

# THE CRITICAL STATE OF WORLD PEACE

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The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Symposium  
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23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013  
Baitul Futuh Mosque, London

# An Overview of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

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The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is a religious organisation, with branches in more than 200 countries. It is the most dynamic denomination of Islam in modern history, with an estimated membership in the tens of millions worldwide.

It was established by **Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad** (1835-1908) in 1889 in a small and remote village called Qadian in Punjab, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days and the awaited one of the world community of religions (the *Mahdi* and Messiah of the latter days). The community he started is an embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam in its pristine purity that promotes peace and universal brotherhood based on a belief in the Gracious and Ever-Merciful God.



With this conviction, within a century, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community has expanded globally and it endeavours to practice the peaceful teachings of Islam by raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities, building schools and hospitals open to all and by encouraging learning through interfaith dialogue.

The UK chapter of the community was established in 1913 and in 1924 it built London's first purpose built mosque (in Southfields). It is therefore one of the oldest and most established Muslim organisations in Britain and now has more than 100 branches across Britain.

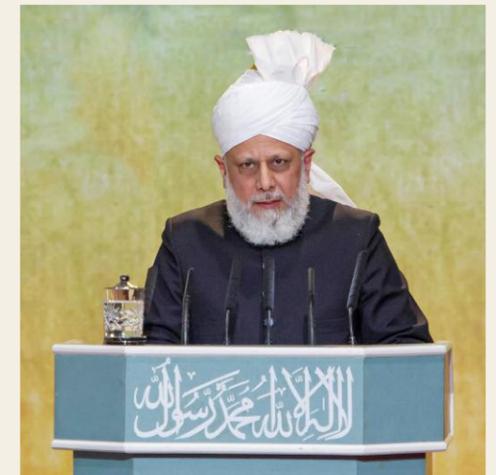
# The Khalifa of Islam: *A Man of Peace*

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Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad

**Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad** was elected as the fifth Khalifa of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2003.

His life has been a reflection of dedication, steadfastness, prayer and success. His bond with God leads him to urge his community never to forget the Almighty and never to despair. His focus on prayer is evident for all to see and the fruits of the success of such



prayer bear testament to his faith. His sympathy for mankind drives him and his community to serve humanity in the same spirit that the early Muslims served the poor and the needy. His sense of sacrifice mirrors the spirit of sacrifice integral to Islam. Indeed his very life and mission reflect a pure spirit that is ever wary of its responsibilities and ever vigilant for the honour of Islam, its Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the prophet of the latter days.

*"His Holiness eloquently and persistently returns to these themes of peace and tolerance love and understanding among the followers of different faiths..."*

*...We desperately need the moral leadership and guidance that we can look for to His Holiness to provide..."*

(Lord Avebury on Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad)

The community stands at one with the Khalifa in the remembrance of God and service of mankind.

# THE CRITICAL STATE OF WORLD PEACE

Keynote Address at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Symposium

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Symposium was held at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden – the largest Mosque in Western Europe – organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK.**

**The event attracted an audience of more than 800 people, including government ministers, ambassadors, members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, various other dignitaries, professionals, neighbours and guests from all walks of life. The theme of this year's symposium was 'The Pathway to Peace'. The keynote address was delivered by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.**

**Keynote Address delivered by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>, Khalifatul Masih V, Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 at the 10<sup>th</sup> Peace Symposium UK, at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London.**

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Bismillah*, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup> said:

“All distinguished guests – *Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barkataohu* - peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

I would firstly like to thank all of you, our respected guests, for accepting our invitation to attend today's Peace Symposium. All of you, whether attending for the first time or if you are our old friends, are very welcome. We are truly grateful that you have enlightened this event with your presence. The majority of you are non-Muslims and so I particularly appreciate your gesture in coming, considering that you are all aware that the Ahmadiyya Community is an Islamic sect. Generally speaking, attending the function of another group irrespective of religious differences is not rare or all that significant.

We often find people who despite differences of belief are able to develop very close friendships with one another, due to their open hearts and broad-mindedness. Nonetheless, there are a number of reasons why your attendance is particularly praise-worthy and significant. Firstly, the very fact that you have accepted the invitation of a Muslim group is significant. Secondly, the fact that you are willingly attending a function taking place within the complex of a mosque is noteworthy and thirdly, the acts of certain so-called Muslims have led to fears or reservations developing in the hearts of many non-Muslims.

Bearing all of this in mind, we extremely appreciate that you have taken this kind and considerate step. Our old non-Ahmadi friends



are well aware that the Ahmadiyya Community practices exactly what it preaches and that whatever we say and do is based on true Islamic teachings – which are of '*Love for All, Hatred for None*'. However, as I have said, we also have some new friends in attendance today and it is quite possible that they may harbour some doubts or suspicions about us or about Islam, and so I would like to reassure them from the outset. The truth is they will hardly find anyone or any group who is more opposed to cruelty, extremism and injustice as we Ahmadi Muslims are. To establish the highest standards of love, affection and brotherhood are our objectives.

