



RECOGNITION OF THE CREATOR - The Pathway to Peace

5th Edition of the Landmark
Pan-African Peace Symposium

Baitul Futuh Mosque, Saturday 16th November 2024

PAN-AFRICAN PEACE SYMPOSIUM

With great pleasure and profound honour, we invite you to the Pan-African Peace Symposium 2024 under the theme: *“Recognition of the Creator – The Pathway to Peace.”* In these challenging times, as we witness continuous global conflicts, division and turmoil, the need for meaningful dialogue on peace has never been more urgent. The Pan-African Peace Symposium will explore one of the most fundamental teachings of Islam – that peace, in its truest sense, stems from the recognition of God Almighty because understanding and embracing our relationship with our Creator can guide us in fostering both personal peace and collective unity. It is a call to shift our focus from worldly distractions and remember the central role that faith plays in cultivating compassion, justice and kindness which are the cornerstones of peace.

The theme of *“Recognition of the Creator – The Pathway to Peace”* draws from the Qur’anic teaching that the remembrance of Allah brings serenity to the heart: *“Aye! it is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort.”* (Holy Qur'an, Ch.13: V.9)

It is only by placing God at the centre of our lives that we can overcome disruptive aspects that affect our communities and nations. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) epitomised this path of peace. His life was a shining example of how recognising Allah led to a deep sense of purpose, justice **and mercy for all people, regardless of faith or background.** As we reflect on his teachings and the essence of Islam today, we are reminded that the pathway to peace is through returning to this divine connection.

The Symposium will also serve as a platform for interfaith dialogue and collaboration, as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community believes recognition of the Creator transcends religious boundaries. Regardless of our individual beliefs, the acknowledgment, acceptance and appreciation of a higher purpose invites all of us to live with compassion, humility and respect for one another. It is our hope that the Symposium will initiate meaningful conversations and build bridges of understanding between people of different faiths and perspectives, all in pursuit of a pathway to peace.

May this Symposium inspire us to not only talk about peace but also to become active ambassadors of peace in our families, our communities and the world at large. Once again, we look forward to your presence at the Symposium. May our time together be filled with wisdom, unity and, most importantly, peace.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY



(1835-1908)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, founded in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) in Qadian, India, claimed to be the anticipated reformer of the latter days and the Awaited One of the world's religions, taking on the roles of the Messiah and Mahdi in the latter days. His mission encompassed the revival of Islam's peaceful teachings, instilling love for God in people's hearts and emphasising duty to serve humanity.

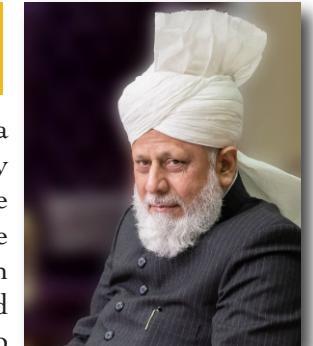
Today, this Community has expanded its presence to over 212 countries, leading a global initiative to propagate the genuine essence of Islam, support education, healthcare in the developing world and to champion a worldwide peace campaign advocating respect and human rights for all, irrespective of colour, caste or creed. The UK chapter of the Community was established in 1913 and to-date has 150 branches, making it one of the longest-standing Muslim communities in the UK.

“A religion which does not inculcate compassion is no religion at all.”

(A Message of Peace, 1908)

Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad



Since becoming the Fifth Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2003, His Holiness has tirelessly promoted interfaith dialogue, human rights and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. His leadership reflects the Ahmadiyya motto: 'Love for All, Hatred for None,' which he embodies in both word and action. His guidance and leadership for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is to adhere, promote and foster such values as equality, respect and to show loyalty to one's own country.

In his extensive world travels, His Holiness frequently calls on world leaders to adopt policies rooted in fairness and justice, grounded in a moral responsibility that comes from a firm belief in God. His Holiness has delivered speeches at international forums including the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, House of Parliament UK and peace conferences, urging world leaders to focus on justice as a cornerstone of peace backed with a strong faith in God.

