



The Joseph Interfaith Foundation

*United in a Vision for Truth*

Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
The Secretary of State for the Home Department  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Dear Home Secretary

We write to you to express our deep concern at the proposed visit of Terry Jones, the American pastor who is going to speak about Islam and the Qur'an at a meeting of English Defence League.

Members of the Council of Imams and Rabbis are senior religious leaders with large congregations in London. We represent the Shi'a and Sunni Muslim communities as well as some of the largest Orthodox, Reform, Liberal and Masorti Jewish congregations in London. We are unanimous in the opinion that the visit of Terry Jones will have a very detrimental effect on the British society's relation with our Muslim communities. Furthermore, it will most definitely have a strong negative impact on community cohesion.

We affirm strongly the principle of freedom of expression, but we believe that those who use this freedom must be mindful of their responsibilities too; otherwise the result is the abuse of that freedom. Terry Jones's visit and his speech will inevitably strengthen the ideology of the Far Right and heighten their profile. We do understand that least publicity given to these people is at times the best policy, but we think that this occasion requires a definitive response from the British government.

We hope very much that you will respond positively to our request and will not grant permission to Terry Jones to enter the United Kingdom.

The Council of Imams and Rabbis

Lord Nazir Ahmed, Trustee of the Foundation  
Sir David Michels, Trustee of the Foundation

**Trustees: Lord Ahmed, Sir David Michels, Baroness Neuberger, Professor Mona Siddiqui**

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