With these words of introduction I now turn towards the main theme of tonight's event. Each year, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in the United Kingdom organises this function as a means to express and show the people of the world that we desire and strive for a world filled with peace. In order to attain this wonderful objective we also require your help and support. Thus today, we have joined together to remind ourselves about the importance of this aim.

To strive for peace is a noble ambition and is something that the world has always stood in



**“...I will, God Willing, always continue to carry out my task and my responsibilities of promoting peace, tolerance, justice and compassion to the corners of the world..”**

**“The Qur’an teaches us that all people must display absolute justice and bear witness in the name of Allah, even if they are forced to give evidence against themselves, their parents or their loved ones (Chapter 4, Verse 136).”**

great need of. If we look at the situation of the world today, we realise that now, more than ever, it is a pressing and urgent need of the time for us to seek and pursue peace and harmony in the world. During the past four or five years, the various disasters and forms of unrest that have occurred or are occurring, have led directly to an increase in restlessness and disorder. There is no doubt that with each day that passes the peace of the world is ebbing away. We cannot attribute the world’s lack of peace on just one or two factors. In fact there are multiple factors which are all contributing to the increasing disorder. I shall name just a few.

The world’s economic crisis has contributed hugely to global unrest and increased frustrations amongst the masses. Another major cause of division is internal power struggles within countries. Then, in many nations, the rights due to members of the public are being unjustly usurped. Another factor is that some parties seek to demonstrate their power and might by treating others extremely cruelly. Further, a root cause of division is a lack of justice in the world. This is leading directly to a complete lack of mutual confidence and trust. Another cause of unrest is the fact that people or governments look at the wealth and resources of others with a sense of envy and greed. In fact, they do not limit themselves to envious glances, but actually seek to seize what is not rightfully theirs.

As I said, there is a long list of reasons why the world is being consumed by hatred and disorder and I have only mentioned a few. These issues are of grave concern and we must reflect over how to solve them, so we can seek to establish global peace. Enmities and differences are increasing daily and are rapidly spiralling out of control. The state of the world is going from bad to worse. Something which has been said in the past, which is very true, is that whilst it is extremely difficult to make a good friend, it is very easy to make an enemy. If we look at the world today, we find that from the very smallest scale of society, to a national and international level, these are the circumstances that are prevalent. Not only do people espouse hatred and carry out evil acts but they are also inciting others towards such cruelties and oppression. On the one hand, the numbers of those who are causing conflicts is ever-increasing, whilst on the other hand the numbers of people who are actually acting with justice, good morals and trying to bring about reconciliation, is ever-decreasing. With this backdrop, I say again, that the Ahmadiyya Community remains constantly engaged in striving for a better society and so today’s event is also being conducted in an effort to promote true and long-lasting peace.

For the past five or six years, I have warned all of those within my reach, about the deteriorating state of the world. I have repeatedly said that the worsening financial and political climate is

leading the world towards the most horrific destruction. It is quite possible, and even likely, that the path the world is treading will culminate in a terrifying world war. More than sixty-five years have passed since the last world war and I fear that people have forgotten the unparalleled levels of devastation and destruction that it caused. In that global war, more than 70 million people were killed - the majority of whom were innocent people, who were dragged into the war unwillingly.

Just a few months after last year’s Peace Symposium, I travelled to the United States and was invited to address members of Congress at Capitol Hill. Apart from the politicians, a number of important think-tanks and academics were also in attendance. In my address to them, I said that as the world’s biggest superpower, the United States had to consider its responsibilities to the wider world. I said that if they failed to fulfil their obligations and if they failed to observe the proper standards of justice, then they would lead the world towards a terrifying destruction. I said that the coming generations would lay the blame at the feet of us and in particular the major powers of this time. Our children or grandchildren would not forgive us because they would know that we could have prevented the harrowing legacy that we left behind for them. Similarly, last December, at the European Parliament in Brussels, our good friend who has just spoken as well, Dr Charles

Tannock MEP, organised an event in which I was able to address members of the European Parliament. Also in attendance were MPs from various national parliaments and a range of other dignitaries and influential people. I took the opportunity to remind the European countries of their responsibilities as member nations of the European Union.

I have delivered the same message calling for peace and justice. On many occasions in different parts of the world I do the same. I do not know how much impact my views have had on those who have listened to me and I am not aware to what extent they are working towards developing peace within their own circles of influence. Nevertheless, I will, God Willing, always continue to carry out my task and my responsibilities of promoting peace, tolerance, justice and compassion to the corners of the world. I will continue to tell all people that in order to be relieved of the pain and suffering that we face today, we must adopt true justice and equality. What is actually meant by justice and what does it require? I shall now answer this question based entirely on the teachings of the Holy Qur’an.

The Qur’an teaches us that all people must display absolute justice and bear witness in the name of Allah, even if they are forced to give evidence against themselves, their parents or their loved ones (Chapter 4, Verse 136). Further,



the Qur'an teaches that a person must not let the enmity or hatred of any nation incite them to act unjustly, rather they should always act in a fair and equitable manner, because that is the standard required by our Loving God (Chapter 5, Verse 9). In order to develop peace, it is necessary that we first establish these standards of justice. However, when we analyse today's world, we find that such moral standards are not being implemented at any level.

