charge; however, due to reservation requirements by certain service providers, there are small registration fees for the outdoor adventures and for accommodation. For those Sisters travelling with male family members, please contact WOWMA who will provide you with a list of activities that the family can do in the area as well as a list of motels that are offering reduced rates for the event. On the Saturday evening, the Waikato Muslim Association is offering a casual barbeque for the men and the younger children at the

Masjid on Heaphy Terrace.

For the benefit of the participants and the speakers we humbly request that mothers not to bring children under 12 years old. However, a childcare room has been arranged for the Saturday morning, for those sisters who will travel with their young children to Hamilton and who do not have any alternative childcare options available. To reserve a spot for childcare on the Saturday morning, please contact Sr. Jannat Maqbool at 07-855-7157 who is arranging the childcare. For the purpose of catering and accommodation, sisters wishing to attend the outdoor adventures or wish to stay overnight Friday and/or will need to register no later than January 6, 2011 (see attached form). Registration is not complete until payment is made. For Sisters that have financial difficulties and are unable to meet the registration fees, they should contact either Sr. Anjum or Sr. Aliya who can authorise a waiver of the fees.

Sisters will be responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Hamilton. The university hostel has been reserved and each sister that timely registers will be provided with a single room with a twin bed (every six rooms have a toilet, shower and microwave area to share). Bedding will be provided.

Fees:

Outdoor adventure fee = \$5 per person

Accommodation fees are based on the distance one must travel to the conference and resulted due to the high cost and limited availability of quality accommodation in January.

If you live on the South Island, \$5 per night per person. If you live on the North Island but not in the Waikato or Auckland, \$10 per night per person. If you live in Auckland or the Waikato, but are at least 30 km from Hamilton, \$20 per night per person. If you live within 30 km of the centre of Hamilton, \$60 per night.

Fees must be received and paid by January 6, 2011 to confirm a spot on the outdoor activities. The fees are not refundable after that date. Additionally, any sisters who do not reserve or pay the adventure or accommodation will not have a spot allocated for the outdoor activity or lodging.

Payment is to be sent to the Conference Coordinators' attention at

IWCNZ

c/o of WOWMA,
19 Heritage Ave,
Hamilton 3210

Cheques are to be made payable to the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand. Sisters who are travelling to Hamilton with their families should contact the Conference Coordinators, as WOWMA has sought reduced rates from motels close to the event.

Contact info of Conference Coordinators of WOWMA

If you should have any enquiries relating to the Conference please feel free to contact the Conference Coordinators by email at conference@yourwowma.com or you may telephone Sr. Anjum Rahman at 07-856-6683 or Sr. Aliya Danzeisen at 07-855-4978. On behalf of the Islamic Women's Council we look forward to seeing you there.

OIC chief affirms need for strong Islamic media

JEDDAH: Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary-general of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), on Wednesday emphasized the need for a strong media to confront the smear campaign against Islam and Muslims.

"There is big negligence from the part of Islamic media organizations in keeping with the fast developments in the media world," he told the General Assembly of the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU), an affiliate of OIC.

Ihsanoglu said the extraordinary OIC summit that was held in Makkah in 2005 at the initiative of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah had called for strengthening OIC media agencies such as IBU and the International Islamic News Agency (IINA).

Culture and Information Minister Abdul Aziz Khoja, who presided over the meeting, emphasized the need to strengthen IBU in order to

"There is big negligence from the part of Islamic media organizations in keeping with the fast developments in the media world," he told the General Assembly of the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU), an affiliate of OIC.

realize the hopes and aspirations of the Ummah.

The Saudi minister called for greater cooperation between OIC countries in producing world-class radio and television programs. "We should also highlight the developments taking place in our countries in a professional manner," he said. Khoja spoke about King Abdullah's interfaith dialogue initiative that has won the applause of world leaders. "It is the duty of IBU to highlight such important initiatives to inform the world that the Islamic Ummah works for global peace and stability," he said. He congratulated the Islamic world on King Abdullah's recovery.

The meeting, which was held at OIC headquarters here, approved the appointment of Malaysia's Zain Al-Abidine Ibrahim as the new secretary-general of the union. It also endorsed the reports of 2009 and 2010 and reshuffled the union's Executive Council.



FIANZ President was invited by ISESCO (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization) to attend the first meeting of Muslim leaders from minority nations held on 7-10 November. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock and develop programme of engagement with wider society. Dr Anwar met delegates from 27 different countries and held a brief meeting with the Director General H.E. Ahmed Tuwajiri. ISESCO has developed a very good Arabic learning programme which is available to communities.

ISESCO to participate in World Innovation Summit for Education

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) will take part in the second edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) which will be held in Doha, over the period of 7-9 December 2010.

ISESCO will be represented in this summit which is convened by Qatar Foundation, by Dr Ahmed Said Ould Bah, Director of the Office of ISESCO Director General.

The Summit will focus on improving educational systems and exploring innovative trends. It will also seek to address the major challenges in education and examine

the means to fund education in the 21st century.

ISESCO will contribute a paper to the Summit on its efforts in developing education.

The Summit will bring together the representatives of international organizations concerned with education issues, international thought leaders, politicians and experts in the area of education, as well as the representatives of the public and private sectors in some countries across the world.

MAC signs contract for An-Nur Mosque Upgrade Project

The Muslim Association of Canterbury (MAC) has finally signed a contract for the long awaited upgrade project of the current An-Nur mosque on No 101 Deans Avenue.

After obtaining all the required approvals and consents from the City Council the MAC Board Of Directors approved the award of the upgrade contract to Contract Construction (Building Contractor). MAC President Mohamed Jama discloses that the mosque upgrade project that would cost \$310,000 will commence on 10th January and will be supervised by him, Bro Hamza Hucnel the Facilities Secreatry and Dr Mohamed Alayan. The project will commence in the first week of January.



MAC President Mohamed Jama signs the contract agreement.