



# ISLAM

## A RELIGION OF PEACE AND COMPASSION

An address delivered by His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at an event held in the Churchill Room in the House of Commons, celebrating the centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United Kingdom.



## An Overview of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is a religious organisation, with branches in more than 200 countries. It is the most dynamic denomination of Islam in modern history, with an estimated membership in the tens of millions worldwide.

It was established by **Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad** (1835-1908) in 1889 in a small and remote village called Qadian in Punjab, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days and the awaited one of the world community of religions (the *Mahdi* and Messiah of the latter days). The community he started is an embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam in its pristine purity that promotes peace and universal brotherhood based on a belief in the Gracious and Ever-Merciful God.



With this conviction, within a century, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community has expanded globally and it endeavours to practice the peaceful teachings of Islam by raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities, building schools and hospitals open to all and by encouraging learning through interfaith dialogue.

The UK chapter of the community was established in 1913 and in 1924 it built London's first purpose built mosque (in Southfields). It is therefore one of the oldest and most established Muslim organisations in Britain and now has more than 100 branches across Britain.

## The Khalifa of Islam: A Man of Peace

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad was elected as the fifth Khalifa of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2003.

His Holiness inspires his community to serve humanity with the spirit of kindness and humility that is integral to Islam. In accordance with the teachings of Islam he upholds the honour of all prophets of God and highlights the role of religion in the promotion of peace.



Over the past year His Holiness has delivered addresses at Capitol Hill and the European Parliament and also written to world leaders urging them to inculcate a true sense of justice and peace in international relations to avoid regional conflicts from engulfing the entire world.

*"...it is the duty of all powers to fulfil the requirements of justice and to unite together. All parties need to increase dialogue and open the lines of communication so that they can peacefully discuss the best means to solve the problems of the world. These steps are necessary so that global peace can be established. It is my prayer that Allah grants the people of the world the ability to do this."*

(National Peace Symposium 2013)



Historic reception for His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad held at the House of Commons marking the centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK.

The event was hosted by Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, in conjunction with the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

His Holiness is pictured above being escorted by parliamentary officials through the grand Westminster Hall built in 1097.

# ISLAM – A RELIGION OF PEACE AND COMPASSION

An address delivered by His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V, Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at an event to celebrate the centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United Kingdom, held at the Houses of Parliament in London. The centenary celebrations were attended by 68 dignitaries, including 30 MPs and 12 Members of the House of Lords, including 6 Cabinet Ministers and 2 Ministers. Various media organisations including the BBC, Sky TV and ITV were also present to cover the event. In attendance, amongst others, was the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change The Rt Hon. Ed Davey MP, the Deputy Prime Minister The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, the Home Secretary The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, the Secretary of State for International Development Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, the Secretary of State for Health Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, the Shadow Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Siobhain McDonagh MP.



His Holiness said:

*“Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem* (in the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful)

All distinguished guests, *Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatohu* – peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

First of all I would like to thank those friends of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community who, upon the centenary of our Community in the UK, have kindly organised this event within the Houses of Parliament as a means to express their friendship and close relationship with us. I would also like to thank all of those guests, who by attending today, are ensuring that this event proves to be a success and worthwhile. I am pleased that quite a number of you are seated here and are not engaged in any other commitments or meetings.

In response to this gesture, apart from professing my thanks and appreciation, I would also like to say that it is my sincere hope and prayer that all of the departments and people who work within this beautiful and grand building are able to fulfil the rights of serving this country and its people. I also hope and pray that they are able to work in the best possible manner towards fostering good relations with other nations, to act with justice and so make decisions that are of benefit

to all parties. If this spirit is adopted then it will reap the very best fruits, which are of love, affection and brotherhood and will lead the world towards becoming a true haven of peace and prosperity.

This desire and prayer of mine is shared by all Ahmadi Muslims, because we believe that it is necessary to have a deep love for one’s country and for humanity at large. Indeed, Ahmadi Muslims believe that love for one’s country is an essential part of faith, because the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> has emphatically ordered and taught this. Thus, let me make it very clear that every Ahmadi Muslim who is a British citizen, whether born here in the UK or whether an immigrant from abroad, is completely loyal to this country and has sincere love for it. They desire only the progress and prosperity of this great nation.