Indeed, it is with regret that I have to admit such standards of fairness have been long forgotten even by the vast majority of Muslims to whom these teachings were given. We neither find this standard of justice between people in society, nor in terms of the relationship between the general public and their governments. Similarly, such high standards are not visible in international relations. It would prove extremely difficult to find even one person who is willing to give evidence against himself or his loved ones, in order to uphold the true requirements of truth and justice. In the same way, it would be almost impossible to find a country that acts entirely fairly with another nation with whom it is in dispute or considers to be an enemy. Keeping all of this in mind, if we want true peace and if we want to save the world from destruction then we must act with justice, integrity and be ever faithful to the truth. If we want our children and future generations to look back at us fondly, rather than with anger that we left them disabled and handicapped, we must act in accordance

with the standards of equity I have spoken of. If we fail to do so then there will be nowhere left to hide and no escape from destruction.

I purposely used the word 'disabled' in terms of the legacy we leave to our future generations. This is because it is extremely likely that if a world war takes place, nuclear weapons will be used. The effects of atomic warfare are beyond our imaginations and will last for generations to come. Therefore, the standard of justice I have described needs to be implemented across the board, not just by Muslims, but also by non-Muslims and all nations. No one will be spared the effects of a nuclear war, which will be devastating, because its path of destruction will be impossible to contain. The people of the East, and the people of the West, will be affected.

Whilst it is true that current indications suggest that a world war is likely to ignite from Asia, the truth is that the West will not be able to stay away from it. To illustrate this point, we should look at the escalating conflict between North and South Korea. Their relations are fast deteriorating, but even though it lies thousands of miles away, the United States has become directly involved. North Korea has threatened not just South Korea, but also America. North Korea is known to have nuclear weapons and has not been shy in threatening to use them. It appears that North Korea does not really care about or understand the consequences of its actions and is trigger-happy. This is why just last

week, the United States announced it was strengthening its missile defence system on its West Coast. All major parties, including Russia and China, have recently condemned North Korea, although the long term views of these two countries are not entirely clear.

Another example of conflict is visible if we look at the relations between China and Japan. Over the past few months a dispute over who owns a series of islands in the East China Sea has intensified. Again we cannot say that this dispute will be limited to the two countries, rather it is quite possible that America will become involved in this conflict as well. Whilst the United States has publicly called on both countries to show patience and restraint, its real sympathies lie with Japan. The America-Japan alliance is such that if a war between China and Japan were to take place, the United States would actively side with Japan.

Today, a major tactic used to try and harm enemy nations is to target their trade and business interests. The world today is not the same world it was fifty or sixty years ago. Even back then, the acts of one nation affected others, however today it is at a completely different level, as the world has become extremely closely knit and inter-dependent. China is emerging as an ever-growing, progressive, economic might and is expected to become the world's largest (economy) in the coming years. Its economic might is so strong that commentators have said that its power is causing great concern to the United States. Indeed, it has been rightly said that the United States will seek to halt China's economic progress and will leave no stone unturned in this effort. Given this, it is possible that China will be somewhat cautious and show restraint in its dispute with Japan but there are no guarantees to this. Sometimes when weaker parties are threatened or cornered, there often comes a time when they see no route of escape other than through aggression and so they become even more dangerous. Perhaps because of foreseeing, and considering America's attitude and policy and its ultimate possible effect on

other Western countries, China has started exploring new markets. As in recent years we see that China has invested a great deal in Africa and developing countries and so its economic interests in that part of the world are widespread and deeply ingrained. As a side note, I should also say that if African countries realise their importance, it is quite possible then that in the event of a war between Western and Asian countries, Africa could become a place of safety and refuge.

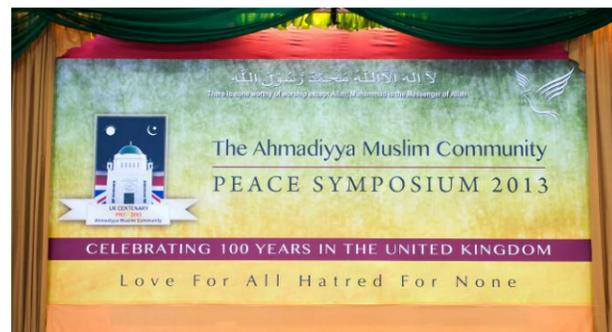
In short, the dangers faced by today's world are extremely alarming. We must always remember that a tense state of affairs has the potential to very suddenly explode or inflame. Small and seemingly insignificant matters, if not handled delicately, ultimately prove to be the basis for extremely dangerous results. History bears witness to this and certainly this is what we have seen in the First and Second World Wars.

In the same way today, the desperate state of affairs in Syria also seems to be leading us down a path towards something far wider and even more devastating. It apparently remains a war between government forces and opposition rebels, yet we are fast approaching a death toll of 100,000 people. A number of powerful countries think that if the opposition rebels prove to be victorious and were able to form a government then the situation in Syria will suddenly stabilise. They believe that the conditions of the Syrians and the relations between the Syrian Government and the international community would improve. However, if we look at the recent examples of Libya and Egypt after their so-called 'revolutions' we should realise that the situation will not necessarily improve. A sign of this was witnessed already earlier this month when a group of Filipinos who were posted as United Nations peacekeepers were taken hostage by a Syrian rebel group. Further, the rebels say they do not need peacekeepers or food aid, rather they want weaponry such as anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. Such acts and statements do not inspire confidence that long-lasting peace is their objective.

