

Half of British Asians could lose all their rights as British citizens



Tens of thousands of people have called for the Nationality and Borders Bill to be scrapped.

Organisations including Media Diversified, Stand up to Racism, the Association of Muslim Lawyers, Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) and Windrush Lives took part in a mass demonstration outside to Downing Street to protest against the “institutionally racist” Nationality and borders bill that could result in six million people - which constitutes half

of the British Asian population being deported by Home Secretary Priti Patel.

Clause 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill, proposed in July and updated in November, exempts the government from giving notice of a decision to deprive a person of citizenship if authorities do not have the subject’s contact details or if it is not “reasonably practical” to do so.

Therefore, six million people are

living in fear that a wrong move could rip them from their families, and from the only home that most of them have ever known.

Unless this potential law is repealed, British Muslims in particular will find themselves in the midst of a two-tier system of citizenship in Britain. Conservative ministers reportedly cheered as the bill was passed in Parliament, with Home Secretary Priti Patel – the bill’s main backer – saying she was “delighted”.

Clause 9 is obscene and racist



MP's approved the bill on its third reading despite criticism from all sides of the Commons. It will now go to the House of Lords where it will be debated at its second reading stage. However, a petition against Clause 9 has also gathered more than 300,000 signatures. Parliament will consider a debate for all petitions that reach 100,00, according to government guidelines.

Although Labour leader Keir Starmer voted against the bill, Labour has been accused of not being vocal enough in its denunciation of the proposed law.

However, Taiwo Owatemi, the shadow equalities minister, said that allowing the Home Office to remove an individual's citizenship without any warning or notice is "very alarming" for millions of dual-nationality citizens.

She said: "The Nationality and Borders Bill is a sham. Its tough-sounding measures are unworkable and it breaks key international humanitarian

conventions. The new draconian powers to deprive a person of their British citizenship without any warning are deeply worrying – particularly in light of the Windrush scandal in which this Conservative government oversaw the wrongful detention, deportation and denial of legal rights to British citizens with every right to live in the UK.

Windrush Lives, an advocacy group and victim support network led by Windrush victims, accused the home secretary of showcasing utter contempt for black and brown people whilst also describing the bill as "racist, xenophobic and an affront to basic human decency".

"The bill sticks two fingers up at black, brown and racialised Britons and the inclusion of Clause 9 is astounding given what we know happened to so many of the Windrush generation," said a spokesperson from the organisation.

"Lawful British citizens and residents were stripped of their

status with no warning, many were deported, and some died overseas. Many others remain in exile. Home Office ministers have said the clause won't affect the right to appeal, and won't be applied widely.

"Windrush victims are living proof that those words mean nothing. We don't even know the full scale of the wrongdoings the Home Office has already committed, and here it is seeking the power to commit even more, on an even broader basis.

The move comes months after Shamima Begum, the British-born "Jihadi Bride" who left the country as a teenager to join Daesh, will not be allowed to return to the United Kingdom to fight a legal case about the revocation of citizenship.

"Deprivation of citizenship on conducive grounds is rightly reserved for those who pose a threat to the UK or whose conduct involves very high harm," said the Home Office in a statement, adding that British citizenship is a "privilege" and not a right.

Sajid Javid, home secretary at the time, argued that although Begum did not have a foreign passport, she would not be stateless because of her Bangladeshi ancestry. However, Bangladesh, which she had never visited, said she had no claim to the South Asian nation.

Legal experts and observers have lambasted the proposed bill for potentially creating situations where people lose

their right to return home without being allowed to challenge the decision in court.

"It's not the kind of transparency in due process that you want," said Alexander Gillespie, an international law expert at New Zealand's University of Waikato. "You want these things to be dealt with so that the person has a chance to answer the charges against them."

Raj Kaur, an activist and author tweeted: "I grew up with grandparents who insisted on keeping their non-British passports because 'they could kick us out at any moment, you never know.' We used to laugh saying, 'relax, that would never happen.'"

"Yesterday, the UK made this fear rational, by passing a law that allows them to strip ethnic minorities of their citizenship without notice or right to appeal."

Ian Dunt, an author, tweeted: "The bill is obscene: cruel, pointless, illiterate, racist, constitutionally unsound and against the principle of retrospective law-making. No sane democratic society would have passed it. And yet they have."

Since 2006, the UK has had the power to strip dual nationals of their British citizenship. However, the new clause – which means people may not be notified of their stripped citizenship – can also be applied before it becomes law, making the appeals process harder.

PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

What Has IMWS Ever Done for Us?

Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS) is a long standing community organisation that has been serving the community for over 60 years.

The organisation was established by the early settlers, mostly single young men who arrived from the Indian sub continent and settled in Batley to work in the textile mills and earn a living to support their families which they left behind back 'home'. The men soon found that they needed to establish religious and social facilities as their basic needs were not being met.

That was why IMWS was established in 1957 and was the only organisation that catered for the Muslim community until the mid 1980s when due to increase in the population local area Masjids took over responsibilities for religious provision and each of the seven affiliated areas built Masjids and Madressas in their localities. With this development the role of IMWS changed from the mainly religious role to the wider aspects of community provision.

Over more recent years IMWS has occasionally comes under criticism from some quarters leading to questions like what has IMWS ever done for us?

Whilst it may still be difficult to convince all the sceptics there are other more reasonable voices that pose these questions

and are willing to listen to reason and debate the issues objectively and have constructive suggestions for the benefit of the community.

Occasionally some people also ask what they get for the £10 membership fee they pay to the organisation. This is very small amount to pay to belong to an organisation that has been serving the community for over 60 years.

It is a shame that some people choose to judge on personal monetary returns rather than seeing the bigger picture of community benefit and unity. However, it is satisfying to know that the majority of members are happy with the services provided and value the contribution of IMWS.

The answers to these questions are provided each month in Paigaam covering details of events and activities and in the Annual Report distributed to members each year and also at Annual General Meetings. This shows the variety of ways IMWS engages with members and provides information of services provided.

However, IMWS will always strive to listen to all views and do its best to serve the whole community. To provide a flavour it may be helpful to provide a brief details of the main services provided which include Namaz timetables, free burial services

and a wide range of programmes, courses and events at the Al-Hikmah Centre.

The Al-Hikmah Centre is a very busy bustling centre that provides a great indoor football as well as a large wedding venue and conference rooms as well as office space for tenants. IMWS has also been very active in charity work, collecting donations from the community and distributing aid all across the world to support the needy.

Another very important role IMWS performs is one of representation and providing the community with a united voice. IMWS has over the years worked solidly to represent the community to raise local, national and international concerns and issues such racism, Islamophobia, injustice, killings and victimisation of Muslims across the world.

Another very important contribution that IMWS provides is community unity. Unity provides the strength to communities and adds weight when making representations. Would it not be better if all of us worked together in unity to make the community stronger so we can make sure the issues and concerns of the community are addressed?

Ask not what IMWS can do for you, but what you can do for your community.

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Coupled with a readership of over 30,000 across areas of North Kirklees Including Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and the wider areas, the publication provides the community with local, regional, national and international news stories and features.

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Mount Pleasant Surgery: We try to see as many patients as possible

Senior officials at Mount Pleasant Surgery have said despite ever increasing demand, they are committed to seeing as “many patients as possible,” whilst urging patience from those who are registered at the practice.

The UK has one of the worst ratios of doctors to patients in Europe, and although the government say there are record numbers of GPs currently in training, patients are reporting frustrating delays.

Dr Khalid Naem, a partner at the surgery insists that although the number of calls received during busy hours has increased tenfold, the surgery has changed the way they operate in order to limit footfall during the pandemic.

However, he insists face-to-face contact never stopped completely: “88 percent of our calls have been face to face appointments as opposed to 12 percent being non face to face,” said Dr Naem.

“Looking at the figures, we saw more patients in 2021 than we have seen in 2019, this is a two percent increase. We have done this in a very protective manner and although we are not quite at crisis level yet but that’s why we are trying to do things differently, so it doesn’t reach that point.

“I think telephone

appointments will have to stay for a while because it’s a different world now and the demand from patients has increased tenfold.”

Practice Manager Katie White, said it has been “All hands-on deck” at the surgery since the onset of the pandemic: “The surgery has



never once closed during the pandemic,” said Katie.

“We have a number of appointments later in the day for those whom the doctors decide need to be seen in person. We’d give appointments every day of the week if we had them but the demand is horrendous at the minute.

“Today for instance, we took more than 450 calls in the morning and this is a quiet day. On a Monday or Friday, we take more than 1000 calls a day by the end of the day.

“Staff from Mount Pleasant have had to go and work at other surgeries and cover staff who tested positive for Covid, but

we have been very meticulous in the manner in which we operate and have also increased the number of telephone lines.

“Members of staff have had to cover for those who have tested positive for Covid, hence they have had cover for absent staff and juggle a number of jobs at the same time, it has been a

very stressful time. However, our staff have gone above and beyond their line of duty, despite being emotionally and physically exhausted.

“I too have sat at reception manning the phones, so I know how difficult the job can be especially when you are trying to keep everyone safe.”

Katie brushed aside the notion that patients believe receptionists think they are doctors. She believes the problem stems from a lack of awareness about the role of a modern-day GP’s receptionist.

“Receptionists are the keepers of so much information. They shouldn’t

really be called receptionists any more, it’s not really a suitable job description for all that they do these days,” she said.

“No one is suggesting for a minute that they are doctors. But they carry out a vital supporting role to make sure that we can get through the sheer volume of calls each day. The rationale behind asking so many questions to patients is because once they have the relevant information, they can signpost the enquiry to the relevant doctor as not all patients can be seen by a specific doctor as they all specialise in specific fields.

“Therefore, it is imperative that the correct doctor is assigned to see the patient. They are doing a massive amount of work, and they are doing it for not much more than minimum wage, many have said they would earn more stacking shelves at Tesco. We We are all putting in more hours, doing evenings and weekend work.”

Dr Naem is of the opinion, if the government kept their promise in relation to making 4,000 trained GP’s available to work in practices across the UK, this would alleviate a great great deal of pressure on surgeries

“There is a big shortage of GP’s. We were promised 4,000 extra practitioners, however, the figure is actually now minus 1,400.”



The Evil Eye

Belief in the evil eye, which generally corresponds to the meaning of envy or the “green-eyed monster” across the western world, is widespread in South Asian culture and across the Middle East. In Arabic it is known as ain, meaning eye; in both Urdu and Turkish it is known as nazar, meaning gaze, and in Persian it is called cheshm.

It has been said that a lingering gaze from an envious eye, not immediately followed by a blessing, can lead to all sorts of affliction. Many believe it to be responsible for the misfortunes they encounter and go to great lengths to ward off its supposed powers with rituals rooted both in religious practice and cultural traditions.

In a sharp contrast to the age of social media, many Middle Eastern traditions encouraged people to avoid showcasing wealth, happiness and beauty in order to avoid any sudden misfortune.

The sentiment is captured in a poem: “Travel and tell no one, live a true love story and tell no one, live happily

and tell no one, people ruin beautiful things,” as a person who possesses an evil eye is said to have an intense will and desire to cause harm, disorder and damage, whether by looking at the victim or by means of something they say”.

The most vulnerable to the evil eye are said to be the healthy and wealthy, as well as children and pregnant women.

The concept of evil eye can be also traced back to a saying of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), who is reported to have said: “The evil eye is real.”

Paigaam lists a number of things people use to protect themselves from the evil eye.

1. Ta'weez

According to Mufti Ebrahim Desai, it is permissible to use ta'weez on condition it does not contain words of Kufr and shirk.

If a ta'weez contains the names or qualities of Allah or words of dua and one uses it with the belief that the ta'weez is a mere means of cure like medication and does

not believe the ta'weez to be the actual cause of ones cure, then it is permissible to use the ta'weez.

2. Quranic recitations

Despite the widespread popularity of amulets in the Islamic world, many Muslims believe they are not allowed in Islam and strongly oppose their use.

They believe that only the Almighty can protect a person from evil spirits, and so their traditions against the evil eye are rooted in words of prayer.

There are a number of Quranic verses and surahs that are effective against forces associated with the evil eye. The most common among these are a pair of short surahs that begin with the word Qul (the invocation “say” in Arabic).

