

# Why are we failing our young people?

The Muslim community shares some responsibility for ignoring problems faced by young people.

Whilst many young people are doing well in education and employment, there are other young people who are victims of modern day living. What have parents and the community been doing to address these problems?

To begin with, let us admit that large numbers of our young people are struggling with life.

Some become victims of drug dealers who entice them with money and have fallen into the trap of crime, gang culture and fallen into despair.

They probably feel they have no one to turn to and cannot easily admit to anyone what activities they are involved in.

Many young people are suffering from psychological or mental health and stress related problems but are not receiving any help. Young people have become casualties of our modern and materialistic world.

Many parents are oblivious of this reality or are ignoring these problems as they may feel shame or stigma surrounding these issues so they will try to cover them up.

Generally the community has progressed over the last 50 years in this country. It could be said parents have been so busy trying to make a living that they have ignored the needs of their children. This has now led to an explosion of problems involving boys and girls.

Full article on Pages 2 & 3



# Out of control



Gradually over the years almost unnoticed our neighbourhoods have been taken over by groups of undesirable drug dealers who are engaged in their nefarious activities influencing and enticing innocent young people to become involved in selling and taking drugs.

If you have recently visited Woodsome park you will see that it is in a shocking state. Glass is scattered everywhere, household waste has been dumped in the park.

In almost every corner of the estate, the remnants of vandalism caused by youngsters who should have been under the supervision of their parents is there for all to see.

The decadence does not end there. Drug dealers believe the area is a haven of crime, hence they gladly peddle their filth to chavs of all persuasions from across the locality, who for some reason, always agree on Woodsome and Park Croft as the exchange point.

These wannabe Tony Montana characters idolise the fictional drug lord by selling as many illegal substances as possible in order to get their Guinea Pigs as high as possible and as frequently as possible.

The sight of their customers standing in their grubby tracksuits whilst they wait to buy their illegal substances is a form of anxiety for long suffering and law-abiding residents.

And as Tony Montana perished under a hail of misery and gun fire, these very people who buy and sell such appalling poison that only serve to bring misery to the area, are also heading in one direction (pardon the pun).

One resident who spoke to Paigaam on the condition of anonymity said: "Take a picture and circulate it so the council's eyes open. The point I am making is run down areas are a haven for illegal activities.

"This is of paramount concern because young people are engaging in taking drugs and dealing which leads to an increase in crime."

In terms of drug related activities, perpetrators are from a variety of backgrounds. A

Freedom of Information request revealed that whilst British Pakistanis make up just five percent of the urban population of Yorkshire and Humber (according to the most recent census in 2011), in 2016/2017 they accounted for 27 percent of convictions for possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

However, the majority of convictions in that 12-month period were among the white British community, given that white British people make up the vast majority of the population.

And whilst drug use has been commonplace, until the mid-Nineties it was almost unheard of amongst those from Gujarati backgrounds.

Strong family ties, with the larger community keeping an eye on the activities of its young members, combined with the strict anti-alcohol and anti-drugs rules within Islamic law were credited with keeping people relatively drug and alcohol free.

However, a sea change has taken place. The erosion of these traditional values has seen a larger proportion of youngsters embracing the greater availability of drugs and alcohol.

Residents believe the lack of funding and investment in the area at large as opposed to other areas within Kirklees has endeared the area to drug pushers and those who engage in anti-social behaviour along with gangs.

"This is evident, you just have to walk around areas such as Park Croft, Woodsome Estate, Jessops Park, Dark Lane, Manor Way, Woodsome, Staincliffe, Soothill, Mount Pleasant and Hyrstlands Park," said another resident.

"These areas have been disregarded by the council in order to invest in other parts of the borough such as Huddersfield. Investment is urgently needed at local community centres like IMWS and PKWA where youngsters can engage in activities instead of being a burden to people like us.

"Issues such as drug dealing in our own areas and the lack of funding need to be addressed. Simply look at the state of Woodsome Park for yourselves and you will

find out why we are so angry."

Residents also spoke about feeling despondent following a Zoom meeting which was called after residents expressed concerns about the state of the area.

Councillors including Shabbir Pandor, Batley and Spennings MP, Tracy Brabin and senior members of the Police took part in the meeting. However, a resident of Park Croft said: "It was very disappointing.

"Yes, the community agree that there needs to be more reporting to the council and the police but equally the responsibility also is on them to invest and make sure the area is safe. The community is willing to work with the council and the Police.

"We accept that community policing (cuts) has had a significant impact and as a result we have seen an increase in gang related crime, so we only see the Police when something has happened."

Another resident went as far as labelling councillors "Vote suckers" who are only interested in the well-being of people during election time.

"You only see councillors when they need your vote. You cannot get rid of them. They are outside the masjids, outside our houses, outside the community centres.

"The fact of the matter is however, not one councillor has been forthcoming and engaging with the community on a regular basis.

"They need to be called out and held accountable."

One local resident, living in the Warwick Road area, said local people were "fed up" and wanted issues in relation to potholes, violence and drugs "to be sorted".

He said: "You should see the state of the potholes in our area, the council have evidently lost interest.

"You've got to be honest and you've got to tackle it within your own community. You can't hide behind the fact that other people are also doing it, but I think a lot of families are burying their heads in the sand."

However, West Yorkshire Police insist they are continuing to push back hard against criminal gangs after a sustained campaign which resulted in knife and drug offences dropping by more

than a quarter in 12 months.

Recent months have also seen detectives make a string of arrests with a number of people charged and remanded at court for drugs and violent crime related offences. Those convicted have received lengthy custodial sentences.

Senior officers have said they understand recent events have caused concern in the community.

However, they insist they will do their utmost to send a loud and clear message to criminals that they have no place in Kirklees or West Yorkshire.

Detective Superintendent Jim Griffiths of Kirklees Police, said: "Our local neighbourhood policing teams, in conjunction with our partner agencies, are working closely with our communities to understand problems and identify areas where greater support is needed."

Detective Chief Inspector Fiona Gaffney of Kirklees District appealed to the community to continue playing a vital role by reporting drugs and other criminal offending on the streets and help officers pinpoint hotspots and target those responsible.

"If you have any information about people dealing drugs or carrying weapons in Kirklees do not to keep this information to yourself, please contact the Police.

"Kirklees Police can be contacted directly through 101 or calls can be made direct to Crime stoppers in complete anonymity on 0800 555 111."

One Mount Pleasant based resident told Paigaam that the entire area has been adversely affected due to the higher levels of crime.

"While it is true that the safest neighbourhoods tend to also be more expensive, it could be even more costly if you're area is seen as a particularly high-crime location.

"Even if you are not a victim of crime yourself, your rates may increase. Insurance companies offer rates based on collective risk, and if you live in a neighbourhood with these sorts of crime rates, then then will impact your rates.

"Every area in the United Kingdom is risk assessed by insurance companies

based on their crime and claim statistics.

"In terms of car insurance, your postcode can have quite a substantial effect on your insurance premium even if you are a very safe driver. So young people need to understand that they are creating a vortex of violence that ultimately, their children will have to pay the price for, as no self-respecting business will invest in an area in which there is crime as the risk is too high."

When approached for a comment, Batley and Spen MP, Tracy Brabin said she would continue to do all she can to keep the community safe, and encourages anyone with concerns to get in touch with her.

She told Paigaam: "Tackling crime in our community remains one of my top priorities."

"Before lockdown, I was running a series of ward-by-ward meetings where I brought together the police and the local public to discuss concerns regarding crime."

"I've also been regularly assisting constituents with casework regarding crime in the area. Many local residents have been reporting concerns such as speeding, vandalism and anti-social behaviour so I have been working with the police and local councillors to ensure these issues are dealt with."

"I know that knife crime is a serious concern for many local people, especially in light of a fatal stabbing in Batley in June. That is why I asked the government for a debate in Parliament on knife crime so we can work collectively to tackle it at its root causes. On a local level, I am arranging a Zoom meeting with stakeholders in Batley & Spen, such as the police, the council and campaign groups, so we can coordinate a joined-up, public health response to knife crime and youth violence."



When approached for a comment, Kirklees Council leader, Shabbir Pandor said it was only right for hard questions to be asked and that he shares the frustration of local people.

He told Paigaam: "I don't shy away from those questions and I share the frustration of local people who deserve to live in peace and safety."

"Of course we need to tackle criminality that blights lives right here and right now. That is why we've worked with the Police to increase their presence on the streets and the council has deployed its community safety team to priority areas identified by local people and to engage with young people who are risk of going down the wrong path."

Mr Pandor said he has been working to find a solution to the issues faced by local people in order to make deter crime and improving the look and feel of the area.

"I have also asked council officers to find ways we can deter crime by improving the local environment: clearing rubbish, improving visibility and making our area look and feel safe."

"I hope that this action will help us get on top of our immediate problems. But long term solutions are hard and they require determination."

"They are what motivate me, drive me and sometimes keep me awake at night."

Mr Pandor also pointed to the fact that Kirklees Council has lost £200 million per year due to a cut in funding.

"After a decade of austerity and cuts, we need to turn the corner and start investing in our infrastructure and our people."

"In the last 10 years in Kirklees we have lost £200m per year as a result of Government cuts."

"Since I have been leader I have began the process of looking at how we can invest, develop and grow the services that local communities want."

He was adamant that Batley is high on the list in terms of improvements.

He said: "Batley needs to be a priority for regeneration."

"That is why our plan for economic recovery will mean improvements in our towns and villages beyond Huddersfield and Dewsbury."

"And it's not just about infrastructure, we need to tackle deprivation and inequality too. When you scratch beneath the surface of issues and incidents, you will nearly always find a story of lost opportunities and flawed systems. That is why tackling inequality will be at the heart of recovery in Batley and for the whole of Kirklees. It won't be easy and we will need to be bold."

## Would you let your children play in the grotesque looking Woodsome park as drug dealers lurk??



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## PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

# Who is to blame for our problems?

In the "good old days" the local Muslim community was regarded as a model community. Close knit, hard working, strong family and community roots with a good network of Mosques for worship and Madressas for children's Islamic education.

The elderly were respected and looked after within the family; the young people were respectful and obedient to their parents and elders.

The community had unity and shared ideals underpinned by strong Islamic ethical and moral values.

It was a replica of the village life "back home" that they left behind.

Even the authorities were praising of the community which was perceived to be peaceful and law abiding.

The large extended families lived together and supported each other.

The men worked mainly in the textile mills toiling long hours to provide for their families on meagre wages.

The children grew up on good wholesome home cooked food.

The women from the extended families had the time to get together and make the traditional goodies like papar and papdi (popadoms) which you would see spread out in the gardens to dry in the summer months.

Many of the traditions are being lost as people no longer have time or patience for such activities.

Takeaways and restaurants

were unheard of and not regarded as healthy.

Now Asian areas are full of fast food joints and Batley Town Centre has been taken over by takeaways and burger bars.

The results of these changes in eating habits can be seen visibly with the rise in obesity in young people as children are growing up on endless unhealthy takeaways and convenience foods.

Increasingly it seems home cooked food is becoming a rarity with both parents working to pay the mortgages and expensive materialistic lifestyles.

Young children are not content with playing outside with their friends but are busy on their mobile phones and playstations.

No wonder so many children are obese and have health issues.

The community in general has moved towards a more "modern" nuclear family model where the positive traditional extended family life influences have disappeared.

Gone is the old community spirit, the positive influence of the elders who were respected, valued and consulted on important decisions.

Over the last 25 years or so the community seems to have undergone a transformation from the old to the so called modern way of living which has created different problems for the community.

The question is how did our community change from the

earlier way of life during the 60, 70s to the current era of 2020 and the nightmare the community finds itself in with current problems of health, deprivation, unemployment, racism and Islamophobia.

On top of all this we have family conflicts and problems, increase in divorce rates and more alarmingly the problems facing many of our children and young people who are constantly enticed into a life of crime by the drugs gangs operating in our own areas.

In the good old days our neighbourhoods were peaceful and crime free.

There were no massive brawls in the streets involving young people with weapons and knives taking part in gang fights.

The streets were peaceful with no young people in their fancy cars speeding and causing danger to the locals.

What we see now in our community is very different. We now see a fragmented community with the family ties losing its grip and the young people have been let loose to engage in drugs, crime, street fights, knife crime and gang warfare. It seems parents have lost control.

The prisons are now disproportionately filled with young Muslim men.

When once our community was seen as a safe haven for our children it has now become very dangerous with the risks of being targeted by drug peddlers who will happily jeopardise the lives of

our children to make money.

Many of our children and young people are now using drugs and are also selling them in our neighbourhoods to our own children, and parents are powerless to do anything about it.

How long will our community go on ignoring this major catastrophe?

Should we not take any action? Is it not time to wake up and see the reality around us?

The crucial question is who could be held responsible for this crisis?

Could it be the Local Council which hasn't provided adequate resources for young people and has been cutting back on youth services?

Or would you point to the parents, the schools or Madressas?

Or is the community guilty of pretending all is well and looking the other way?

What about institutions like the police? Are they doing enough?

Or do you think Community Organisations should be doing more?

What are the solutions?

If you have any suggestions please write to or contact Paigaam.

We would like to hear from you.

All of us are equally responsible so don't just leave it to others and pretend it's not your problem. It could be your children or grandchildren next.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I hope this communication finds both you and your families in good health.

Nationwide measures to contain Covid-19 have caused nothing short of a cataclysm for organisations across the country.

Together with our area Masaajids, we have worked very hard to once again begin congregational prayers.

We must acknowledge their efforts to make all the arrangements to safely open the doors.

So it is great news for our community that the five daily prayers along with Jummah namaz, albeit with social distancing measures are up and running again.

However, I have been encouraged by the sheer number of members who have devoted their time and energy into helping the vulnerable and the needy.

We recently teamed up with entrepreneur and moneysavingexpert.com founder MartinLewistofurtheroursocietal role by distributing food and aid to help those who are living in sheltered accommodation locally.

Approximately 600 food boxes which comprised of essential food and non-food items such as soap, sanitiser, washing up liquid,

masks, tea, sugar, cereal, pasta, ready meals, chocolate, biscuits and much more were distributed to organisations such as the Batley Homeless Project, Making Space, Holly Bank House and a plethora of sheltered housing areas in the vicinity and elderly individuals living on their own.

This initiative says to me that we are operating as an effective network and supporting each other when support and help are most needed.

It is a cliché of our current predicament, but also a key mantra of the Indian Muslim Welfare Society, we are stronger together, and the greater the bonds we build during times of adversity, so our chances of overcoming present challenges increase.