The number of people from other nations who now live in the UK is very significant and is estimated to be at around 14-15% of the total population of this country. And so, I cannot continue without mentioning and praising the great qualities of open-heartedness and tolerance exhibited by the local British people, for the way in which they have accepted immigrants as members of the country and allowed them to become a part of the fabric of British society. In

this sense it becomes an incumbent moral duty upon those people who have come to settle here to prove themselves to be loyal citizens of this country and so they must support the government in its efforts to tackle all forms of disorder and strife. As far as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is concerned, its members act upon this principle in whichever country they reside.

As you are aware, we are currently celebrating the Centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in the United Kingdom. These past 100 years prove and serve witness to the fact that the members of the Ahmadiyya Community have always fulfilled the requirement of being loyal to their country and have always steered absolutely clear of all forms of extremism, rebellion and disorder. In reality, the fundamental reason for this loyal and loving approach is due entirely to the fact that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a true Islamic religious community. Our Community stands apart, as we have continually introduced the true and peaceful teachings of Islam to the people of the world and we have always strived for those true teachings to become accepted as the real Islam.

With these few words of introduction, I would now like to turn towards the main theme of my address. Our sect is the standard bearer for peace, reconciliation and harmony, which is why our motto is *'Love for All, Hatred for None.'* Despite the fact that some non-Muslims know us or indeed have close links to us, they are very surprised that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at attributes its message of peace and brotherhood directly to Islam. The cause of their surprise and shock is because they see that many other so-called Islamic scholars and organisations act and speak in a completely different way and promote a very different message. To explain this difference let me make it clear that we Ahmadi Muslims believe that, in this era, the concept of a violent 'Jihad by the sword' is completely wrong and is to be rejected, whilst some other Muslim scholars promote or even practice it. Their beliefs have led to many extremist and

terrorist organisations emerging amongst the Muslims in various parts of the world.

It is not just groups that are emerging but we also find that certain individuals are taking advantage of and acting upon these false beliefs. The most recent example of this was, of course, the brutal killing of an innocent British soldier on the streets of London. It was an attack which had absolutely nothing to do with the real teachings of Islam; rather, Islamic teachings vehemently condemn such acts. Such evil plots demonstrate the clear difference between the true teachings of Islam and the misconstrued teachings, which some so-called Muslims are practicing due to their ulterior motives. I would also like to say that the reaction of some of the local groups is not correct and can destroy the peace of the society.

What evidence is there to support our contention that what we believe with regards to Islamic teachings is correct? The underlying point to consider is that the use of the sword or force is only permissible when a religious war is waged against Islam. In today's world no one, be it a country or a religion, is physically waging war and attacking Islam on the basis of religion. Thus, it is not justifiable in any way for Muslims to attack any other party, in the name of religion, because this clearly violates the teachings of the Qur'an.

The Qur'an only permitted force to be used against those who waged war and raised their sword against Islam. Another crucial point is that if a citizen seeks to inflict any form of harm on his country or on his fellow countrymen then clearly he would be acting against the teachings of Islam. The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> said that whoso sheds the blood of an innocent person is not a Muslim. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has deemed such people as weak in faith and to be sinners.

I shall now turn to some other aspects of Islam that prove just how enlightened and pure its teachings really are. I shall explain that the way



some so-called Muslim groups present Islam does not represent the real teachings of the religion in any shape or form. It will become clear that their activities are conducted with the sole desire to fulfil their vested interests by falsely using the name of Islam to justify their hate-filled acts.

Islam puts so much emphasis on the importance of religious tolerance that it will be impossible to find such high standards anywhere else. Other people tend to believe that until other religions are proven to be false, they are unable to prove the truth of their religion. Islam's approach is very different because it teaches that whilst Islam is a true religion sent for all of mankind, the truth is that all prophets of God were sent to all people and nations of the world. This is clearly mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. Allah has said that all prophets were sent by Him with teachings of love and affection, and so all true Muslims must accept them. No other religion so willingly and openly praises every faith and every nation as Islam does. Because Muslims believe that prophets were sent to all people and all nations they cannot ever consider them to be false. Thus, Muslims cannot disrespect, mock or insult any of the prophets of God, nor can they injure the sentiments of the followers of any religion.

