

ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARDS 2014

A fundraising dinner and comedy event in aid of
the Islamic Human Rights Commission



The Islamic Human Rights Commission is an NGO in Special Consultative Status
with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Programme

- 18.30** Arrival
18.55 Qur'an & Translation
19.00 Dinner
20.00 Programme commences
Categories: Europe & Central Asia
20.20 Spoken word by Mellissa Mellodee
Categories: Middle East & Africa
20.55 Keynote speech Professor Salman Sayyid
21.20 Khaleel Muhammed
Categories: Americas, Asia & Australasia
21.55 Auction
Categories: UK
22.30 The return of some
22.40 Winner of the Worst Islamophobe
22.50 Closing remarks from the Chair

Throughout the evening awards recognising the positive contributions people have made in the fight against Islamophobia will be made.

Who We Are

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

The Islamic Human Rights Commission: Who We Are, What We Do and What We Have Done

The Islamic Human Rights Commission was set up in 1997 by a group of activists whose vision was to utilise their experience in human rights work through the medium of an openly Islamically oriented and led organisation.

IHRC was the first of its kind, and remains a leader in its fields of human rights campaign, research and advocacy. Founded at a time when Islam and Muslims were continually berated for violating human rights, IHRC took up the standard of faith to argue that in fact the opposite was true. Islam, it argued gave everyone regardless of their background basic rights, and in the modern world, it is Muslims who bear the vast

brunt of human rights abuses.

Whilst advocating for everyone, IHRC's work reflects the overwhelming prejudice, hostility and violence that face Muslims world-wide on a daily basis.

Some of our projects include campaigns for long term prisoners of faith – i.e. those held for their religious convictions. Our first major success in this field was the release of Mu'allim Ibraheem Al-Zakzaky who was imprisoned in Nigeria under the former military junta. He and almost a thousand of his supporters were released after a long running IHRC campaign brought his case to international attention. Since then IHRC's campaigns have helped secure many releases from detention.

We also take on cases of discrimination and our many successes include removing headscarf and beard bans in schools, as

well as getting the UK Passport Agency to allow photographs with hijab. We have supported cases at the European Court of Human Rights and taken High Court action in the UK where necessary. A legal attempt to stop arms flights to Israel in 2006 saw the release of reams of official documents



on the type of arms being shipped there. Our legal challenge over nude body scanners has resulted in the government changing track over this policy.

We have just opened a legal advocacy section called IHRC Legal and aim to provide immigration and employment advice from our in-house solicitor.

IHRC has consultative status with the United Nations. Our work has received wide-scale coverage in main-stream and alternative media, and many of our officer are also commentators who write for and participate in many media outlets.

Our reports, books, briefings, videos, TV shows and films have been launched at many places including the House of Lords, and at the World Conference Against Racism in South Africa, which IHRC attended in 2001 with a thirteen strong

IHRC has consultative status with the United Nations.

team including three rabbis from Neturei Karta, the anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish movement. Our research work on issue such as hate crime monitoring, theory and statistics, Guantanamoisation of society, Islamic notions of rights, decolonising narratives and liberation theology has provided invaluable resources for all those seeking to change the world to a better place.

We also run an on-line bookshop (shop.ihrc.org) and a small bookshop and two gallery spaces in London, which regularly host talks, screening and exhibitions.

We work with local, national and regional organisations to promote shared aims. Together with Citizens International in Malaysia we hold the secretariat of the Universal Justice Network, a coalition of NGOs working towards social justice around the world.

This is just a taste of our work. This brochure highlights our fundraising event, the Islamophobia Awards, in the hope that you too will be inspired to act upon the Islamic command to rise up in defence of the weak and the oppressed, whoever they are and whosoever oppresses them.

"And what reason have you that you should not fight in the way of Allah and of the weak among the men and the women and the children, (of) those who say: Our Lord! Cause us to go forth from this town, whose people are oppressors, and give us from Thee a guardian and give us from Thee a helper."
Holy Qur'an: Chapter 4, Verse 75

Join the Struggle for Justice. Join IHRC.

