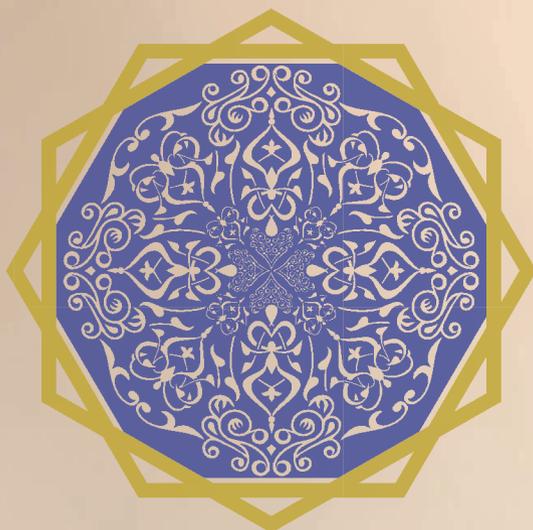


**Muslim  
Professionals  
Forum**



A Common Platform *for* Professionals



## About Us

The Muslim Professionals Forum (MPF) is an independent and non-profit organisation for Professionals. Founded in 2008, we welcome professionals from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds and those who are willing to support the progression of the Muslim community through intellectual dialogue. Since inception the MPF has been working to achieve its objectives by motivating and encouraging professionals to apply their professional skills for the benefit of their communities.

The members of the organisation believe that effective discourse within communities, engaging and sharing experiences with others, is one of the best ways forward to address certain social and cultural challenges which we are facing in today's pluralist Britain. The MPF aims to work against Islamophobic and racist attitudes, religious extremism, racial discrimination, crime and disorder, domestic violence and violation of human rights. At the same time it aims to promote public decency in order to establish a just and tolerant society and uphold justice, rule of law, community cohesion and religious harmony.

MPF is committed to working in partnership with other Muslim groups, professional bodies and voluntary organisations. MPF endeavours to enable other groups to come together and have a platform whereby they can share ideas, expertise and exchange opinions freely and help to eliminate some of the problems faced by migrant communities here in the UK.

## Our Aims and Objectives

1. To build a common platform for professionals and to promote ethical values and understanding.
2. To enjoy, achieve and learn the Muslim way of life and cultural heritage through open and intellectual engagement.
3. To provide and facilitate structured training to young people and professionals; acknowledge and conceptualise intellectual challenges and enhance their professional careers and skills.
4. To promote dialogue, equality and justice and the ethos of peaceful coexistence among cultures, ideas and people.
5. To organise seminars, symposiums, round table discussion on topical issues and cultural events and to publish articles and periodicals.

## Overview

It has been a very busy and progressive few years for the MPF calendar since its inception. MPF was established in 2008 as a common platform for professionals from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds to support the progression of the Muslim community through intellectual dialogue.

Over the years with very limited resources and manpower, we have strived to reach our stated aims and objectives for the benefit of professionals and the community at large.

In recent years, along with our partner organisations, we have been at the forefront campaigning for the rights of migrant communities in the UK and against the draconian Immigration Rules that was introduced in July 2012 .



MPF has organised many meetings, workshops, discussion forums, seminars, roundtable discussions and public events. Some of our major public events and seminars are highlighted below:

## Public Meeting on Immigration Bill 2013/14

15 December 2013, Bradford



As part of our ongoing campaign against the Immigration Bill 2013/14, MPF organised a public meeting on "Migrants: the Immigration Bill - A Call for Change" in Bradford.

Prominent guest speakers included David Ward MP, Mohammad Taj-Chair Unite the Union, Dr. M. A. Salaam, Mustaq Ahmed representative from George Galloway MP, Immigration Practitioner Abu Bashir, John Martin and MPF Chairperson Mohammed Khaled Noor. A large number of local residents, community leaders and representatives of local NGO's and Human Rights organisations were in attendance.

## Public Meeting on Family Migration Rules

7 October 2013, London

MPF organised a public meeting on the impact of new family migration rules which was introduced by the UK Government. The rules that came into force on 9 July 2012 set up the new minimum income requirement of £18,600 for British nationals and permanent residents (UK sponsors) seeking to sponsor a non-EEA spouse or partner, raising



to £22,400 to sponsor a child in addition and a further £2,400 for each further child included in the application; and new rules on sponsorship of non-EEA adult / elderly dependants applying to come to the UK –which makes it almost impossible for the elderly parents or grandparent of a British citizen or settled person to join them in the UK.