Yet, sadly the attitude of some non-Muslims is the exact opposite. They do not spare any

opportunity to grievously mock and slander the Founder of Islam<sup>sa</sup> and so gravely wound the feelings of Muslims. We truly desire religious tolerance and mutual understanding, because of the beliefs we hold. Unfortunately however, when certain elements toy with the feelings of Muslims, it leads to some so-called Muslims reacting to the provocation in an entirely wrong and irresponsible way. Their reaction and response has no link to the true teachings of Islam and you will certainly find that no Ahmadi Muslim, however much they are provoked, will ever react in such a negative manner.

Another grave allegation raised against the Founder of Islam<sup>sa</sup> and the Qur'an is that they gave teachings of extremism and promoted the use of force to spread the message of Islam. To assess this allegation and to seek the reality let us look to the Qur'an itself. Allah the Almighty says:

*'And if thy Lord had enforced His Will, surely, all who are in the earth would have believed together. Wilt thou, then, force men to become believers?'*  
(Ch.10:V.100).

This verse clearly states that God, as the Possessor of all Powers, could easily force all people to adopt the same religion; however, He has instead given the people of the world the freedom to choose - to believe or to not believe.

And so if God has given mankind this freedom of choice, then how could the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> or any of his followers compel or force anyone to become a Muslim? Allah the Almighty also states in the Qur'an:

*'It is the truth from your Lord; wherefore let him who will believe, and let him, who will disbelieve.'*  
(Ch.18:V.30)

This is the reality of Islam. This is its true teaching. If a person's heart desires then they are free to accept Islam, but if their heart does not, then they are free to reject it. Therefore, Islam is completely against compulsion and extremism; rather, it advocates peace and harmony at all levels of society. It is quite impossible for Islam to teach violence or compulsion because the very meaning of 'Islam' is to live in peace and to provide peace to all others. Nevertheless, when our religious sentiments are taunted it causes us great pain and anguish. Anything disrespectful said about the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> pierces and wounds our hearts.

It was the Founder of Islam<sup>sa</sup> who developed the love of God and the love of His creation in our hearts. It was he who ingrained and established love and respect for all of mankind and for all religions within us. What bigger proof of Islam's peaceful teachings can there be than the response given by the opponents of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> when he preached and conveyed the message of Islam to them. They did not say that by inviting them to join Islam, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was asking them to perpetrate any cruelties or wrongdoing. Rather, their reply was that if they were to accept the Prophet's teachings, their wealth and status would be threatened or seized by ruthless people, because the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> emphasised only peace and harmony. They admitted to a fear that if they accepted Islam then by adopting peace the surrounding people, tribes or even nations would take advantage and destroy them.



In short, if Islam advocated violence, and if it called on Muslims to raise their swords and wage war, then clearly the disbelievers would not have given this justification. They would not have said that their failure to accept Islam was out of a fear that its teachings of peace could lead to their ruin at the hands of worldly people.

The Holy Qur'an states that one of the Attributes of God Almighty is 'Salam' which means He is 'The Source of Peace.' It follows that if God truly is the 'Source of Peace' then His peace should encompass all of His Creation and all of mankind, rather than be limited to a specific group of people. If God's peace was only designed to protect some people then it cannot be said that He is a God for the entire world. Allah the Almighty has answered this point in the Qur'an. Allah says:

*'I swear by his repeated cry "O my Lord!" that these are a people who will not believe. Therefore, turn aside from them, and say, "Peace;" and soon shall they know.'* (Ch.43 Vs 89-90)

These words illustrate that the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> brought a teaching that was a source of mercy and compassion for all people and thus was a means of peace for all of mankind. The verse also states that in response to the Holy Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> message of peace, his

**“The Holy Qur'an states that one of the Attributes of God Almighty is 'Salam' which means He is 'The Source of Peace.' It follows that if God truly is the 'Source of Peace' then His peace should encompass all of His Creation and all of mankind, rather than be limited to a specific group of people.”**

opponents did not only reject his teachings; they even ridiculed and insulted him. Indeed, they went even further and opposed him with enmity and created disorder and strife. Upon all of this the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> pleaded to God that:

*'I desire to give them peace, but they do not give me peace. Leaving that aside they even strive to inflict pain and agony upon me.'*

In response, Allah consoled him by saying:

*'Ignore whatever they do and turn away from them. Your only task is to spread and establish peace in the world. You should respond to their hatred and transgressions by simply saying "peace be with you" and tell them that you have brought peace for them.'*