Message from the Chair



The Muslim community has continually been made the victim of negative stereotyping and subject to a strategy of deliberate demonisation. Using comedy and satire to identify those who have made a career out of such fear-mongering helps to challenge and subvert their rhetoric. It also provides a forum to rally the spirits of all communities in the face of such adversity. We are constantly hearing that Muslims do not have a sense of humour - this event proves to the Islamophobes once again how wrong they are.

Chair of IHRC, Massoud Shadjareh



This year's event

The Islamophobia Awards returns in 2014 after a well-earned break. Sadly the reasons for its existence have diminished during its absence.

The Islamophobia Awards were inaugurated in 2003 as a light-hearted swipe at public figures whose actions have generated or perpetuated hatred and/or violence against Muslims or their religion. The awards serve to draw attention to Islamophobia's varied and worst manifestations. Throughout the year the IHRC is engaged in the serious business of tackling Islamophobes and helping their victims, so it is a refreshing change to be able to recognise this work by poking fun at the perpetrators. The Awards also give our supporters the opportunity to meet us in an informal social setting and get a more personal insight into our staff and our work.

We also take this opportunity to recognise the dynamic and brave work of individuals and organisations in tackling Islamophobia, even at great cost to themselves.

For the 2014 Awards, along with our usual comedy skits and satirical take on the year's event,



there will be spoken word poetry, nasheed, a special comedy video message and a key note speech from one of the leading academics in the field of decolonial studies and Islamophobia.

Among the star-studded line-up of performers is Khaleel Muhammad, the popular nasheed artist whose soulful voice and dynamic stage performances have earned him international renown.

A special video message comes from the instantly recognised, acclaimed Australian comedian Aamer Rahman. Dynamic spoken word poet, Melissa Melodee will also be taking the stage.

As ever the night will also include a lavish gala dinner and a fundraising auction where we hope we can once again persuade you to dig deep and help replenish our coffers.

Speakers and performers

Khaleel Muhammad

Khaleel Muhammad is a popular nasheed artist whose soulful voice and dynamic stage performances have earned him international renown.

Khaleel has appeared at the GPU, Islam Expo and Eid in the Square celebrations and also collaborated, as well as co-wrote, the 'Feed the World, Feed The Fasting' charity song for Muslim Aid and 'Artists United for Haiti' for Islamic Relief.



Professor Salman Sayyid

Professor Sayyid has been the Director of the Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies at the University of Leeds since 2007, as well as the Reader in Rhetoric and Postcolonialism and Racism Studies since 2008. Professor Sayyid has worked in a number of UK Universities including the

University of Salford, and the University of East London, and in 2007 was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar to the International Islamic University, Islamabad.

His teaching interests have focused on racism, postcolonialism, critical theory and 'political Islam', and he has taught, supervised and been an examiner at postgraduate level for many years. Professor Sayyid's

research interests encompass ethnicity and racism; the relationship between culture and politics; postcolonial political studies, and in particular, the way in which the analysis of postcolonial conditions inform and affect so-called 'mainstream' political and social processes and structures.

He has written extensively and his most recent works include: Thinking through

Islamophobia: a global perspective (C Hurst & Co Publishers, London, 2010), and Recalling the caliphate: decolonization and world order (Columbia University Press, New York, 2010). He is currently a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Social Movements Journal, and has presented keynote speeches at various national and international conferences.



Melissa Melodee

Melissa Melodee is an independent music artist from London, UK. She is a singer/songwriter/rapper/poet. She plans to release a Nasheed Album in the near future. Melissa Melodee performs with the Hip Hop Shakespeare Company (HHSC) founded by Mobo Award winning Hip Hop artist Akala.

