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Orlando Fraser

Head of Charity Commission

Charity Commission

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CVI@charitycommission.gov.uk

31 May 2023

Dear Sir,

Re: Interim Manager at Islamic Centre of England

We, the undersigned, are writing to protest your recent decision to impose an interim manager to run the Islamic Centre of England.

We believe that this decision is politically motivated and serves the interests of Islamophobes who have been targeting this diverse community centre and place of worship.

Rather than remaining a neutral arbitrator and serving to address any genuine shortcomings that may exist, you have shown a biased approach and used punitive measures that unfairly penalize Muslim charities.

It is concerning that the Charity Commission continues to tell religious communities what they can say and who they can invite to their centres. The Commission is not qualified to determine what religious communities should be

discussing, it is not the business of any state body to tell its citizenry what they can say or believe in their places of worship.

The appointment shows a clear lack of understanding of the needs of the Islamic centre and its congregation. To appoint an interim manager who is not from that faith community, not aware of its spiritual and religious needs, nor aware of the specific needs of that particular congregation, shows us that the Charity Commission has yet again failed to protect the best interests of a Muslim religious centre and its congregation.

It is wholly unfair that a Muslim charity is treated in this way due to the perception of it not conforming to Western foreign policy interests. Naturally, this behaviour will add to the chorus of voices accusing the Charity Commission of deliberately harassing and hindering the work of Muslim-run charities and adds to the litany of oppressive measures carried out in aid of furthering Islamophobic British state policies and the agendas of politically motivated and divisive pressure groups.

The outcomes of such actions by the Charity Commission will result in the alienation of Muslims from their own places of worship.

In the interests of fairness and justice, we call upon you to urgently reconsider this decision.

Yours sincerely,

1. Mohideen Abdul Kader, Board Member Citizens International
2. Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid, President Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organizations
3. Syekh Abdul Ghani Samsudin, Chairman Secretariat for the Ulama Assembly of Asia
4. Syekh Ahmad Awang, Chairman Alliance of World Mosque in Defence of Al Aqsa
5. Ustazah Aminah Zakaria, Chairperson Malaysia Muslimah Ukhuwwah Association.
6. Ir Jamaludin Samsudin, CEO Allied Council Coordinating Islamic Network Malaysia.
7. Herry Nurdi, Chairman Teachers Working Group Indonesia
8. Dr Abdullah Sudin, Presiden University Graduates Association Malaysia.
9. Anwar Fadhil, Asean Regional Mosque Network.