Thus, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> spent his entire life spreading peace in the world. That was his noble mission. Certainly, there will come a day when the people of the world will realise and understand that he did not bring any teachings of extremism. They will realise that all he brought was a message of peace, love and kindness. Furthermore, if the followers of this noble messenger also respond to cruelties and

injustices in the same loving manner, then no doubt those who raise objections against Islam's magnificent teachings will one day become convinced of its truth and beauty.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at follows and lives by these teachings. It is these teachings of understanding, tolerance and compassion that we promote and spread to the corners of the world. We follow the historic and unparalleled example of kindness and benevolence that was demonstrated by the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> when after years of facing the most bitter and horrific cruelty and persecution, he was able to return victoriously to the streets of Makkah. For years, he and his followers, were prevented access to even the most basic necessities such as food and water and so they spent many days at a time suffering in a state of starvation. Many of his followers were attacked and some were killed in the most barbaric and merciless manner, which one cannot even image. Even the elderly Muslims, the Muslim women and the Muslim children were not spared; rather, they too were treated in a ruthless and brutal way. Yet, when the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> returned to Makkah in victory, he did not seek revenge. Instead, he proclaimed that:

“There shall be no punishment upon any of you for I have forgiven you all. I am a messenger of love and peace. I have the greatest knowledge of Allah’s attribute of being a ‘Source of Peace’ – He is the One Who gives peace. Thus, I forgive you of all of your past transgressions and I give you a guarantee of peace and security. You are free to remain in Makkah and to freely practise your religion. No one will be compelled or forced in any way.”

Some of the most staunch disbelievers had fled Makkah in a state of fear of punishment because they knew they had exceeded all limits in their cruelties against the Muslims. However, upon witnessing this unrivalled act of compassion and kindness and this unique display of peace and harmony, the relatives of those disbelievers sent a message to them to return. They were informed that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> extended nothing but peace and security and so they did return to Makkah. When they, who were previously Islam’s most resolute opponents, saw for themselves the benevolence and mercy of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, they accepted Islam of their own free will.

What I have said is part of recorded history and the majority of non-Muslim historians and Orientalists have also certified to its truth. These are the real teachings of Islam and this was the noble example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>. And so to label Islam and its Founder as violent and to raise such allegations against them is a cruel injustice. There is no doubt that wherever such false allegations are made we are deeply aggrieved.

I shall say again that today it is our community, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at, which is following and living according to the original and peaceful teachings of Islam.

And I shall say again that the hate-filled evil acts perpetrated by extremist organisations or individuals have no link whatsoever to the true teachings of Islam.

True justice requires that the vested interests of individuals or groups should not be attributed to the teachings of a religion. Such acts should not be used as an excuse to unfairly level criticism at any religion or its founder. It is an urgent need of the time that, in an effort to establish global peace and harmony, all people should display mutual respect for one another and for all religions. The alternatives are horrific.

The world has become a global village and so a lack of mutual respect and a failure to join together to promote peace will not only harm the local area, city or country but in fact will ultimately lead to the destruction of the entire world. We are all well-aware of the horrific devastation caused by the last two world wars. Due to the acts of certain countries the signs are that another world war is on the horizon.

If a world war breaks out then the Western world will also be deeply affected by its far-reaching and devastating consequences. Let us save ourselves from such destruction. Let us save our future generations from the miserable and devastating consequences of war. Obviously the most horrific type of war would be an atomic war and certainly the way the world is heading there is a real risk of a nuclear war breaking out. To prevent such a horrific outcome, we should adopt justice, integrity and honesty and join together to suppress and stop those groups who wish to spread hatred and who wish to destroy the peace of the world.

It is my hope and prayer that God Almighty enables the major powers to discharge their responsibilities and duties in this effort in the most fair and just way – *Ameen*. Before concluding I would like to once again thank all of you for taking the time and effort to attend today. May Allah bless you all. Thank you very much.”