Whilst the situation may seem impossible, we must stay resolute and make the right decisions with the best advice and information at hand.

It has never been more important to have a strong, united and determined society, and we will do our utmost to help and advise you in any way we can.

The coming weeks and months will be difficult, but the Almighty knows best and we must all turn towards him

and ask for his divine mercy.

I want you to know that, at IMWS, we will continue to focus on providing as much benefit and support as possible to our members.

It is envisaged that our ongoing appeals which include raising money for the long suffering people of Yemen, Gaza, Myanmar along with the South Gujarat housing project will continue to pay dividends and bring some much needed respite. May the Almighty accept everyone's contributions and prayers.

With best wishes, If you have any views or suggestions please do contact us. Our phone number is 500555 or email us on: info@imws.org.uk.

With best wishes,

**Dr Imtiyaz Patel**  
Chair  
IMWS



## Al Hikmah Centre Update

Please be advised, during the Covid crisis, the Al Hikmah centre main office is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4 PM.

Should you wish to give your donation in person, this can be facilitated.

For more information please telephone 01924 500555.

Alternatively please e-mail: info@imws.org.uk

# GENERAL MANAGER'S COLUMN

IMWS always stands strong on the front line to help and support their communities along with its partner organisations.

Especially in the current climate of fear and uncertainty, partnership work is the best way forward with all sections of communities sharing the aim of keeping our communities safe.

I will be sharing COVID-19 related information in our community's native languages, especially considering our areas of Mount Pleasant and Batley Carr having the highest number of positive cases (17).

I have been working very closely with Kirklees council in making sure that IMWS and their members are kept informed on any new

developments as soon as possible.

I have requested safety kits for our community to be distributed from Al-Hikmah centre. It will be regularly posted on our social media page and will be regularly updated as soon as we receive new information from health authorities.

As businesses are getting back to normal, slowly but surely, our aim is to make sure that the Al-Hikmah Centre is the safest place for our users once it is fully open for the public.

We are in the process of taking all the necessary safety measures in place and are seeking regular and up-to-date advice and guidance from the relevant authorities. All weddings taking

place in August have been cancelled/postponed and a full refund has been offered to the affected parties unlike other providers where the deposit was unfortunately lost by the public.

I have been contacted by many training providers and hopefully, we will be starting our routine courses and training from the first week of September at the Al-Hikmah Centre (this is subject to govt. guidelines).

We have completed all the planned sports hall refurbishments which include a new lighting and heating system installed along with a new reception and office area.

As soon as we are allowed to open our facilities, we are also

discussing the possibility of the improvement of our youth activities at the Al-Hikmah centre.

I am in negotiation with Kirklees Council's youth provision team in this regard. I would please urge members of the community to share their thoughts on ways they feel it is best to help and support the health and wellbeing of our children & young people

Thanking you for your continuing support to IMWS during these difficult times.

**Nadeem Raja**  
General Manager.  
Mobile: 07548217280  
E:mail: nadeem.raja@imws.org.uk

# Tracy Brabin Column: From tackling genocide to battling knife crime



These last few months have been incredibly busy both here in the constituency and down in Parliament, especially with the easing of lockdown restrictions and attempts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

First, I want to thank so many people in our constituency.

Our healthcare workers who've been on the front-line battling coronavirus, our key workers who've provided vital support and services for our community and all those who've volunteered to help others, whether it's through food bank donations, running errands for those who are shielding or something even as simple as checking in on friends and neighbours.

I have heard so many heart-warming stories from across the constituency about people looking out for others and it really shows the community spirit we have here in Batley & Spen.

I want to take this opportunity to update constituents on the issues I have been campaigning on.

July marked the beginning of the annexation of large parts of Palestine by the Israeli government.

This was a clear act of aggression, and it infringes upon the sovereignty and human rights of the long suffering Palestinian people.

I was proud to sign a letter alongside over 1000 parliamentarians from across Europe where we all condemned this illegal annexation and showed our solidarity with the people of Palestine.

This is an ongoing issue and I will keep up pressure on the government by demanding they stand up for the rights of the Palestinians.

I have also been speaking out in Parliament about the horrific treatment of the Uyghur people by the Chinese government.

I am sure many of you saw the horrific report on how Uyghur women have been subjected to forced abortions and sterilisations.

I am unafraid to call this out for what it is: genocide.

We cannot sit back and do nothing as we hear about these dreadful human rights abuses.

I asked the Foreign Office to do all they can to protect these brave Uyghur women who are speaking out about this genocide and I will continue pressing them to ensure the oppression of the Uyghur's becomes a top foreign policy priority for the government.

Within the constituency, we had the tragic murder of a young man in Batley in June.

Knife crime is a serious problem within our community, and we must all do more to tackle its root causes.

I have reaffirmed my commitment to working with the police, Kirklees Council and local groups to ensure no family ever has to go through the pain of losing a loved one in such a violent manner.

If you have concerns relating to crime or ideas on how we tackle violent crime then please do get in touch with me.

I've also been closely monitoring Covid-19 within the local area. We have had two outbreaks in recent

weeks within the constituency at a meat processing plant in Cleckheaton and a bed factory in Batley.

I have been in regular contact with Kirklees Council and Public Health England regarding this and I was impressed by how effectively they have reacted in their efforts to contain these outbreaks.

Whilst I will continue supporting them in dealing with them and any future outbreaks, we must all remember we have a role to play in defeating this virus. We must continue following government guidance.

We can do this by maintaining social distancing, washing our hands regularly and wearing protective equipment such as facemasks wherever possible.

It is also imperative that people isolate immediately if they have symptoms or are in contact with anyone who tests positive for Covid-19.

I know that isolating can be incredibly tough and not everyone has the family and community support networks many of us are lucky to have.

But it is vital that we limit the spread of this disease and that means isolating if we potentially have it.

I would also like to remind young people that although older people are more at risk from Covid-19, you are not immune.

We are still learning about the long-term effects of this virus, with some studies indicating that there could be neurological impacts.

As well as this, we have seen

stories in the news of healthy, young people with no previous medical conditions being hospitalised with Covid-19 and for months afterwards, suffering from extreme fatigue and respiratory issues.

This is why everyone, from all ages and backgrounds, must strictly follow government guidelines.

Even with lockdown easing, we have to be vigilant at all times to limit the spread if we are to defeat this virus.

I know this has been an extraordinarily difficult time for many people in the constituency.

I know there are people who will have lost loved ones or themselves had the virus, and it is why community spirit is more important than ever.

We have so many fantastic organisations and individuals in our area who embody that and I will continue doing all I can to support them.

As ever, I am always wanting to hear from constituents about any issues or concerns they have.

Whilst physical surgeries are still not possible, I ask you all to get in touch via email at [tracy.brabin.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tracy.brabin.mp@parliament.uk) if there is any way I can help.

It continues to be an incredible honour to represent Batley & Spen in Parliament and I look forward to speaking up on your behalf.

**Kind Regards,**

**Tracy**

# BAME communities bear the brunt of negative Covid-19 stories



Thousands of beachgoers have lapped up the sunshine recently with no social distancing in sight.

Leeds United and Liverpool fans have celebrating their respective success outside their club's stadiums, without a care in the world, as the police looked on despite official government guidance stating people are not allowed to attend such events.

Hundreds of mourners gathered to pay their respects to 1966 World Cup winner, former Leeds player and Republic of Ireland Manager, Jack Charlton, again as the police looked on.

However, the mood was not very pleasant as national media gathered in Blackburn, Lancashire after 250 people who attended a funeral at a Masjid were asked to self-isolate after the Imam tested positive for Covid-19.

Granted, official government advice states that only 30 people can attend funerals, the media attention has raised concerns that people from BAME communities

are being stigmatised and scapegoated as a result of negative stories.

The Jamia Ghosia Masjid, based on Chester Street in Blackburn, hosted a funeral on July 13 where around 250 people turned up.

Locally, Kirklees Council Leader, Shabbir Pandor has confirmed that the council has taken "immediate action" to prevent a local lockdown.

The measures were being introduced in Kirklees after 165 staff working at the Kober factory in Cleckheaton contracted the virus, whilst earlier this month, workers at bed factories in Liversedge and Batley also tested positive.

Councillor Shabbir Pandor said the coronavirus was "still very potent" and urged residents to continue to follow guidelines.

"We want to ensure that individuals and businesses feel able to come forward in future to report outbreaks so we can deal with them effectively.

"To me the priority is public safety and saving lives. Our staff have worked very hard in rolling out the test and trace programme.

"Our process and system is so good that the Government has acknowledged how quickly we responded and put measure in place to safeguard everyone.

"We all now need to provide everyone with the assurance that this is being dealt with and the risk of this outbreak is being contained.

"As lockdown is eased it's not if we get another outbreak, it's when and my fear is there will inevitably be more cases nationally - the positive is we do have a local response and measures in place to deal with it."

In Leicester, the Stand Up To Racism group has received the backing of Leicester East MP Claudia Webbe, local politicians, religious leaders, community figures and union representatives since penning out an open letter for the public to sign, urging people not to pay attention to those it says are using the lockdown to "spread their foul racist ideas".

The letter reads: "Leicester people stand together and place responsibility for this crisis, both in Leicester and nationally, at the door of central Government.

"We recognise that a vocal minority is seeking to blame, stigmatise and scapegoat certain communities in Leicester for the increase in Covid-19 cases, but we know that they are twisting the situation to spread their foul racist ideas."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently caused uproar by suggesting there are "particular problems in Leicester implementing advice and getting people to understand what they were required to do."

The anti-racism group - a branch of the national Stand Up To Racism movement - also said that in taking 11 days to announce a local lockdown, the Government "put more lives at risk and delayed sharing vital information with local leaders" and adds that Britain's high death

rate was a "direct result of the Government's failure to protect our communities".

The letter adds: "There has been a catalogue of failures in providing clear guidance, supplying PPE to all key workers, protecting care homes and setting up a system of test and trace. These failures have been compounded by a decade of cuts and privatisation."

Public Health England (PHE) has disputed the claim that data was not shared. A spokesman said: "From the outset, PHE has regularly and consistently shared all of the data that we hold."

The group's statement also says that BAME communities have "suffered disproportionately during this crisis and there is widespread concern that they will take the brunt of the spike in infections".

They have also urged others to add their names to the letter, which calls for an immediate public inquiry into the "excessively high" number of BAME deaths resulting from the virus.

It states: "Leicester is a thriving and diverse city with a tradition of tolerance and respect for all our communities. The people of this city are the solution to the spread of the virus, not the problem."

A Government spokesperson responded stating they have provided funding to Leicester Council to deal with the outbreak.

"We appreciate how hard this must be for the people of Leicester. We are actively monitoring the situation and Leicester City Council has received over £20 million to deal with Covid-related pressures," said a spokesperson.

"It is clear that Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted certain groups of people, including those from BAME backgrounds, and following the findings of the Public Health England reports published last month, the Equalities Minister is now taking forward vital work to tackle these disparities and protect our most vulnerable communities from the impact of the virus."

# What will Palestine look like if

2020

## Israeli settlements

 Israeli settlers:  
600,000 - 750,000

Settlements are Jewish communities built on Palestinian land.

There are between **600,000 - 750,000 Israeli settlers living in at least 250 settlements** in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.

The current map of Palestine looks like a mish mash of fragments of land. This is because over the past century it has been carved up and filled with hundreds of illegal Israeli settlements and military checkpoints.

Now, in the latest round of Israel's ongoing occupation and policy of land-grabs this could become even more disjointed as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to announce Israel's annexation of the Jordan Valley and northern Dead Sea.

Annexing the Jordan Valley would mean that Israel would officially consider it part of the state of Israel.

The United Nations has 193 member states. Of those, 162 (84 percent) recognise Israel and 138 (72 percent) recognise the State of Palestine.

To understand the situation, Paigaam has compiled a timeline of events which date back to the Balfour Declaration and the pre-British mandate on Palestine.

### 1917 – The Balfour Declaration & British rule

On October 31, 1917, British forces conquered Palestine from the Ottoman-Turks, ending 1,400 years of Islamic rule over the

region. In 1920, it began its 28-year rule over British Mandate Palestine.

The Balfour Declaration, which resulted in a significant upheaval in the lives of Palestinians, was issued on November 2, 1917.

The declaration turned the Zionist aim of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine into a reality when Britain publicly pledged to establish "a national home for the Jewish people" there.

The pledge is generally viewed as one of the main catalysts of the Nabka - the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948 - and the conflict that ensued with the Zionist state of Israel.

Before the British Mandate in Palestine, Jews made up around six percent of the total population.

The late Awni Abd al-Hadi, a Palestinian political figure condemned the Balfour Declaration in his memoirs, saying it was made by an English foreigner who had no claim to Palestine, to a foreign Jew who had no right to it.

### 1918-1947 – Jews arrive from Europe

The Balfour declaration ensured many Jews who resided in Europe



moved to Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s. The Jewish population in Palestine increased from 6 percent (1918) to 33 percent (1947).

A total of 376,415 Jewish immigrants, mostly from Europe, arrived in Palestine between 1920 and 1946 according to British records. At its peak in 1935, 61,854 Jews moved to Palestine.

### 1947 - UN Partition Plan

Following the end of WWII, the newly formed United Nations proposed a plan that would grant 55 percent of historic Palestine to a Jewish state and 45 percent to a non-contiguous Arab one. Jerusalem would remain under international control.

Palestinians rejected the proposal because it stripped away much of the land that was under their control. At the time, they owned 94 percent of historic Palestine and comprised 67 percent of the population. This plan was never implemented on the ground.

### 1948 - Palestinians expelled

On May 14, 1948, the British Mandate expired triggering

the first Arab-Israeli war. Zionist military forces expelled at least 750,000 Palestinians and captured 78 percent of historic Palestine.

The remaining 22 percent was divided into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### 1967 – Israel occupies Gaza and the West Bank

During the June 1967 War, Israel occupied all of historic Palestine and expelled a further 300,000 Palestinians from their homes. Israel also captured the Syrian Golan Heights in the north and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula in the south.

### 1993 & 1995 Oslo Accords

The Oslo Accords represented the first direct Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement. This led to the formation of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

On the ground, the occupied West Bank was divided into three areas - A, B and C.

Area A initially comprised three percent of the West Bank and grew to 18 percent by 1999. In Area A, the PA controls most affairs.