They are Surah al-Falaq (Daybreak) and Surah an-Nas (Mankind), which are collectively known as Al-Mu'awwidhatayn or “the verses of refuge” provide protection from all kinds of worldly evil such as envy, black magic and jinns. There are other verses

within the Quran that are also effective against the evil eye, and most of these involve direct invocations of the Almighty’s power to overcome evil. In fact, Islamic tradition has many anecdotes about the effectiveness of using the Quran against bad spirits and envy. It is best to consult your local scholar to find out more.

3. Burning incense

It is common practice common across the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia to burn incense in order to ward off evil spirits within the Bedouin community who use incense around the one who has been ‘cursed’, to clean the negative energy cast by the evil eye.

However, Darul Iftaa’s M. Haris Siddiqui said incense sticks are made from plant derived materials and aromatic oils.

Therefore, it is permissible to light incense sticks if it is not regarded as compulsory or having any religious significance. If one lights incense sticks believing it to be compulsory and also having religious significance, then it will be an act of bid’ah and prohibited.

Should one scratch the surface, in order to find out more about the practice, one will find that the practice is thought to date back to when Zoroastrianism dominated Iran and was believed to be effective in clearing away negative energy.

Got a story?

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forget me not children's hospice

Coffee Morning



The IMWS Women's committee recently organised a coffee morning, at the Al Hikmah Centre, to help raise funds and awareness for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.

IMWS ESOL students, based at the Al Hikmah Centre, used their amazing culinary skills in order to cook and bake

some gastronomical delights in the form of a number of dishes and cakes, which were sold during the coffee morning.

A total of £200 was raised which was complemented by an additional donation of £250 which was very kindly provided by IMWS.

Forget Me Not Children's Hospice supports children

and families in their purpose-built hospice in Huddersfield as well as in their homes through their acclaimed Hospice at Home service.

Salma Pandor, Community engagement officer for Forget Me Not Children's Hospice said: "Over 60% of the families we support are from Asian or other ethnic minority communities, and yet within those communities the work Forget Me Not does is not well known or understood.

I am keen to increase the awareness of Forget Me Not within our communities so that more families who are caring for a child with a life-shortening condition or living with the loss of their child can get the help they need.

"Much of this is about breaking down barriers within our communities, particularly

the stigmas and myths about children's hospices.

"For instance, that what we do is all about end of life, when it is actually about helping children and families to live the best lives they can."

Forget Me Not supports children and families in many different ways to make their lives just a little bit easier by offering services including hydrotherapy, neonatal care, counselling and bereavement support to entire families.

The Hospice needs to raise £3.8million each year and with just 6% of this coming from government sources, community support across the region is vital.

To find out more about the charity please visit www.forgetmenotchild.co.uk or call 01484 411040

Ladies Bazaar Snowy Success

The IMWS Women's committee organised an event in partnership with @sistersbazaaruk to help raise funds for the IMWS Gaza Winter appeal.

Volunteers from the IMWS Women's committee along with a group of talented female small business stall holders, braved the snowy storm blizzards on the 28th of

November to set up a Ladies Bazaar at the Al Hikmah Centre to help raise much needed funds for the Gaza appeal.

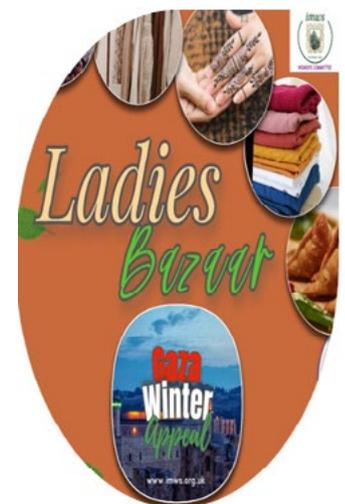
The Bazaar was buzzing with excitement, with a range of small businesses selling scented candles, beautiful hijabs, abayas, clothes, sweets, and delicious food.

Despite going up against snowy conditions, the event helped to raise £1,000 with

some very generous donations coming in during the event.

If you were the many that couldn't make it to the event, you can still donate to the Gaza Appeal either in person at the Al-Hikmah Centre or via bank transfer to:

IMWS Charity Account, A/C no: 01333783, Sort code: 30-90-57. Please provide the relevant reference: Sadaqah or Zakat or Lillah.



IMWS donates gift packs to elderly patients at Dewsbury Hospital

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society donated 32 gift packs to elderly patients at Dewsbury Hospital and showcase community spirit during the holiday season.

Kind-hearted staff from the Indian Muslim Welfare Society took time out to visit elderly patients at Dewsbury Hospital, bearing a number of gifts.

He said: “These sort of visits where warmth, closeness, togetherness and joy is shared between people on special occasions, are vital not only to bring a smile on patient’s faces, but also to help strengthen community relations and build a unified community based on core values of care and compassion.

IMWS Centre Manager, Nadeem Raja was accompanied by Charity Lead, Munir Daji.

“May I also take this opportunity to thank members of the IMWS Charity Committee, who purchased the presents, organised the logistics of the visit and then went on to pack the gift sets and packed them rather nicely.”

Due to Covid-19 protocols IMWS staff could not converse with patients and instead passed on 32 gift bags full of chocolates, biscuits and every day essentials for staff at Dewsbury Hospital to distribute.

Commenting on the visit, IMWS Chair, Rafik Dabhad told Paigaam: “We are grateful to Dewsbury Hospital for allowing us to pass on gifts for elderly patients at Dewsbury hospital.

“As we all know, the winter is rather difficult for our elderly that are in hospital, due to Covid-19 protocols.

“Therefore it is imperative, something we see as our duty, that we share our best wishes, warm feelings and kind gestures with patients, safe in the knowledge that our community would like to share our good fortune with those who may be going through a period of ill health and suffering.”

Munir Daji, who helped organise the event said IMWS is ready and happy to help the community regardless of their faith and background.



Adult Learning at the Al-Hikmah Centre

Since September, the Al-Hikmah Centre has become very busy with new learners joining classes such as ESOL, relaxation, tajweed, sewing, cycling and exercise sessions.

Our aim, post lockdown was to help people engage with face to face sessions to help build confidence, to access services and enrol on courses. Over 150 learners have engaged with us through coffee mornings, fundraisers and classes, which is amazing to see.

Our latest course to finish for this year was the relaxation with crafts course delivered

by a range of talented and motivational tutors. The 5 week course, delivered 1 day a week was oversubscribed and very popular.

The course was a mixture of relaxation techniques to help combat post lockdown and winter blues, and interesting craft skills ranging from hand knitting using chunky wool, rock crafts, painting, scrap booking, sugar paste cupcake decorating and learning to de-stress and have some 'me' time.

One learner said "I didn't know what 'mindfulness' was but learning about being present in the moment is really helping me to appreciate

things in life. It is really nice to learn new skills, meet new people and learn to take a moment for ourselves.

"What I have got out of this course has gone above and beyond my expectations and what ever I learn, I love to pass on to my children".

Our ladies relaxation with exercise class on Monday evenings 5.30-6.30pm has also proved very popular and a great way to help relax and improve posture, muscle strength, balance, and flexibility with gentle stretches and deep breathing techniques.

Our learners feel happy to

attend classes at the Al Hikmah Centre, and have lots of opportunities to get involved in supporting our community with fundraising, volunteering, attending awareness sessions (breast cancer, screening) and having a say with how activities are run.

We hope to continue to provide these courses in January.

If you want to stay up to date with activities and events at the Al Hikmah Centre. Please contact: Shamim.ali@imws.org.uk 01924 500555 or visit: <http://www.imws.org.uk>

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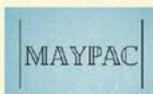
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Muslim entrepreneurs launch Immune boosting Ice Cubes to help fight Covid-19



Two Muslim entrepreneurs who created the innovate immune-boosting ice cube business to help fight Covid-19 and boost everyone's immunity believe it is imperative that everyone fortifies their immune system in order to stay healthy, especially in the midst of an Omicron crisis.

When the pandemic struck and affected everyone, Sam Ahmed, 44, along with Rassam Musleh, 42, felt the need to create a solution to help fight Covid-19 and boost everyone's immunity.

"Our research and development team worked for thousands of hours in order to

put together the most powerful natural ingredients and vital nutrients in order to create 7 Immune to help strengthen our immune system," said Sam.

Alongside medical treatment programmes, the ice cubes have been used by people with a wide range of diseases and conditions including customers who had been receiving treatment for cancer.

"A number of customers have attributed the partial success of their treatment programme to the significant benefits they received from taking two special 7 immune ice cubes a day," said Rassam.

"We formulated this ice cube with several vital natural ingredients and by allowing

the ice cubes to dissolve on the tongue they are absorbed and enter the bloodstream much more effectively, thus giving the best results.

"I am a firm believer in having the best fitness and health, so when I heard about 7 immune, I knew this was a product I needed to be a part of. I feel blessed to be involved in such a innovative idea that aids people with their day to day life."

Sam insists keeping your immune system healthy year-round is key to preventing infection and disease and believes the fact that 7 Immune is also ideal for those who class themselves as vegetarians and vegan.

"With the ongoing Omicron variant amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are understandably concerned with the health of their immune systems," added Sam.

"At 7 immune we share the public's concerns, we saw the need for an immune boosting product that anyone can use, even if they are vegan, vegetarian."

Sam also went on to share some of the ingredients included in the product and their immune system benefits.

"The 7 include nature's most powerful roots – some rarely found in western

diets – alongside fruits Valencia orange, soursop, and pineapple core.

"Something usually thrown away by consumers, the core contains the purest form of vitamin B12. Other ingredients are organic roots Ginger, Ginseng, Arrowroot, and Turmeric. Our roots don't see the light of day meaning they retain all their nutritional power throughout the process.

"These ingredients have been proven to provide protection for our vital organs, delivering nutrients rarely found in our daily diets.

"This is an amazing product, it's such a simple, clever and effective concept, and there is nothing out there like it. It has helped so many people of different ages and even different types of illnesses. Our website speaks for itself, just look at our customer testimonials! And see their reviews.

"I feel 100% satisfied in knowing that 7 immune has helped every person that has been taking it. It does exactly what is says on the tin. They call it life in a bottle and I couldn't agree more!"

Got a story?

**Contact Paigaam on
01924 500 555**

E: Paigaam@imws.org.uk

Muslims Praying in Gurgaon targeted by Hindu extremists

Muslims in the city of Gurgaon say they are living in fear after a plethora of extremist Hindu mobs continue to disrupt and threaten people whilst they are partaking in namaz.

Muslims in Gurgaon which is in close proximity to Delhi, have been using car parks as makeshift prayer areas for Jummah prayers.

The Muslim population which consists of more than 1.5 million people, have tried to build more Masjids in the area. However, their plans have been met with resistance and hostility from Hindu extremists.

Instead, Muslim workers who have flocked to the area in order to help build Gurgaon's corporate skyscrapers and luxury high-rise apartments, are unable to travel for miles to a mosque to offer namaz, they began praying on empty patches of land.

They even sought permission from the local government and by 2018 the Muslim community had been granted permission for outdoor prayers in 108 places across the district.

However, in 2018, rumblings of discontent began to simmer, as Hindu extremists realised that Muslims were praying on public land. Armed with axes and wooden rods, they have tried threatening worshippers

whilst chanting slogans including "shoot the traitors" reciting Hindu prayers to drown out Qur'an readings.

In addition, Cow dung has been placed at the sites and police have regularly had to hold back the mob so that namaz can continue.

Last month an umbrella organisation of Hindu groups called the Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti told police that they were ready to use weapons and go to jail if the namaz was not stopped.

IMWS Chair, Rafik Dabhad called on the Indian Government to conduct an investigation and prosecute those found to have engaged in such criminal activity.

"The Indian Muslim Welfare Society condemns the intimidation and violence against Muslims in Gurgaon and calls on the Indian Government and all political and religious leaders to stand together to unite all Indians.

"We further call upon the authorities to carry out a fair and transparent investigation and hold to account those responsible for this violence."

To improve communal harmony, the Sikh community stepped in and offered its five gurdwaras in Gurgaon as spaces for namaz. However, several people picketed a gurdwara with placards and handed out booklets questioning how



Sikhs could let Muslims inside their place of worship when their ninth Sikh guru was killed by the Mughals. In the end, Muslims had to politely decline the offer to pray in the gurdwara.