Aamer Rahman

Aamer Rahman is an acclaimed Australian comedian, TV personality, writer and activist. As well as doing stand-up comedy, Rahman has written for television, including two seasons of the Astra award-winning 'Balls of Steel Australia'. As one part of the comedy duo Fear Of A Black Planet, Rahman was the focus of a TV episode of 'Australian Story', viewed in Australia by nearly one million viewers. The show documented their lives in Australia, as well as their debut run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and their sellout gig in London.



Hassen Rasool

Born in South Africa where he studied graphic design, he moved London in 1999 to work in the creative industries – during this time he also studied the art of the recitation of the Quran.

His work so far has encompassed national and international television, radio, film, music, photography as well as public performances at live events all over the UK and across the world. More recently he was the voice of the call to prayer on the groundbreaking Channel 4 4Ramadan Series – Ramadan Diaries





Lord Eric Avebury



Lauren Booth



Professor Marie Breen-Smyth



Professor Ramon Grosfoguel

Messages of support

Lord Eric Avebury

I am delighted to send this message of welcome for the Islamophobia Awards Ceremony and for the valuable work of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, and I am proud to have been involved in some of their work.

Dr Hanan Chehata

At a time when Islamophobia is on the rise and when secular tensions seem to be mounting globally, the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is doing vital work to try to build bridges between communities here at home in the UK, and abroad.

The regular exhibitions, talks and book launches held at the IHRC bookshop brings members of the local community together and provides a platform for otherwise seemingly taboo

and potentially controversial subjects to be spoken about openly.

The IHRC also reach out to support local charitable initiatives and recently supported a volunteer run soup kitchen called the Children of Adam by providing 100 free hot meals for the homeless. These sorts of charitable outreach efforts are vital in terms of helping to tackle Islamophobia, promoting community cohesion, and putting into practice the charitable teachings enshrined in Islam.

The IHRC does not shy away from tackling the larger issues that many other groups are too scared to discuss. They openly promote concepts like Genocide Memorial Day; they are at the forefront of many events supporting the oppressed people of Palestine; they challenge the continued and unjustifiable existence of places like Guantanamo

Bay, and otherwise speak up for those with marginalised voices as well as those with no voice at all.

The existence of groups like the IHRC is important as there will never be peace and understanding without dialogue and an open space where we can all feel comfortable enough to challenge each other's beliefs and thought processes without fear of recourse to recrimination. The provision of that space and service is one of the key strengths of the IHRC.

Lauren Booth

"I love the tone of this event as it takes an issue that has at its heart darkness and seeks to make it lighter on our community. After all so much of the nonsense written about Islam and Muslims goes beyond sadness and into parody.

Well done IHRC for your sterling work. My vote goes to Bibi Netanyahu for his Outstanding Effort to demonise Islam."

Professor Marie Breen-Smyth

"I am sorry I cannot attend the Islamophobia Awards 2014, and wait with bated breath to see who this year's worthy - or should that be unworthy? - winners are. It is not often that one expresses one's support for an event by wishing that it should soon go out of business for lack of suitable nominees, but that is, indeed my wish for the event. But whilst there continues to be such a plentiful supply of scurrilous potential nominees, I wish the event every success and I hope you all have an enjoyable evening."



Lord Nazir Ahmed



Dr Rowan Williams



Sarah Teather MP



Professor Tariq Ramadan

Lord Nazir Ahmed

I am sorry I cannot be here, but it is my pleasure to write in support of this year's Islamophobia Awards and the valuable work of the Islamic Human Rights Commission. It is important to work together within a variety of fora to counter discrimination targeted at the Muslim community. I wish the Islamophobia Awards every success in highlighting such prejudice.

Professor Ramon Grosfoguel

Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California-Berkeley

"The work that the IHRC is doing in relation to the problem of Islamophobia is among the most important in the world today. The IHRC is not only involved in concrete campaigns against Islamophobia but is also doing cutting edge empirical social science research about Islamophobia in Europe and the world at large. They are doing what academic insti-

tutes and universities should be doing. However, in the absent of a real commitment from universities and state institutions to tackle research and public policy on discrimination against Muslims, the IHRC has taken the lead to confront Islamophobia at the level of politics, policy and knowledge production. No other institution in the world today has dedicated more attention to Islamophobia than the IHRC. The quality and quantity of their research publications on the topic are impressive! They deserve to be recognised as one of the world's leading institutions working to eradicate Islamophobia. The work IHRC is doing constitutes a model that we should all be following."