So what should be done in Syria? If the world sees that cruelty and oppression is continuing to take place and the desperate Syrian people are crying out for help, then the neighbouring countries should unite together in order to stop the cruelty and establish peace. They should not seek to fulfil personal or vested interests but their goal should only be the peace and prosperity of the local people. The Holy Qur'an teaches that when cruelty has been successfully stopped and the aggressor pledges and adopts peace, then undue restrictions should not be enforced as a means to express power and might. Although this key principle particularly applies where one country attacks another, it can actually be applied to all situations in order to establish peace.

Recently, a wise suggestion was made by the Israeli President, Shimon Peres, about how to deal with the situation in Syria. He suggested that rather than Western countries intervening to remove the Government, the United Nations should send a peacekeeping force to Syria, consisting of only Arab soldiers - so it does not appear to be a Western invasion or imperialism. He further said that as the Arab League is a local organisation that already exists, it should use its influence to try and establish a just and fair government in Syria. The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> said that wherever a person find words of wisdom or good advice they should adopt them and should not look to see who has given the wise counsel. Therefore, regardless of the fact that it is the suggestion of the President of Israel, the Muslim countries should pay close attention to this proposal.

Unfortunately, Syria is not just a single issue in itself to solve, but a major obstacle in the pursuit of peace is that within Arab nations there is little or no justice. When they do not treat their own citizens fairly, how can they seek to bring justice in other countries? This leads to the conclusion that the entire world is confronted by division and stands on the brink of disaster. No parties will be spared if the situation gets any worse. Eastern countries that have Western support, or



Western Governments themselves, will have to bear the effects of the increasingly destructive state of the world. The end result is likely to be a horrific and destructive war. I say once again that such a war will more than likely include the use of non-conventional weapons – meaning nuclear weapons. Amongst all of this there is only one hope and one guarantee of peace and that is for justice to prevail in the same spirit that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has taught, that you prefer for others what you prefer for yourself. If such justice can develop, where each country and each great power prefers for others what it prefers for itself, then we can still find peace. It requires all parties to give truthful and fair testimony and rather than veto power for a select few, there should be true democracy and justice across the board. If these steps are taken then we will find peace between nations and we will find that terrorist organisations will die away and lose all support.

Until recently, the main terrorist groups were based in Afghanistan or Pakistan, but in the past few years we have seen that they have also emerged in some African countries and elsewhere. However, if true peace through justice prevails, then certainly the members of the general public will stand up and forcibly reject extremism and so terrorist organisations will die away. It is a tragic irony that so-called Muslim terrorist groups are defaming Islam, by justifying their hate-filled activities in the name of the religion. The truth is that their Islam has nothing to do with real Islam. The true Islam is a religion of peace that has enlightened the world with its beauty and purity.

As I said before, there are multiple causes of why the world stands on the brink of disaster and the

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rise of terrorism is one cause. The threat of a world war is the biggest threat to today's civilisation. It is a real threat and to prevent such an outcome we will have to think in a fair and just way, so that we can save the world from ruin.

It is noteworthy that one of the biggest causes of today's lack of peace is the current financial circumstances of the world, which have become extremely strained over the past few years. In a very recent interview, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg said that today's economic climate was the same as was faced by the world prior to the First World War. He added that the desperate financial circumstances at that time were a major cause of the war. Whether others agree with him or not, in my view, his analysis is correct. Indeed, I would go further to say that today's world situation is also very similar to that which prevailed in the years preceding the Second World War. The words of warning given by Luxembourg's Prime Minister are something that we should consider very seriously and pay urgent attention to. The Prime Minister said:

“Anyone who believes that the eternal issue of war and peace in Europe has been permanently laid to rest could be making a monumental error”.

Thus, we should not sit here and only be concerned at the prospect of becoming involved in wars that are taking place in Asia, but we should also be extremely concerned about the

problems on our own doorsteps. If we look at Europe's own financial crisis and its long term effects we see that it is causing restlessness to spread within Europe's population and this anxiety is increasing at great speed. If not handled properly, the results of such frustrations and desperation will prove to be catastrophic. Thus, it is the duty of all powers to fulfil the requirements of justice and to unite together. All parties need to increase dialogue and open the lines of communication so that they can peacefully discuss the best means to solve the problems of the world. These steps are necessary so that global peace can be established. It is my prayer that Allah grants the people of the world the ability to do this.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Boachie-Adjei, the winner of this year's Ahmadiyya Muslim Peace Prize. I was very pleased to hear of all of his services to humanity.

With these words I would also like to thank all of the guests once again for taking the time and effort to join us today. I hope and pray that you have enjoyed and benefited from this event. May Allah bless you all. Thank you again. Thank you very much.”