Mufti Mohammad Saleem Qasmi, president of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind met with the Deputy Commissioner in order to reach a positive

conclusion: "We met the Deputy Commissioner, but he did not offer any clarity on the matter. We tried to contact his office again on Thursday, but there was no response.

"The Muslims went to offer prayers at the 20-odd designated places agreed upon last month, but they either faced resistance or were turned away by the police," he added.

"We met with the Deputy Commissioner, but he did not offer any clarity on the matter."

Mufti Mohammad Saleem Qasmi

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A CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

Kim Leadbeater MP column

A year ago I was heavily involved with the Jo Cox Foundation and working on our Great Winter Get Together. The aim was to help unite the community in support of those struggling with loneliness and isolation.

Sadly, contrary to what we hoped, we are facing another Christmas period with Covid-related restrictions. Loneliness remains a serious issue for society to deal with, and just before Westminster broke up for the Christmas recess I took on the responsibility of co-chairing the All Party Parliamentary Group on Loneliness and Connected Communities.

As I've gone around the constituency in recent weeks, visiting some of the amazing voluntary organisations and charities that do so much to help those who are most vulnerable and in need.

I am reassured that our community remains as strong as ever. Whether it's the Batley Bulldogs, Snowdon Street Mosque, Dewsbury Soup, or Cleckheaton Library – to name just a few – volunteers give up their valuable time to be there for others. And I would, of course, add the IMWS to that list, not just at this time of year but week in and week out.

At my regular meeting with the Executive Committee recently we discussed a whole range of issues, including the possibility of restarting Overseas Citizenship of India immigration surgeries, and ongoing concern over the persecution of religious

minorities in Assam, Tripura and elsewhere. We talked about crime and anti-social behaviour, the continuing scourge of drug misuse and the menace of dangerous driving.

I was delighted to get their support for my petition to Parliament demanding action to address the rise in the number of speeding offences, reckless driving and inconsiderate parking. I would urge Paigaam readers who haven't signed already to do so now by signing it at the IMWS or going on-line at www.kim4batleyandspen.com/sign

Following our meeting, I received a reply from the Minister for South Asia, Lord Ahmad. With regard to the violence in Assam and Tripura, he said that, "Any allegation of human rights abuse is concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently." He said the government condemned "any instances of discrimination because of religion or belief, regardless of the country or faith involved."

I received another letter from Ambassador Husam Zomlot, head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK. I had two meetings with the Ambassador and he wrote to thank me, saying: "I was deeply impressed with your commitment to a just outcome to the Palestinian cause and your knowledge and insight into our region."

I was delighted that he said he would help when it's possible for me to plan a visit in person to Palestine. And he finished by saying, "I know

the Labour Party has a long history of solidarity with the Palestinian people."

With my Labour colleagues in Parliament, I took a strong stand against the Nationality and Borders Bill earlier this month. I opposed its provisions on legal, moral and practical grounds. I believe it is a clear breach of the 1951 Refugee Convention, as the UN and others have warned. I put my name to an amendment to remove Clause 9 from the Bill.

This was the section that removes the requirement on the Home Secretary to give written notice to any individual being deprived of their British citizenship if it is not reasonably practicable. Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in the use of citizenship deprivation and I completely understand why Clause 9 has caused so much concern.

In Parliament I said, that "to deprive a person of their citizenship without warning or explanation would be a flagrant breach of natural justice and that to do so as an alternative to submitting that person to due process under the law risks undermining our national security."

It was a flagrant breach of natural justice, but with their large Commons majority the Conservatives were able to push the bill through and override all our principled objections. Now it has become law, however, I will continue to monitor how it is used in practice and will stand ready to speak out if our worst fears are realised.

The last days in Parliament before it broke up for the Christmas holidays were dominated by the threat posed by the Omicron variant of Covid-19. I had briefings from the scientists and medical advisers both nationally and here in Kirklees and it is very clear to me that the risk of Omicron overwhelming the NHS is very real.

Whether or not the variant leads to serious illness and death on a large scale, if wards are once again full of Covid patients, and we lose NHS staff due to illness or self-isolation, then waiting lists for other life-saving operations, treatments and check-ups will get even longer.

At this time of year we all want to be with family, friends and loved ones and we still can, so long as we are sensible and take regular tests. There's no reason why the latest restrictions should keep us from making the most of the time we have with those closest to us. So let me end by wishing everybody the best during the holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Kim

P.S. I want to be as accessible to all my constituents as I can. My website address is www.kim4batleyandspen.com and that's where you can find more details on everything I've been doing locally, nationally and internationally, sign up to my newsletter and meet the team that are working with me and for you.

Saudi Arabia bans Tablighi Jamaat

Saudi Arabia has prohibited Tablighi Jamaat to propagate its missionary work in the country, accusing the organisation of being a “danger to society” and describing it as “one of the gates of terrorism”.

In a statement on social media, the country’s Minister of Islamic Affairs went as far as calling upon Masjid’s in the country to allocate Friday sermon’s to warn worshippers against the group’s “misguidance, deviation and danger.”

The Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dr Abdullatif Al Sheikh also asked individuals to inform the authorities about the so-called danger that Tablighi Jamaat poses to society.

Dr Sheikh also claimed the organisation misleads people by means of “misguidance, deviation and danger even if they claim otherwise.”

The decision to ban Tablighi Jamaat stems from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s plans to showcase Saudi Arabia as a liberal country, devoid of any religious restrictions on anyone is based on his opinion that the country will have to fight for its existence once it runs out of oil.

“Saudi Arabia is trying to

rebuild its foundations,” said Aziz Algashian, a political lecturer at the University of Essex.

“Saudi Arabia is striving to be a country where there is harmony of all cultures, where no one is afraid to think, where tourism is prosperous and where there is a lot of investment,” he said.

In May 2021, the Saudi government banned the use of loudspeakers in mosques during the call to prayer. The government announced that “loud azan on loudspeakers disturbs other people”, therefore the Kingdom issued the ban, insisting the loudness of the call to prayer makes it difficult for children to sleep.

Bin Salman also initiated ‘The school reform program’, with Islamic beliefs excluded from school textbooks, whilst other religions have been included in the syllabus. Many chapters of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Gita are included in Saudi school textbooks. Yoga is also included in the syllabus.

In addition, English is now compulsory in Saudi Arabia and students are required to pass in English. Ali Shahabi, a Saudi government adviser, said that the government would soon allow churches and Hindu temples to open in Saudi. At the same time, a ban on alcohol in Saudi

Arabia is being considered. Several government sources have confirmed that the sale of alcohol will now be allowed in Saudi Arabia.

In response to the allegations, the leader of the prominent Muslim group Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Moulana Arshad Madani met Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to India Saud Bin Mohammed Al-Sati and conveyed his concerns over the “allegations” levelled by Saudi’s Ministry of Islamic Affairs against the Tablighi Jamaat.

In a statement, the Jamaat said that Moulana Madani, during his meeting with the Saudi Ambassador to India said the Saudi Arabia’s allegations regarding Tablighi Jamaat has become a cause of “great concern” for Muslims all over the world.

The “allegations” levelled by the Islamic Affairs Ministry against Tablighi Jamaat are “very painful” not only for the Tablighi Jamaat but also for all Muslims, the statement said.

“We wanted to convey our grievances and feelings to the Minister of Islamic Affairs through the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to inform him about the difficulties and worst consequences that could come to the Muslims as a result of his statement,” the Jamiat said.

The Tablighi Jamaat was founded by the great Islamic scholar, Moulana Muhammad Ilyas al-Kandhlawi in Mewat, India, in 1926. Sheikh Ilyas Saheb’s goal was to establish a group of dedicated preachers as a Muslim revivalist society, who could revive “true” Islam, which was not being practised by many Muslims.

His mission was also to revive the faith, based on its core teachings and lifestyle of its early leaders. The movement is popular for reaching out to Muslims and reviving their faith, particularly in matters of namaz and personal behaviour.

The group’s modus operandi is peaceful and it is focused entirely on the Muslim community worldwide. The group has a presence in 150 countries and millions of followers.

In Britain, the late great Hafez Saheb Patel was the leader for many years and was renowned world-wide for his love for the ummah, his kindness and his generosity.

A week after Saudi Arabia made the ruling, India’s Vishva Hindu Parishad party (VHP), an affiliate of the extreme Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), also demanded a ban on the Tablighi Jamaat with VHP President Alok Kumar welcoming Saudi Arabia’s decision to ban the Jamaat.

Dr Imtiyaz Patel's visit to a refugee camp in Jordan

This is a reflection on my recent visit to refugee camps in Jordan, where we personally delivered aid, that the local public have donated, to those that need it the most.

We had a group of ten consisting of senior UK ulemas, as well as other professionals. We were fortunate to have esteemed scholars such as Sheikh Zaheer Mahmood, Mufti Dr Asmar, Moulana Dr Haroon Seedat and Moulana Sulaiman Laher with us and I greatly benefited from their religious knowledge.

The trip was organised by Zaimah, a UK registered charity, who raise funds and work globally. This particular project was to aid Syrian and Palestinian refugees residing in Jordan, as well as needy Jordanian families.

We flew from Manchester to Aqaba and then travelled onto Amaan, the capital of Jordan. En-route, we stopped at the

graves of three Sahabas who were martyred in the battle of Mu'tah in the year 629 AD.

We also visited Ashab-e-Kahf (the sleepers cave) in Amaan, and were very fortunate to have audience with senior scholars of Amaan, In particular, Sheikh Nuh Ha Mim Keller who gave invaluable advice and guidance.

A day was spent at Azraq Syrian refugee camp, currently housing 42,000 Syrian refugees that have been displaced due to the Syrian civil war. The camp was opened in 2014 and is operated by UN High Commissioner for Refugees in conjunction with the Government of Jordan. At first sight the place may seem desolate and despairing, however signs of life can be seen on the faces of children even though majority of their young life has been spent confined to a camp.

It's heart breaking to think that these children may stay in their current situations in this camp, and we pray the

Almighty grants them patience and ease their suffering. We handed winter aid consisting of food packs and blankets. This is particularly useful for those in these camps as temperatures can plummet below zero.

The group and I were very fortunate to visit Jerash camp which holds around 30,000 Palestinian refugees. It is located just outside the city of Irbid and was established in 1968 following the Palestinian exodus of 1967.

We visited a SEN school in this camp, and although basic in the resources, the staff were very committed to the needs of their students and the smiles of the children will forever stay in my heart.

We also distributed the winter aid packs to the families in need and their appreciation and duaas really puts in perspective how fortunate we are here in the UK.

Food and money were also distributed to families and

orphans in the surrounding area that also desperately needed the winter packs and blankets as they prepare for the cold winter that lies ahead for them

This trip was physically tiring but it was very rewarding, both spiritually and emotionally and it is an experience I would highly recommend if the opportunity arose for anyone.

I would like to thank Hafez Suhail Sufi and the Zaimah team for giving me this opportunity and the other brothers in this group for making it a memorable trip which I will never forget.

Finally, a very big thank you to all those who opened their hearts and donated generously to this cause, 100% of the monies we collected reached the less fortunate and in need. I pray Almighty accept all your efforts.

(Dr Imtiyaz Ahmed Patel is Treasurer & executive trustee on IMWS)



Siraj Mayet receives prestigious Human Resources award

A Human Resources specialist from Batley has beaten stiff competition to claim a prestigious award.

Kirklees Council's Siraj Mayet was named HR Champion of the Year at the European Diversity Awards in London last month.

Siraj was recognised for ensuring that diversity and fairness are "at the heart" of Kirklees Council's HR policies.

Siraj, who is a HR Partner for apprenticeships, was hailed as an "unsung hero" who has

the ability to champion the importance of opportunities for all, recognising that different approaches are needed to reach a diverse range of people.

His creative approach has included organising and delivering programmes at community venues, which are seen as places where some people may not believe a council apprenticeship is open to them.

Siraj is also a founding member of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employee network at Kirklees Council, and was also instrumental in the refresh

of all the diversity networks, including the disabled employee, young employee and working carers.