Area B represents about 22 percent of the West Bank. In both areas, while the PA is in

# Israel annex the Jordan Valley?

charge of education, health and the economy, the Israelis have full control of external security, meaning they retain the right to enter at any time.

Area C represents 60 percent of the West Bank. Under the Oslo Accords, control of this area was supposed to be handed over to the PA. The transfer of control to the PA did not transpire.

## Israeli settlements

Israeli settlements are Jewish communities built on Palestinian land. There are between 600,000 - 750,000 Israeli settlers living in at least 250 settlements (130 official, 120 unofficial) in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its population to the area it occupies.

In 2019, under the presidency of Donald Trump, the US declared that Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land were "not necessarily illegal", a dramatic break from decades of US policy.

## Separation wall

Since 2002, Israel has been constructing a wall that stretches for more than 700 kilometres.

Israel says that the wall is for security purposes. However, rather than following the internationally-recognised 1967 boundary, known as the Green Line, 85 percent of the wall falls within the West Bank.

This severely limits the freedom of movement for Palestinians.

## Checkpoints

There are more than 700 road obstacles across the West Bank including 140 checkpoints. These checkpoints further limit Palestinian movement. About 70,000 Palestinians with Israeli work permits cross these checkpoints in their daily commute.

## Palestinian refugee camps

There are 1.5 million Palestinian refugees living in 58 official UN camps located throughout Palestine and neighbouring countries. In total, there are more than five million registered Palestinian refugees mostly living outside of these camps.

## Israel's history of annexation

Israel has unilaterally annexed two territories in the past.

### East Jerusalem (1980)

Israel occupied East Jerusalem at the end of the 1967 War. In 1980, it passed a law making its annexation of East Jerusalem explicit.

### Golan Heights (1981)

Israel unilaterally annexed the Syrian Golan Heights in 1981.

Israel uses the term "applying Israeli sovereignty" over areas it has annexed.

In 2019 The US recognised Israel's annexation of the Golan heights. It is the only country around the world to do so.

### Jerusalem

According to the international standards, Jerusalem is a divided city. West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948, and Jews are in the majority.

East Jerusalem has a Palestinian majority and was occupied by Israel in 1967. Since its annexation in 1980, Israel has considered the entire city of Jerusalem a part of its territory. This is not internationally recognised.

For this reason, Israeli maps do not show East Jerusalem being a part of the occupied West Bank.

### Al-Aqsa Masjid

Located in East Jerusalem, the Al-Aqsa Masjid is the entire compound containing al-Qibli Masjid (grey dome) and the Dome of the Rock (golden dome).

The compound is known to Muslims as al-Haram al-Sharif.

The compound is similar in size to 20 football fields.

## Occupied Golan Heights

In 1967, Israel captured 70 percent of the Syrian Golan Heights and has occupied it ever since. In 1974, a UN observer force was created to maintain a ceasefire between Israel and Syria. In 1981, Israel unilaterally annexed the territory.

## Israel's annexation of the Jordan Valley

The Jordan Valley makes up 30 percent of the West Bank and constitutes half of its agricultural land.

The West Bank's only international border is with Jordan. If Israel annexes the Jordan Valley the entire West Bank would be completely surrounded by Israel. For Palestinians there cannot be a Palestinian state without the Jordan Valley.

Most Palestinian farmers are not connected to the water grid and have to rely on buying water from tankers. Annexation would mean that Palestinians would be physically cut off from the Jordan River.

According to Israeli settlement watchdog Peace Now, the area that Netanyahu is planning to seize from the Jordan Valley is larger than the area presented in Trump's 2020 plan.

## Blockade of the Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli sea and air blockade since 2007. Since 2008, Israel has waged three wars on the Palestinian territory, killing thousands of people, mostly civilians.

In 1948, the Gaza Strip had a population of less than 100,000 people. Today it is home to two million, 64 percent of whom are refugees.

## Where are the Palestinians today?

There are about 13 million Palestinians today, according to

the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Around half of the Palestinian population lives in historic Palestine which includes three million in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, two million in Gaza and 1.9 million Palestinian citizens of Israel. A further 5.6 million Palestinians live in Arab countries with the remaining 700,000 living in other countries around the world.

## Where are the Jews today?

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics there are about 14.7 million Jews around the world today. Of these, 6.7 million live in Israel, 5.7 million in the US, 450,000 in France, 329,000 in Canada, 292,000 in the UK, 180,000 in Argentina and 165,000 in Russia.

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# Postmasters welcome Post Office £58 million compensation offer

A Batley sub-postmaster has welcomed the Post Office's decision to pay £58 million compensation to hundreds of sub postmasters it wrongly accused of theft and false accounting which was in fact caused by a defective computer system.

More than 550 sub postmasters brought group action against the Post Office over the Horizon IT system, which it introduced between 1999 and 2000.

The class action, led by six initial lead claimants, alleged the Horizon system caused shortfalls in their financial accounts, which led to some being jailed for offences including false accounting, fraud and theft, while others were made bankrupt.

They accused the Post Office of failing to provide adequate training in the use of Horizon, failing to investigate the cause of alleged shortfalls and misleading them about the reliability of the system.

The Post Office had vigorously defended the case and said Horizon worked properly.

However, they recently announced that they had agreed a settlement package of £57.75 million with subpostmasters

to be divided between the 550 claimants on the merits of each of their cases.

Ismail Loonat who is a Branch Manager at Batley Post Office and has been a Postmaster for 26 years told Paigaam that he was one of the lucky ones who were not pursued.

"The issue with Horizon IT was identified by a group who challenged this error which had been going on for many years and Post Office still maintain till today that Horizon is safe and secure, luckily for us our Batley Post Office on commercial Street Batley have not identified any error to our system for that period time. Therefore, we will not be receiving any compensation payments from the Post Office.

"We do welcome the Post Office's decision to resolve these issues but like any business, documents relating to 2009 onwards have already been disposed of and usually we only keep 3 to 5 years of documents, I'm sure the Post Office do have the relevant technology to check for any shortages or errors and compensate them accordingly."

Among the subpostmasters who suffered from the accusations

of dishonesty was Rubbina Shaheen, who kept a post office in Shrewsbury.

Mrs Shaheen, 54, who kept Greenfields Post Office in Shrewsbury, was jailed for 12 months in 2010 for false accounting.

They were granted appeals following a ruling by High Court judge Mr Justice Fraser that the Horizon system could have led to people being wrongly accused.

Mrs Shaheen will not receive any of the money as she was not part of the group litigation, but is seeking to have her conviction overturned through the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Mrs Shaheen said she was delighted that the Post Office had agreed to settle, and would now consider launching her own claim against the Post Office.

"I'm relieved and over the moon," said Mrs Shaheen, 54.

"It was the best present ever, I feel vindicated. Hopefully it will help me now in overturning the conviction."

Seema Misra was sentenced to 15 months in prison in 2010 after being found guilty of stealing £78,000 from the post office she ran in West Byfleet, Surrey.

She was sent to prison on her son's 10th birthday and was eight weeks' pregnant at the time, later suffering the indignity of having her baby in hospital while wearing a tag.

After being released from prison for good behaviour after four months Mrs Misra and her family moved house because of the abuse they received in the street.

In March, a High Court judge ruled in the first of at least three planned trials in the litigation, resolving most issues in favour of the sub postmasters.

The Post Office have launched a scheme to assess independently applications from postmasters who believe they have experienced shortfalls related to previous versions of the Horizon system. The Historical Shortfall Scheme is open for applications from current and former postmasters.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an independent advisory panel.

You will find all the information you need about the scheme at: [www.onepostoffice.co.uk](http://www.onepostoffice.co.uk).



# Batley man with 'Awesome Beard' wows HRH Prince William

A few months ago, the country clapped for NHS and health workers, wrote hopeful messages for them and put signs on their windows saluting them and also donated food for them.

An outpouring of public support may have helped maintain the spirits and well-being of health care workers as they faced working all out during the coronavirus pandemic.

However, as the salutes fade into memory, and COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations fall across the UK, Paigaam speaks to 49-year-old mental health expert, Sajid Daji about working as a health care worker during the Covid-19 crisis.

Mr Daji, who is a team leader for the adult health and social care charity, Making Space, manages three local support services: Kirklees Floating Support which is part of a consortium with Kirklees, Better Outcomes Partnership (KBOP), and supported living schemes in Kirklees and Leeds.

His role entails managing a team of mental health workers that provide person-centred support to those who are extremely vulnerable in the form of advice and support around housing, health & wellbeing, education, training and employment.

Discussing the unique challenges in relation to delivering care and support during the covid-19 pandemic, Sajid says a Zoom conversation with non-other than Prince William, ensured his team of dedicated health care workers-turned-heroes received the recognition they thoroughly deserved.

The call was set up by the Care Workers Charity, which was founded in 2009 to support current and former care workers with one-off crisis grants and advice. The charity has set up a coronavirus care workers emergency fund to provide financial aid to care workers who are self-isolating.

Sajid was asked if he would be interested in joining a zoom call with Prince William, to

discuss the unique challenges his organisation faced whilst delivering care and support during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I said I would happy to take part," said Sajid.

"His Royal Highness wanted to find out directly from those on the frontline whether their experience of working in social care had altered during the pandemic, and how they were looking after their own mental health and wellbeing."

And although he was nervous, Sajid maintains that he was excited to meet him.

"The call was confidential so only close family members and a small number of colleagues knew, which only added to the anticipation I was feeling."

Prince William asked Sajid and his team about how they had to adapt in order to work differently and continue supporting people given the challenges of lockdown and social distancing.

Sajid explained: "I spoke to him about my experience of looking after my workers during the crisis.

"I shared with Prince William and the other callers about the fact that it was very important that each and every member of our team did not feel isolated, so as a team we supported each other by sending each other WhatsApp and text messages and generally try to keep each other going.

"I shared just how important it is for us as a team to protect and look after ourselves, because if we're not well, we can't look after someone else."

Although the call was supposed to last around 45 minutes, Sajid and his team carried on talking to Prince William for over an hour.

"At the end of the call, His Royal Highness thanked us and all the other care workers for the fantastic job we are doing and that it was hugely appreciated and acknowledged.

"When the call finished, I was so pleased that I had got the opportunity to meet and speak with Prince William. The time

he took to meet and talk with us just shows how much social care means to him and the Royal Family. His sincere thanks were very much appreciated and the profile this discussion will give social care is exactly what our sector needs.

Before the call ended, Sajid alluded to a potential claim to fame as he was singled out for particular praise by HRH. "The Prince complimented me on my awesome beard and asked me how fasting was going during social distancing as the call took place in Ramadan. I think Prince William has a very promising future as king."

Having worked for Making Space for over 10 years, Sajid explains how the Warrington headquartered company has supported a number of projects in Heckmondwike and Huddersfield that provide housing and wellbeing support for those with enduring mental health issues.

"Making Space operates a range of residential accommodation, day care, dementia projects and a network of support staff who provide advice and assistance to carers in the north of England.

"As a national charity, we are a leading provider of health and social care services. We have been helping adults with care and support needs, and their carers, to lead independent and fulfilling lives for more than 35 years.

"Our high quality, person-centred services and accommodation support adults of all ages who are living with mental health conditions, learning disabilities, dementia and older people with age related concerns."

The organisation also works hand in hand with the Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership, a social enterprise set up to support vulnerable people across Kirklees including Batley and Dewsbury in order to help service users develop the skills they need to live independently.

"All our projects are excellent

and provide amazing support to our client group. This is an exciting new way of working in partnership and collaborating to deliver better outcomes for vulnerable people in Kirklees," added Sajid.

Even though the Covid-19 crisis is seemingly entering its final phase, Sajid believes Making Space will continue serving the community in a positive manner.

"The service provides a whole range of support from accessing and sustaining suitable accommodation, help with accessing treatment and services to improve health and wellbeing.

"In addition, support in relation to possible volunteering, education and training opportunities are also available along with the relevant support and guidance in relation to finding meaningful employment and a specialist domestic violence service."

When asked about the Zoom call with Prince William, Karolina Gerlich, executive director of the Care Workers Charity, said the call was a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on the amazing work of care workers.

"We really appreciate Saj's input on how supported living schemes are coping with the current situation. HRH took time to find out what it was like working in care, hear some of the challenges and recognise the important job our care workers do."

Rachel Peacock, CEO, Making Space, said the organisation was proud to have Mr Daji explain what Making Space is all about.

"We were very proud to have Saj represent our organisation to Prince William. That he talked about looking after his team is testament to his caring and empathic working style."

You can call the Kirklees Better Outcome Partnership on 07562252940 from 8am-8pm seven days a week for support on issues including benefits, housing, food provision and accessing medication.

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# Kirklees taking action to save lives and avoid a lockdown

Kirklees Council has confirmed it is taking "immediate action" to save lives and avoid a local lockdown after a spike in coronavirus cases.

The measures are being introduced in Kirklees after a number of outbreaks at a number of factories.

Last month, it was confirmed 165 staff working at the Kober factory in Cleckheaton had contracted the virus, while earlier this month, workers at bed factories in Liversedge and Batley also tested positive.

The council is focusing its efforts on the worst hit areas which are the Ravensthorpe, Savile Town, Mount Pleasant and Batley Carr areas where an increase in testing has been made available.

An additional mobile testing unit (MTU) is available in Batley at Wards Hill car park. The existing MTU in Dewsbury has moved to Cliffe Street car park. The units will be available for anyone who thinks they have symptoms to get a test.

An outreach operation in the areas that have been most affected by COVID-19 is already underway with local councillors leading hundreds of council staff in dispensing public health advice to residents and working with families and communities on how they can keep themselves and their loved ones safe as lockdown eases.

The council is looking to focus on people in the 20-40 years old age group. Staff will talk to voluntary and community organisations about how they can work together to stay safe.

It is envisaged that the increase in testing in the affected areas will give local people and public health officials a better understanding of how the virus is affecting communities in North Kirklees.

The council's action includes mobilising its staff to work with business owners in areas with the highest rates about how they can stay safe as lockdown eases.

Last month, it was confirmed

165 staff working at the Kober factory in Cleckheaton had contracted the virus, while earlier this month, workers at bed factories in Liversedge and Batley also tested positive.

Rachel Spencer-Henshall, director of public health for Kirklees, said that although the number of people affected were relatively small, there is no room for complacency.

Ms Spencer-Henshall said: "We are very likely to see infection rates go up and down in communities and pockets in different parts of Kirklees in the coming weeks and months.