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## Extracts of speeches by Parliamentarians

**Rt Hon Ed Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change (and co-host of the event):**

Ladies and Gentleman, members of the House of Commons, lords and ladies, Your Holiness. It’s a real privilege to welcome Your Holiness and the Ahmadiyya community here to the Houses of Parliament to celebrate the centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community’s presence in the United Kingdom. Those of us who’ve had the privilege to know the community over many years have known the amazing work that Your Holiness does campaigning for peace, that the community does with its charitable works both in the UK and abroad, with your Humanity First charity. We also know the amazing work that members of the community do in their lives in business and society making a very positive contribution. So it’s absolutely fitting that all parties in the Houses of Parliament are represented here at a senior level to celebrate the centenary and to thank you Your Holiness for the work that you do and that your community does as loyal and hardworking citizens in the United Kingdom.



**Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats:**

Thank you very much and welcome to you all and of course a special welcome to you, Your Holiness. It’s been a great privilege for me to meet you here, the second time we’ve met in the last few years. I know you are a regular visitor and speaker to parliaments and assemblies around the world, whether it’s the US Congress or the European Parliament, and I think it’s a great honour for all of us from all political parties that we should be gathered with you here in the Palace of Westminster to commemorate a very important moment, the establishment of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community here in the United Kingdom exactly a hundred years ago.

Like everybody here I have long been an admirer of you and your community for many reasons. Your respect for family, respect for the elderly but care for the young is something which I think has always been very evident and striking to me as is your commitment to charitable works both here at home and abroad. You and I were discussing in our meeting earlier the model villages which the Ahmadiyya community is establishing in Ghana, a country you know very well having worked



yourself there, is just one further demonstration of your community's willingness to act as well as to speak the language of humanitarianism and reconciliation.

But of course the most important value, ethos, that you teach us and that the Ahmadiyya community has steadfastly communicated to millions of people around the world for so long is of course one of peace, one of love and one of reconciliation. And those are messages which are enduring, are powerful at all times and down all the ages and in all places and in all communities. But I feel, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of everybody here when I say that those messages of peace, of love, of respect towards one another, of reconciliation, these are messages which are especially valuable and serve as a particularly powerful antidote at a time of tension, of a time where we have seen unfortunately incidents of violence, of brutality and of extremism which play no role in any peace loving society.

And so I'm sure we all join with you, from whatever background we come from, whatever political party, whatever religious background we come from, in seeking to both celebrate the presence of your community here over a hundred years but also to celebrate the message your community has been so quietly, steadfastly and with great, great dignity spreading and communicating for so long – one of peace, one of love and one of reconciliation. Thank you very much.

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**Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary and representative of the Prime Minister:**

Your Holiness, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen it is indeed a genuine pleasure to be here today to be part of this celebration of hundred years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community here in Britain. I am told that when that first individual the first missionary arrived in London from India in 1913 he did something which was very British. He started giving speeches in Speakers Corner, in Hyde Park. But I am also told your community's website records that the speeches weren't perhaps as successful as he might have hoped because a former Imam has been quoted as saying that people would not listen to him very much. I have to say Your Holiness there are politicians in this room who know how that feels! But I think few would have predicted that a hundred years later there would have been such a flourishing community here in the United Kingdom.



As both Nick Clegg and Douglas Alexander have said I think what is striking about the community here is not just the message of peaceful coexistence and of peace that you spread, but of the example that you show and the members of the community show in their lives, but also the tremendous work that is done to raise funds for charities, to be part of the local community and that is a message I think that we can all take away and it would be good more for perhaps to abide by your ethos.

I think the way in which you look for ways to ensure that where there is disagreement that can be worked through by sharing ideas, by discussion, by working together is an inspiration for us all in terms of our future. It is a message of cooperation rather than conflict and my goodness me the world needs a message of cooperation rather than conflict. But we do live in a multi-faith society with different practises, different convictions and for all us learning to live together does mean learning tolerance and identifying what unites us rather than what divides us.

There was a very good comment made I think the point was made very well by Nasim Butt of the

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association after the horrendous murder we saw of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich, and he said the following "Disagreement, as we are taught as subjects of this nation and by the tenets of Islam, should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and understanding. It is only through those means that we will be able to promote a harmonious society."