## EXTRACTS OF OTHER SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE 2013 PEACE SYMPOSIUM

### RAFIQ HAYAT

*The Amir (National President) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK.*

Assalamo-alaikum, 2013 is a special year for us. Our peace symposium started in 2004 with humble beginnings and is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Baitul Futuh Mosque is also now in its tenth year, and the UK branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is celebrating its centenary in 2013. In fact the UK has an historic connection with the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) received a revelation, a part of which was that he saw that he was speaking from a pulpit in London, and he interpreted that to mean that whilst he may not visit England his message would reach these shores and find a home in the hearts of the righteous.

The Promised Messiah's writings reached England during his lifetime – and in fact he wrote a special book on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 – but it was a few years after his demise, that the community's first spiritual leader or Khalifa sent the first Ahmadi Muslim missionary to the UK in 1913, thereby cementing the link between the community and the UK. The community bought a small piece of land in Southfields that then became home to our first mosque and indeed the first mosque in London.

The community is led by a Khalifa – and we are honoured that since 1924 every Khalifa has visited the UK and in fact since 1984 the Khalifa has been based in London due to the persecution of our community in Pakistan. The present Khalifa, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, is the fifth successor to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and he leads the global community in its endeavours to promote peace and to serve mankind.

### SIQBHAIN MCDONAGH MP

*Member of Parliament for Mitcham and Morden and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.*

Let me just say how pleased I am to be here today to celebrate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Centenary, an extraordinary achievement by most standards, and of course it is a particular honour to be here today in the presence of his holiness Hazrat

As part of the centenary celebrations we will be giving thanks to God, for Britain is a true home that provides true religious freedom and that is something one must never take for granted.

We will also carry out blood drives to help save lives, plant 20,000 trees to protect the environment, feed 10,000 homeless people and raise half a million pounds for British charities to help in whatever small way we can. We will not do just this year, but we hope to do this every year, for that is our duty and our responsibility.

Our community has been in Britain through two world wars, through three home Olympics, through England winning the world cup in 1966. We have been here through the challenges and triumphs of the past 100 years; here, with you, as one and here doing our best to serve our country, its people and humanity at large.

We have done this not to please you, but to please God, because this is what Islam, our faith, has taught us. For it is our belief that the love of God has the power to unite mankind. It is to this journey we invite the whole world for this is the pathway to peace. This is the focus that our Khalifa, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, has given us. Through his numerous lectures – that in the past 12 months included those delivered at Capitol Hill and the European Parliament; through his letters to world leaders – both religious and political, he has continuously stressed the need for peace. His life has been a life of sacrifice and service and we are delighted that he is with us tonight.

Khalifatul Masih V.  
Assalamo Alaikum to you all!

In the last several years I have learnt a great deal about Islam from your



community. I have learnt that Islam is built on the rights of life, equality, tolerance and justice. I have learnt that Islam advocates the freedom of expression, the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion, and more importantly I have learnt that Islam is a religion of peace. These are important values, they are values embedded in Islam, but they are also the bedrock of democracy, and these are the values that are integral to a peaceful and cohesive society.

Since being elected Khalifa, I know that his holiness has tirelessly set about promoting peace. You have launched the national peace symposium, and have set up an annual Ahmadiyya Peace award, rewarding those who have shown an

### STEPHEN HAMMOND MP

*Member of Parliament for Wimbledon and Minister for Transport.*

Assalamo Alaikum. Your Holiness, national president, your excellencies, my lords, members of parliament, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. The national president stated that your community has been here for 100 years, and I know it is next month, his holiness would have been Caliph for ten years, and what a ten years it has been from the peace symposium that was initiated here ten years ago. Through the numerous charities, community events that you have taken part in, in that 10 years, and the numerous times you have made these facilities available to the local community, I think in particular to those of us who are from the London Borough of Merton, you opened up this space for us to be able to celebrate our Olympic community winners, and to award those games makers who came from this space.

### DR CHARLES TANNOCK MEP

*Chair of the European Parliament Friends of Ahmadiyya Muslims Group, Member of EU Human Rights Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and Vice-President of the EP delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly.*

My Lords, ladies and gentleman. Your Holiness, ambassadors, distinguished guests, fellow parliamentarians this is a great occasion. The 100th anniversary of the Ahmadiyya Community in the UK, the 10th anniversary of the peace symposium.

This is my second visit to your mosque, but I did have a remarkable opportunity to host two events in the European Parliament, the last of which was

extraordinary commitment to the achievement of peace. You lead by example. More locally I am extremely proud to hear about a group of Ahmadiyya Muslim youths who voluntarily clean the snow from the front of the hospital entrances, and in the pathways of a local church in Croydon in January this year. Love of ones neighbour is surely the embodiment of peace, and once again your community leads by example.

I want to end with the words of a great man who received the Nobel Peace prize in 1964, who fought tirelessly for equality and peace. "Darkness, cannot be driven out by darkness. Only Light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that", Martin Luther King.