Prominent guest speakers included Jeremy Corbyn MP, Manjit Gill QC, Adrian Berry – Chair of Immigration Lawyers Practitioners’ Association, Habib Rahman -Chief Executive of Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), Ruth Grove-White of Migrant Rights Network, Dilowar Hussain Khan-Director of London Muslim Centre, Md Shafiqur Rahman (Belal) of Society of Bangladeshi Solicitors, Ataur Rahman of GSC and Nazir Ahmed. MPF Chairperson Mohammed Khaled Noor presides over the meeting.

The speakers strongly criticised the unfairness of the minimum income rules on family reunion cases, the damages this causes to family life and a child’s upbringing. They further expressed their concerns at the whole tenor of the family migration rules, Government policy on bringing down the annual net migration to tens’ of thousands and immigration debate. Most of the speakers advocate that government should immediately review of the minimum income requirements and implement the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration (AAPG on Migration) published in June 2013.

This meeting was organised in association with JCWI, Migrant Rigts Network and London Muslim Centre.

## MPF Mentoring Project

### Launching of the Professional Careers Mentoring Scheme (PCMS)

6 July 2013, London



MPF launched its mentoring project “Professional Careers Mentoring Scheme (PCMS)” on 6th July 2013. The aim of this project is to link students with mentors in professions which they are interested in; providing them with a valuable opportunity to gain insight and knowledge that would otherwise not be readily available to them. The aim of the event was to provide students with the opportunity to hear about the experiences and

challenges faced by the professionals and encourage the students to consider what their career goals should be.

The project targets students who are in their first year of college from Tower Hamlets-many of whom are from ethnic minority groups and disadvantaged backgrounds and therefore will not necessarily have had access to a spectrum of successful professionals as role models. Selected schools were asked to identify students who they believe are capable and could benefit immensely from this event - amongst the schools that attended the launch event, included Mulberry School for Girls, Jamiatul Ummah and Bishop Chal-loner.

Many prominent professionals attended the event as well as students from across the borough. Guests and mentors included Baroness Uddin, Stephen Heath-barrister at Tanfied Chambers, Shazia Khan of A.H. Page Solicitors, Taj Uddin of Ernst & Young Global Ltd, Dr Mashuk Uddin, Gillian Rombach of the Tower Hamlets Careers Centre as well as professionals from many other sectors. The meeting was conducted by PCMS Co-coordinators Fayeka Chowdury and Lima Ahmed.

## Round Table Discussion

### Rana Plaza: Rights of Garment Workers and Ethical Clothing

6 June 2013, London



MPF organised a round table discussion on the industrial disaster at Rana Plaza collapsed in Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Many prominent guests were on the panel, including Baroness Uddin, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, Solicitor Belayeth Hussain, John Hillary of War on Want, Peter Kavanagh of Unite the Union, Kamaljeet Jandu of GMB, Muquim Ahmed of British Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce (BCC), Stephen

Heath barrister at Tanfied Chambers, Advocate Nazir Ahmed, Dr. Fuad Ali and professionals from many other sectors. MPF Chief Co-ordinator Mohammed Khaled Noor presides over the meeting and acts as moderator.

This meeting unanimously expresses profound sadness and outrage at the loss of over eleven hundred innocent garment workers lives at the collapse of Rana Plaza on 24 April 2013. The meeting further expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the bereaved and injured.

At the end of the discussion a joint statement was unanimously agreed and signed by the entire panel, Rushanara Ali MP and Claude Moraes MEP, asking the Bangladesh government to ensure that those who were responsible, directly or indirectly for the disaster at Rana Plaza be punished. The meeting asks the Government of Bangladesh for a full and fair investigation into the murder and torture of the factory worker - labour leader Aminul Islam; and demands the implementation of the conclusion and the steps that were agreed between the tripartite partners (Government, employer and garment workers) and the ILO on 4 May 2013. It also asks all major international buyers and companies to sign a legally binding good practice protocol to ensure safety at work. It further ask the UK government to ensure that an independent monitoring is undertaken of the 18 million pounds recently announced particularly who the recipients and beneficiaries will be, as well as ensuring that workers' rights and safe working conditions are the bedrock of any resources the British Government commits.