"We are talking about relatively small numbers of positive cases but there is no room for complacency. The council and its partners have thousands of interactions with people and communities every day. We will make the most of those conversations, and create more, so that everyone understands their role in stopping the spread of COVID-19."

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson also paid tribute to the manner in which Kirklees Council contained the rise in infections.

Speaking at a Downing Street press briefing, he said: "At the start of the pandemic, we knew far less about the spread of the virus and we had to take blanket national measures.

"National lockdown was undoubtedly the right thing to do and has saved many thousands of lives.

"Now, however, we know more about the virus, we understand the epidemiology better and our intelligence about where it is spreading is vastly improved.

"That means we can control it through targeted local action instead."

He also said there had been 'troubling trends' over the number in Bradford and this has resulted in community faith leaders getting the message to people on how to tackle the virus.

# Football to restart Soon at the Al Hikmah Centre

We are delighted to be re-opening our refurbished sports hall facilities once again and look forward to seeing you all soon!

Having spent over £10,000 on international standard lighting systems, a refurbished office along with a new heating system, it is only a matter of time before the provision of football and multiple indoor sports begins once again.

We continue to work hard to ensure that the transition towards reopening our facilities, as part of the wider centre reopening.

We will reopen in accordance with government guidelines to provide a safe and planned COVID-secure environment, with staff trained to give the best possible experience.

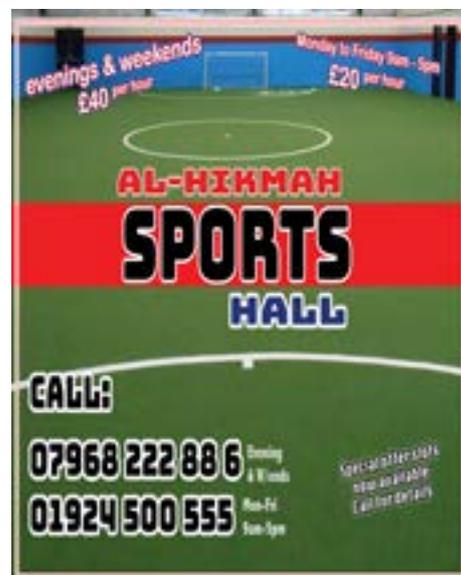
We are very excited to be making plans for our reopening and to welcome you back as we strongly believe that sport and physical activity plays a vital part in looking after our wellbeing.

We cannot wait to welcome you back to our wide range of sporting facilities and to help you get back to keeping fit and healthy with us.

We would like to offer our most heartfelt gratitude to all our sports hall users for your continued support and understanding in such uncertain times and to thank our colleagues who are working hard to ensure service users get the support that is needed throughout this period.

Please be advised, indoor football slots are available to book with no payment required as opening dates will be announced in due course.

Due to social distancing, we will be limiting the number of spectators to attend once we re-open. Yours and the safety of others is of paramount important to us and please allow us to maintain this effectively.



# Congregational prayers resume in Batley and Dewsbury

Masjids across Batley and Dewsbury opened their doors to congregational prayers for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown.

Worshippers welcomed the move by partaking in praying to the Almighty and thanking him for opening the doors of the Masjids once again.

All places of worship have been closed since the Prime Minister announced the lockdown on Monday, March 23, and it has been a very difficult period for Muslims, especially with the month of Ramadan and then the celebration of Eid.

Usually, Masjids are full with worshippers during Ramadan and the build up to Eid, but that was not been allowed to be the

case this year.

Places of worship opened for private worship from Monday June, June the 15th, whilst the green light for congregational prayers to commence once again was given for the 4th of July.

Mohsin Pandor, a worshipper at Mount Pleasant Masjid explained how a number of Friday prayers had to be held in order to follow the rules and regulations as set out by the government.

"It went really well and everyone was following all the rules and regulations as we had requested. Anyone we could not accommodate on the first prayers was told to come back in an hour when there was space. We are really pleased it ran so smoothly."

A worshipper at Dark Lane

Masjid told Paigaam about how the executive committee asked those who attended Friday prayers to adhere to social distancing rules by not congregating outside the Masjid once prayers are completed.

"The Imaam saheb thanked worshippers for their cooperation and once again asked people to adhere to social distancing rules both in and outside of the Masjid by maintaining a safe distance at all times and not engaging in any conversation outside the Masjid in order to protect the public.

"Children under 10 were not allowed and worshippers also had to bring their own prayer mats."

At Taylor Street Masjid helpers wearing masks ensured all

attendees were adhering to strict guidelines by donning masks themselves.

A worshipper attending the mosque said: "It was wonderful to be able to pray Jummah at the mosque again and I am delighted to see so many people today. People were just so happy to be back at the Masjid more than anything else and these new rules and guidelines are a small price to pay for the opportunity to be here."

Henry Street Masjid had a large number of volunteers at hand throughout Jummah prayers with worshippers required to don facemasks and have their temperature taken.



# Paigaam Sport: Liverpool Football Club back on their perch



Finally, on the evening of the 25th June 2020 wild celebrations took place up and down the country and all over the world as the long overdue wait had finally come to an end.

After a 30-year wait, Liverpool Football Club have been crowned the champions of England.

The passionate and loyal support is like no other. None more so than from the countless number of Liverpool fans within Batley and Dewsbury who follow the reds both at home and in Europe.

Liverpool's triumph is a momentous triumph for the club and their fans, who grew accustomed to success they attained in the 1970s and 1980s, including a run between the 1972-73 and 1990-91 seasons in which they failed to finish first or second in the league only once.

This wait has felt like torture at times, especially when they have had to endure watching arch Manchester United amass title after title during the last 3 decades.

For every Liverpool fan, every season started with a great deal of hope with fans often proclaiming 'this year is going to be our year', only to endure disappointed year after year with the reds failing to clinch the Premier League title.

However, Liverpool have come close a number of times. They have finished second in the Premier League four times. Gerard Houllier (2001-02) and Rafael Benitez (2008-09) both took them close. Famously, in the 2013-14 season, Brendan Rodgers' side looked as though they were going to take the crown but a late-season slump - synonymous with a Steven Gerrard slip that

enabled Chelsea to score and win at Anfield - leaving the reds to fall agonisingly short once again.

The appointment of Jurgen Klopp has been pivotal to Liverpool's rise in recent seasons.

The German arrived at Anfield in October 2015 following the sacking of Rodgers with the club 10th in the Premier League. During his first press conference he mentioned that he wanted Liverpool fans to change their mindset from doubters to believers.

Last season, they racked up a stunning 97 points, losing only one game all campaign, but had the misfortune of coming up against an even better Manchester City side, who beat them to the title by a point. No side had ever earned so many points without winning the league.

That déjà vu feeling amongst LFC fans was all too common at the end of last season, rival fans were all too quick to roll out all the old jokes and the wait continued on for yet another season.

This season they continued where they left off and got stronger and stronger each match, racking up win after win. Their rivals could not keep up and at one point they had stretched out a 25-point lead.

There was genuine excitement from the fans that finally 'this could be our year'.

However there had been too many false dawns and fans tried to keep their emotions in check. The suspension of football in March due to the global COVID-19 pandemic added to the agony for fans with Liverpool only 6 points short of claiming the title. It seemed that the wait had to go on.

The eventual resumption of football allowed the fans to dream once more.

They have had other silverware in the past 30 years, winning three FA Cups, four League Cups, a Uefa Cup, the Champions League twice - the latest coming last season under Klopp - as well as three Super Cups and one Club World Cup. But it was always the League Title that remained elusive until now.

Dalglish delivered Liverpool their 16th, 17th and 18th league titles and now, after 30 years, they have found a fitting successor to provide them with their 19th.

Therefore, it was only fitting that the last word went to King Kenny who told BT Sport: "Onwards and upwards. We have a lot more happy days to look forward to as long as Jurgen is here."

Let's hope the next Premier League trophy will not take as long as 30 years.

# The science behind facemasks

As we see light at the end of the tunnel in relation to the coronavirus, the Government announced that from July 24 it will be mandatory for all shoppers to wear a face mask and those who refuse to do so will be fined up to £100.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the policy would be in place in England for the “foreseeable future”, however, the rules do not apply to all.

## Who is exempt from the rule?

The Government said you do not need to wear a face-covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This could be:

If you are a child under the age of 11.

If you are not able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability.

If putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress.

If you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip-reading to communicate.

To avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others.

To avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and you do not have a face-covering with you.

When you need to eat or drink.

To take medication.

If a police officer or other official requests you remove your face covering.

There are also scenarios when you are permitted to remove a face covering when asked:

If asked to do so by shop staff for the purpose of age identification

If speaking with people who rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound. Some may ask you, either verbally or in writing, to remove a covering to help with communication

In addition, you do not have to wear one on public transport under the following circumstance:

A person in an allocated cabin, berth or other similar accommodation, when they are in that accommodation alone or only with members of their own household or support bubble.

A person who boards a service in a vehicle and remains in that vehicle whilst using the service, and the vehicle is not itself used for the provision of a public transport service.

An employee of the operator of the relevant public transport service who is acting in the course of their employment.

Any other person providing services under arrangements made with the operator of the relevant public transport service who is acting in the provision of those services.

A constable or police community support

office acting in the course of their duty.

An emergency responder (other than a constable) acting in their capacity as an emergency responder.

A relevant official (an inspector or surveyor of ships, a pilot of a ship, a civil aviation inspector or a border force officer) acting in the course of their employment or their duties.

## What is a face covering?

The Government said in the context of the coronavirus outbreak, a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth.

You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings or use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit around the side of the face.

Face coverings are not classified as PPE (personal protective equipment) which is used in a limited number of settings to protect wearers against hazards and risks, such as surgical masks or respirators used in medical and industrial settings.

The Government said: “Face coverings are instead largely intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of virus that causes coronavirus infection.

“If you wish to find out more about the differences between surgical face masks, PPE face masks, and face coverings see the MHRA’s (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent coronavirus (COVID-19).”

## What is the reason for using face coverings?

Covid-19 can spread predominantly by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces.

The Government said: “This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

“The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face-covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.”

## How to wear a face-covering:

The Government said a face covering should:

Cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably.

Fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face.

Be secured to the head with ties or ear loops.

Be made of a material that you find to be

comfortable and breathable, such as cotton.

Ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used).

Unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face-covering to be damaged.

## When removing a face-covering:

Only handle the straps, ties or clips.

Do not share with someone else to use.

If single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle.

If reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer’s instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

## When to wear a face-covering

Different regulations exist for wearing face coverings in different parts of the UK and there are differences between English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh laws.

In England, you must by law wear a face-covering on public transport and in shops and supermarkets and takeaways.

The Government said: “Measures can be taken if people do not comply with this law.

“Transport operators can deny service or direct someone to wear a face covering. If necessary, the police and Transport for London authorised officers can issue fines of £100 (halving to £50 if paid within 14 days). “Shops and supermarkets will be expected to encourage compliance with the law (as they would do more generally) and can refuse entry. In both cases, if necessary, the police have the powers to enforce these measures, including through issuing a fine of £100 (halving to £50 if paid within 14 days).

“You are also strongly encouraged to wear a face-covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.”



# Kids Corner

U Y Q P F Y Q N E X R C C K M  
 I N L C T W F U O E N O Z L I  
 Q C D D Z G R H L X T N H B U  
 Y N C E N T E C S R F S O D X  
 D B W K R E R N U N Y I N K Z  
 D O O G P S I S T H Y D E W T  
 W L O P H P T R T L U E S Z T  
 F V B Q O W V A F I E R T W N  
 R R I L O O P U N A H A V S A  
 K Z I R O M N C Y D Y T O E S  
 Q T T R Y T H B O X I E U C A  
 E H X S G J B S M C D N V I E  
 Y L U F T C E P S E R N G N L  
 C A R I N G S U O R V S I D P  
 E W F B M Y G L B E T P U K R

CARING	HONEST	RESPECTFUL
CONSIDERATE	KIND	SYMPATHY
FRIENDLY	NICE	TRUE
GENTLE	PLEASANT	TRUSTWORTHY
GOOD	POLITE	UNDERSTANDING

Solve any puzzle and send it in to WIN a PRIZE!!!

## Winner!

1<sup>st</sup> M. Husain Daji  
(Batley)

2<sup>nd</sup> Ahmad Raja  
(Batley)

3<sup>rd</sup> Ismail Mullah  
(Batley)

Please collect your prizes from the  
Al-Hikmah Centre.

### Terms and conditions apply

Name and address of winning entries will be published. Age limit 13.

Please send this page with your  
name, address, postcode, age and telephone number  
before 20th August 2020 to:

Kiddies Competition, Al-Hikmah Centre,  
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7AA



1<sup>st</sup> Prize sponsored  
by Pizza GOGO  
Pick up ONLY

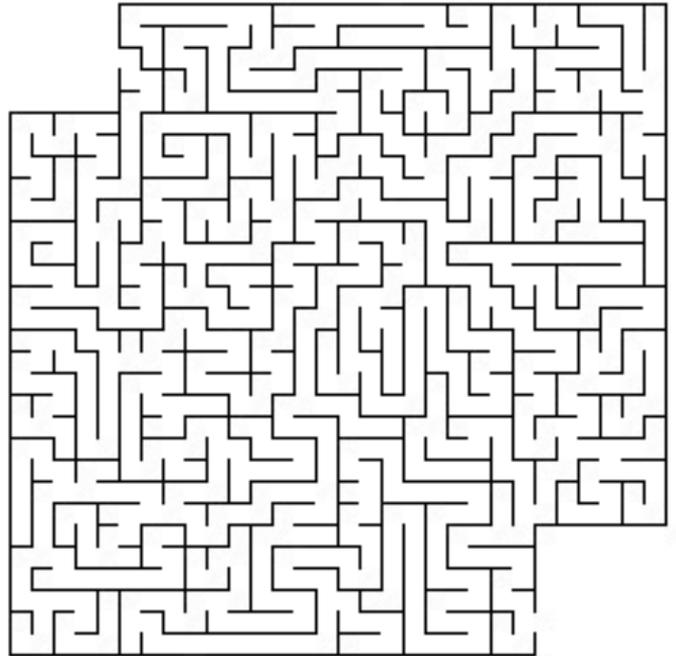


1<sup>st</sup> Prize:  
1 large family size pizza.  
+ Trophy

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Trophy

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Trophy

Trophies sponsored by  
**IMWS**



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

# Paigaam Star Reviews

## Love Karak Coffee?



The most ardent coffee connoisseur can be seen queuing up to get a taste of the suitably Indian Karak Coffee from Chaiiwala.

