

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا، وَجَعَلَ لِمَنْ اتَّقَاهُ
فَرَجًا وَمَخْرَجًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، أَنْزَلَ
الْقُرْآنَ هِدَايَةً وَنُورًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولَهُ،
فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah. He revealed the Book and has not made therein any deviance. He also provided relief and a way out for those who obey Him. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He sent down the Quran as a guidance and enlightenment to His Creation. I also bear witness that our Master Mohammed is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

- 1. In Islam there is NO hatred of others. WE DO NOT DIFFERENTIATE on Race, Ethnicity, Colour, Nationality or Religion.**
- 2. In Islam everyone has a CHOICE. We are NOT permitted to violate the religious rights of others.**
- 3. In Islam RACISM and PREJUDICE is a MAJOR SIN.**
- 4. In Islam INJUSTICE, OPPRESSION AND PERSECUTION is condemned.**
- 5. In Islam even if someone does harbour grievances or ill-feeling towards others, the Qur'an asks us to demonstrate the principle of forgiveness.**

Those who give (to others) in time of plenty and in time of hardship, and control their anger, and forgive people. And God loves the doers of good.

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ mission was one of spreading love and peace and not inflicting harm or inciting hatred. The Qur'an describes him as **'The Mercy To The Worlds'**.

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger ﷺ said: A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand mankind is safe and a believer is one in whom people place their trust in regard to their life and wealth. (Nasai)

6. In Islam no one wants to be sworn at or called vile names or mistreated. Everyone wishes to be treated with dignity and respect.

O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. (49:11)

Sayyidna Anas narrated that the Messenger ﷺ said: None of you (truly) believes until he loves for his brother that which he loves for himself.

Imam Nawawi commenting on this hadith states that ‘his brother’ includes all the human family as they are all descendants of Adam عليه السلام.

7. In Islam it is important to remain vigilant and stand firm against those who would divide our societies. It is always extremists who divide society into an ‘us and them’ like the Bosnian Serb militias and the Nazis. One must stand up to defend the rights of others if we see them being violated.

" إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا - وَشَبَّكَ أَصَابِعُهُ. "

"A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other." Then the Prophet clasped his hands, by interlacing his fingers. (Bukhari)

We must also always seek to unite, rather than divide, with one another, and the only way to reconcile is to forgive, and work together.

There has not been a single revenge attack in the Srebrenica area since the genocide by other Muslims.

The mass murder of Bosnian Muslims on the doorstep of Europe highlights that it could happen anywhere and to anyone else. We and our families, our towns and our nations will only be safe when all people and communities are tolerant and understanding of each other.

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَّى

The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.

This is why it is critically important that we continue to remember those who were murdered and guard against the causes of such heinous crimes.

THE MUSLIM'S PLEDGE

- **When we hear the language of “us and them”, we will reach out and find common ground.**
- **When we hear stereotyping and scapegoating, we will find and share alternative positive stories.**
- **When we see discrimination in our schools or workplaces, we will challenge this and promote equal opportunities for all.**
- **When we hear dehumanising language, we will remind the speaker of our common humanity.**
- **When we see members of our community becoming disenfranchised, we will make an effort to engage and include them.**
- **When we hear divisive propaganda, we will challenge this effectively with wisdom and evidence.**
- **Where we see persecution, we will do everything in our power to protect those who are suffering.**
- **Where we believe that genocide is taking place, we will call on our governments and the international community to take immediate action.**
- **We pledge that we will always choose the side of those who are suffering over the side of the oppressor.**