

# 10

issues  
questions  
ways

*to raise your concerns in  
the next General Election*

**MCB.org.uk/vote2005**

The Muslim Council of Britain *Seeking the Common Good*

**USE YOUR  
VOTE**

During the election campaign you will be visited by prospective parliamentary candidates. This will be an ideal opportunity for you to press your concerns as a Muslim to your prospective MP. If you feel strongly about these issues, make sure he or she gives you a commitment to these ideas.

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**1** The law currently forbids racial **discrimination**. However, several recent studies have shown that British Muslims are increasingly being discriminated against on the basis of their religion.

**W**ILL YOU support legislative measures to provide equal protection to Muslims and other faith groups from discrimination in all areas with a positive duty to promote equality on grounds of faith as is provided to racial groups under the race laws?

**2** Far right groups are exploiting a loophole in the law, which prohibits incitement to race hate but does not explicitly forbid **incitement** to religious hatred.

**W**ILL YOU SUPPORT legislative measures to make incitement to religious hatred illegal so that Muslims and other faith groups enjoy the same protection as is enjoyed currently by the Jews and Sikhs under the race laws?

**3** The discriminatory application of **anti-terror laws** has served to stigmatise British Muslims. High-profile raids, stop and search activities and sensationalist media coverage has increased **anti-Muslim sentiment**.

**W**ILL YOU oppose all measures that compromise the Rule of Law and instead promote steps that ensure that no individual loses their liberty or dignity without the proper and transparent process of law?

**4** British Muslims rank near the bottom of all major socio-economic indicators (education, employment, housing, health, criminal justice etc).

**W**HAT POSITIVE action measures would you and your party take to enable Muslims to achieve equality of opportunity and to address the causes of their **social exclusion**, deprivation and marginalisation?

**5** **International law** is enforced very selectively allowing some countries (eg. Israel, Russia, India) to flout United Nations resolutions with impunity. The resulting inequality and injustice contributes towards creating a less stable world.

**W**ILL YOU promote a foreign policy that is based on justice and fairness?

**6** Parliament voted to go to war in support of the **US invasion of Iraq**. This took place against the wishes of half the country, without support of the international community or the United Nations.

**W**ILL YOU support the immediate publication of a timetable for the withdrawal of all British forces from Iraq, and oppose their deployment under similar conditions in the future?

**7** **Muslim Students in state schools** are under achieving and consequently suffer from limited opportunities and a higher than average rate of unemployment after leaving school.

**W**ILL YOU work to ensure that the necessary resources and programmes are put in place to address this problem, and will you support equality of treatment for Muslims in the provision of state funding for Muslim schools?

**8** According to 2001 Census there are 1.6 million Muslims in the UK. This is more than the numbers of British Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists combined. The **representation in all walks of life including politics needs to reflect this diversity**.

**W**HAT WILL YOU and your party do to achieve this objective?

**9** We believe all **human life is sacred**.

**H**OW WILL YOUR party ensure that religious and moral contributions to discussions on issues such as abortion and euthanasia are fully taken on-board?

**USE YOUR VOTE**

**10** Immigrants have always contributed to the growth and prosperity of our country. And they continue to do so today.

**W**HAT IS YOUR position on immigration policy and what will you do to ensure that the tone of this debate does not fuel a racist agenda?

The Muslim Council of Britain ([www.mcb.org.uk](http://www.mcb.org.uk)) is the UK's representative Muslim umbrella body with over 400 affiliated national, regional and local organisations, mosques, charities and schools.

It aims:

- To promote cooperation, consensus and unity on Muslim affairs in the UK.
- To encourage and strengthen all existing efforts being made for the benefit of the Muslim community.
- To work for a more enlightened appreciation of Islam and Muslims in the wider society.
- To establish a position for the Muslim community within British society that is fair and based on due rights.
- To work for the eradication of disadvantages and forms of discrimination faced by Muslims.
- To foster better community relations and work for the good of society as a whole.

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