Statement from the National Council of Imams and Rabbis following the murder of a soldier in Woolwich

Thursday 23rd May 2013

The National Council of Imams and Rabbis extends its deepest sympathy to the family and community of the young man murdered yesterday (Wednesday 22nd May) in south-east London. The Council utterly condemns the actions of those who carried out the brutal and horrific attack and supports all action that will bring his killers to justice.

The National Council of Imams and Rabbis, which works to build dialogue and understanding between Muslim and Jewish religious leadership in Great Britain, appeals to all communities for calm and prayer at this difficult time. We reject any attempts to divide the communities or stir-up Islamophobia.

An incident such as that witnessed yesterday in a street in London can serve to destabilise the often fragile relationship that exists between different ethnic and religious groups in our country, instilling an instinctive reaction of fear and uncertainty in the hearts of ordinary men and women.

Yet in this country that so frequently proves itself to be open, tolerant, rich in cultural and religious differences, let us remain faithful to those values and firm in our belief that a good society is created by individuals and communities whose lives are guided by the ideals of justice, compassion, respect and peace.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and friends of the young man who died. We commend his soul to God and pray that the voices of those who wish to stir up enmity, will be silenced by those who call for justice and peace.



Trustees: Sir David Michels, Lord Sheikh of Cornhill