## Seminar

### Domestic Violence: Legal and Cultural Perspectives

1 May 2013, London

According to a crime study recently published, it showed that about 1.2 million woman and 800,000 men were victims of physical, emotional and sexual attacks at the hands of their partners and relatives last year. Domestic violence is considered an appalling crime and gross violation of human dignity. The purpose of the seminar was to explore the legal and cultural issues surrounding domestic violence and its affect on our community.

Prominent guest speakers were invited to the seminar, including keynote speaker Barbara Connolly QC of 7 Bedford Row Chambers. Other guest speakers included Dr Nazia Khanum OBE of Equality in Diversity, Carolyn Hodrien of Victim Support and Shaykh Shafiur Rahman.

The event was a successful exploration of the issues surrounding domestic violence, with Ms Connolly explaining that domestic violence is a broad term covering many forms of abuse. In fact, the cross-government definition (September 2012) of domestic violence is "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality".

Domestic violence is a problem spanning many faiths, religions and cultures. According to statistics, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience some form of domestic violence. There was unanimous agreement between all guest speakers that the only way to tackle the issue of domestic violence is through raising awareness and taking preventative measures. This event was organised in association with 7 Bedford Row Chambers, and it was registered for 2 CPD points for lawyers.

## Seminar on Human Trafficking

12 July 2012, London



On 8th June 2012 the Prime Minister, David Cameron and Home Secretary, Theresa May announced their intention to make forced marriage a criminal offence in the UK. This announcement closely follows the EU Directive

2011 which asks its members states, including the UK, to recognise forced marriage as being a form of exploitation under human trafficking criminal legislation from April 2013.

To highlight the different aspects of forced marriage in legal and cultural aspects, a seminar on "Human Trafficking and Forced Marriage: Legal and Islamic Perspectives" was organised. Parosha Chandran, barrister at 1 Pump Court Chambers, presents the keynote speech. Other speakers included Judge Mohammed Belayeth Hussain, Imam & Khatib Skeikh Abdul Qayum, Barbara Connolly QC and Pam Bowen from the Crown Prosecution Service.

Followed by a keynote speech by Parosha Charma, an internationally recognised human trafficking and human rights legal experts, the speakers criticise the proposed law against forced marriage, saying by trying to enact such one sided law would create new difficulties. Marriage without consent of boys and girls is an offence, inhuman practice and grave violation of human dignity, however to criminalise it is not the better solution. The punishment for such offence could be established within the existing law. Skeikh Abdul Qayum states that within Ibrahimic faiths, there is no room for forced marriage and Islam does not acknowledged force marriages. Marriage without consent is invalid, but to criminalise forced marriage could lead people to perform these marriages in secret.

A large number of lawyers, people from different professional backgrounds, members of the public and journalists were presence at the event. The event was organised in association with 1 Pump Court Chambers, and it was registered for 2 CPD points for lawyers.

## Public Meeting on August Riots

10 December 2011, London



Mark Duggan, a 29 year old north London resident was shot and killed by police in Tottenham, North London on 4 August 2011. The Metropolitan Police stated that officers were attempting to arrest Mark Duggan on suspicion of planning an attack and that he was in possession of a handgun. He died from a gunshot wound to the chest. The circumstances of Mark Duggan's killing resulted in public protests in Tottenham, led to conflict with police and escalated

into riots across London and other cities in the UK.

To highlight the root causes of this widespread riots, MPF organised a public meeting on 19 November 2011. Amongst other Rushanara Ali MP, Neil Jameson from TELCO, Dr. Anas Altikriti of Cordoba Foundation, Habib Rahman of East London Mosque, Azad Ali of Muslim Safety Forum were present at the event as guest speakers.

The speakers highlighted the different aspects of the riots which were fuelled by poverty and racial tension. In her speech Rushana Ali MP demanded for an independent inquiry to investigate the matter. All local print and electronic media covered the news of this event with added importance.

## Seminar: Human Rights in Islam

20 August 2010, London

MPF seminar on "Human Rights in Islam" was held during the holy month of Ramadan at the Seminar Hall, London Muslim Centre. Ahmed Thomsaon, a



barrister and an expert on Islamic law presented his well thought keynote speech on this topic. Other guest speakers were Solicitor Khalid Sofi and Judge Mohammed Balayeth Hussain. The seminar attracted a large number of lawyers; human rights activities; academics, professionals from various fields, religious scholars and community leaders.