Not one single time when we have ordered cups have we found the need to question the quality of the this smooth drink..

Let's face it though, it is Karak Coffee, so even Manchester United's David De Gea could mess this up and that's saying something!

Its full of flavour and when it is served piping hot, it is really cranked up for maximum strength devoid of any nasty aftertaste.

The only downer is that you will have to pay £1.50 a cup. However, it is rather reasonable when compared to the extortionate prices at Starbucks and Costa!



**Rating: 4 stars**



**Chumchee's at  
Champions  
League level!**

Foodies can rejoice as Chumchee's have found what can only be described as an unbelievable burger!

Forget about Liverpool's 2019 Champions League win or the most luscious selection of Huda makeup that you have been gifted.

We are talking about the Creme De la creme of burgers!

Once we sampled the Piri Piri burger it was evident that there is nothing else like it in the area.

The inspired flavour and the alluring texture ensured that this burger is like no other. For more information visit: [www.chumcheesonline.co.uk](http://www.chumcheesonline.co.uk)



**Rating: 5 stars**



**Sweets and\_candy**

Do you have a sweet tooth? If so, log into your Instagram page and look up @Sweetsand\_candy and check out some of the most sought after American sweets available on this side of the pond!

From Grab 'n' Go bags that are available for £2.50 which come with a plethora of American candies. Now that is mouth watering!

It is possible to choose subtle treats whilst also celebrating the exuberance of chocolate, drinks and so much more!

To find out more, check out sweetsand\_candy on Instagram and order some of the best candy ever!



**Rating: 5 stars**

# હજી ... આ વાયરસ પર આપણે વિજય મેળવ્યો નથી!

કોવીડ-૧૯ હજી આપણા સમાજોમાં છે.

એને નાબુદ કરવાનો એક માત્ર ઉપાય એ તેને ફેલાતો અટકાવવાનો છે.

આપણામાંનું દરેકજણ એને હરાવવા માટે શક્તિમાન છે.

તમે નીચેની રીતે એમાં તમારો ભાગ ભજવી શકો છો...



એક બીજાથી બે મિટર છેટા રહો

માત્ર તમારા 'હાઉસહોલ્ડ બબલ'માં હોય તેવા લોકોની જ વધુ નજીક રહો / જાઓ. જો તમારે વધુ નજીક જવું કે રહેવું પડે એમ હોય તો 'ફેસ કવરીંગ' (માસ્ક) પહેરવાનું વિચારો



'ફેસ કવરીંગ' પહેરો

જો તમે શોપીંગ કરવા જતા હોય, પબ્લિક ટ્રાન્સપોર્ટ વાપરતા હોય અથવા બીજા લોકોથી બે મિટર કરતાં ઓછા અંતરે રહેવાની શક્યતા હોય તો.



તમારા હાથ ધોવો

સાબુ અને હુંફાળા પાણીથી ઓછામાં ઓછા ૨૦ સેકન્ડ સુધી તમારા હાથ ધોવો - ખાસ કરીને તમે બહાર જઈને આવ્યા હોય ત્યારે



ચિહ્નનો જણાય તો અન્યોથી છેટા થઈ જાઓ

જો તમારામાં ચિહ્નનો જણાય તો તરતજ દૂર થઈ જાઓ, ૧૧૧ને ફોન કરો અને ટેસ્ટ કરાવો



ટોળાંઓથી દૂર રહો

નાની, સાંકડી જગ્યાઓમાં નાનાં ગૂપો પણ આ રોગનો ચેપ ફેલાવી શકે છે



ટેસ્ટ એન્ડ ટ્રેસ

જો તમારો NHS ટેસ્ટ એન્ડ ટ્રેસ દ્વારા સંપર્ક કરવામાં આવે તો - તરત જ અન્યોથી દૂર થઈ જાઓ અને તેમની સૂચનાઓને અનુસરો

ભાવિ તમારા હાથમાં છે

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/coronavirus)



# ہم ابھی تک --- وائرس کو شکست نہیں دے سکے ہیں!

ابھی تک ہماری کیونٹی میں پائی جاتی ہے۔ COVID-19  
اس کو ختم کرنے کا واحد طریقہ یہ ہے کہ اس کو پھیلنے سے روکا جائے۔  
وائرس کو ختم کرنے کی ہم سب طاقت رکھتے ہیں۔

ہم اس طریقے سے اپنا کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں ---



دوسرے لوگوں سے 2 میٹر کے فاصلے پر رہیں

اپنے گھر کے افراد کے حلقے میں ہی رہیں۔  
اگر آپ کو کسی سے قریب تر ہونا پڑے  
تو چہرے پر ماسک پہننے پر غور کریں۔



چہرے پر ماسک پہنیں

اگر آپ خریداری (شاپنگ) کرنے جاتے ہیں،  
پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ استعمال کرتے ہیں یا  
دوسرے لوگوں سے 2 میٹر سے کم نزدیک  
ہونے کی توقع ہو۔



اپنے ہاتھوں کو دھوئیں

باقاعدگی کے ساتھ صابن اور گرم پانی سے  
اپنے ہاتھوں کو 20 سیکنڈ تک دھوئیں۔ خاص  
طور پر جب آپ کہیں باہر سے آئے ہوں۔



اگر علامات پائی جائیں تو اپنے آپکو  
دوسروں سے علیحدہ کر لیں

اگر آپ میں وائرس کی علامات پائی جائیں تو  
فوری طور پر اپنے آپکو دوسروں سے علیحدہ کر  
لیں، اور 119 پر فون کر کے ٹیسٹ کروائیں



لوگوں کے عام ہجوم سے دور رہیں

تنگ جگہوں پر خواہ وہاں چند لوگ ہی موجود  
کیوں نہ ہوں



ٹیسٹ اینڈ ٹریس  
(ٹیسٹ کروا کر وائرس کا پتہ چلائیں)

اگر این ایچ ایس ٹیسٹ اینڈ ٹریس کی جانب  
سے آپ کے رابطہ کیا گیا ہے۔ تو فوری طور  
پر دوسروں سے علیحدہ ہو جائیں اور ان کی  
ہدایات پر عمل کریں۔

مستقبل آپکے ہاتھوں میں ہے

[www.kirklees.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/coronavirus)

ADAPTING  
KIRKLEES

July 2020 - CM3428

## સમસ્યા હય તો જીવન હય

-રફીક અહમદ ક્લાસ

આપણા બધાને લાગે છે કે, આજ કાલ જીવનમાં કેટલી સમસ્યાઓ છે. એકનું નિરાકરણ કરો ત્યાં બીજી આવીને ઊભી થઈ જાય છે તો શું કરીએ?

તો ચાલો આજે એને આ વાતથી સમજીએ.....

આજે આપણે ઈકબાલની વાત સાંભળીએ, જે રાજસ્થાનના એક શહેરમાં રહેતો હતો અને એ એક પ્રાઈવેટ કંપનીમાં નોકરી કરતો હતો. લગભગ બધું બરાબર ઠીક ચાલી રહ્યું હતું, પરંતુ જિંદગીથી તે ખુશ ન હતો. તેને લાગતું હતું કે, હર સમયે તે કોઈને કોઈ મુશ્કેલીથી ઘેરાયેલો છે, અને તે આ સમસ્યાથી છૂટકારો મેળવવા માંગતો હતો. એક દિવસ તેને ખબર પડી કે, શહેરમાં એક ફકીરબાબાનો કાફલો આવ્યો છે. સાંભળવા મળ્યું કે, એમના પાસે હર એક મુશ્કેલીનું નિરાકરણ છે. ઈકબાલ તેમના પાસે પહોંચી ગયો.

ફકીરબાબા પાસે લોકોની ભીડ લાગી હતી. અને તેનો નંબર આવતા આવતા સાંજ પડી ગઈ. તે ફકીરબાબાને મળીને વાત કરવા લાગ્યો. મારા જીવનમાં ઘણી સમસ્યા છે. ક્યારેક નોકરીની સમસ્યા તો ક્યારેક હેલ્થની પરેશાની, ક્યારેક પરિવારમાં તણાવ ઉત્પન્ન થાય છે, તો વળી ક્યારેક અન્ય પરેશાની. મતલબ કે એક પરેશાની પૂરી થઈ નહીં કે બીજી સમસ્યા શરૂ થઈ જાય છે. ફકીરબાબાએ તેની વાત તો સાંભળી પરંતુ કહ્યું બેટા! આજે રાત થઈ ગઈ છે અને ઘણું મોડું પણ થઈ ગયું છે. હું તારી સમસ્યાનું નિરાકરણ કાલે સવારે આપીશ. ત્યાં સુધી શું તમે માઈ એક કામ કરી શકશો? ઈકબાલ ખૂબજ ઉત્સાહિત થઈને બોલ્યો બિલ્કુલ કરીશ. બાબાએ કહ્યું મારા કાફલામાં ૧૦૦ ઊંટો છે અને તેમની દેખરેખ જે રાખે છે તે માણસ આજે બીમાર છે. તો તમે મારા આ ઊંટોની દેખભાળ કરો. બસ જ્યારે બધા ઊંટો બેસી જાય ત્યારે તમે સૂઈ જજો. એટલું કહી બાબા તેમના તંબુમાં ચાલ્યા ગયા.

બીજે દિવસે સવારે બાબાએ ઈકબાલને પૂછ્યું કેમ છો? રાત્રે ઊંઘ કેવી આવી? તો ઈકબાલે કહ્યું હું તો એક પલ ભર પણ સૂઈ ન શક્યો. એક ઊંટ બેસે તો બીજો ઊભો થઈ જતો હતો અને કેટલાક ઊંટો તો બેસવાનું નામ પણ લેતા ન હતા. આ સાંભળી બાબા થોડા હસ્યા અને કહ્યું મને ખબર હતી કે આવુંજ થશે. કારણ કે, આજ સુધી એવું ક્યારે પણ બન્યું નથી કે, ૧૦૦ ઊંટો બધા એકી સાથે બેસી ગયા હોય. હવે ઈકબાલ થોડો નારાજ થયો અને કહ્યું કે, જ્યારે તમને ખબર હતી તો મને એ કામ કરવા કેમ કહ્યું?

બાબાએ જણાવ્યું ખરેખર કાલે રાતનો તમારો જે અનુભવ એજ તમારી સમસ્યાનું સમાધાન છે અથવા તમારા સવાલનો જવાબ છે. ઈકબાલે કહ્યું, કેવી રીતે? બાબાએ જણાવ્યું રાતના શું થયું? કેટલાક ઊંટો તો પોતાની મેળેજ બેસી ગયા. કેટલાકને તમે પ્રયાસ કરીને બેસાડ્યા અને કેટલાક ઊંટો તો એવા હતા કે જે તમારા અથાગ પ્રયત્નો કરવા છતાં પણ ન બેઠા. પરંતુ જ્યારે તમે એ જગ્યાએથી હટી ગયા ત્યારે તે ઊંટો પોતાની મેળેજ બેસી ગયા.

જીવનની સમસ્યા પણ એવી જ છે. કેટલીક આપમેળે ખતમ થઈ જશે, કેટલીક તમારા પ્રયાસોથી ખતમ કરી લેશો અને કેટલીક જે પ્રયાસો કરવા છતાં પણ ખતમ નથી થતી તેને એના સમય ઉપર છોડી દો. સમય આવવા ઉપર એ આપોઆપ ખતમ થઈ જશે.

‘જ્યાં સુધી જીવન છે ત્યાં સુધી સમસ્યા, પરેશાની બની જ રહેશે. ક્યારેક થોડી તો ક્યારેક વધારે.’ આપણે ચાહીએ કે હર એક સમયે આપણે સમસ્યા વિષે ન વિચારીએ પરંતુ ખુશ રહીને જીવનનો આનંદ માણીએ. જીઓ તો દિલસે.

### પેલેસ્ટીની ઈતિહાસના પાનાઓનું ડીજીટાઈઝેશન

સઉદી અરેબિયાના રિયાધ શહેરમાં આવેલી કિંગ અબ્દુલ અઝીઝ પબ્લીક લાયબ્રેરી (કેએપીએલ)એ પેલેસ્ટાઈનના સાંસ્કૃતિક અને ઐતિહાસિક વારસાના સંબંધિત સંગ્રહ કે જે નષ્ટ થવાના આરે હતો અને જેમાં જેરૂસલેમ શરિયા કોર્ટના ૮૨૦ જેટલા રેકોર્ડ્સનો સમાવેશ છે તેનું સંકલન કરી તેને ડીજીટાઈઝ્ડ કર્યું છે. યુએનઆરડબલ્યુએ નજીક આવેલ આર્કાઈવમાં પેલેસ્ટીનના શરણાર્થીઓ માટે કાર્યરત યુનાઈટેડ નેશન્સ રિલીફ વર્કસ એજન્સીના સહયોગથી સંકલિત કરવામાં આવેલા પુસ્તકો અને નકસાઓના બે લાખ ૫૦૯જારથી વધુ પાનાઓ છે. જે જેરૂસલેમના ૧૫૨૮થી શરૂ થતાં ઈતિહાસને આવરી લે છે. આ ડીજીટાઈઝ્ડ કરેલા પાનાઓ યુએનઆરઆઈડબલ્યુએ પુસ્તકાલયના નેટવર્ક પર ઓનલાઈન ઉપલબ્ધ છે.

આ પ્રોજેક્ટના ભાગ રૂપે આ લાયબ્રેરીએ “અલ અકસા” નામનો મોટો ગ્રંથ પીકચરો સહિત પ્રકાશિત કર્યો છે. જેમાં દુર્લભ દસ્તાવેજો અને પવિત્ર સ્થળના ફોટોગ્રાફ્સ, ડોમ ઓફ ધ રોક અને અલ અકસા મસ્જીદ સહિતના સ્થળોનો એક મોટો સંગ્રહ છે. પેલેસ્ટીનના વારસાને સાચવવામાં આ સંગ્રહનો મહત્વપૂર્ણ ફાળો છે. જેને ઈઝરાઈલ પોતાની નીતિઓથી ભૂંસી નાંખવા માગે છે. ઈઝરાઈલ ખાસ કરીને તેણે કબજે કરેલા જેરૂસલેમ અને અલ અકસા મસ્જીદની કાનૂની અને ઐતિહાસિક સ્થિતિ તેમજ પેલેસ્ટીની લોકોની સાંસ્કૃતિક ઓળખને ભૂંસી નાખવા માંગે છે.

