

LOVE A MUSLIM DAY

3rd April
2018

**Changing Negativity
into Positivity**

Shahab Adris



PLAN OF ACTION

Advice for local authorities and local communities: a response to 'Punish a Muslim Day' Letters

'What is the purpose of economic growth, better technology and service provision if we as people cannot maintain our relationships and grow as human beings together?' SA

Our societal dilemma: a break down of community cohesion and the fracturing of our communities, allowing hate to fester openly and in spaces not accessible by the wider community. Not only do we see rampant Islamophobia affecting the lives of Muslims but a long succession of people disliked because they are perceived to be immigrants, judged for the colour of their skin, considered to be Jewish, homosexual, or physically/mentally challenged.

The responsibility for the lack of engagement in the mainstream media and the polarizing of culturally diverse communities is to be shared amongst aspects of the media, individual politicians and think tanks. A lack of interest by statutory bodies to deal with certain communities in an affective manner has also contributed to dissatisfied communities. It is not enough to see police dealing with crime, councils organising the collection of bins and schools teaching our children about the world, if there isn't a proactive approach towards **co-existence**. What is the point of our transport system, environmental protection, education system, health provision, culture and arts if we simply cannot get along with one another?

How many more times will we tolerate another blatant attack on a community, which has relentlessly and silently suffered from its demonization, hate-crimes, overt prejudice and discrimination for no reason other than for being Muslim? Our community has suffered from mass *racialisation* and *religiousisation*, which has split our communities creating fear, hysteria, anxiety and suspicion. The continued 'othering' of certain communities has created a vacuum for intolerance and violence. It is therefore crucial to acknowledge, that such actions result in the stigmatization of Muslims; the anger, disappointment and hurt felt by many within this respective community is justified. The feeling of being unsafe in their homes is justified. Many face the brunt of prejudicial and racist remarks: they feel divided, out of place, and vulnerable. Our Muslim community are feeling let down by the state, the judiciary and local authorities across the country. **Yet this is home.**

The 'Punish a Muslim' letter has once again had a tangible impact on British citizens. Anna Soubry MP has unequivocally called this '*incitement to terrorism*' and has rightly stated that '*...Islamophobia will not be tolerated anymore*'.

We strive forward and patiently anticipate the official definition of Islamophobia, yet we shall continue to challenge any form of hatred at a grassroots and institutional level, whilst promoting **peaceful co-existence**. We challenge you to take this opportunity to turn this destructive provocation into something positive, for the love and sake of humanity.

Outcome from The Leeds Roundtable with Local Stakeholders

The best way forward for our communities, to ameliorate hatred is to take a pro-active approach in bringing individuals and communities together; to work in partnership with Muslim communities, based on our shared respect for humanity. We should all wish to take positive action in the face of hatred. The 'Love A Muslim Day' campaign is a positive response and has heightened a sense of togetherness across all communities. Further initiatives involving the local and regional authorities must engage Muslims in a meaningful manner, increase inter-community collaborations, and provide the space for communities to participate in shared projects.



MEND: Leeds Roundtable of Stakeholders

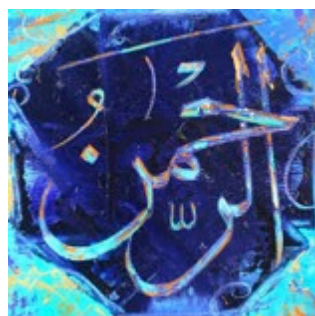
Please consider and apply the suggested 'recommendations' so that you confidently play your part in bringing peace, togetherness and love in society. It does not need to end on 3rd of April 2018. Make sure to invite your local media and journalists to cover your events and stories.

Please use the following hashtags for all your social media posts:

#LoveAMuslimDay
#WeStandTogether
#UnityInDiversity

Make sure to put plenty of pictures, videos, and statements on social media.

Share the love online!