You are quite right in that there are numerous events that have been taken place in the last year to which the community contributed. I am particular keen to say also on a more local level that the message that you quite rightly put out your slogan "Love for All, Hatred for None" is even more effectively disseminated at the moment as I see it on so many cars as they drive around the constituencies and around London. A message that rings out from your community not only from your actions, but from your words as well. I am grateful yet again to be asked to speak at the peace symposium, I am delighted to be here and look forward to being here for many years to come.

in December last year. His holiness graced us with his presence in the European Parliament where we launched and founded the European Parliament Friends Ahmadiyya Muslims Group and it was a very well attended and extremely successful event, and it raised the profile of the Ahmadiyya Community within the EU institutions. In fact the



president of the European Parliament – himself an extremely busy man – actually made time available to come and meet us all, and meet his holiness and understand the plight Ahmadis face worldwide and the good work carried out by the Ahmadis.

I am myself as the foreign affairs spokesperson, human rights spokesperson of the conservatives in the European Parliament first became aware of the Ahmadis not just through my constituency basis, because of course my constituency being based in London, but also my work regarding religious freedom in the Muslim world in particular Pakistan, where I have taken an interest in the Christians. I became aware of the Ahmadis

### DR ANDREW BENNETT

*Canadian Ambassador for Religious Freedom*

Assalamo Alaikum, Your Holiness, my Lords, Members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen it is a tremendous honour for me to be here tonight. I would like to thank his holiness and members of the community here in the UK for this invitation for me. At the February 19th event when our office was announced, we emphasised that Canada would be a faithful friend to Ahmadi Muslims around the world.

The goal of the office for religious freedom and my position as ambassador is about promoting and defending freedom of religion, freedom of belief around the world. The values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights, which Canadians and people in the UK also value so highly, will guide my work and the work of my colleagues.

The foundation of our work will be respect for inherent human dignity. This work is not about theological disputes, this is not a theological issue, it is about humanity, it is a human issue. Human dignity will be at the centre of this work. We will be there, and I will be there to speak out against religious persecution faced by Ahmadi Muslims in

### RT HON ED DAVEY MP

*Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change*

Assalamo Alaikum, Your Holiness, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege to be here today again at your peace symposium and I would like to start by thanking and paying tribute to your

suffering a totally unacceptable ban on their religious rights, freedom to practise their religion in the way they wish to do so in Pakistan, and very much in contrast to what happened in Bangladesh, another country I am extremely close to who actually have improved matters in recent years.

I have often referred the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, as a model community that exhibits the values of loyalty, respect, and peace and I reiterate my belief that if others were as committed to peace then I am sure there would be much greater peace and stability in the world for all. Thank you very much.

countries such as Pakistan.

This week I had the opportunity to be at the conference of religious freedom in Kazakhstan, in the capital Astana, and I had the occasion to speak with Kazakhstani authorities about the conditions faced by Ahmadi Muslims in that country, where they are not allowed to be officially registered as a faith community and we will continue to speak out on that issue.

Indeed the office of religious freedom in the Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade Development in Canada will be there consistently to speak out against the persecution of all people of faith. Whether they be Coptic Christians in Egypt or Iraq, Bahai in Iran, or Rohingya Muslims in Burma. This is truly challenging work, but with the support of people of goodwill, we can pursue the truth and achieve the good, and that good must be rooted in peace.

I thank you again your holiness for this wonderful honour and I look forward to working with many of you in the years to come, to pursue this work. Thank you very much.



you do, here in the UK and around the world to bring people together of all faiths and none to champion peace.

You help everyone understand each other better and you teach us to look into our hearts to make sure love is in our hearts, and the religious leadership you give on that message is very welcome and we thank you for it.

Of course this is the centenary year of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community here in the UK and we are celebrating that as well as your commitment to peace.

I have the honour to be hosting and organising the event in the House of Commons later this year to welcome you and on a cross-party basis to celebrate and congratulate you and your community. I hope and I am sure we will be able to do that between the parties in the House of Commons.

Whether, it is coming to these symposiums or

talking to many of my constituents who are Ahmadi Muslims, or whether it is going to the Jalsas, those wonderful conventions that you hold every year, I have learnt the commitment of the Ahmadis and of your holiness to not just talking about peace and putting that message forward, but of doing things that are practical about it.

Your work in making sure people can have clean water in many developing countries is inspirational, your commitment to bringing renewable energy to some of our poorest countries and communities is very admirable and so I know when I put the challenge to many people to make sure we are doing what we can to make sure climate change doesn't bring conflict, I know you will be in the forefront of that work.

I know we are all waiting to hear from your holiness, to be inspired by your words yet again, so I thank you very much again for this opportunity and I thank you very much for your leadership.