In his sermons to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness explains that the lack of belief in God leads to a state of unrest, not only at the individual level but also across society. When people focus solely on materialism, power or self-interest, conflict and injustice will naturally follow. The recognition of God, on the other hand, instils a sense of accountability and promotes a spirit of service to humanity. A true relationship with God allows us to see beyond our differences, embrace the values of love and justice and contribute to a more peaceful, harmonious world.



Address given at the Conference of World Religions held in Guildhall, London



Addressing the European Parliament



Address given at Capitol Hill, Washington USA.

About Keynote Speaker: Mr Rafiq Ahmad Hayat

National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK

Rafiq Ahmad Hayat has been serving as the National President (Amir) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK since 2001. He has been representing the Community which advocates peace, interfaith dialogue and humanitarian work under the stewardship of His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad.



Over this period, the Community has significantly expanded its work to promote peace including through charitable activities across the UK.

Rafiq Hayat has overseen the development of the Community's mosques across the UK, including the Baitul Futuh Mosque, which is the largest mosque in Western Europe and is also the venue of the Pan-African Peace Symposium.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community regularly engages with faith, community and political leaders to foster community cohesion.

Rafiq Hayat regularly advocates for religious freedom and the struggle against injustice and intolerance and works to tackle extremism and promote mutual respect across different communities.

The Community's motto is "Love For All, Hatred For None" and Rafiq Hayat has promoted this through initiatives that bridge gaps between different faiths and cultures and helped to strengthen the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's standing within British society.



The National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK, Mr Rafiq Hayat, addressing the Pan-African Peace Symposium 2023.

About PAAMA

Established in 1986, the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (PAAMA) UK operates as a subsidiary entity within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK. Rooted in the Community's motto, 'Love For All, Hatred For None,' PAAMA's core Mission Statement revolves around the goal of uniting, empowering and inspiring the African Ahmadiyya Muslim diaspora to actively serve Islam, society and Africa.

PAAMA's primary commitment lies in nurturing qualities like piety, righteousness, honesty and justice among Africans, thereby enabling them to make meaningful contributions to the communities they inhabit. Additionally, it strives to create a platform for its members to engage with the intellectual elite of the African diaspora, fostering dialogue and collaboration to instill moral and spiritual values in Africans.

PAAMA's activities and events also extend beyond the boundaries of the Muslim community, addressing the needs of society as a whole, regardless of colour, race, religion or creed. This commitment includes promoting interfaith dialogue and co-operation to advance peace and harmony on a broader societal scale. PAAMA's diverse programs encompass everything from tending to the welfare of its members through religious and recreational events to active involvement in the wider community through social enterprises and charitable initiatives. Below is just a sampling of events from recent years.



Virtual Meeting with His Holiness



PAAMA Awards with His Holiness



Annual PAAMA Convention



Global PAAMA Forum



Charity Walk



Fun at Annual Picnic

INVITATION

The National President of the
Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK invites

to its landmark Pan-African Peace Symposium

on Saturday 16th November 2024

at the Baitul Futuh Mosque
181 London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5PT

*A unique event for PAAMA which has
Recognition of the Creator -
The Pathway to Peace
as its theme*



Some photos from the Pan-African Peace Symposium 2023



REGISTRATION

If you wish to attend the Pan-African Peace Symposium,
please register your interest at the web address below:

www.paama.org.uk/register

Or email: peacesymposium@paama.org.uk



The Baitul Futuh Mosque in South London is the prestigious venue of the Pan-African Peace Symposium. Opened in 2003, the landmark building is the largest mosque in Western Europe. In 2023, the new administrative building (pictured above) was inaugurated by His Holiness. The building brings together Islamic and British architecture for an impressive civic frontage.

Baitul Futuh Mosque
181 London Road,
Morden,
Surrey, SM4 5PT
Tel: 020 8687 7822

PROGRAMME

(Programme subject to change)

- 5:30 pm:** Arrival & Refreshments
- 7.00 pm:** Introduction & Guest Speakers
- 7.40 pm:** Keynote Address
- 8.25 pm:** Dinner

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