## Iftar Gathering and Seminar

11 September 2009, London



MPF first public event was an Iftar gathering and seminar on "Muslim professional's responsibility towards community" was held at London Muslim Centre. Lutfur Ali, former Assistant Chief Executive of London Borough of Tower Hamlets presents the keynote speech on this topic. Other guest speakers present in the event included Dr. Muhammad

Abdul Bari, former Secretary General of MCB, Dr. Imranul Haque, Lecturer at Manchester University and Imamul Islam Choudhury. It was a successful event; more than 100 professionals from different professional backgrounds, community and religious leaders were present in that seminar.





# Muslim Professionals Forum

MPF membership is open for professionals from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Those who subscribe to its aims and objectives and willing to volunteer his/her professional skills and expertise for the attainment of those stated objectives.

## Membership Application Form

I, the undersigned, hereby make this application for membership of the Muslim Professionals Forum, UK (MPF); and if accepted, I agree to abide by the Constitution of the MPF and its aims and objectives; shall perform my responsibilities and is willing to support regular activities and initiatives for the benefit and progression of Muslim and Ethnic Minority Communities in the United Kingdom.

### Membership Benefit

As a member you will receive regular updates on MPF events and activities and free attendance on courses and seminars. You shall have right to attend Annual General Meetings; exercise your voting rights to elect MPF officials and shaping its future. Finally by sharing experience you can contribute for the benefit of your own community though engagement.

### Personal Details

Mr/Mrs/Ms: ..... Name: .....

Profession: .....

Work / Home Address .....

Post Code: ..... Phone(Home) .....

Phone (work) ..... Mobile: .....

Fax: ..... Email: .....

Age (please tick a box)  18-25  25-40  40-50  Over 50

### Membership Fees

Life Member £2,500.00  Full Member £60.00 (annual)

Student Member £30.00 (annual)  Donation: £

Cheques payable to 'Muslim Professionals Forum, UK'

Note: MPF is a not-for profit organisation which depends upon your support and contribution.

Signature ..... Date .....



Please return the completed form to Muslim Professionals Forum  
Unit C1, Abbots Wharf, 93 Stainsby Road, London E14 6JL

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE

### Beneficiary Details

Dear Bank Manager,

I/we authorise you to pay £\_\_\_\_\_ per month from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ until further notice, to the beneficiary named below:

<b>Name of Account:</b>	<b>Muslim Professionals Forum, UK</b>		
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>58621997</b>	<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>60 80 01</b>
<b>Bank /Branch:</b>	<b>NatWest Bank</b>		
<b>Branch Address:</b>	Shoreditch Branch, PO Box 10862, 180 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6HN		

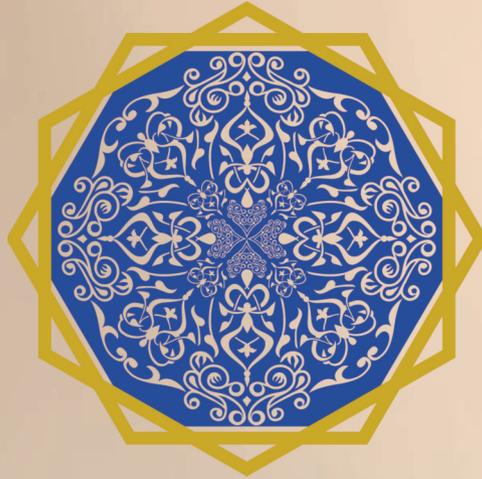
### My/Our Details

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			<b>Post Code:</b>
<b>Tel/Mobile:</b>			
<b>Bank:</b>			
<b>Branch:</b>			
<b>Bank Address:</b>			<b>Post Code:</b>
<b>Name of Account:</b>			
<b>Account Number:</b>		<b>Sort Code:</b>	

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....







If you are interested to join our  
regular activities or would like  
further information, please contact us.

Muslim Professionals Forum, UK  
Unit C1, Abbots Wharf  
93 Stainsby Road, London E14 6JL  
[info@muslimprofessionalsforum.org](mailto:info@muslimprofessionalsforum.org)  
[www.muslimprofessionalsforum.org](http://www.muslimprofessionalsforum.org)