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PRESS RELEASE

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MUSLIM DOCTORS AND TREATMENT OF SEX DISEASES

At the London Central Mosque and the Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) we were surprised by the front-page headline in the Mail on Sunday (Muslim GPs won't treat sex diseases, 1st August 2004) as we are not aware of any Muslim medical practitioners withholding or refusing treatment to anyone suffering from a sexually transmitted illness.

“According to the teachings of Islam there is no scope for refusing or delaying treatment 'because patients' actions have contributed to their condition'. The statement that the Al Qur'an 'forbids Muslims doctors from helping sufferers' is completely incorrect and represents a serious misunderstanding of the teachings of Islam. We learn from the Ahadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) that for every illness God has provided a cure thus emphasising the importance of the quest for scientific knowledge and new treatments” says .Dr Ahmed Al Dubayan Director General of the (ICC).

Dr Shuja Shafi, Chair, Health & Medical Committee MCB says “Muslim doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals contribute significantly and play an instrumental and widely acknowledged role in supporting all sections of our NHS. An increasing number of Muslim students work hard to enter medical and allied healthcare professional courses. They are driven by the motivation to serve and treat those who are ill and suffering.

Nonetheless, we would be very interested to study the dossier of complaints compiled by the senior anonymous academic to assess whether a problem actually exists and, if so, the extent of it and what can be done to address this issue. We hope that the Mail on Sunday will now furnish this evidence.”

“We are working very closely with the NHS Westminster Primary Health Trust and the NAZ Project as a part of health promotion campaigns aiming to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS. Our joints leaflets with the NAZ Project were distributed among different sections of the community, surely we do not discriminate in the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases” says Dr Yunes Teinaz Advisor to the (ICC).

For more information please contact:

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