Councillor Shabir Pandor, Leader of Kirklees Council, congratulated Siraj on receiving the award.

"I'm so proud of Siraj for winning this prestigious award, Siraj makes a huge difference in all the work he does," said Councillor Pandor.

"Siraj promotes inclusivity and diversity across all of the projects he works on, and it is thanks to his passion that residents from disadvantaged groups have significantly more

access to opportunities.

"His team describe him as an 'inspirational leader' and I speak for everyone at Kirklees Council when I say congratulations and very well deserved."

Kirklees Council had also been shortlisted for the Community Project of the Year award, for its work on the Iroko Project.

The Iroko Project is an innovative eight-month community-led initiative which seeks to uncover inequalities that African and Caribbean communities experience.

IMWS Charity volunteer appeal

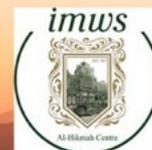
The best amongst you are those who bring greatest benefits to many others. The IMWS Charity Committee is always trying to carry out various projects all year-round, locally, nationally and internationally. We try our best to find and help fellow human beings in need wherever they are.

To carry out and sustain these important projects we always welcome volunteers: men and women young and old.

You can help us helping others by raising awareness, raising donations and volunteering. We are striving hard to establish a bank of volunteers who can help us raise much needed funds by partaking in sponsored events, rides or walks. Without volunteers, we are unfortunately limited to what sort of projects we would like to arrange. It is very well documented in Quran and ahadith how beneficial and rewarding it is if one is willing and able to help someone in need.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming anyone who can spare few hours of their precious time to come and meet us for an informal chat to discuss how best we can take this charity group forward. **Please contact us on: 01924 500555/ info@imws.org.uk to register your interest.**

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Surah of the Qur'aan that started with the name of a fruit

Which Khalifah initiated the idea of compiling the Qur'aan into one book?

Names of Qur'an

What are the Huruf / letters of Qalqalah?

Mention the Huruf / letters of Al-Izhaar

Which Arab country's name is mentioned in the Qur'an?

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Brain Teasers

Riddle 1: What has to be broken before you can use it?

Riddle 2: I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

Riddle 3: What month of the year has 28 days?

Riddle 4: What is full of holes but still holds water?

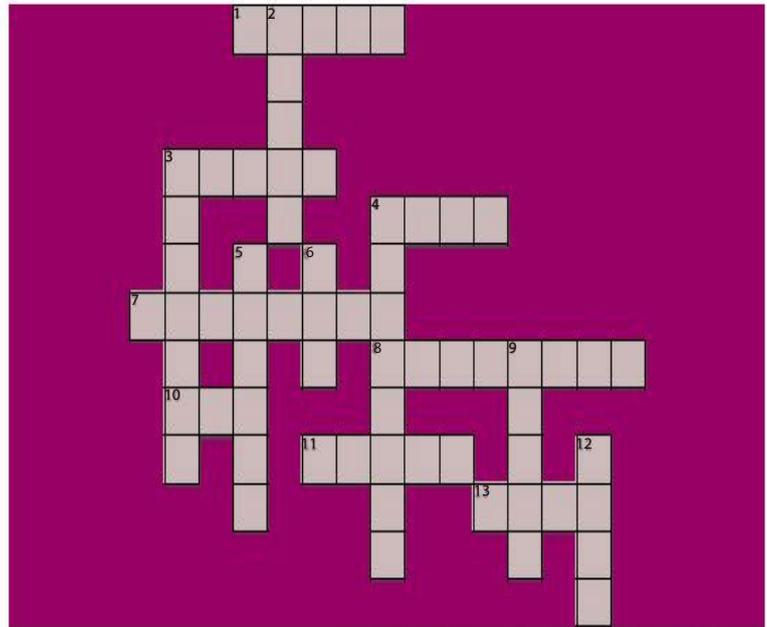
Riddle 5: What question can you never answer yes to?

Riddle 6: What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Riddle 7: There's a one-story house in which everything is yellow. Yellow walls, yellow doors, yellow furniture. What color are the stairs?

Riddle 8: What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?

Brain Teaser



Across

1. Ramadan is the _____ month
3. First Muazzin
4. Islamic Calendar based on the _____
7. Night Prayer in Ramadan
8. Wash before a Prayer
10. Prophet Noah (asws) built this
11. Use of Interest money is _____
13. Meaning Of Kahf

Down

2. Breaking fast Meal
3. Longest Surah in the Quran
4. First month In Islamic Calendar
5. Kabah is found in _____
6. The Name of the Sea Prophet Musa (asws) separated _____
9. Revelation to Prophet Musa (asws)
12. Brothers of Prophet Yusuf (asws) threw him in a _____

Answers

1. Answer: An egg
2. Answer: A candle
3. Answer: All of them
4. Answer: A sponge
5. Answer: Are you asleep yet?
6. Answer: The furniture
7. Answer: There aren't any—it's a one-story house.
8. Answer: A promise
9. Answer: A candle
10. Answer: A candle
11. Answer: A candle
12. Answer: A candle
13. Answer: A candle



Legal Column

The following is an introduction to the Indirect Discrimination section of the Equality Act 2010(EqA)

The Act identifies nine ‘protected characteristics’, or specific aspects of our humanity, which are important to an individual’s dignity and autonomy: part of our equal worth as human beings.

The Act prohibits discrimination in relation to a number of protected characteristics which include disability, being married, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief.

There are four main types of discrimination which apply to all the protected characteristics (except pregnancy and maternity, which are dealt with slightly differently).

Treating everyone the same does not always ensure true equality. Because of

structural disadvantages in our society, people with particular characteristics might find themselves disadvantaged even by apparently ‘neutral treatment’.

In this instance, the law in relation to indirect discrimination is designed to remove those structural disadvantages.

It is not – as it is so often misunderstood to be – any form of favoured treatment.

It should also be remembered that indirect discrimination is not unlawful if it can be objectively justified.

Indirect discrimination occurs where:

a- A defendant/respondent actually applies a provision, criteria or practice (PCP) to the claimant.

b- Which puts or would put the claimant at a particular disadvantage.

c- Which puts or would put others sharing the claimant’s

relevant protected characteristics at a particular disadvantage. d- Which the defendant/respondent cannot justify by showing it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

The two stage defence is important. The alleged discriminator must show that they have a legitimate aim, and that notwithstanding the aim, it is proportionate to apply the provision, criterion or practice.

This next excerpt of this article will be published in the February issue of Paigaam.

Please be advised, the content of this article is provided for readers as for general information purposes only.

It is not intended to be relied upon as a comprehensive statement of law or to apply in every particular and individual set of circumstances. Please take independent legal advice.

Covid-19 Vaccines during pregnancy

COVID-19 increases the risk of stillbirth and giving birth prematurely, as well as the risk of pre-eclampsia, so it is really important that pregnant women get the vaccine to protect both themselves and their baby against the virus and its serious effects.

The independent Joint Committee on Vaccine Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that the vaccine is safe and effective for pregnant women. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) also both recommend the vaccine as one of the best defences for pregnant women against severe COVID-19 infection.

Benefits of getting the vaccine include:

- Reduction in severe disease for the pregnant woman
- Reduction in the risk of stillbirth and prematurity for the baby
- Reducing the risk of transmission to household members.

How do I know the COVID-19 vaccines are safe for me and my baby?

The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety and effectiveness. They have been approved by an independent body (The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - MHRA), which follows international safety standards, and have gone through all the same clinical trials and safety checks that all other licensed medicines have to complete before they can be used.

As with all new medicines, the vaccine was not routinely offered to pregnant women until further data became available.

Once this was available, the JCVI confirmed that the vaccine was both safe and effective to take in pregnancy. This is supported by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives, which have both recommended vaccinations as one

of the best defences for pregnant women against severe COVID-19 infection. The COVID-19 vaccines used in the UK aren't 'live' vaccines so can't infect you or your baby with COVID-19. The vaccine teaches your body to fight the COVID-19 virus and the components of the vaccine leave the body within a few days.

Over 55,000 pregnant women in England and Scotland have received a COVID-19 vaccine with no adverse effects recorded. Research from six studies in four countries, involving more than 40,000 pregnant women, has confirmed that the vaccine does not increase the risk of miscarriage, premature birth, stillbirth, growth or any congenital abnormalities.

Can the vaccines cause miscarriage?

No, there is absolutely no link between having the vaccine and miscarriage. Sadly, miscarriage occurs in about 20-25% in 100 pregnancies in the UK, most of which are during the first 12 to 13 weeks of pregnancy (the first trimester). The MHRA monitors all data relating to vaccines in pregnancy and has confirmed that there is no increase in the numbers of miscarriages or stillbirths being reported in women who have had the COVID-19 vaccination. Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can lead to an increased risk of premature or still birth so the vaccine will actually help to protect women from this.

Can the vaccine affect the placenta?

No. A study has been carried out on this and shown there is no evidence of any injury to the placenta in women who received the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy. This is in addition to the body of research that has shown COVID-19 vaccines are safe in pregnancy.

Can I have the vaccine during my first trimester?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective at any stage of pregnancy so you should have it as soon as possible.

Can I have the COVID-19 vaccination if I plan to become pregnant?

Yes. Getting vaccinated before pregnancy helps prevent COVID-19 infection and its serious consequences. There is no

need to delay pregnancy after having the vaccination and fertility experts recommend having the vaccine if you are trying to conceive.

Can I have the COVID-19 vaccine during IVF treatment?

Yes. In fact fertility experts, including the British Fertility Society and Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists, recommend having the vaccine if you are trying to conceive or undergoing fertility treatment. Your medical team can advise you about the best time for your situation.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility?

No. Medical experts agree that it is not possible for the vaccines to affect fertility. Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccines teach your body to fight the disease. They do not have any ingredients that would affect fertility and the components leave the body within a few days.

Can I have the COVID-19 vaccination when breastfeeding?

COVID-19 vaccines are safe to have when breastfeeding. The components leave the body within a few days and there's no plausible way any vaccine ingredient could pass to your baby through breast milk.

Can I take my baby / breastfeed at a vaccination centre?

Vaccination centres welcome women who may need to bring their baby or children along in addition to a family member, friend or partner who may be offering support at this appointment.

Women should feel reassured that facilities are available to support breastfeeding should it be required as well as access to information and support around vaccination.

To find out more about the IMWS Health Committee, please contact Mohammed Laher on: 07702962740

IMWS Muslim Burial Services



The IMWS Muslim Burial Services are continuing as normal. Our services are open to everyone, free of charge, regardless of whether they are members or not.

We are fully supported by our local area Masjids and our senior Ulema. We appreciate the support of our community and will strive to improve our services to meet the needs of our community.

We welcome all volunteers. If you would like to help please contact us directly.

Burial contact numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat

07980 381197

Aziz Daji

07735 626 256

Munir Daji

07739 142 988

During office hours burial van keys can be collected from the main office. Out of hours can be collected from Ebrahim Chopdat.

Kirklees Council Burial fee is £2207
Donations towards the running costs of the funeral van is most appreciated.



For more information please contact our office on:

01924 500 555

Al-Hikmah Centre, Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA.

www.imws.org.uk | info@imws.org.uk

Kirklees Wellness Service

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**Aged 40 – 74
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You could be eligible for a
Free Health Check at the
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**It doesn't take long and
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- ▶ Heart disease
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- ▶ Dementia

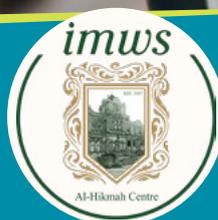


Please make an appointment online



To book your free health check visit www.kirkleeswellnessservice.co.uk

Wellness: it starts with you



Kirklees
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ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાઈં જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ કબાસ

દુનિયાકા સબસે મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ કોનસા હૈ ?