### મારી કદર ક્યાં છે

હજી પણ એમને ખાનાખરાબીની ખબર ક્યાં છે હજી પણ એ મને પૂછી રહ્યાં છે, તારું ઘર ક્યાં છે મને પણ કોઈ શક પહેલી નજરના પ્રેમ પર ક્યાં છે મગર મારા તરફ એની હવે પહેલી નજર ક્યાં છે હતો એ પણ વખત કહેતો હું સૌને એનું ઘર ક્યાં છે હવે એ પણ ખબર ક્યાં છે કે એની રેહગુઝર ક્યાં છે ખબર નહોતી મને કે એ જ ખુદ ભૂલો પડી જશે બધા રસ્તે હું શોધું છું કે મારો રાહબર ક્યાં છે વધારે છે જખમને સૌ એ નસ્તરના બહાના પર સિતમગર છે સિતમગર, કોઈ મારા ચારાગર ક્યાં છે મૂંગે મોઢે સહુ છું પણ તમે ગુણગાન ના ગાશો કે એ સંકટ સમયની મારી જડતા છે, સબર ક્યાં છે

-બેફામ

## વધતી જતી યુવાનોની સમસ્યા

તાજેતરના એક બનાવે બાટલીને ઝંઝોડી નંખ્યું. એક ૨૦ વર્ષના અંગ્રેજ યુવાનનું આપણાં યુવાનોના હાથે ખૂન થયું. ક્ષણભરનો ગુસ્સો અને કેટલું ભયંકર પરિણામ? આ આખી ઘટનાએ આપણી સમક્ષ અનેક પ્રશ્નો ઊભા કરી દીધા.

આ પહેલાં પણ યુવાનો વચ્ચે નાના મોટા ઝગડાઓ થતા, થોડી મારપીટ થતી. પણ હવે તો મામલો ખૂન સુધી પહોંચી ગયો. અને એમાં સંડોવાયેલા યુવાનોની જિંદગીનું શું? આવા બનાવો મા બાપો માટે તો ચિંતાજનક છે જ પરંતુ આખા સમાજ માટે પણ એ ચિંતાનો વિષય છે. હવે પછીના આવનારી પેઢીના યુવાનો એથીય વધીને ગુનાહિત કાર્યોમાં સંડોવાશે એ માટેની આ અગમ ચેતવણી છે. આપણે બધાએ સતર્ક થઈ જવાની જરૂર છે.

મા બાપો, વડીલો, કોમના આગેવાનો, સંસ્થાઓના હોષ્ટેદારો અને આલિમોએ સાથે બેસીને સામુહિક રીતે એના ઉપર ગંભીરપણે વિચારવાની અને કંઈક રીતે હવે પછી આવા બનાવો ન બને તે માટે યુવાનો માટે કંઈક અસરકારક પગલાં ભરવાની જરૂર છે. આપણે જરૂર વિચારવું પડશે કે, આવા ભયંકર બનાવોનું મૂળ ડૂંગ છે. અને કમનસીબે આપણો યુવાવર્ગ દિન પ્રતિદિન એમાં સંડોવાતો જઈ રહ્યો છે. એમાં સંડોવાયેલા યુવાનોની જિંદગી તો બરબાદ થઈ જશે પરંતુ માતાપિતા અને કુટુંબીજનોને પણ જિંદગીભર પીડાકારક બની રહેશે.

એક તરફ આપણો યુવાવર્ગ શિક્ષણક્ષેત્ર તનતોડ મહેનત કરી રહ્યો છે અને પ્રગતિ તરફ આગેકૂચ કરી રહ્યો છે. ડોક્ટર્સો, ડેન્ટીસ્ટો, વકીલો, ફારમાસીસો, ટીચરો, આઈ ટી નિષ્ણાંતો વગેરેની ભરપૂર સંખ્યાઓથી આપણો સમાજ એક શિક્ષિત સમાજની દિશા તરફ આગળ વધી રહ્યો છે. જે આપણા માટે આનંદ અને ગર્વની વાત છે. પરંતુ સાથે સાથે યુવાનોનો એક નાનો વર્ગ ડૂંગ જેવા ભયંકર દુષણોનો પણ શિકાર બની રહ્યો છે. જેના ભયંકર પરિણામો આપણી આંખ સમક્ષ છે.

આવી પરિસ્થિતિને મૂક પ્રેક્ષક બની હાથ પર હાથ ધરી જોયા કરવું? આપણા દિલ દિમાગો પર એની કોઈજ અસર નથી થતી? પરિસ્થિતિ વધુ ન વણસે તે માટે કંઈજ ના કરવું? અગર આપણે આજના અને આવતી કાલના યુવાનો માટે ખરેખર ચિંતિત છીએ તો સમયની ગંભીરતાને ઓળખો અને સામુહિક રીતે કોઈ એવી યોજના ઘડી કાઢો કે, યુવાન પેઢીને આવા ગુનાહિત અને કલંકિત કાર્યોથી બચાવી લઈએ. અગર આપણે એમ કરવામાં ચૂકી જઈશું તો ઘણાં માઠા અને ભયંકર પરિણામો આવશે અને એમાં સંડોવાયેલાઓના કુટુંબની ઊંઘ હરામ થઈ જશે.

સૌથી વધુ જવાબદારી તો મા બાપોએ નિભાવવાની છે. પોતાનું બાળક ક્યાં જાય છે? શું કરે છે? જ્યારે એ ભારી અને મોંઘી વસ્તુઓ લઈ આવે છે ત્યારે ચૂપચાપ જોયા નહીં કરતા સવાલો પૂછો. એ ક્યા ધંધાની કમાણી છે? ક્યાંથી આટલા પૈસા વાપરે છે? એ અવળે રસ્તે ચઢી ન જાય તે માટેના તમામ પ્રયાસો કરો. શરૂઆતમાં જ અટકાવો નહિતર આગળ જતાં એ બેકાબુ થઈ જશે અને એક દિવસે પસ્તાવાનો વખત આવશે. વડીલો, આગેવાનો, સંસ્થાના હોષ્ટેદારો અને આલિમોએ સમજવું પડશે કે, આજ સમયની માંગ છે અને તે માટે કટિબદ્ધ થવાની જરૂર છે

## મસ્જિદ લોકડાઉન દુ અનલોક

કોરોના વાયરસ કોવિડ-૧૯ ના કારણે ધ્રિટનના સરકારી ફરમાન મુજબ સલામતીના પગલે આખા ઈંગ્લેન્ડમાં માર્ચ-૨૦ના છેલ્લા અઠવાડિયામાં તમામ મસ્જિદો બંધ થઈ હતી. જો કે મસ્જિદમાં બે કે ત્રણ નિર્ધારિત વ્યક્તિઓ પાંચ વખતની નમાઝ પઢતા હતા. દેશમાં વાયરસનું પ્રમાણ જુન માસના આખરમાં ઓછું થતાં ઝજુલાઈથી સરકારે લોકડાઉન હળવું કર્યું હતું. જેમાં સલામતીના કેટલાક મુદ્દાઓને ધ્યાનમાં રાખી મસ્જિદો નમાઝ માટે ખોલવાનો હુકમ થયો હતો. જે અનુસાર ઈથી જુલાઈના રોજ સરકારી નીતિ નિયમોનું ચુસ્તપણે પાલન કરી મસ્જિદો ફરીથી ખુલી હતી. સ્વાભાવિક છે અગાઉ જે રીતે લોકો નમાઝ પઢવા જતા હતા તેનાથી કંઈક જુદી રીતે નમાઝની વ્યવસ્થા હતી. પરંતુ લોકોમાં આ વેળા ખુશી હતી કે ત્રણ માસ કરતા વધુ સમય બાદ ફરીથી જમાત સાથે નમાઝ અદા કરવાનો મોકો મળી રહ્યો હતો.

સરકારના રજૂ કરાયેલ ધારાધોરણને ધ્યાનમાં રાખી આખા ધ્રિટનની મસ્જિદોએ તેનો અમલ કરવા ઉપર પૂરેપૂરું ધ્યાન આપ્યું. જે માટે સાધન, પૈસા અને મહેનત તથા વોલન્ટીયરોની જરૂર હતી. પરંતુ અલહમ્દુલ્લીલાહ દરેક મસ્જિદના કમિટી સભ્યો, ઉલ્માઓ વગેરેઓએ એના ઉપર તનતોડ મહેનત કરી જેથી સરકારી ફરમાનનું પાલન કરી શકાય અને તેમને કોઈ શિકાયતનો મોકો મળે નહી અને નમાઝીઓના આરોગ્યની સાવચેતી પણ જળવાય. આપણાંજ બાટલી, ડુયુઝબરી એરિયાની વાત કરીએ તો દરેક મસ્જિદોએ તેના કમિટી સભ્યો, મદદગારો અને ઉલ્માઓએ સાથે મળી કોઈ ગંભીર સમસ્યાનો સામનો ન કરવો પડે તેના ઉપર ધ્યાન આપી વિવિધ તરતીબો અપનાવી અને મસ્જિદોમાં તે માટે તમામ વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવી. જેમકે માસ્ક, સેનેટાઈઝર વગેરે પૂરા પાડવા. વોલન્ટીયરોએ નમાઝના સમયે હાજર રહી માર્ગદર્શન આપવું, મસ્જિદમાં સાફ સફાઈ કરવી વગેરે. આ માટે તેઓ તમામે ઘણોજ સમય વીતાવ્યો અને ખરેખર સુંદર કામગીરી બજાવી. આપણે એ દરેકનો ખૂબ આભાર માનવો જ ઘટે. અને તેમને ખૂબ ખૂબ મુબારકબાદી.

લોકડાઉન પછી ૧૦મી જુલાઈના પહેલી જુમ્માની નમાઝ હતી નમાઝી વચ્ચે રાખવા પડતા અંતરના લીધે જમાતખાનામાં ઓછા નમાઝીઓ સમાતા હોય દરેક એરિયાઓએ મસ્જિદોમાં એકથી વધુ બે કે ત્રણ જેટલી જુમ્માની વ્યવસ્થા કરી જેથી દરેક ભાઈઓ જુમ્માની નમાઝ મસ્જિદોમાં અદા કરી શકે. આ સુંદર વ્યવસ્થા પૂરી પાડવા બદલ આપણે દરેક કમિટી સભ્યો, મદદનીશો અને ઈમામોનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ અને તેમને મુબારકબાદી પાઠવીએ છીએ. સાથેજ આવા કપરા સમયમાં દરેક ભાઈઓ જેઓ મસ્જિદોમાં નમાઝ માટે આવતા હતા તેઓએ પણ આપવામાં આવતી સુચનાનું પાલન કરી વોલન્ટીયરોના કામમાં સહભાગી થયા. આ તકે દરેક નમાઝીઓનો પણ આપણે આભાર માનીએ છીએ. ખરેખર દરેક કામગીરી અને એકબીજાનો સહકાર પ્રસંશાને પાત્ર છે. જ્યાં સુધી પરિસ્થિતિ પહેલા જેવી ન થઈ જાય ત્યાં સુધી આપણે દરેકે આજ રીતે સાથ સહકારથી કામ લેવું પડશે અને કાળજી પણ રાખવી પડશે. દુઆ કરીએ કે જલ્દીથી આ મહામીરીનો અંત આવે અને જીવનવ્યવહાર પહેલાના જેવો થઈ જાય.

## વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

### કોરોનાની શીખામણ !

અત્યારે આપણે કોવિડ-૧૯ના ભયંકર અત્યાચાર વચ્ચે જીવી રહ્યા છીએ. જેણે આપણી તમામ જીવન વ્યવસ્થાને વેર વિખેર કરી નાંખી છે. આપણને આર્થિક અને સામાજિક રીતે તો જબરો ફટકો પડ્યો જ છે. પણ સામાન્ય જનવ્યવહાર પણ પડી ભાંગ્યો છે. એક તરફ તો આ વાઈરસે પારાવાર નુકસાન પહોંચાડ્યું જ છે તો બીજી તરફ એણે ચેતવણી પણ આપી છે અને અધૂરામાં પૂરું વિજ્ઞાનીઓ તો આવતા વીન્ટરની ભયંકરતા વિશે પણ આગાહી કરી રહ્યા છે. તેઓ માને છે કે, આવતા વીન્ટરમાં આ વાઈરસ એના પરાકાષ્ટાએ પહોંચીને લાખો લોકોને ભરખી જશે. વિજ્ઞાનીઓની આવી આગાહીથી દિલ કંપી ઊઠે છે.

છેલ્લા પાંચેક મહિનાથી આપણે નજરકેદ જેવી જિંદગી પસાર કરી રહ્યા છે. અને એક ક્ષણ માટે વિજ્ઞાનીઓની વાત પર ધ્યાન આપીએ તો એવું લાગે છે કે, આપણે આ પ્રકારની જિંદગી જીવવા માટે ટેવાવું પડશે.

આ વાઈરસે પળવારમાંજ આખા વિશ્વને લપેટી લીધું અને એનાથી હરેક માનવ પીડાય રહ્યો છે. તો આવા સંજોગોમાં આપણાથી એવું પણ વિચારી શકાય કે, આટલો બધો જુલ્મગાર વાઈરસ કંઈક રીતે માર્ગદર્શક અને શુભચિંતક બની ગયો? આટલો ભયંકર વાઈરસ અને તે પણ શુભચિંતક? વાત માનવામાં આવે એવી નથી.

ચાલો એ તરફ પણ દ્રષ્ટિપાત કરીએ. સૌ પ્રથમ તો આપણી ઈબાદતોમાં ખૂબ વધારો થયો. નમાઝોની પાબંદી, કુરઆન શરીફની તીલાવતો પહેલા આટલી થતી ન હતી. અવશ્ય એમાં વધારો તો થયો અને આપણા શાદી વ્યવહારો? એમાં તો ઉત્તર દક્ષિણ જેટલો તફાવત જોવા મળ્યો. યાદ કરો આજ પહેલાંની આપણી શાદીઓની. એકાદ વીક પહેલાં દરરોજ ખાણાપીણી અને મોડીરાત સુધી બેસવું. શાદી પૂરી થાય ત્યાં સુધીમાં તો ઘરના માણસો થાકીપાકીને લોથ થઈ જતાં. ઘણીવેળા તો બીમાર પણ પડી જતાં. અને પછી હજારો માણસોનું જમણ, એકથી એક ચઢિયાતા શાદીના હોલો અને તેના ૧૦-૧૫ હજાર પાઉન્ડના બીલો. સરવાળે એક શાદીનો ખર્ચ ૨૦-૩૦ હજાર કે તેનાથી પણ વધુ થઈ જતો. તેમાંયે નજીકના સગાઓનો હજારો પાઉન્ડનો ખર્ચ તો અલગ. ત્રણ-ચાર દિવસ માટે ખાસ કરીને બહેનોના દરરોજના નવા કપડાં જેની કિંમત સો પાઉન્ડથી લઈને પાંચસો સાતસો સુધીની. એક ઘરમાં ત્રણ ચાર સ્ત્રીઓ હોય તો તેનો હિસાબ લગાવો. આંકડો ક્યાં સુધી પહોંચે છે.

