

FOSTERFRIDAY

21
MAY



Friday Sermon

Jumma Khutbah (Friday Sermon)
on Fostering

#FF21 #FCF21 #WhyMuslimsFoster



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Guidelines for the **FOSTER FRIDAY SERMON**

This Friday Sermon/Jumma Khutbah should be delivered on Friday 21st May 2021 as part of The Muslim Foster Network (MFN) national Foster Friday campaign.

The Context

We all hear the plight of our Muslim brothers and sisters who have become refugees from Palestine as well as those who are tracking across Europe from Syria and those who are fleeing Chinese persecution in Xinjiang. As Muslims we cannot and must not ignore this plight. In fact many of these refugees are young people and children who sometimes leave family and head to Europe and to the UK to find a place to live and escape the suffering.

We estimate that there are up to 5,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (Refugee) Children living in care mainly from Muslim countries. We can support these children by giving money and charity to causes abroad, but we can also support those who are in the UK by becoming Foster carers.

We therefore request all mosques to use these guidelines to deliver a Jumma khutbah this Friday 21st May to highlight the important role the Muslim community can play through Fostering to support the needs of Muslim children in care here in the UK.

1. Why We Need More Muslims Foster Carers & Adopters

- Fostering is an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling role, both in this life as you are protecting a life and the Eeman of a Muslim child and in the hereafter. We cannot underestimate the reward that Allah has prepared for this deed.
- Local Authorities and Independent Fostering Agencies with Muslim children in care need more Muslim carers to meet the faith and cultural needs of these Muslim children.
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children wait the longest to be placed - this causes many issues and disrupts attachments and bonds of trust.
- Children should be able to feel comfortable practicing Islam with their carer and Muslims children who are in families of other religions may find this really difficult.
- Non-Muslim carers need the support of the Muslim community if they are going to be effectively caring for Muslim children in their care.

2. Key Facts

- There are over 80,000 children in care in England. Estimated 6,000-7,000 Muslim children.
- 5,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (Refugee) Children living in care mainly from Muslim countries Sudan, Eritrea, Albania, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria. Most are teenagers.
- In some areas over 90% of children are placed away from faith group due to shortage of Muslim carers.
- Foster Friday started in 2017 by MFN is the only dedicated event for raising awareness about fostering in the Muslim community.
- In the last 3 years the MFN has supported over 3,000 people considering fostering.

3. Our Beloved Prophet (Pbuh) Was Also Fostered

- As a young baby our Prophet (pbuh) was fostered by Halima Saadia and others. As he got older, he was fostered by his grandfather and uncle.
- Reward of fostering taken from the story of Halima Saadia. Her mount straight after picking up the prophet as a child grew strength, her breasts filled with milk, her goat and camel started providing more milk, her state went from poverty to comfort.
- Comparisons can be drawn between the spiritual and worldly reward. Fostering in our times comes with a monetary reward and also spiritual reward. Just like that of Halima Saadia.

4. Guidance From The Prophet (Pbuh) Around Fostering

- The Prophet (pbuh) himself had fostered Zayd Ibn Harithah (ra).
- Ibn Majah in a hadith said, "The best house among the Muslims is one where an orphan is well treated, and the worst house among the Muslim is one where an orphan is badly treated".
- "I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him will be in Paradise like this." Putting his index and middle fingers together. Narrated by Sahl bin Sa'd.

Case Studies

We Took Our Foster Daughter On Umrah

There are many good examples of Muslim foster carers, one family supported by Muslim Foster Network who became approved in 2018 are looking after a 12-year old Muslim girl. Last year in the Easter holidays, the family went to perform Umrah and they took their foster daughter with them.

The foster carer told us 'I was so excited when I got the news, I arranged for her to talk to her birth parents to share with them how excited she was to go on Umrah'. Not only are these foster carers protecting the Imaan of this child they are also nurturing her to feel part of the family. This child would not have this opportunity if she was placed with non-Muslim carers.

I have enjoyed looking after non-Muslim children

Another Muslim foster carer who was supported by Muslim Foster Network told us that, " I am the main carer, my husband is also an approved foster carer and a big support to me. I have fostered 4 teenagers and 3 children.

My first child was an emergency placement but was the longest one and ended after six and half years. Our best part of the experience was with our first child who was although not culturally matched with us but the attachment developed between us was overwhelming."

My faith needs were not met

Shaz, 18, who was cared for by non-Muslims, told the BBC: "I felt like I didn't belong and I had to be white." Two-thirds of councils in England have a shortage of black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) foster carers, according to BBC analysis of official figures.

Shaz described how he felt that he had to look a certain way and he was asked to eat pork but then he explained that he cannot eat it and he used to get into arguments. It came to a point where he felt he needed to do something about it and raise more awareness.

*<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-49425345/bame-in-work-the-surname-khan-made-me-feel-conscious>