શહેરમે રહેતે એક લડકેને અપને ટીચરસે સવાલ પૂછા ઓર કહા કે સાહબ! યે બતાઈયે દુનિયાકા સબસે મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ કોનસા હૈ? ટીચરને બતાયા કે ઈસ દુનિયામોં એસે તો બહોતસે મુશ્કીલ કામ હે લેકિન ઈન્સાન અઝમ કર લે ઓર કોશિસે કરતા રહે તો વોહ ભી આસાન હો શકતા હે. આપને મુશ્કીલ નહી બલ્કે મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ પૂછા હે. મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ વો હે જહાં દર્દ કી સીદત કભી ખત્મ ન હોને કે લીયે પૂરે અઝઝ પર પહોંચ જાતી હે. તો સુને મેરે પ્યારે સ્ટુડન્ટ, મેં કીસી ઓર કી બાત નહીં કરતા મેરી નજરમેં દુનિયા કા સબસે મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ મેરી નજરોંકે સામને હમારે બૂઢે મા-બાપ હે.

અપની આંખો કે સામને મા-બાપકો બૂઢે ઓર કમજોર હોતે દેખના હે. યે વો મકામ હોતા હે જહાં ઈન્સાન બહોત કુછ કરના ચાહતે હુવે ભી કુછ નહી કર પાતા હે. કુદરત કે લીખે હુવે કો હોને સે રોક નહીં શકતા. અપને મા-બાપ કો કમજોર ઓર બુઢે હુવે દેખના, ઉન્કો મુખ્તલીફ બીમારીયોંકા શિકાર હોતે હુવે દેખના, ઉન્કો ડોક્ટરોકે પાસ અસ્પતાલકે ચક્કર લગાતે દેખના, સુબહ, દોપહર, શામ ઉન્હે મુખ્તલીફ અબદીયાત ઈસ્તેમાલ કરતે દેખના, ઉન્કે ચહેરે ઓર જીસ્મ પર ઝુરિયા પડતી હુઈ દેખના, ઉન્કી આંખોકી રોશની કમ હોતી હુઈ દેખના, ઉન્કો ચલને ફીરનેમેં મુશ્કીલાત આતી હુઈ દેખના. ઓર ફીર એક દીન ઉન્કો હંમેશાં કે લીયે અલવિદા કેહ દેના મેરી નજરોમે દુનિયાકા સબસે મુશ્કીલતરીન કામ હે.

ચલના શીખાનેવાલે જબ ચલનેકે કાબિલ ન રહે તો દિલ ગમકી શીદતસે ભર જાતા હે. સહારા દેનેવાલો કો જબ ખુદ સહારેકી જરૂરત પડ જાતી હે તો ઈન્સાન ડગમગાને લગતા હે. રાસ્તા દીખાનેવાલે કો જબ રાસ્તા નજર નહીં આતા તો રાસ્તે વિરાન લગને લગતે હે. બોલના શીખાનેવાલે જબ ખામોશ હો જાતે હે તો આવાઝે ઓર અલ્ફાઝે બેમાની હો જાતે હે. ઉંગલી પકડને વાલે જબ નજર નહીં આતે તો આંખે ધુંધલા જાતી હે. ઓર દુનિયામે લાનેવાલે જબ દુનિયામેં નહીં રહેતે તો દુનિયા અંધેરી હો જાતી હે. એક દોસ્તને મુજસે પૂછા ભાઈ એ બતાયે અગર ખુદા આપસે યે કહે કે, ઈસ દુનિયાકે નિઝામ કે બારેમેં એક ખ્વાહીશ કરો તો મેને કહા, મેં અપને પરવરદિગાર સે કહુંગા માલિક! દુનિયામે કભી કીસી કે મા-બાપ કો કમજોર, બીમાર ઓર બેસહારા ન કરના. મેં યહ નહીં કહેતા કે ઉન્કી જિંદગીમે ઈઝાફા કર દે મગર બસ ઈતના કહેતા હું જીલ્તી ઉન્કી જિંદગી હે ઉન્કો સેહત, સલામતી, તંદુરસ્તી ઓર ખુશીયોંસે ભરપૂર જિંદગી અતા કરના. ઈસ્કે અલાવા ઓર કોઈ ખ્વાહીશ નહીં કરતા.

દોસ્તો મેરી યે બાતે સુનકર દિલ પર દસ્તક હુઈ હો, યે બાતકા પયગામ આપકી સમજમેં આયા હે, તો મા-બાપ કી કદર કરના. યે વો બહાર હે જીસ પર એક બાર ખીંઝા આ જાયે તો દોબારા

કભી બહાર નહીં આતી. યે વો નેઅમત હે જો એકબાર છીન જાએ તો દોબારા લૌટકર કભી નહીં આતી. યે કહતે હુએ ટીચર કી આંખોમે આંસુ આ ગયે ઓર ખૂબ રોને લગે

દોસ્તો! હમારે લીયે યે બહોત બડા સબક હે. હમ જાનતે હય આજ હમારે વતનમેં ઓર યુરોપકે મુમાલિકમે બૂઢે મા-બાપકી હાલત કેસી હે. કુછ બેટેકો છોડતે હુવે એસે કીતને બેટે હે જો અપને બૂઢે મા-બાપકો અલગ રહેને યા ઓલડ પીપલ હાઉસમેં છોડ દેતે હે. યે વોહભી નહીં જાનતે કે હમારીભી ઓલાદે હે. હમ હમારે મા-બાપકે સાથ યહ સુલુક કરેંગે તો આનેવાલે હમારે બુઢાપેમેં હમારે હાલાત કેસે હોંગે.

વેક્સિન શબ્દ વર્ડ ઓફ ધ યર ૨૦૨૧

અમેરિકા ખાતે મેરીયમ વેબસ્ટર એક પ્રખ્યાત ડીક્ષનરી (શબ્દકોષ) છે. જેની પ્રતિષ્ઠા ઘણી મોટી છે. આ ડીક્ષનરીએ વેક્સિન શબ્દને ૨૦૨૧ના વર્ડ ઓફ ધ યર તરીકે પસંદગી કરી છે. ડીક્ષનરીના એડિટરે એક પ્રસંગે જણાવ્યું હતું કે, ૨૦૨૧માં વેક્સિન શબ્દનો સૌથી વધુ ઉપયોગ કે સર્ચ થતો જોવા મળ્યો હતો. વેક્સિન શબ્દના સર્ચમાં ૬૦૧ ટકાનો વધરો જોવા મળ્યો હતો.

વેક્સિન શબ્દની ગાથા બે રૂપમાં જોવા મળી હતી. એક તો એ એક રસી જે વૈજ્ઞાનિક છે અને કોરોના રોગચાળામાં તેની શોધ ની અગત્યતા અને તેનો ઝડપથી વિકાસ છે. ઉપરાંત સમાજ, રાજકારણ વગેરેમાં તેની ચર્ચા છે. ૨૦૨૦માં પેન્ડેમિક એટલે કે મહામારી અથવા રોગચાળા શબ્દને આ ડીક્ષનરીએ વર્ડ ઓફ ધ યર તરીકે પસંદગી કરી હતી.

ગઝલ

કોઈ છે વેપારમાં ગુમ તો કોઈ છે પ્યારમાં
જિંદગાની કેદ છે દુનિયાના કારોબારમાં
ઊગતો સૂરજ હંમેશા જેમનો છે જગ મહીં
આપશે તેને અહીં સૌ સાથ જયજયકારમાં
ચોતરફથી છે ફસાયો લોભની એ જાળમાં
આવશે ના યાદ એને મોત હાહાકારમાં
ખૂનની એના હવે ના કોઈ કિંમત છે અહીં
જીવતા હોમાય આજે માનવી અંગારમાં
અંધકારો છે ઘણાં ને સંકટો સાગર મહીં
નાવને તો પણ ચલાવી છે અમે મઝધારમાં
જે હતી તાકાત સઘળી એકતાની તો હતી
ખોઈ બેઠા આબરૂ એ રોજની તકરારમાં
મેળવી લે સાથ કુદરતનો જરા શબ્દીર તું
ફેરવી દેશે બધી તે આગને ગુલઝારમાં

-શબ્દીર અહમદ કાઝી, બાટલી.

નવા વર્ષનો પયગામ

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

૨૦૨૧નું વર્ષ સમાપ્ત થયું અને ૨૦૨૨ના જાન્યુઆરી મહિનાનો પ્રથમ અંક આપના હાથમાં છે. જે નવા વર્ષના પયગામના રૂપમાં એક ચિંતન, મનન અને વિચારવાનું આમંત્રણ આપે છે.

સમયની કદર :

જે પૈકી એક સમયની કદર કરવા વિષે આમંત્રણ છે. માટે હંમેશા યાદ રાખવું જોઈએ કે બેદરકારી અને ગફલતમાં રહી પોતાની જિંદગીનો અમૂલ્ય સમય ગુમાવનાર બહુજ નુકસાનમાં છે. જિંદગીના સમયની પૂંજી બરફના સમાન છે. એ પ્રત્યેક પળે ઓગળી રહી છે. પાણી થઈને રેલાઈ રહી છે. ખરેખર ગયો સમય ફરી હાથ આવતો નથી. જેણે આ અમૂલ્ય જીવનમાં જીવન સફળ થઈ આખિરતમાં પૂરતો લાભ થાય તેવું કોઈ કામ ન કર્યું તો તેના નુકસાનની કોઈ હદ જ નથી. દરેક માણસને જોઈએ કે, તે પોતાના સમયની બરાબર રીતે કદર કરે. અને ગફલત તથા રમતગમત, મોબાઈલ ફોન, ઈન્ટરનેટ વગેરેમાં પોતાનો સમય ગુમાવે નહીં. જીવનનો વિશેષ સમય વીતી જઈ હવે થોડોજ સમય બાકી રહી ગયો છે. માટે આખિરતમાં કામ આવનાર અમલમા ઉતાવળથી પ્રયત્ન કરવા જોઈએ. નહીંતર આપણને અતિશય નુકસાન વેઠવું પડવાનું છે.

અવલાદની ફીકર :

એક ખૂબજ અગત્યું આમંત્રણ એ પોતાની અવલાદ વિષે છે. આજે આપણાં સૌનો સૌથી મોટો મસઅલો અવલાદનો છે, પોતાની અવલાદને દીનદાર બાકી રાખવું અને તેમના ઈમાનને બચાવવું ફર્જ ઐન (પ્રથમ અગત્યનું ફર્જ, કામ છે.) અવલાદને દીનદાર બનાવવા તથા તેમની સારી તાલિમ, તરબીયત કરવામાં જરા પણ સુસ્તી કરવી જોઈએ નહીં. એ વિષે દરેક વાલીઓએ ગંભીર રીતે સોચવું જોઈએ. કારણ કે, અહીંયા દીની ઈર્તિદાદ (દીની પરિવર્તન) મોં ફાડીને ઊભું છે. આજકાલ વિશ્વમાં ખૂબજ ઝડપથી પરિવર્તન આવી રહ્યું છે. વળી મોબાઈલ ફોન અને ઈન્ટરનેટના અતિશય ઉપયોગે આપણાં બાળકોનો જે ભૂરો હાલ કર્યો છે તે આપણાં સૌની સામે છે.

મુસ્લિમ યુવાનોની સ્ટાઈલ તેમા પશ્ચિમિ સંસ્કૃતિ, તેમને પડેલ ખરાબ ટેવો, આપણાં છોકરા છોકરીઓનો પહેરવેશ તેમના આચાર વિચાર અને શાદી, વિવાહના ફૂગુલ ખર્ચાઓ અને તેમાં પણ બીજી સંસ્કૃતિનું આંધળું અનુકરણ વગેરેએ આજે હદ વટાવી છે. અને આપણે તેનું અનુમાન લગાવવામાં નિષ્ફળ રહ્યા છે કે આપણો સમાજ કઈ તરફ ધકેલાઈ રહ્યો છે, અને આપણી ભાવિ પેઢીનું એમાં શું ભવિષ્ય છે.

હંમેશા યાદ રાખો! અવલાદ મા-બાપના હાથમાં એક નેઅમત અને અમાનત સમાન છે. કોઈપણ કોમનું ભવિષ્ય જોવું હોય તો તે કોમના નવજવાનોને જોઈ લ્યો. અગર આપણી કોમના નવજવાનો

દીન ઉપર છે તો આ દેશમાં દીન સુરક્ષિત અને બચેલો રહેશે. માટે આપણાં નવજવાનોની દુનિયા કરતાં દીનની વધારે ફીકર કરવાની જરૂર છે. કારણ કે, દુનિયા તો જેટલી મુકદ્દરમાં હશે એટલી એને મળીને જ રહેશે.