### Some of the key dignitaries who attended the 2013 Peace Symposium include:

- Rt Hon Ed Davey MP – Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.
- Siobhain McDonagh MP - Chair of APPG for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.
- Stephen Hammond MP – Minister for Transport.
- Jane Ellison MP – Vice-Chair of APPG for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.
- Henry Smith MP.
- Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon.
- Lord Singh of Wimbledon.
- Lord Mohamed Sheikh & Lady Sheikh.
- Dr Charles Tannock MEP – Chair of EU Friends of Ahmadiyya Muslims Parliamentary Group.
- Dr. Andrew Bennet – Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Canada.
- H.E. Asta Skaisgiryte-Liauskiene – Ambassador of Lithuania.
- H.E. Edward Turray – High Commissioner of Sierra Leone.
- H.E. Miguel a.Solano-Lopez c. – Ambassador of Paraguay
- H.E. Wesley Momo Johnson – Ambassador of Liberia.
- Councillor David Williams – Mayor of Merton.
- Councillor Peter Crearar - Mayor of Rushmoor.
- Councillor Adrian Knowles – Mayor of Wandsworth
- Dr Oheneba Boachie-Adjei – Founder of FOCOS (Peace Prize Winner).
- Councillor Stephen Alambritis – Leader of Merton Council.
- Mohammad Asghar - Welsh Assembly Member.



View of the main table of guests and speakers

## *The 2012 Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace*



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace was launched in 2009. It is an international award which recognises the work carried out to advance the cause of peace. It is given to those who made a distinctive contribution towards peace without favour or prejudice. The winner of the peace prize for 2012 was FOCOS (Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine) for its work with children across the world, and especially in Africa.

FOCOS is a non-profit organisation founded in 1998 by Dr. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei. Its mission is to provide comprehensive, affordable orthopedic and spine care to underserved communities in Ghana and throughout West Africa. FOCOS has evaluated thousands of patients from different parts of Africa and performed over 800 corrective orthopedic and joint procedures in Ghana for adult and pediatric populations.

The FOCOS Hospital's mission is to provide comprehensive orthopedic services including diagnostics, imaging and laboratory, outpatient consultation and surgical care to adult and pediatric populations in Africa. FOCOS aspires to become the premier orthopedic teaching hospital in the sub-Saharan Africa.

## **PEACE PRIZE WINNER: Dr Boachie-Adjei, Founder of FOCOS (Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine)**

Assalamu Alaikum. Your holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor, spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Excellencies, honourable ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this award for the advancement of peace, since I know there are many others as deserving as I.

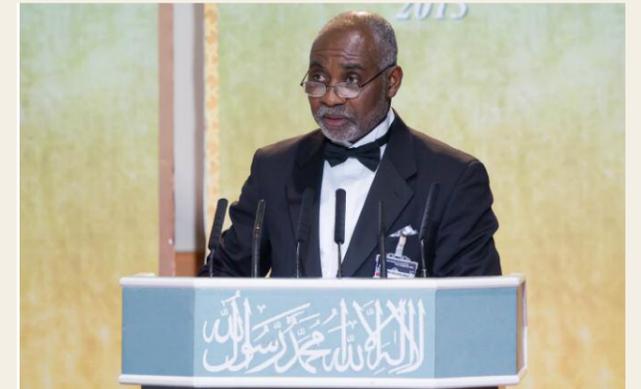
I stand here for all my role models from my youth, the early years of elementary and high school, and in later years the academic, philanthropic disciplines and the volunteers of the FOCOS organisation. They have all inspired me in sharing in my dream to give back to the poor, the crippled and the disabled children in Africa, particularly in Ghana.

More than 500 FOCOS volunteers, mostly from my hospital for the hospital for special surgeries in New York, have also come from all walks of life. We have volunteers from the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Italy, Norway, India, New Zealand, Japan to them I all say a big thank you, and above all many thanks go to my family for their prayers especially my dear wife. Their support in standing by me in all my decisions and activities over the years.

We have to get up and build our future from the jungles of Ghana to the bright skyscrapers of New York to the freezingly cold winters of Minnesota, to the sunny west coast of California, but our hearts have always been at home in Ghana, and we thank God for keeping it safe.

As the UK chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community marks its centenary anniversary, we are all reminded by the mission of his holiness Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to engender in peoples hearts the love of God, and the duty to serve mankind. This is what FOCOS is doing in Ghana, a country of 25 million with only a dozen orthopedic surgeons, and the statistics is no better in other parts of sub-saharan Africa. You can imagine the need for help and as I said during the opening ceremony of the FOCOS organisation, the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, and we should all pray to the Lord of the harvest to bring more labourers into the field.

The struggle for independence is over, but we still continue to struggle in significant ways. Improvements are needed in education, health, nutrition, the culture of tolerance, and peaceful co-existence. This is where I, the government and all



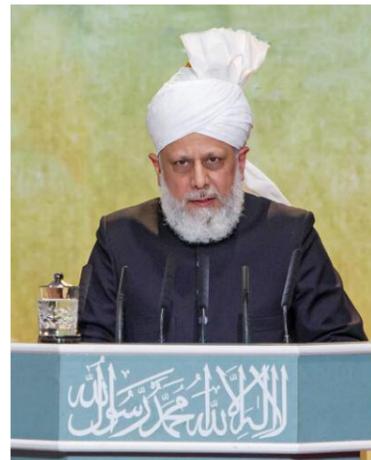
concerned persons can play a major and critical role. I personally learned early on about giving in life, when I learned first-hand a pediatrician who after training abroad in the UK returned to my home town in Ghana to care for the sick children.

I was one of the sickest at the mercy of traditional healers who had no clue how to diagnose my illness, and lacked remedy to provide medicine for my ailing body. I am alive today thank God because one UK trained Ghanaian pediatrician decided to come back home to set up a medical practice in my home town.

