

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY SCOTLAND PRESS & MEDIA DESK

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 24th February 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSLIMS UNITED AT THE HEART OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TO CONDEMN EXTREMISM AND PROMOTE PEACE

On the 20 February 2020 at the Scottish Parliament, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Scotland held an event to condemn the acts of extremism and unite under the banner of 'Love for All, Hatred for None'. It was hosted by Linda Fabiani MSP, the Deputy Presiding Officer at the Scottish Parliament on the topic 'Responding to the Challenge of Extremism'.

The event had an audience of more than 90 participants from all walks of life, including an array of parliamentarians including The main host for the event Linda Fabiani MSP for East Kilbride and Deputy Presiding Officer at the Scottish Parliament, Aileen Campbell MSP the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Pauline McNeill MSP Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Equalities, John Mason MSP the Convenor for the Cross-Party Group for Freedom of Religion or Belief as well as representations from all of the main parties, diplomats representatives , Interfaith and non-faith representatives.

The platform provided the opportunity to hear from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on the 'United Against Extremism' campaign, launched as a peace initiative in the aftermath of terrorist attacks.

In his keynote speech Fareed Ahmad, the National External Affairs Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK quoted His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, who said;

"we must unite in our efforts to end all forms of extremism and prejudice, whether religious, racial or of any other kind."

"...Instead of seeking to dominate others and assert their own rights, I pray that nations and their leaders come to see the benefit of fulfilling the rights of one another. Instead of laying the blame for the world's problems on certain religions or people of particular ethnicities, I pray that we show tolerance of each other's beliefs and customs and value the

diversity within our societies. I pray that we come to see the best in humanity and use each other's strengths and skills to build a better world for our children and to cultivate lasting peace in society."

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After the event, Fareed Ahmad, the Keynote Speaker said:

"Our Caliph, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, has repeatedly spoken of the need for all to uphold the principles of peace and his community has lead an international peace campaign to promote values of loyalty, freedom and peace. His Holiness has called for greater dialogue based on mutual respect to enhance social harmony."

"The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, as part of its pledge includes such a statement to promote loyalty of its members to their country of residence as we see loyalty to our country as a key part of our faith. This promotes identity, integration and inspires our youth to serve their country and humanity everywhere with pride. Through such service we seek to sow seeds of compassion to cultivate mutual friendship, respect and peace."

Also, at the event we had the following MSPs, MPs and the Edinburgh Interfaith Chairman who spoke in support of the campaign. They were

Linda Fabiani MSP

Aileen Campbell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities

Clare Adamson MSP

Shona Robison MSP

Pauline McNeill MSP

John Mason MSP

Sandra White MSP

Diedra Brock MP

and

Iain Stewart, Chairman Interfaith Edinburgh

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

The event was held at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Thursday 20th February 2020.

Learn more about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK here

www.loveforallhatredfornone.org

www.UnitedAgainstExtremism.com

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