સવાબે જારિયાહનો અમલ :

જેનો સવાબ દુનિયામાં અને મરવા પછી પણ મળતો રહે છે એવા કામને સવાબે જારિયાહ અથવા સદકએ જારિયાહ કહે છે. આપણાં બુઝુર્ગો ફરમાવતા હતા કે, પ્યારો! પોતાનો બંદોબસ્ત સવાબે જારિયાહનો પોતાની જિંદગીમાં જ કરી લ્યો. એમ વિચાર કરવો કે મરવા પછી અમારી અવલાદ અમારા માટે કંઈ કરશે? પણ કોઈ કંઈ કરતું નથી. સવાબે જારિયાહનો અમલ સૌથી સારો અમલ છે. જેનો સવાબ મરવા પછી પણ કબરમાં અને આખિરતમાં મળતો રહે છે.

ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો! આંખ બંધ થઈ જશે એટલે બધી માલ મિલકત વારીસોની થઈ જશે. ફક્ત નેક આમાલ અને સવાબે જારિયાહનું ભાથું તથા નેક ઔલાદ, જે મા-બાપના ઈન્તેકાલ પછી તેમના હકમાં પઢીને બક્ષી આપશે, દુઆઓ કરશે તે જ કામ આવશે. પ્રિય વાંચકો! આજે આપણી માલ દોલત ક્યાં ખર્ચાઈ રહી છે એના ઉપર નજર કરતા રહેવું જોઈએ. પોતાના માટે સદકએ જારિયાહના કામો કરવા ઉપર પોતાની કિંમતી પૂંજી લગાવવી કે નહીં, એ પ્રકારનો કોઈ પ્લાન પોતાની હયાતીમાં જ તૈયાર કરી લેવું વધુ યોગ્ય છે. અને એ તરફ પણ ઠંડા દિમાગે વિચારવું જોઈએ.

સહનશિલતાનો સબક :

મારા ભાઈઓ! આપસમાં સબંધ જોડવું, એકબીજાને માફ કરવું, સબ્ર કરવું, સહન કરવું, ઘર એનાથીજ આબાદ થાય છે. આજે સહનશીલતાના ગુણો અપનાવવાની અત્યંત જરૂર છે.

વર્તમાન પરિસ્થિતિ તરફ એક નજર :

અંતમાં આજે આપણે આટલું તો યાદ રાખવું જોઈએ કે, આપણે જે કસોટીના યુગમાંથી પસાર થઈ રહ્યા છે તે આપણાં ભાવિ માટે અનુકુળ યુગ તો નથી. જેથી આપણી પાસે જે પણ શક્તિ, તાકાત, સલાહિયત છે એ ઘણીજ હિકમત, મહબ્બત, હમદર્દી અને ભાઈચારગી સાથે જાળવી રાખવી જોઈએ. કોઈ ખોટી જગ્યાએ ઉપયોગ કરવાથી બચવું જોઈએ. કારણ કે, અગર ઉપરોક્ત પયગામ તરફ ધ્યાન કેન્દ્રીત ન કરીશું તો કદાચ આપણે આ દેશમાં પોતાની પહેચાન પોતાનું અસ્તીત્વ (આઈડેન્ટીટી) અને નાગરિકતા (સીટીઝનશીપ) ગુમાવી બેસવાના સંજોગો ઉપસ્થિત થવાની આશંકા છે. અને આજ નવા વર્ષનો લલકારતો પયગામ છે.

જેથી હવે આપણે બધાએ સમયને પારખવાની જરૂર છે અને તેને ધ્યાનમાં લઈ આ બદલાતા યુગમાં આપણે પોતાની અને પોતાના ઔલાદની તરફ વધુ ધ્યાન આપી દરેકની દીન અને દુનિયા સુધારવા તરફ આગેકૂચ કરવાની ખાસ જરૂરિયાત ઉપસ્થિત થઈ છે. જે માટે આપણે દરેકે હવે એ માટે સજાગ થઈ એ માર્ગ ઉપર આગળ વધવાનો સંકલ્પ જરૂરી છે. નવા વર્ષની શુભકામનાઓ.

સાઉદી અરેબિયાએ તબ્લીગી જમાત પર પ્રતિબંધ મૂક્યો

આમ તો સાઉદી અરેબિયાએ ૧૯૮૦થી જ તબ્લીગી જમાતની કાર્યવાહી પર પ્રતિબંધ લગાવી દીધો હતો. ત્યારથી સાઉદીમાં તબ્લીગી જમાતને બીજા દેશોની જેમ જાહેરમાં દાવતનું કામ કરવાની છૂટ ન હતી. પરંતુ તારીખ ૧૦-૧૨-૨૦૨૧ની જુમ્માના ખુત્બામાં દેશની તમામ મસ્જિદોમાં તબ્લીગી જમાત પર પ્રતિબંધ મૂક્યાથી મુસ્લિમ જગતમાં ખળભળાટ મચી ગયો હતો.

સરકાર તરફથી તમામ મસ્જિદોના ઈમામોને આદેશ આપવામાં આવ્યો હતો કે, જુમ્માના ખુત્બામાં જબ્લીગી જમાતની બુરાઈઓ અને એની વાંધાજનક પ્રવૃત્તિઓને ઉજાગર કરો.

તે જુમ્માના ખુત્બામાં જે કંઈ કહેવામાં આવ્યું તે બિનઆધારિત હતું. અને હળાહળ જૂઠ હતું. આ તકે તબ્લીગી કાર્ય પર ઓચિંતો હુમલો પાછળ કયા પરિબળોએ કામ કર્યું તે સમજવું જરૂરી છે. ખુત્બામાં કહેવામાં આવ્યું હતું કે, તબ્લીગી જમાતના કાર્યોમાં ભરપૂર બિડાઅત છે. અને શીર્ક શુધ્ધાનો ઉલ્લેખ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. વળી એમ પણ કહેવામાં આવ્યું હતું કે, એઓ કબરની પૂજા કરનારાઓ અને ઈન્તેસાર ફેલાવનારાઓ છે. જે ઈસ્લામી તાલિમથી વિરુદ્ધનું કાર્ય છે. તબ્લીગી જમાત આતંકવાદી માટે “પ્રવેશ ધ્વાર” છે. અર્થાત જમાત આતંકીઓ પેદા કરે છે.

એમણે એ પણ કહ્યું કે, વર્ષમાં ચાર મહિના અને ચાલીસ દિવસનો ચીલ્લો, ત્રણ દિવસ જમાતમાં જવું, કયા આધાર પર નક્કી કર્યું. એ એક બીડાઅતી અમલ છે. ખુત્બામાં ત્યાંના ઘણાં બુઝુર્ગોએ જમાત વિશે વાંધાજનક ઉચ્ચારેલા શબ્દોનો પણ ઉલ્લેખ કરી કહેવામાં આવ્યું હતું કે, આટલા બુઝુર્ગોએ તબ્લીગનો વિરોધ દર્શાવ્યો હતો. આખા કામને અણ-ઈસ્લામી કહેવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

આખું જગત જાણે છે કે, તબ્લીગનું કામ માત્ર ગફલતમાં પડેલા મુસ્લિમોને જગાડી ઈસ્લાહ કરવાનું છે. અને ગલત રસ્તે ચઢી ગયેલા, જેમ કે શરાબ, ડ્રગ્સ અને જુગારની લટમાંથી છોડાવી સીધા રસ્તા પર લાવવાનું છે. જમાતે કદી બીજા ધર્મને માનનારાઓને ધર્માન્તરણ કરવાની કદી કોશિશ કરી નથી. વળી જમાત હંમેશાં સિયાસતથી દૂર રહે છે. લગભગ ૧૫૦ કરતા પણ વધુ દેશોમાં એ કાર્યરત છે. અને ૪૦ કરોડ કરતાં પણ વધુ લોકો એમાં જોડાયેલા છે. સાઉદી અરેબિયાએ લીધેલા આ પગલાં કોઈ દુરાગ્રહ પર આધારિત છે. ઘણાંનું તો એવું મંતવ્ય છે કે, જ્યારે પણ સત્તા સંકટ અનુભવતી હોય ત્યારે આવા કદમ ઉપાડે છે.

વિચારવા જેવું છે કે, માત્ર દીનની પ્રવૃત્તિ કરનારાઓ પર પ્રતિબંધ અને એવો દાવો કે, એ ઈસ્લામ વિરુદ્ધનું કામ છે. તો એમણે નાયગાન, સિનેમા જેવી નાપાક પ્રવૃત્તિઓને આવકારવું એ ક્યા પ્રકારનો ઈસ્લામ છે? વળી હાલમાં એક મ્યુઝીકલ કોન્સર્ટમાં હજારો સઉદી ભાઈ-બહેનોએ નાય કર્યો અને તે પણ સાઉદી ઝંડો હાથમાં લઈને જેના પર કલ્મએ તયબ્બા લખવામાં આવ્યો છે. બેહયાઈને ખુલ્લું આમંત્રણ અને ઈસ્લામી કાર્ય પર નિયંત્રણ, ફરીથી એ દેશ અંધકાર તરફ ધકેલાઈ રહ્યો છે.

ઈસ્લામી કાનૂનના કારણ દેશની જે ઈજ્જત હતી જ્યાં ચોરી-લૂંટફાટ અને અન્ય ગુનાહો નહિવત હતા, જ્યાં માં-બહેનો, આઝાદીથી સલામત અને ભય વિના ગમે ત્યારે ફરી શક્તી હતી, તેવા કાનૂનોને રદ કરી દેશને બરબાદી તરફ ધકેલી રહેલી સરકાર જો પુનઃ વિચાર ન કરે તો એ દિવસ દૂર નહીં કે આખા દેશમાં અશાંતિના વાતાવરણમાં લોકોએ જીવન વ્યતિત કરવું પડશે.

ઈઝરાઈલને માન્યતા અંગે સાઉદીની શરત

સાઉદી અરેબિયાએ જણાવ્યું છે કે, જો ઈઝરાઈલ ૧૯૬૭માં તેની જે સરહદ હતી ત્યાં પાછા ફરે તો આખું મુસ્લિમ જગત તેને માન્યતા આપવા તૈયાર છે.

અરબ ન્યુઝ સાથેની એક મુલાકાતમાં યુનોમાં સાઉદીના પ્રતિનિધિ અબ્દુલ્લાહ અલ-મૌઅલીમીએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે, સાઉદી સરકારનું ઓફીસિયલ અને હાલનું પોઝીશન એ છે કે, અમે ઈઝરાઈલ સાથે કાયમી સંબંધો સુધારવા અને તેને માન્યતા આપવા તૈયાર છે. જ્યારે કે ઈઝરાઈલ ૨૦૦૨માં રજૂ કરવામાં આવેલ અમારી દરખાસ્ત મુજબ અરબ ટેરીટરીઝ ઉપર ઈઝરાઈલ કબજો છોડે અને ૧૯૬૭માં જ્યાં તેની સરહદ હતી ત્યાં પહોંચી જાય. પેલેસ્ટાઈનને સ્વતંત્રતા આપી પેલેસ્ટીનીયોના હકો તેમને પાછા આપવામાં આવે અને પૂર્વ જેરૂસલેમને તેની રાજધાની બનાવવામાં આવે તો અરબ જગતના ૫૭ દેશો (ઓઆઈસી) ઈઝરાઈલ સાથે સંબંધો બાંધી તેને માન્યતા આપવા તૈયાર છે.

પૂર્વ જેરૂસલેમ ઉપર ૧૯૬૭માં અરબ-ઈઝરાઈલ યુદ્ધ બાદ ઈઝરાઈલે કબજો કર્યો હતો અને ૧૯૮૦માં સમગ્ર સીટી ઉપર તેણે કબજો મેળવ્યો હતો. અને ત્યારબાદ ઈઝરાઈલે ત્યાં ફક્ત જ્યુસ લોકો માટે વસાહત ઊભું કર્યું હતું જેને પણ તોડી પાડવાની જરૂરત છે. તેમણે વધુમાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે, ઈઝરાઈલે અરબ પેલેસ્ટીનની સરહદ ઉપર કબજો કર્યો છે તે ખોટું છે. અને ઈઝરાઈલનો વેસ્ટબેન્ક અને ગાઝા ઉપર કબજો, સેટલમેન્ટ એ પેલેસ્ટીનની ગરીમા ઉપર પ્રહાર છે.

