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Mr Massoud Shadjareh
Chairman
Islamic Human Rights Commission
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Our ref: TP/TB/006shadjareh
Your ref:
Date: 24 June 2003

Dear Mr Shadjareh

Many thanks for your letter inviting me to your Annual Islamaphobia Awards.

Firstly, I must sincerely apologise to you for not replying sooner. In the event, I was actually abroad at the time of the Awards so would unfortunately not have been able to attend. I do however hope to be able to attend them in the future.

Secondly, I would like to use the opportunity to say what a good idea these awards are. There is a very compelling case for using humour to deal with difficult and serious issues such as Islamaphobia. The rise in anti-Muslim incidents is indeed alarming and I completely agree with you that there should be legislation to rule both this and discrimination on the grounds of any religion. If you have any research on this issue which helps to build the case in favour of legislation, I would be very interested in seeing it.

Many thanks again and I hope we will have the opportunity to work together in the future.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Phillips
Chair of The Commission For Racial Equality