It was not how much money he made taking care of the sick kids like myself, but I am certainly sure he derived gratification saving our lives, and giving children new leases on life. He was happy that we were happy, and the greatest philosopher Aristotle said "happiness is in the participation of something that brings fulfillment, and fulfillment is found in helping and serving others", and the Nobel laureate Albert Schweitzer who established a hospital in Gabon believed that service is our destiny, and said the only ones among us who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

We hope the FOCOS orthopedic hospital in Ghana will provide the needed orthopedic care to all that come to us, as well as educate and train the local professionals to develop the orthopedic work force of the future. Not only in Ghana, but Africa and beyond.

We all need to remember our roots and give back. I would like to thank the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, the board for selecting me for this award and I wish everyone here and the nations of the world peace and prosperity. God bless you all and enjoy the rest of the evening.



Meeting with the delegation of Navy and Police



Meeting with members of the media

Some of the guests who had an audience with His Holiness prior to the event.



Stephen Hammond MP



Henry Smith MP



Commanding Officer of HMS President, Commander Eugene Morgan



H.E. Edward Turray, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone



H.E. Miguel a.Solano-Lopez c. – Ambassador of Paraguay



Lord Mohammad Sheikh



Dr Oheneba-Adjei (peace prize winner) with his wife



H.E. Asta Skaisgiryte-Liauskiene, Ambassador of Lithuania and the First Secretary of the Lithuanian Embassy

## Messages of Support from the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister (and Leader of the Liberal Democrats) and the Leader of the Labour Party

*“I hope that your good works, your message of peace and your philosophy of ‘Love For All Hatred For None’ continue to flourish in Britain and throughout the world.”*

Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
The Prime Minister

Message from:  
**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP  
The Deputy Prime Minister and  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats  
Party**



I am delighted to extend my congratulations to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on both its 10th National Peace Symposium and its centenary celebrations this year.

Your community exhibits the very best of humanity and this is all too evident in your, charity fundraising, environmental work and service to those in need.

Over the past century you have expanded from one centre to 100 branches across Britain, raised more than a million pounds for British charities, and your members have served the country in every profession right across the board from teachers, doctors and engineers to civil servants, politicians and members of the armed forces – all reflective of your sincere commitment and contribution to national life.

Your work in this centenary year alone is impressive to say the least - the planting of 6,000 trees, the feeding of 10,000 homeless people and your ongoing engagement with all sectors of society to serve the cause of peace. Britain can be proud of this work and proud of you.

I also know that London is at the heart of your global community as the worldwide leader of your community, His Holiness Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad is based here. Through his distinctive leadership you have held fast to the principles of peace – even in the face of severe persecution in some countries. I congratulate your holiness and congratulate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on this centenary year. May your good works continue to flourish.

Message from:  
**The Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
The Prime Minister**



I congratulate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on its remarkable centenary. Your presence in this country is a living example of how Britain has become a true home to people from all corners of the world.

Your achievements are many, from building London's first mosque in Southfields in 1924, to the phenomenal work you have done in promoting peace right across the country. Just last year you celebrated with the rest of us the joyous Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen as well as the amazing success of Britain at the Olympics. Indeed it is events such as those and communities such as yours that show the world the best of Britain.

Your tremendous charitable services that you have delivered to old and young alike, your care for the environment by planting thousands of trees each year, your feed the homeless project and blood donation drives are just a few of the many reasons that Britain can be proud of you. This is true faith in action.

I know that your community has suffered terrible persecution but I also know that your worldwide leader, His Holiness Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who is based right here in London, is a man of peace. These are difficult times but the manner in which you persevere is exemplary.

I hope that your good works, your message of peace and your philosophy of Love For All Hatred For None continue to flourish in Britain and throughout the world.

Many congratulations to all Ahmadi Muslims in the United Kingdom on their centennial year!

Message from:  
**The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP  
Leader of the Labour Party**



On behalf of the Labour Party, I congratulate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK for its 10th National Peace Symposium.

I know that this is a special year for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK as 2013 is your centenary year. In particular I would like to extend my congratulations to His Holiness Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the worldwide leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

This centenary year is a tremendous milestone for the community and your contribution to national life over the past century can be gauged from your on-going commitment to the values of loyalty, freedom and peace.

Your motto of 'Love For All Hatred For None' is one that we welcome and support. At the heart of One Nation Labour is the idea that everybody must play their part, and that leaders have a duty not to divide, but to unite. You have always brought people of all faiths and backgrounds together, and may you continue to do so for another hundred years.

**Loyalty**

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**Freedom**

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**Equality**

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**Respect**

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**Peace**



**[www.LoveForAllHatredForNone.org](http://www.LoveForAllHatredForNone.org)**

**Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK**

The London Mosque  
16 Gressenhall Road  
London SW18 5QL

**Tel:** 020 8874 5836

**Fax:** 020 8874 4779

[www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) • [www.mta.tv](http://www.mta.tv)

**Email:** [ExternalAffairs@ahmadiyya.org.uk](mailto:ExternalAffairs@ahmadiyya.org.uk)