ઈઝરાઈલ મીડિયા અનુસાર રિયાધ અને તેલઅવીવના સંબંધો સુધારવાના પ્રયત્નો રૂપે ૨૦ અમેરિકન જ્યુસ લીડરોએ ગયા માસમાં સાઉદી ખાતે સીનિયર ઓફીસર જેમાં સાઉદી રોયલ હાઉસના ૬ સરકારી મિનીસ્ટરોનો પણ સમાવેશ હતો તેમની સાથે મુલાકાત કરી હતી.

છેલ્લા પાંચ વર્ષમાં દલાખથી વધુ લોકોએ

ભારતની નાગરિકતા છોડી

ભારતની પાર્લામેન્ટમાં ગયા માસમાં પૂછવામાં આવેલ એક પ્રશ્નના લેખિત જવાબમાં ગૃહરાજ્ય મંત્રી નિત્યાનંદ રાયે માહિતી આપતા કહ્યું હતું કે સરકારના ઉપલબ્ધ આંકડા મુજબ છેલ્લા પાંચ વર્ષમાં કુલ દલાખથી વધુ ભારતીયોએ તેમની ભારતીય નાગરિકતા છોડી બીજા દેશની નાગરિકતા મેળવી છે. જેમાં ૨૦૧૭માં ૧,૩૩,૦૪૯ ૨૦૧૮માં ૧,૩૪,૫૬૧ ૨૦૧૯માં ૧,૪૪,૦૧૭ ૨૦૨૦માં ૮૫,૨૪૮ અને ૨૦૨૧ના સપ્ટેમ્બર માસ સુધી ૧,૧૧,૨૮૭ ભારતીય નાગરિકોએ તેમની નાગરિકતા છોડી છે. એક માહિતી મુજબ ૧,૩૩,૮૩૭૧૮ ભારતીયો બીજા દેશોમાં વસે છે.

સમાચારોની ઝલક

વિશ્વના સૌથી મોંઘા શહેર :

દર વર્ષે ઈકોનોમિસ્ટ ઈન્ટેલીજન્સ યુનિટ વિશ્વના સૌથી મોંઘા શહેરોની યાદી પ્રગટ કરે છે. જેમાં કોસ્ટ ઓફ લીવિંગ (જીવન જીવવા માટેનો ખર્ચ) સહિત રાષ્ટ્રીય ચલણ, જીવન જરૂરિયાતની વસ્તુઓના ભાવ, ટ્રાન્સપોર્ટ વગેરેને ધ્યાનમાં લઈ વિવિધ શહેરો ઉપર અભ્યાસ કરે છે. આમાં ૧૭૩ દેશોમાં જીવનધોરણ અને ખર્ચ ઉપર આવેલ ચઢાવ ઉતારના આધારે સર્વે થાય છે. જે મુજબ ૨૦૨૧માં પ્રગટ થયેલ આ લીસ્ટમાં ઈઝરાઈલનું તેલઅવીવ દુનિયાનું સૌથી મોંઘું શહેર છે. પેરિસ અને સિંગાપોર સંયુક્ત રીતે બીજા નંબરે, ઝ્યુરિક અને હોંગકોંગ ત્રીજા નંબરે, ન્યુયોર્ક છઠ્ઠા નંબરે છે. ગયા વર્ષે પેરિસ અને સિંગાપોર પ્રથમ નંબર ઉપર હતા.

સૌથી સસ્તા શહેરમાં સિરીયાનું દમાસ્કસ શહેર પ્રથમ નંબરે છે. જ્યારે પાકિસ્તાનનું કરાંચી શહેર છઠા નંબરે અને ભારતનું અમદાવાદ શહેર સાતમા નંબરે છે.

ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટીની કેટલીક મિટીંગો :

લોકલ અને પબ્લીક સેક્ટર સાથે મળીને કોમ્યુનિટીના કામોમાં સહયોગ આપવા અને મદદ કરવા માટે આપણી સોસાયટી હર હંમેશ પ્રયત્નો કરતી રહે છે. કોરોનાના પ્રતિબંધો અને લોકડાઉનબાદ જ્યારે પરિસ્થિતિમાં થોડો સુધારો થયો અને ઓફિસો વગેરે ફરીથી ખુલતા ધીરે ધીરે પરિસ્થિતિ બદલાય રહી છે અને જીવન ફરીથી સામાન્ય થઈ રહ્યું છે. ગયા માસમાં સોસાયટીએ કેટલીક મિટીંગો કરી હતી જેની ટૂંક નોંધ રજૂ કરીએ છીએ.

કર્કલીઝ કાઉન્સિલના લીડર ઓફ કાઉન્સિલ શબ્બીર પાંડોર, ચીફ એક્ઝ્યુક્યુટીવ જેકી અને સ્ટ્રેટરજી ડાયરેક્ટર રેચલ સ્પેન્સર સાથે સોસાયટીના કમિટી સભ્યોની મિટીંગ થઈ હતી, જેમાં કોરોનાના કારણે ધીમી પડેલ અનેક કામગીરી, કોમ્યુનિટીની મુશ્કેલીઓ, કોવિડ-૧૯ની અસર વગેરે ઉપર ચર્ચા થઈ હતી. સોસાયટીની જે પ્રવૃત્તિઓ ચાલી રહી છે તેમાં મદદ કરવા અને વિવિધ પ્રોજેક્ટોમાં કાઉન્સિલની ભાગદારી અને સહયોગ માટે વિનંતી કરવામાં આવી હતી. આ અગત્યની ચર્ચામાં કાઉન્સિલના પ્રનિધિઓએ બનતી મદદ કરવા આશ્વાસન આપ્યું હતું અને કામગીરી માટે સલાહ સૂચનો થયા હતા.

બાટલી અને સ્પેનના લેબર એમ.પી. કીમ સાથે બીજી મિટીંગ થઈ હતી. જેમાં અગાઉની મિટીંગમાં થયેલ ચર્ચાઓના સંદર્ભે કીમે પ્રગતિ રિપોર્ટ આપ્યો હતો. અગાઉ રોડ ટ્રાફિક મુશ્કેલીઓ ડ્રગ ઈસ્યુ, રસ્તાઓની બિસ્માર હાલત, એન્ટી સોશયલ

બિહેવીયર, સ્પીડિંગ વગેરે ઉપર ચર્ચા થઈ હતી. જેમાં કીમ તરફથી થયેલ પ્રયત્નો અને કામગીરીની વાતો રજૂ કરવામાં આવી હતી. પેલેસ્ટીનના એમ્બેસેડર સાથે તેમની મુલાકાત, ભારત ખાતે ત્રિપુરા અને આસામમાં થયેલ હિંસક મામલાઓ અને મુસ્લિમો ઉપર અત્યાચાર બાબતે હાઈકમિશ્નરને લખેલ લેટર વગેરેની માહિતી આપી હતી. ઉપરોક્ત ઈસ્યુ ઉપર વધુ કામગીરી માટે ભલામણ કરવામાં આવી હતી. પયગામ માસિક પેપરમાં કીમ તરફથી એક કોલમ લખાય છે જેમાં પણ ઘણી અપડેટ આપવામાં આવે છે, જે વાંચવા ઉપર ભલામણ કરવામાં આવે છે. કોમ્યુનિટી અને સોસાયટી સાથે સંકળાયેલ રહેવા દર ત્રણ મહિને મિટીંગ રાખવા નક્કી થયું હતું.

આ ઉપરાંત બીજા કેટલાક ઓર્ગેનાઈજેશન જેમાં યુથ, હેલ્થ વિભાગના ઓફીસરો સાથે પણ મિટીંગો કરવામાં આવી હતી અને તેમને સેન્ટરની સુવિધા, કોમ્યુનિટી માટેની કામગીરી વગેરેની માહિતી આપવામાં આવી હતી.

ત્રીજો વેરિયન્ટ ઓમિક્રોનની ભયાનકતા :

કોવિડ-૧૯ પછી પહેલો વેરિયન્ટ ડેલ્ટા આવ્યો અને કોરોનાના કેસોમાં વધારો નોંધાયો. વિશ્વ આખું તેનાથી સજાગ બન્યું અને તેની અસર ઓછી કરવા પગલાં ભરવામાં આવ્યા. ત્યારબાદ હવે ગયા માસમાં બીજો વેરિયન્ટ વાયરસ ઓમિક્રોને દસ્તક દીધી છે. કહેવાય છે કે, પ્રથમ દ. આફ્રિકામાં તેની અસર જોવા મળી હતી. અને પછી ત્યાંથી અનેક દેશોમાં હવે પહોંચી રહ્યો છે. મેડિકલ એક્ષપર્ટોના મંતવ્ય મુજબ તે પહેલા વિરિયન્ટથી ૧૦ ઘણો વધુ ખતરનાક છે. તેના લક્ષણો ઘણી વખત બદલાય પણ રહ્યા છે અને જ્યાં સુધી તેની ટેસ્ટ ન થાય ત્યાં સુધી તેની અસર પકડાતી નથી.

આ ઓમિક્રોન વાયરસથી દુનિયાના દરેક દેશો સજાગ થઈ તેની ગંભીરતાની નોંધ લઈ રહ્યા છે. હેલ્થ ઓર્ગેનાઈજેશનના મંતવ્ય મુજબ આ વાયરસથી વધુ તબાહી અને જાનહાનિની શંકા છે. જેથી ઘણાં દેશોએ સખત પગલાં ભર્યા છે. અહીં સુધી કે ફરીથી લોકડાઉન પણ લગાવ્યું છે. બ્રિટનમાં પણ સરકારે પ્લાન-બી મુજબ સુપર મારકેટો અને દુકાનોમાં ફરીથી માસ્ક પહેરવું ફરજિયાત બનાવ્યું છે. બની શકે તો ઘરથી જ કામ કરવા ઉપર ભાર મૂક્યો છે. વધુ લોકો ભેગા મળી રહ્યા હોય જેમકે નાઈટ ક્લબ, ચર્ચ, શાદી વગેરેના સમારંભમાં કોવિડ પાસ એટલે કે, બન્ને જાબ (રસી) મૂકાવી હોય તેને જ દાખલ કરવા ઉપર ભાર મૂક્યો છે. બે વેક્સિન પછી બુસ્ટર ડોઝની સમય મર્યાદા પણ ૬ માસથી ઘટાડીને ૩ માસ કરી દેવામાં આવી છે. લોકોને વેક્સિન લગાવવા અને બુસ્ટર ડોઝ લેવા દબાણ કરવામાં આવી રહ્યું છે.

આપણે સૌએ પણ ઓમિક્રોનની ભયાનકતાને ગંભીરતાથી લેવાની જરૂરત છે અને સલામતિના કાયદાનું પાલન કરવાની આપણી ફરજ છે. સરકારે પણ દરેક જગ્યાએ માસ્ક પહેરવું બુસ્ટર ડોઝ બાકી હોય તો લઈ લેવો વગેરે ઉપર સાવધાની વર્તવાની અપીલ કરી છે.