Now I know you have been targeted as a community yourselves, particularly in Pakistan, where it is a criminal offence for an Ahmadiyya Muslim to call themselves Muslims, and where you have been subjected to some horrific attacks. They have also been incidences of prejudices here in the UK. Ahmadi businesses have been boycotted, mosques attacked and television channels have broadcast programs inciting hatred against you, and we have seen generally since Drummer Lee Rigby's murder an increase in attacks directed towards Muslim communities of all kinds. I am absolutely committed to tackling extremism in whatever form it takes, it is utterly unacceptable to threaten and intimidate anyone because of their religious beliefs or because they belong to a particular ethnic group and I want to stress to you that you have my complete support. The intransigence of the extremists who persecute and intimidate leads only to violence and terrorism, and it cannot and will not be a part of Britain, so as long as we remain an open and tolerable society and I have no doubt that together we will defeat the extremists.

You have shown and continue to show that the only effective way of persuading the extremists out of their poisonous convictions is peaceful dialogue. That is a message that you are giving around the world, and it is a message that we all listen and heed. So we commit to the support for dealing with that extremism, for dealing with that prejudice that sadly we so often see, but I have every confidence that in another hundred years time there will be a group of people celebrating two hundred years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community here in Britain.

Thank you for all that you have contributed here in the UK, but thank you all for what you are doing not just here in the UK but Your Holiness the message that you are giving to the whole world, and the work that your community is doing across the world to bring peace and hope to all people.

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**Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary and representing the Leader of the Labour Party:**

On behalf of the British Labour Party and say that we are honoured, Your Holiness, to have you here with us in the Palace of Westminster and the House of Commons today. It is not every day that I am asked to speak at a hundredth birthday party but it is fitting to recognise this, the centenary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community here in the United Kingdom.

I would also like to recognise the tremendous and strong links that have been forged with representatives here in parliament, the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community I think has been of great value in recent years. But also to place on record on behalf of the Labour party our admiration for that philosophy of reconciliation and peace for which the Ahmadiyya community has come to be known over the last century.

Since the establishment of the mosque in Southfields in 1924, since the establishment of the community here first in 1913 it has been a powerful message communicated with great consistency and candour. Why does it matter today? Because in a world of



ever greater diversity and ever greater challenges that message of reconciliation is needed as never before and so I would want to place on record our admiration for the leadership you personally have shown, and that collectively the community has shown. So thank you for the work you have done, the difference you have made and the service you continue to do, not simply to members of the Ahmadiyya Community, but in being a powerful voice for tolerance, for reconciliation and for peace. Love for All, Hatred For None is a philosophy from which we can all benefit and from which we have much to learn in the years ahead. Thank you very much indeed.

**Vote of thanks given by Siobhain McDonagh MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

I am sure that everyone will want to thank you, your holiness for this lovely event today for being able to come together to talk to one another and to listen to your words about peace and reconciliation which are so important at this time.

It has been a really excellent event and I'm sure many of us will have very happy memories of this lunch-time. We thank your community for all the work you do for all the MPs of all the constituencies in this room today and most of all we thank you for taking the time and trouble to open up your community to us as parliamentarians.



His Holiness gave his historic speech to a packed audience



Rt Hon Ed Davey MP (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) and co-host of the event



The Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

**Messages of Support**

**The Rt Hon David Cameron MP • The Prime Minister**

I congratulate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on its remarkable centenary... Britain can be proud of you. ...Your community has suffered terrible persecution but I know that your worldwide leader, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, is a man of peace.

I hope that your good works, your message of peace and your philosophy of Love For All Hatred For None continue to flourish in Britain and throughout the world.



The Home Secretary, Rt Hon Theresa May MP



The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP

**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP • The Deputy Prime Minister & Leader of the Liberal Democrats Party**  
Your community exhibits the very best of humanity and this is all too evident in your, charity fundraising, environmental work and service to those in need...

Through the distinctive leadership of His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad you have held fast to the principles of peace and I congratulate His Holiness and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on this centenary year.



**The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP • Leader of the Labour Party**

This is a special year for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK as 2013 is your centenary year. In particular I would like to extend my congratulations to His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the worldwide leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community...Your contribution to national life over the past century can be gauged from your on-going commitment to the values of loyalty, freedom and peace. ... You have always brought people of all faiths and backgrounds together, and may you continue to do so for another hundred years.



Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee



Siobhain McDonagh MP, Rt Hon Ed Davey MP and UK National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Rafiq Hayat.



**Loyalty**

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**Freedom**

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**Equality**

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**Respect**

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**Peace**



**[www.LoveForAllHatredForNone.org](http://www.LoveForAllHatredForNone.org)**

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