અને હવે? કોરોના કહેર વચ્ચે ફરજિયાત ૩૦-૪૦ માણસોની હાજરીમાં શાદી! તદ્દન સાદો હિસાબ કરીએ તો પણ પ્રત્યેક

શાદીમાં ઘરઘણીને ઓછામાં ઓછા ૧૫ થી ૨૦ હજારની બચત થઈ રહી છે. કેટલાકને માટે તો એથીય વધુ થઈ રહી છે. તો શું આજપર્યંત થયેલા શાદીના ખર્ચ પર જરા ધ્યાનથી વિચારવું જરૂરી નથી? અગર ફરીથી હાલાત સામાન્ય થઈ જશે, ત્યારે આજની ૩૦-૪૦ની સંખ્યામાં થોડોક વધારો કરી ૧૦૦-૨૦૦ ને આમંત્રિત કરી શાદીની નવી પધ્ધતિ અપનાવવી જોઈએ. આવી સુઘડતાભરી રીત અપનાવીશું તો હજારો પાઉન્ડ બચાવી શકીશું. વીક બે વીકના થાકોથી પણ રાહત મેળવીશું અને બચત થયેલી રકમ નવદંપતી માટે નવું ઘર ખરીદવામાં મદદરૂપ થશે.

આજે ૩૦-૪૦ માણસોની હાજરીમાં શાદીઓ થઈ રહી છે તો ૧૦૦-૨૦૦ માણસોની હાજરી તો આદર્શ અને સુઘડતાભરી હાજરી કહી શકાય. તો ચાલો! અપનાવો નવી જીવન પધ્ધતિ, કરો કંઈક વહેવારોમાં ફેરફાર !

### ઈસ્લામી વર્ષ હીજરીની શરૂઆત

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

અમીરૂલ મુઅમીનીન હઝરત ઉમર રદી.નો મુબારક જમાનો હતો. યમનના ગવર્નર હઝરત અબુ મુસા અશ્શરી રદી.જે એક મહાન સહાબી હતા, એક પત્ર મદીનાહ મુનવ્વરા હઝરત ઉમર રદી. ઉપર લખ્યો કે, તમારા તરફથી જે સરકારી આદેશ અમારા ઉપર આવે છે એના ઉપર કોઈ તારીખ હોતી નથી. એ આદેશનામા પર અગર તારીખ લખાય હોય તો ફાયદો એ થશે કે, આદેશ ક્યારે લખ્યો છે અને ક્યારે અમને મળ્યો છે અને ક્યારથી એના ઉપર અમલ જારી થશે. આ દરેક વિગતને સમજવાનો આધાર તારીખ પર હોય છે.

હઝરત ઉમર રદી. એ આ અગત્યના સુચનને બિલકુલ મુનાસીબ સમજી તરતજ એક ખાસ મિર્ટીંગ તે સમયના મહાન સહાબા રદી.ને બોલાવી પૂરી હકીકત સમજાવી. મથેરો લાંબો સમય ચાલતો રહ્યો જેના અંતમાં ચાર મંતવ્યો સામે આવ્યા.

એક સહાબાની જમાતનો મથેરો હતો કે, હઝરત નબીએ કરીમ સ.અ.વ.ની પેદાઈશથી ઈસ્લામી તારીખની શરૂઆત કરવામાં આવે.

બીજી એક જમાતનું કહેવું હતું કે, જ્યારે નબુવ્વત મળી તે નબુવ્વતના વર્ષથી ઈસ્લામી તારીખનો આરંભ કરવામાં આવે.

ત્રીજી જમાતનો મથેરો હતો કે, મક્કહ મુક્કરમથી મદીના મુનવ્વરાહ હિજરત થઈ ત્યારથી ઈસ્લામી વર્ષની શરૂઆત કરવામાં આવે.

ચોથી જમાતનો ખ્યાલ એ હતો કે, હુઝુર સ.અ.વ.ની વફાતથી ઈસ્લામી તારીખ શરૂ કરવામાં આવે. આ ચાર જાતના અલગ અલગ મંતવ્યો સામે આવ્યા અને એના ઉપર વિગતવાર ચર્ચા થતી રહી. અમીરૂલ મુઅમીનીન હઝરત ઉમર રદી. દરેક સહાબીઓના મથેરાને સામે રાખી ફીરાસતથી ફેંસલો કર્યો કે સન ઈસ્વી (તકવીમ-તારીખ) (આગળના પાના ઉપર)

હઝરત ઈસા અલૈ.ની પેદાઈશથી શરૂ થઈ છે. જ્યારે નબીએ કરીમ સ.અ.વ.ની પેદાઈશનો દિવસ અને નબુવત મળવાના દિવસમાં ઈખ્તલાફ છે. એટલા માટે એ યોગ્ય નથી અને વફાતથી શરૂ કરવું એટલા માટે મુનાસીબ નથી કે, વફાતનો દિવસ અને વર્ષ, ઈસ્લામ અને મુસલમાનો માટે બેહદ સદમા અને ગમનું વર્ષ અને દિવસ હતો.

અકાબિર સહાબાઓનો ત્યારપછી ઈત્તેફાક અને ઈજમાઅ એ રીતે થયો અને એ વિષય ઉપર હઝરત ઉમર રદી. એ પુરી વાત વિગતથી બતાવી કે મક્કહ મુકર્રમથી મદીના મુનવ્વરાહ જે હિજરત થઈ છે એ હિજરતથી જ હક-બાતિલ, ખરા ખોટાનો ફર્ક સામે આવ્યો. એ તે વર્ષ હતું કે જેમાં ઈસ્લામને ઈજ્ઝત અને તાકત મળી. મુસલમાનો અમન અને સલામતી અને સંતોષના સાથે કોઈ પણ જાતના સંકટ કે ખતરા વિના અલ્લાહતઆલાની ઈબાદત કરવા લાગ્યા. અને તે જ વર્ષે મસ્જિદે નબવીની બુનિયાદ નાંખવામાં આવી. આ દરેક ખુબીઓના લઈ હિજરતથી ઈસ્લામી તારીખની શરૂઆત કરવામાં આવે.

ત્યારપછી એજ મઝલીસમાં બીજો મસ્લો હતો કે, વર્ષના ૧૨ મહિના છે જેમાં ૪ મહિના શહરે હરામ હુરમતના મહિના છે. ૧. ઝીલ-કઅદહ ૨. ઝીલ-હજ્જહ ૩. મોહર્રમ ૪. રજબ. કયા મહિનાથી ઈસ્લામી વર્ષ શરૂ કરવામાં આવે એ વિશે પણ લાંબી ચર્ચા પછી અલગ અલગ મંતવ્યો, મથેરા સામે આવ્યા. કેટલાક સહાબાઓએ રજબના મહિનાથી કહ્યું તો કેટલાકે રમઝાનુલ મુબારક અને કેટલાક સહાબાઓએ રબીઉલ અવ્વલ તો એક જમાઅતે મુહર્રમના મહિનાથી ઈસ્લામી વર્ષની શરૂઆત કરવાનો મથેરો આપ્યો.

અમીરૂલ મુઅમીનીન હઝરત ઉમર રદી. ઘણાં એહતરામથી અનેક સહાબાઓ કીરામના મથેરાઓને સાંભળતા રહ્યા. ત્યાર પછી અંતમાં એ ફેંસલો કર્યો કે, મોહર્રમના મહિનાથી ઈસ્લામી વર્ષની શરૂઆત થવી જોઈએ. એટલા માટે કે, હિજરતની શરૂઆત મુહર્રમના મહિનાથી થઈ હતી અને રબીઉલ અવ્વલમાં હઝરત નબીએ કરીમ સ.અ.વ. ની હિજરત પૂરી થઈ હતી.

એ સિવાય બીજી ખૂબી એ છે કે, હજ ઈસ્લામની એક તારીખી ઈબાદત છે. જે વર્ષમાં ફક્ત એક જ વાર થાય છે. અને હજથી ફારિગ થઈ મુહર્રમના મહિનામાં હાજી લોકો પોતાના દેશ પરત થાય છે. વતન તરફ પાછા ફરે છે. આ દરેક ખુબીઓના લઈ ઈસ્લામી વર્ષ અને મહિનાની શરૂઆત વિશે દરેક સહાબાએકીરામ રદી. નો પૂરો ઈત્તેફાક થયો કે ઈસ્લામી વર્ષની શરૂઆત હિજરતથી અને ઈસ્લામી મહિનાની શરૂઆત મુહર્રમથી કરવામાં આવે અને આજ સુધી એના ઉપર પૂરી ઉમ્મતનો અમલ ચાલુ છે. આવતા મુહર્રમ મહિનાથી હીજરી વર્ષ ૧૪૪૨ શરૂ થશે. આપણે આપણાં બાળકોને ઈસ્લામી હીજરી વર્ષ અને ઈસ્લામી મહિનાઓથી જાણકારી આપતા રહેવું જોઈએ જેથી એમને એ બાબતની એહમિયત સમજાય. આમ તોર પર ઈ.સ. વર્ષ અને અંગ્રેજી મહિનાનો વપરાશ રોજબરોજ દરેક વિભાગમાં હોય છે જેથી તે બાબતનું ધ્યાન દરેકને હોય છે પરંતુ હીજરી વર્ષ અને ઈસ્લામી મહિના બાબતે તેમનું ધ્યાન હોતું નથી.

## તુર્કીમાં હાગિયા (હાઈયા) સોફિયાનું મસ્જિદમાં રૂપાંતર

તુર્કીના રાષ્ટ્રપતિ રેસિપ એર્દોગને શુક્રવાર તારીખ ૧૦મી જુલાઈના જાહેરાત કરી હતી કે વિશ્વની સ્થાપત્યકળાની અજાયબીઓમાંથી એક ઈસ્તંબુલ ખાતેની હાગિયા સોફિયાને નમાઝ માટે ફરીથી ખુલ્લી મૂકવામાં આવશે અને ત્યાં તારીખ ૨૪મી જુલાઈથી નિયમિત નમાઝ અદા થશે. આમ તેમણે આ મ્યુઝીયમ તરીકે ઓળખાતી અજાયબ ઈમારતને મસ્જિદમાં તબદીલ કરી છે. તુર્કીની સર્વોચ્ચ અદાલતે છઠ્ઠી સદીમાં બાઈઝેન્ટાઈન સામ્રાજ્ય ધ્વારા બનાવવામાં આવેલ આ ઈમારતનો મ્યુઝીયમ તરીકેનો દરજ્જો આપ્યો હતો. હવે હાલમાં તુર્કીની સર્વોચ્ચ અદાલત, કાઉન્સિલ ઓફ સ્ટેટે સર્વ સંમતિથી હાગિયા સોફિયાને મસ્જિદમાં ફેરવવાનો નિર્ણય આપ્યો છે. જેના અનુસંધાને રાષ્ટ્રપતિ એર્દોગને જાહેરાત કરી હતી.

૧૫૦૦ વર્ષ જુની આ ઈમારત ખ્રિસ્તિય અને મુસ્લિમો માટે શ્રેષ્ઠ ધાર્મિક સ્થળોમાંથી એક છે. ઈ.સ. ૫૩૨-૫૩૭ માં બાઈઝેન્ટાઈન સમ્રાટ જસ્ટિનિયને તેનું બાંધકામ કરાવ્યું હતું. આ ઈમારતના આસપાસ ચાર સુંદર મિનારા અને અંદર સુંદર નકસીકામ તથા મોઝેક કારીગીરી જોવા મળે છે. ૧૩મી સદીમાં ૪થા ક્રુસેડ દરમ્યાન થોડા સમય માટે (૧૨૦૪-૧૨૬૧) તેના ઉપર ક્રુસેડરોએ કબજો મેળવ્યો હતો. ત્યારબાદ મુસ્લિમોએ ફરી આ ઈમારત ઉપર કબજો મેળવ્યો હતો.

ઈ.સ. ૧૪૫૩માં રાજા મેહમત બીજાએ જ્યારે કોન્સ્ટેન્ટીનોપોલ જીત્યું તે પછી આ ઈમારતનો મસ્જિદમાં વપરાશ થતો રહ્યો હતો. ઈ.સ. ૧૬૧૬ સુધી એ તુર્કીની મેઈન મસ્જિદ તરીકે રહી હતી પછી બ્લુ મોસ્ક બની જતાં તે મુખ્ય મસ્જિદ બની હતી. ઈ.સ. ૧૯૩૪માં તુર્કીના પ્રથમ રાષ્ટ્રપતિ મુસ્તફા કમાલ અતાતુર્કે હાગિયા સોફિયાને મ્યુઝીયમમાં ફેરવી દીધું હતું. આ ઈમારતનો વર્લ્ડ હેરીટેજ લીસ્ટમાં સમાવેશ છે. તુર્કીની ધાર્મિક બાબતના અધિકારીઓએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે, હાગિયા સોફિયા નમાઝ સિવાયના સમયે મુલાકાતીઓ માટે ખુલ્લી રહેશે અને તે દરમ્યાન તેને નિહાળવા દરેક ધર્મના લોકો આવી શકશે. ઉપરાંત બિલ્ડીંગમા જે ખ્રિસ્તિયો વગેરેના પ્રતિકો છે તેને યથાવત રાખવામાં આવશે.

તુર્કીની સર્વોચ્ચ અદાલતના આ નિર્ણયથી વિશ્વના અનેક ખ્રિસ્તિયો અને બીજા દેશોએ આ નિર્ણય સામે વિરોધ જાહેર કર્યો હતો પરંતુ એર્દોગને તેનો જડબાતોડ જવાબ આપતા કહ્યું હતું કે દુનિયામાં અનેક સ્થળો જેમાં સ્પેન, કોર્ડોબા, સેસિલ, ઈઝરાઈલ, ભારત વગેરેમાં મસ્જિદોને ચર્ચમાં કે મંદિરોમાં તબદીલ કરી દેવામાં આવ્યા ત્યારે આ દેશો તરફથી કોઈ વાંધાઓ જાહેર થયા નથી જે એક શર્મની વાત છે.