Dr Rowan Williams

"The fact that prejudice and ignorance are ridiculous doesn't - unfortunately - make them less lethal. But it is important from time to time to be reminded that they are ridiculous, and that's why this event is so welcome. Some

theologians have contrasted the light-heartedness of heaven with the fact that the devil and his angels take themselves with deadly seriousness, even when engaged in the most absurd project possible, resisting the all-powerful goodness of God. I hope this evening will make some contribution to delivering us from deadly seriousness and recall us to the joy that faith opens for us."

Sarah Teather MP

"I'm really pleased to see the Islamophobia Awards returning this year for what I know will be a very fun evening with a serious message. Discrimination and prejudice in all their forms are completely unacceptable but, sadly, they persist. With the current climate of anti-immigration rhetoric in the media, I am particularly concerned about rising xenophobia and Islamophobia. That's why the work of the Islamic Human Rights Commission is so important."

Professor Tariq Ramadan

Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies, University of Oxford; Executive Director, research Centre for Islamic Studies and Ethics (CILE).

Operating to the highest standards over the years, the Islamic Human Rights Commission continues to remain active and serious in its work. Through its activities, the IHRC has evolved to become an important voice which brings to our attention key facts and figures in serious and informative research, ensuring that we, the public, are kept accurately informed in a consistent and academic way. I am very supportive of their work and their truly valuable contribution. - Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies, University of Oxford; Executive Director, research Centre for Islamic Studies and Ethics (CILE).

Research, Campaigns and Advocacy

■ Research

The research section at IHRC is a leader in studies on Islamophobia / anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination. In addition to country reports, it has developed an acclaimed body of academic work that provides statistics of experiences of hatred in various countries. IHRC has focussed on many countries, but has focussed on the UK, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, the USA and Canada, with more research slated for Australia in the coming year.

Aside from its books and reports on these issues, the IHRC research team is also involved in publishing papers and books, and producing films and documentaries. From themes such as Extradition to Decolonising Knowledge, the Research department works with diverse researchers, academics, filmmakers and journalists making unheard voices and little known issues accessible to a wider audience.

IHRC research work can be found in the UN archives, in university libraries, as well as on-line on our website www.ihr.org.uk, for sale in our shop shop.ihr.org or can be viewed on our Youtube channel IHRC TV.

■ Campaigns at IHRC

This department is responsible for the many public campaigns that have brought the IHRC to national and international prominence. Amongst other things, it currently focuses on Bahrain, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Palestine and political prisoners in the USA. By encouraging people to take part in campaigning whether through letter writing, attending vigils or other means, Campaigns at IHRC works towards empowering people to stand up for justice.

■ IHRC Advocacy

IHRC Advocacy department has been working with members of the community who have faced discrimination in various aspects of their lives. From prayer space at work to hijabs at school and prison discrimination, we continue to receive a broad range of cases. Our clients are mainly UK-based but we have supported British citizens in the USA, Syria and Pakistan.

Our caseworkers also do a lot of international advocacy, writing to various international bodies on behalf of clients, as well as implementing various IHRC campaigns.

IHRC also sends Eid packs to Muslim prisoners in London. In 2013 IHRC sent Eid packs to 1000 prisoners. The aim of the project is to create a bridge between the prisoners and the Muslim community during Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha.

IHRC Legal

IHRC Advocacy would like to announce the launch of its new project: IHRC Legal.

In recent years we have seen the government make cutbacks to legal aid leaving large numbers of people unable to pursue their claims because they lack the means to secure their rights.