الہان عمر ڈیمو کریٹ رکن کانگریس کا اسلاموفوبیا کے خلاف بل منظور، وائٹ ہاؤس نے حمایت کردی

امریکی ایوان نمائندگان کی مسلمان ڈیمو کریٹ رکن الہان عمر اکثر و بیشتر دائیں بازو کے سیاست دانوں یہاں تک کہ سابق صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ تک کی بھی تنقید کا نشانہ بنتی رہی ہیں مگر حال ہی میں انھیں ایوان نمائندگان کے فلور پر ہی ایسے الفاظ میں تنقید کا نشانہ بنایا گیا کہ ایوان کو وہ الفاظ حذف کرنے پڑے۔ 14 دسمبر کو جس وقت الہان عمر کے اسلاموفوبیا کے خلاف پیش کیے گئے ایک بل پر بحث ہو رہی تھی تو ریپبلکن پارٹی کے رکن کانگریس سکاٹ پیری نے غلط طور پر یہ دعویٰ کیا کہ الہان عمر کا تعلق ایک دہشت گرد تنظیم سے ہے۔ سکاٹ پیری نے اس بل پر بحث کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکی عوام کا پیہ ان دہشت گرد تنظیموں کو نہیں جانا چاہیے جن سے اس بل کے معمار منسلک ہیں۔ بعد میں کانگریس نے الہان عمر کا پیش کردہ یہ بل منظور کر لیا جس کے حق میں تمام ڈیموکریٹس اور مخالفت میں تمام ریپبلکنز نے ووٹ دیا اور سکاٹ پیری کے الفاظ کو ایوان کی کارروائی سے حذف کر دیا گیا۔ الہان عمر کے اس بل کا نام 'این الاقوامی اسلاموفوبیا کا مقابلہ' ہے جس کا مقصد ہے کہ امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے تحت ایک خصوصی نمائندے کا تعین کیا جائے جو دنیا بھر میں اسلاموفوبیا کے واقعات کو رپورٹ کر کے امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے علم میں لائے۔ اس نمائندے کی تعیناتی صدر کے ذریعے ہوگی اور واضح رہے کہ ایسا ہی ایک نمائندہ پہلے ہی امریکی محکمہ خارجہ میں موجود ہے جس کا کام عالمی سطح پر یہود مخالف واقعات کو رپورٹ کرنا ہے۔ ویسے تو یہ بل گذشتہ کئی مہینوں سے ایوان نمائندگان کی امور خارجہ کمیٹی میں موجود تھا مگر گذشتہ چند دنوں کے واقعات نے اس بل میں نئی روح چھونک دی ہے جس کے بعد اسے منظور کر لیا گیا ہے۔ نومبر کے اختتام میں ریپبلکن نمائندہ لورین بو برٹ کی ایک ویڈیو سامنے آئی تھی جس میں انھوں نے الہان عمر کو 'جہاد سکوڈ' کا حصہ کہتے ہوئے مبینہ طور پر دہشت گرد قرار دیا تھا۔ ان کا یہ کہنا تھا کہ وہ کانگریس کی ایک لفٹ میں الہان عمر کے قریب اس لیے محفوظ محسوس کر رہی تھیں کیونکہ مؤخر الذکر اپنا بیک پیک زمین پر رکھ کر کہیں بھاگ نہیں رہی تھیں۔ اس کے کچھ دن بعد ریپبلکن نمائندہ مار جوری ٹیلر گرین نے الہان عمر کو 'جہادی' قرار دیا۔

او میکرون: وائٹ ہاؤس کی نئی قسم غیر معمولی رفتار سے پھیل رہی ہے،

عالمی ادارہ صحت کی تشبیہ

عالمی ادارہ صحت نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ کورونا وائرس کی نئی قسم او میکرون دنیا بھر میں غیر معمولی رفتار سے پھیل رہی ہے اور اپنی جینیاتی شکل تبدیل کرنے والی کورونا کی اس قسم کے مریضوں کی 77 ممالک میں تصدیق کی جا چکی ہے۔

تاہم ایک پریس کانفرنس میں عالمی ادارہ صحت کے سربراہ ٹیڈروس ادہانوم کا کہنا تھا کہ شاید ابھی بہت سے ممالک میں اس کی تصدیق ہونا باقی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انھیں اس بات پر تحفظات ہیں کہ وائٹ ہاؤس کی اس قسم کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے کے لیے زیادہ اقدامات نہیں کیے گئے

ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ 'یقیناً ہم نے وائٹ ہاؤس کی اس قسم کے خطرات کو ہلکا لیا، اگر او میکرون متاثرین کو کم بیمار بھی کرتا ہے تب بھی متاثرین کی ایک دم بڑھتی تعداد دنیا کے ممالک کے کمزور صحت کے نظام پر ہاؤ ڈال سکتی ہے۔' واضح رہے کہ کورونا وائرس کی او میکرون قسم کی سب سے پہلے تصدیق رواں برس نومبر میں جنوبی افریقہ میں ہوئی تھی۔ اور تب سے وہاں پر کووڈ کے متاثرین میں ایک دم سے اضافہ دیکھا گیا ہے۔ یہاں تک کہ جنوبی افریقہ کے صدر سیرل رامافوسا بھی کووڈ وائرس سے متاثر ہوئے ہیں اور بیماری کے معمولی علامات کے ساتھ اس وقت قرنطینہ میں ہیں۔ او میکرون کی تصدیق کے بعد سے متعدد ممالک نے فضائی سفر کی پابندیاں نافذ کی تھی جنہوں نے جنوبی افریقہ اور اس کے ہمسایہ ممالک کو متاثر کیا۔ لیکن یہ اقدامات بھی کووڈ وائرس کی اس قسم کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے میں ناکام رہے ہیں۔

دنیا بھر کی صورت حال

امریکہ میں آٹھ لاکھ سے زائد افراد کو وائرس کے باعث ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں جو دنیا بھر میں وائرس کے باعث ہلاکتوں کی سب سے بڑی تعداد ہے۔

برطانیہ کے وزیر اعظم بورس جانسن نے وزیر اعظم بننے کے بعد سے اپنی ہی پارٹی کے جانب سے سب سے زیادہ مخالفت کے باوجود انگلینڈ میں کووڈ پاس متعارف کروائے ہیں۔ ان پاسز کا اطلاق 15 دسمبر سے ہوں گا اور اس کے مطابق بالغ افراد کو نائٹ کلبز، بڑے کھلیوں کے مقابلوں اور دیگر عوامی سطح کی سماجی سرگرمیوں میں شمولیت اور داخلے کے لیے یہ کووڈ پاسز دکھانا ہوں گے۔

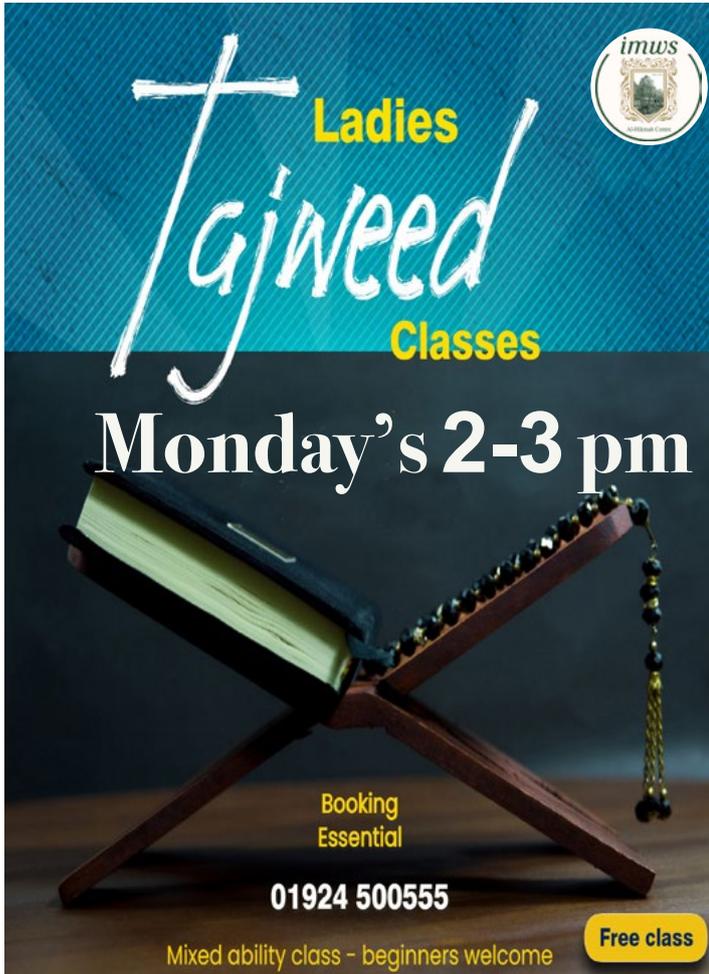
ان پاسز کے حامل افراد میں ان کی کورونا ویکسین کی دونوں خوراکیں لگنے کا ریکارڈ، اور کسی بھی عوامی سطح کی سماجی سرگرمی سے 48 گھنٹے قبل کورونا ٹیسٹ کا تصدیق نامہ ہوگا۔

یہ کووڈ پاسز نیشنل ہیلتھ سروسز بذریعہ کارڈ، موبائل میسج اور ای میل جاری کرے گا۔ اور اس کا اطلاق نائٹ کلبز میں داخلے کے علاوہ کسی بھی ایسی انڈسٹری پر ہوگا جہاں حاضرین کی تعداد پانچ سو یا اس سے زیادہ ہے۔ جبکہ کھلے میدان میں جہاں حاضرین کی تعداد چار ہزار سے زیادہ ہوں گی۔ برطانوی حکومت نے 14 دسمبر کو یہ بھی اعلان کیا ہے کہ اس کی فضائی پابندی کی فہرست میں شامل تمام 11 ممالک کو اس فہرست سے ہٹا دیا گیا ہے۔ برطانیہ کے سیکرٹری صحت ساجد جاوید کا کہنا ہے کہ او میکرون جس تیزی سے پھیل رہا ہے اس تناظر میں ان پابندیوں کا کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہے۔

اٹلی نے او میکرون کے خطرے کے پیش نظر ملک میں اگلے برس 31 مارچ تک ہنگامی حالت کا نفاذ کر دیا ہے۔ حکومت کو اگلے برس کے آغاز میں بھی فضائی سفر اور بڑے عوامی اجتماعات پر پابندیاں لگانے کا اختیار حاصل ہے۔

نیدرلینڈز نے او میکرون کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے کے لیے پرائمری سکولوں میں کرسس کی چھٹیوں سے ایک ہفتہ قبل ہی چھٹیاں کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔

ناروے میں بھی دیگر اقدامات کے ساتھ ساتھ بازور ریسٹورانوں میں شراب بیچنے کی پابندی کا اعلان کر دیا ہے۔



Ladies
Tajweed
Classes

Monday's 2-3 pm

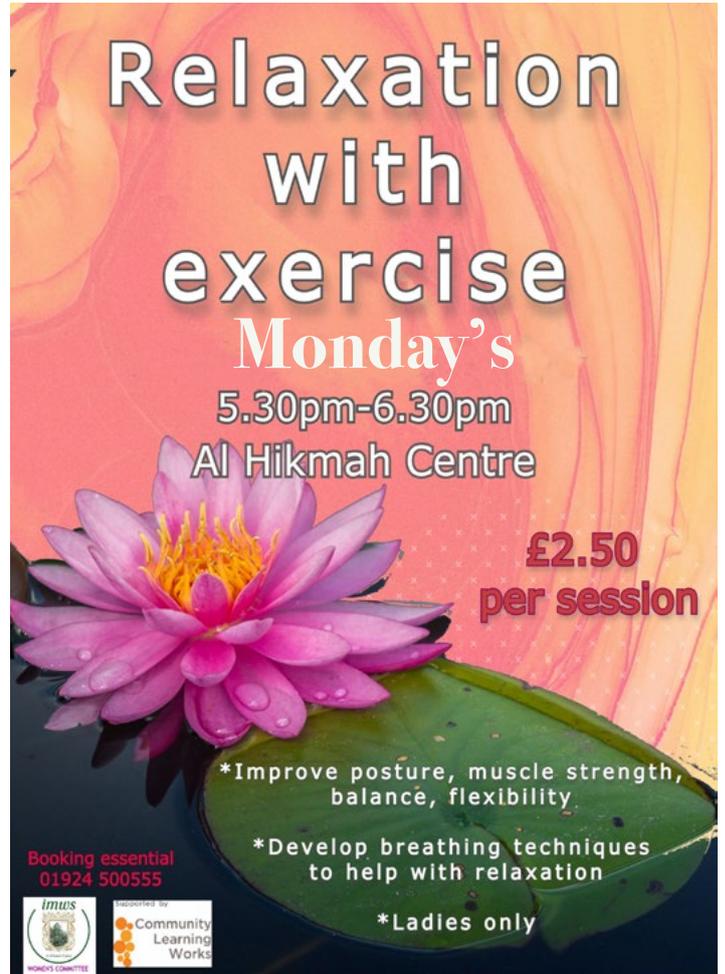
Booking
Essential

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Mixed ability class - beginners welcome

Free class

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