LOVE A MUSLIM DAY: [RECOMMENDATIONS](#) FOR TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL 2018 (and beyond)

- Organise a flagship event in your town or city. Plan this with your local authorities including the council, police and community sector organisations. Invite speakers, have stalls, feed people, give away cupcakes and coffee, have performances – basically create a fun and lively environment for families.
- Release hundreds of ‘Peace’ balloons during the day collectively @ 12pm and Chinese lanterns at dusk, around 6:30pm. We want to see love in the sky.
- Students! Get involved with these events. Organise something creative on campus and creating a vibrant environment for all. Alternatively, watch the movie ‘I AM’ together. Get together with members of all faith and cultural societies and celebrate Unity in Diversity.
- School teachers/educators, celebrate #LoveAMuslimDay by learning about Muslim heroes like Mohamed Farah, Mo Salah, Nadiya Begum, Sadiq Khan. Celebrate how Muslims come from all over the world, and how they have contributed to our world (resources available at www.mend.org.uk/schools).
- Organise community events in mosques, community centres, churches, synagogues, temples, gurdwara’s and any other spiritual place of significance. Invite each other to your places of worship, cultivate dialogue, and increase your love for each other.
- Get in touch with your MP and invite them to get involved. Encourage them to make a public statement thereby demonstrating a commitment for fairness.
- We want Muslims to invite their neighbours (regardless of faith) into their homes and vice versa. Extend your respect for one another over a cup of coffee or if feeling very generous, a meal. Cook for each other, enjoy each other’s company and get to know one another.
- Make an effort to talk to Muslims in your neighbourhood, especially if you haven’t done so already.
- Buy a coffee or desi chai for a Muslim colleague (as most don’t drink alcohol!)
- Use the ‘Love A Muslim Day’ letter to carry out some other activities. Make sure to take pictures and make videos to share on social media.
- Join the **Independent Advisory Group**, or your **local Hate-Crime Scrutiny Panel(s)** in your city: contact your local Chief Superintendent.
- Identify community projects and groups within your council and get involved.
- Provide Muslims the space to tell their stories, listen and engage with their experiences. Get active in your communities together.
- Give away flowers to random people, maybe some high-fives, and if you’re brave enough, HUGS!
- Racialise and religiousise all the positive aspects and contributions of Muslims, for example always refer to Mo Farah as a ‘black, Somalian, Muslim, Brit’ who is the best athlete this country has ever had! Rather than just saying Mo Farah!
- Do anything and everything else you believe will bring people together on a common platform of unity, oneness and humanity.

LOVE *a* **MUSLIM** *day* 3rd April 2018

They have loved you. They have made you so many curries and kebabs. They have created so much love between people. How will you repay this? Are you like a 'normal' person like the vast majority of the population? Normal people usually are too shy to show any appreciation, and as a result they are allowing the majority of Europe and the rest of the world to become unappreciative of the fact that Muslims contribute billions of pounds to our countries, thousands of doctors heal the sick, thousands of teachers educate our children, and many more contribute to politics, the media, the judiciary and to our democracies (even though some don't function as well as they should). Only you can show your appreciation, only you have the power. Don't be a normal person. Be a special person. Show your **love!**

There will be rewards based on actions taken. These are as follows:

10 points	Smile at a Muslim
25 points	Buy a Muslim a coffee with cake (from an independent café)
50 points	Throw flowers on a Muslim, lots of different coloured ones
100 points	Invite a Muslim to your home
250 points	Take a weekend trip with your Muslim colleagues
500 points	Fast in Ramadhan with a Muslim and celebrate Eid (it's around the corner)
1000 points	Do a fundraiser for the needy, especially those suffering in Iraq, Libya, Kashmir, Yemen, Myanmar, Palestine and Syria
2500 points	Buy a Hajj package for a Muslim family – A lifetime trip to Mecca



For further enquiries please contact
ANY MUSLIM DOWN THE ROAD
 At a Mosque near you
 The World
 WE70 4EU (weloveyou)