IHRC Advocacy has set up its new legal wing to provide high quality subsidised legal services. The intention of asking for a contribution from our clients is to make the project sustainable in the long term. IHRC hopes to cover the remainder of the cost through fundraising and creating partnerships with various grant-making bodies. Where individuals are unable to pay, IHRC hopes to fully subsidise the services provided to them.

IHRC Legal will focus on providing services in employment and immigration. Our primary focus will be discrimination in employment as well as helping the vulnerable secure their immigration status in the UK.

With the support of the community we hope to see this project grow so that in the future we may be able to support people to challenge police abuses as well as legally challenge government policies that negatively affect the Muslim community.

Know Your Rights Project

We launched the first of our Know Your Rights Leaflets (KYR) in October 2013 covering people's rights when they are stopped at ports or airports under Schedule 7 powers.

The KYR leaflets provide information about the powers available to the police as well as people's legal rights. The information is available in pocket sized leaflets which people can carry with them, or as a downloadable app for their mobile phones.

We are planning to launch a number of KYR leaflets this year covering employment, immigration, and police stop and searches.

As part of the project we are also now offering KYR workshops. The workshops will be offered to community groups / mosques / ISOCs who wish to learn more about their rights. Our advocates will be travelling up and down the UK holding these workshops. Look out for a workshop near you!

Free Advice Surgeries

Islamic Human Rights Commission offers free weekly Information and Advice surgeries every Wednesdays. Our professional caseworkers can provide people with information and advice on a whole range of issues.

Our service is confidential, independent and free.

When are the surgeries?

Every Wednesdays 5pm-7pm
Appointments can be made and will be available in 20 minute sessions.

What issues will the surgeries cover?

The advice surgeries will provide advice on:

- Employment
- Benefits
- Discrimination
- Complaints against the Police

If our caseworkers are unable to provide advice on any issue you will be signposted as appropriate.

Where are the surgeries?

The surgeries will be held at Islamic Human Rights Commissions office in Wembley: 202 Preston Road, Wembley HA9 8PA. Closest tube station is Preston Road station on the metropolitan line.

How much will it cost?

All advice given at the advice surgery is free of charge. If you are interested and would like to book an appointment, then please call Islamic Human Rights Commission on 0208 904 4222.

Please note, as there are limited sessions on offer, they will be available on a first come, first served basis but we will try and offer you the next available date if they are fully booked.

VISIT THE IHRC BOOKSHOP & GALLERY IN-STORE AND ON-LINE

IHRC is delighted to announce its new on-line store is now up and running

SHOP.IHRC.ORG



We have a wide range of gifts including artwork – from prints, limited edition canvases to original artwork by up and coming artists and photographers, as well as a variety of objet d'art from around the world. These pieces range in price from the extremely reasonable like our block printed prayer mats, or Swedish wood with mother of pearl decorative plates and boxes to our original design, hand painted enamel on copper plates and original paintings.

There is something for everyone, from books on Islam, human rights and justice, books for children and teenagers, to handicrafts and artwork.

Best of all, all profits from the sales go to IHRCT and help fund the work that we do.

If you live in or near London, UK you can always pop in to our store. We are open from 9am – 5 pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 6 pm on Saturdays. Our address is 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA (nearest tube Preston Road, Metropolitan Line).

See you soon in-store or on-line, insha Allah.



text **IHRC11** with either £1, £5, £10, £20 to 70070

Fundraising Auction Items

PLEASE remember to bring your wallet and cheque book to the auction on the day!

The Islamophobia Awards 2014 will be held on Friday 21st February 2014. As part of this year's event we're holding another auction of items generously donated by supporters to raise funds for IHRC.

If you are interested in securing an item before the day, please email awards@ihrc.org with the lot number, your bid, name, address and daytime telephone number, and we'll be in touch.

May Allah swt reward your generosity with His bounty.