**મેરે રબકી મોહબ્બતકા અંબાજ ભી હય નિરાલા**

**સબ કુછ દે કર ભી કેહતા હય**

**હય કોઈ માંગનેવાલા**

## سعودی عرب کا محدود حج کا اعلان، تاریخ میں حج کب منسوخ ہوا؟

سعودی عرب کی حکومت نے رواں برس کو رونا وائرس کے پیش نظر حج کے شرکاء کی تعداد محدود رکھنے اور صرف سلطنت میں مقیم افراد کو حج کرنے کی اجازت دینے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ سعودی خبر رساں ادارے ایس پی اے کے مطابق 22 جون کی شب سعودی وزارت حج و عمرہ کی جانب سے جاری کردہ بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ 'دنیا کے 180 سے زائد ممالک میں کو رونا وائرس کی وبا کے پھیلاؤ کے پیش نظر محدود تعداد میں سلطنت میں مقیم مختلف ممالک کے شہریوں کو حج کا موقع دیا جائے گا۔ جبکہ سعودی عرب کی وزارت خارجہ کی جانب سے ٹوئٹ پر بھی سعودی وزارت حج و عمرہ کے اس فیصلے کے متعلق آگاہ کیا گیا۔ سعودی وزارت حج و عمرہ نے بیان میں مزید کہا کہ 'کو رونا وائرس کے باعث دنیا بھر میں پانچ لاکھ کے قریب اموات ہو چکی ہیں اور 70 لاکھ سے زائد افراد اس وائرس سے متاثر ہیں۔ کو رونا کی وبا اور روزانہ عالمی سطح پر اس وائرس کے متاثرین کی تعداد میں اضافے کے پیش نظر یہ طے کیا گیا ہے کہ رواں برس 1441ھ کے حج میں سعودی سلطنت میں مقیم مختلف ممالک کے عازمین کو محدود تعداد میں شریک کیا جائے گا۔ سعودی وزارت حج و عمرہ کے بیان میں مزید کہا گیا کہ 'یہ فیصلہ اس بنیاد پر کیا گیا ہے کہ حج محفوظ اور صحت مند ماحول میں ہو۔ کو رونا سے بچاؤ کے تقاضے پورے کیے جائیں، عازمین حج کی حفاظت اور سلامتی کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے سماجی فاصلہ برقرار رکھا جاسکے اور انسانی جان کے تحفظ سے متعلق اسلامی شریعت کے مقاصد پورے کیے جاسکیں۔ یاد رہے کہ کووڈ 19 کا پھیلاؤ روکنے کے لیے سعودی حکومت نے اس سے قبل اپنے مقدس مقامات پر عمرے کی ادائیگی بھی معطل کر دی تھی۔

### ماضی میں حج کب منسوخ ہوا؟

تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ حج 629 عیسوی (چھ ہجری) کو پیغمبر اسلام کی قیادت میں ادا کیا گیا تھا۔ اس کے بعد یہ فرتضہ ہر سال ادا ہوتا رہا۔ اگرچہ مسلمان سوچ بھی نہیں سکتے کہ کسی سال حج نہیں ہو سکے گا۔ لیکن اس کے باوجود تاریخ میں تقریباً 40 مواقع ایسے ہیں جن میں حج ادا نہ ہو سکا اور کئی بار خانہ کعبہ حاجیوں کے لیے بند رہا۔ اس کی کئی وجوہات تھیں جن میں بیت اللہ پر حملے سے لے کر سیاسی جھگڑے، وبا، سیلاب، چور اور ڈاکوؤں کے حاجیوں کے قافلے لوٹنا اور موسم کی انتہائی لہر شامل ہیں۔

### السفاک کا حملہ: 865 سنہ

سنہ 865 میں اسماعیل بن یوسف نے، جنہیں السفاک کے نام سے جانا جاتا ہے، بغداد میں قائم عباسی سلطنت کے خلاف اعلان جنگ کیا اور مکہ میں عرفات کے پہاڑ پر حملہ کیا۔ ان کی فوج کے اس حملے میں وہاں موجود حج کے لیے آنے والے ہزاروں زائرین ہلاک ہوئے۔ اس حملے کی وجہ سے اس سال حج نہ ہو سکا۔

### قرامطہ کا حملہ: 930 سنہ

اس حملے کو سعودی شہر مکہ پر سب سے شدید حملوں میں سے ایک جانا جاتا ہے۔ سنہ 930 میں قرامطہ فرقتے کے سربراہ ابو طاہر الجنبانی نے مکہ پر ایک بھرپور حملہ کیا جس دوران اتنی لوٹ مار اور قتل و غارت ہوئی کہ کئی سال تک حج نہ ہو سکا۔ سعودی عرب میں قائم شاہ عبدالعزیز فاؤنڈیشن فار ریسرچ اینڈ آرکائیوز میں چھپنے والی ایک رپورٹ میں اسلامی تاریخ

دان اور احادیث کے ماہر الذہبی کی کتاب 'اسلام کی تاریخ' کے حوالے سے بتایا گیا ہے کہ 316 ہجری کے واقعات کی وجہ سے کسی نے قرامطہ کے خوف کے باعث اس سال حج ادا نہیں کیا۔ قرامطہ اس وقت کی اسلامی ریاست کو نہیں مانتے تھے اور اسی طرح وہ ریاست کے تحت مانے جانے والے اسلام کے بھی منحرف تھے۔ وہ سمجھتے تھے کہ حج پر ادا کیے جانے والے فرائض اسلام سے پہلے کے ہیں اور اس طرح وہ بت شکنی کے زمرے میں آتے ہیں۔ شاہ عبدالعزیز فاؤنڈیشن کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ابو طاہر خانہ کعبہ کے دروازے پر آٹھ ذی الحج کو تلوار لے کر کھڑے ہو گئے اور اپنے سامنے اپنے جنگجوؤں کے ہاتھوں زائرین کا قتل عام کرواتے اور دیکھتے رہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق وہ کہتے رہے کہ 'عبادت کرنے والوں کو ختم کر دو، کعبہ کا غلاف پھاڑ دو اور حجر اسود اکھاڑ دو۔ اس دوران کعبہ میں 30 ہزار حاجیوں کا قتل عام ہوا اور انہیں بغیر کسی جنازے، غسل اور کفن کے دفنایا گیا۔ مورخین کے مطابق حملہ آوروں نے لوگوں کو قتل کرنے کے بعد کئی ایک لاکھوں زائرین کو بھی پھینکیں تاکہ اس کے پانی کو گندہ کیا جاسکے۔ اس کے بعد وہ حجر اسود کو اکھاڑ کر اپنے ساتھ اس وقت کے سعودی عرب کے مشرقی صوبے البحرین لے گئے جہاں یہ ابو طاہر کے پاس اس کے شہر الاحسا میں کئی سال رہا۔ بالآخر ایک بھاری تاون کے بعد اسے واپس خانہ کعبہ میں لایا گیا۔

### عباسی اور فاطمی خلافتوں میں جھگڑے: 983 سنہ

حج صرف لڑائیوں اور جنگوں کی وجہ سے منسوخ نہیں ہوا بلکہ یہ کئی سال سیاست کی نظر بھی ہوا۔ سنہ 983 عیسوی میں عراق کی عباسی اور مصر کی فاطمی خلافتوں کے سربراہان کے درمیان سیاسی کشمکش رہی اور مسلمانوں کو اس دوران حج کے لیے سفر کرنے نہ دیا گیا۔ اس کے بعد حج 991 میں ادا کیا گیا۔

### آیا صوفیہ: استنبول کی تاریخی عبادت گاہ میں 86 برس بعد جمعے کی پہلی نماز

تقریباً 86 برس کے طویل وقفے کے بعد بازنطینی دور کی اہم عمارت اور دنیا کے عظیم تاریخی ورثے میں سے ایک، آیا صوفیہ، دوبارہ عبادت کی جگہ بن گئی ہے اور اس میں پڑھی جانے والی جمعے کی پہلی نماز کے حوالے سے استنبول کے شہریوں میں کافی جوش و جذبہ پایا گیا۔ ترکی کے صدر کی طرف سے یہ صدارتی حکم نامہ جمعے کو ہی ترکی کے ایک عدالت کے اس فیصلے کے بعد جاری کیا گیا ہے جس میں آیا صوفیہ کی عمارت کی میوزیم کی حیثیت کو ختم کر دیا گیا تھا۔ یہ عمارت جو ڈیڑھ ہزار سال پہلے ایک کلیسیا کے طور پر تعمیر کی گئی تھی، اس کی حیثیت کو بدلنے کا فیصلہ تنازع کا باعث رہا ہے۔ سلطنت عثمانیہ کے دور میں اس عمارت کو کلیسیا سے مسجد میں تبدیل کر دیا گیا تھا۔ جولائی کے شروع میں ترکی میں کاؤنسل آف سٹیٹ نے استنبول میں موجود آیا صوفیہ کو ایک مسجد میں تبدیل کرنے سے متعلق فیصلہ مؤخر کیا تھا جو جمعے کو سنایا گیا جس کی وجہ سے اس صدارتی فیصلے کی راہ ہموار ہوئی ہے۔

اس عمارت کو اقوام متحدہ کا ادارہ یونیسکو عالمی ورثہ قرار دے چکا ہے۔ یونیسکو نے ترکی سے کہا تھا کہ وہ اس کی حیثیت تبدیل نہ کرے۔ ترکی کے صدر رجب طیب اردوغان اس عمارت کو مسجد بنانے کی حمایت کرتے رہے ہیں۔ یہ عمارت چھٹی صدی میں بازنطینی بادشاہ جسٹینین اول کے دور میں بنائی گئی تھی اور تقریباً ایک ہزار سال تک یہ دنیا کا سب سے بڑا گرجا تھا۔

# Paigaam Legal Column

## COVID -19 Court Rules on Status of Furloughed Employees



Many companies have entered administration in response to the COVID-19 crisis but have retained furloughed employees in the hope that they will emerge from lockdown to a brighter future. In a case which will have major consequences for vast numbers of such workers, the Court of Appeal has ruled on the legal consequences of such arrangements.

The case concerned a high street retailer which appointed administrators and furloughed over 13,000 employees. Almost all of them accepted an effective pay cut, in that they would only receive 80 per cent of their wages, up to a maximum of £2,500 a month, in accordance with the government's furlough scheme. Their incomes would not be topped up by the administrators.

That gave rise to an issue as to whether the administrators had adopted the workers' employment contracts. The effect of such an adoption would ordinarily be that wages and salaries, together with some other amounts such as sick and holiday pay, would be payable as expenses of the administration. Satisfaction of those liabilities would thus take priority over the demands of unsecured creditors and many of the costs and expenses of the administration.

Following a hearing, a judge declined to make a final declaration as to whether the employment contracts had been adopted. However, he ruled that that was likely to be the case and authorised the administrators to act accordingly. The decision was of practical assistance to the administrators, in that it enabled

them to proceed on the basis that adoption had occurred without fear of incurring personal liability to creditors and others for doing so.

In challenging the judge's ruling, the administrators pointed out that the employees were not providing, and were not permitted to provide, any services to the company whilst they were furloughed. Their remuneration was limited to the extent of available government funding and the retailer was merely acting as a conduit for that funding. Although it was hoped that the retailer would continue as a going concern when the lockdown was lifted, a decision could not be made as to whether to keep on the employees until after the furlough scheme ended.

Giving a definitive answer to the issue and dismissing the appeal, the Court found that the administrators had clearly adopted the contracts of the furloughed employees. Sums that they received under the scheme would be paid to them by the retailer and their entitlement to them derived exclusively from their employment contracts. They remained bound by their contracts, save that they were not obliged to be available for

work during the furlough period, and they would be required to return to work when the retailer reopened its stores.

The tax position of both employees and retailer also indicated that the contracts had been adopted. Money that the employees received under the scheme would be subject to Income Tax which would be deducted at source under the PAYE system in the ordinary way. Such remuneration would be treated as an expense of the retailer's trade and payments that it received from the government under the scheme would be chargeable to Corporation Tax.

The Court noted that, given the agreement of the vast majority of the employees to accept part-payment of their wages whilst they are on furlough, the financial impact of its ruling on the retailer would be modest. It accepted that there might be good policy reasons why the administrators should not be taken to have adopted the employment contracts. However, such an outcome could not be accommodated under the law as it stands.

## Well done burial volunteers

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things we have to go through in life.

According to Islamic tradition, the ritual washing (Ghusal), shrouding the body with pieces of cloth, which is known as Kafan and the funeral prayer of the deceased person is the responsibility of the Muslim community.

In relation to burying those who have succumbed to Covid-19, whether in Muslim or non-Muslim majority countries, Muslims Jurists known as Muftis have developed guidance to assist in this difficult pandemic.

Therefore, the IMWS Burial Committee has taken the initiative by training specialist body handlers with special

personal protective equipment, such as gloves, special masks, face shields, body gowns and goggles, thus making sure all the handlers will hopefully minimise any possible contamination.

Due to governmental Covid-19 regulations, funeral prayers are limited to immediate members of the family only and with social distancing.

Filling a grave by soil is usually done by hand to gain more reward. However, due to the current situation, a tractor is used to refill the soil.

Towns such as Batley have seen volunteers from the Muslim Community take a great deal of responsibility in order to make sure the burial process is done with dignity and as quickly as

possible.

Statistics released in June by the Office for National Statistics showed that from the start of March until May the mortality rate from Covid -19 was highest among Muslim populations compared to any other religious group.

The ONS also said a substantial part of the difference in mortality between religious groups is explained by the different circumstances in which members of these groups are known to live, for example, living in areas with higher levels of socio-economic deprivation.

According to the Muslim Council of Britain 46 percent of the UK's Muslim population reside in 10 percent of the poorest local

authorities in England.

In contrast, only 0.9 percent live in the most affluent areas.

What can we learn from this pandemic? Communities have to come together and help our fellow citizens in whatever way they can.

But most importantly, we require a pool of new young volunteers to come and take over.

IMWS would like to thank all those people who have assisted in the burial process.

IMWS would also like to thank our community, who have faced adversity in the form of this awful virus yet remain steadfast even when their loved ones have passed away.

# APEX

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124 Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, WF14 8AB