Pele and Maradona Framed Signed Dual Shirt Display

Start of bidding price: Pele & Maradona Dual Framed Signed Shirts £1,500

Two Legends signed memorabilia display. Pele Signed 1970 Brazil Shirt and Maradona Signed 1986 Argentina Shirt.

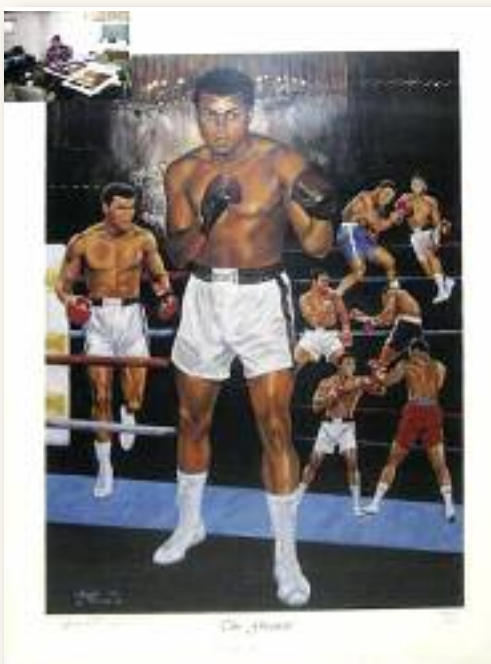


Cricket Hospitality at Lords

Start of bidding price: Cricket at Lords in Hospitality Box for 18 £1100

There's nothing quite like the home of cricket for a truly memorable cricketing occasion. Steeped in over 200 years of history, Lord's cricket ground really is the most special cricket ground in the world. This unique, one-off day of county cricket offers the ultimate experience. You and up to seventeen guests will get to enjoy an entire day's play in the luxurious surroundings of a Lord's Hospitality Box, as Middlesex County Cricket Club take to the field and is available for either a home match in Division One of the LV= County Championship or in the new domestic 50 over competition, the Royal London One Day cup. Your day will start with a guided

behind the scenes tour of the famous Lord's Pavilion, including the renowned Long Room and the iconic Lord's Media Centre, before taking your places in the box for the morning session. If you choose to attend on day one of the match, or at a Royal London One day cup match, we will also arrange for two of your party to join the team captain's and match umpires out in the middle on the Lord's turf for the toss. If you attend on days 2 or 3 of the County Championship, we will arrange for two of your guests to have a photo in front of the iconic Lord's Pavilion. You will also receive a signed Middlesex cricket shirt and each of your party will receive a signed scorecard. This special cricketing day out is one really not to be missed. (please note catering is not provided and must be organised through MIDDLESEX at Lord's directly).



Muhammad Ali Framed Signed Print

Start of bidding price: Mohammed Ali Print £1500

Limited edition print signed by Muhammad Ali. This comes with a certificate of authenticity with a picture of the greatest boxer ever signing it. Also comes with unique online authenticity number.



Painting by Siddiq Juma, Pilgrimage - Acrylic on canvas - 80cm x 40cm. Offers starting at £500



Wa In YaKadhul... - Ayah 68:51 Frame Large. Turquoise stone from Mashhad on a black background, framed in gold. This is a one-off piece, beautifully crafted by hand. Offers starting at £190



Surah Fatiha Wooden Frame Illumination art by an award winning Iranian miniature artist. Surah fatiha calligraphy. Dimensions 38cm x 28cm x 2cm. Offer starting at £50



Painting by Siddiq Juma, Night - Acrylic on canvas - 100cm x 100cm. Offers starting at £500



Painting by Siddiq Juma, Journey around the Kaabah - Acrylic on canvas - 100cm x 100cm. Offers starting at £500

Blue - Turquoise Vase Esfahan Hand painted enamel on handbeaten copper plate. Size 26cm tall, 10cm Diameter Offers starting at £85



JOIN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, JOIN IHRC.



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IHRC wishes to thank this year's
sponsors for the Islamophobia
Awards - may Allah swt bless
their good work. Ameen.

