

**Responses to Comments made by David Cameron in his article published in *The Times* on
18 January 2016**

Lajna Imaillah Report on activity following Guidance and Instructions from Sadr Lajna

i. Letters of Response to the Press and Media

Several letters from Lajna were published in National Newspapers including the *Guardian*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Independent* and the *Huffington Post*. The response to these letters that has come to attention has been largely positive. Readers have left comments both online as well as sending letters to the writers to affirm their support. Less positive comments centred around suggestions that women should not be forced to wear the hijab.

Several Lajna also sent letters to their local MPs and Councillors. We have thus far been contacted by the Conservative MP for Kingston and Surbiton, James Berry (a new MP) who has expressed a wish to meet with us and discuss our concerns at the Prime Minister's proposals.

We have received a letter from a member of the Universal Peace Federation, whose sister organisation is the Women's Federation for World Peace, who has expressed a keen interest to find out more about the Jama'at.

Mashallah, a very poignant letter from an eight-year-old Nasirat was also published in the *Independent*.

Letters from Lajna in the North East were published in both the *Keighley News* and the *Belfast Telegraph*.

ii. Letters and Emails to the Prime Minister

Emails

All Lajna in the UK were instructed to email the Prime Minister directly. This had to be done through a web form with a limit of 1000 characters per message. A template email response was written by the National Tabligh team and provided to all Lajna to assist them with this process. Alhumdulillah all Regions have participated and responded positively.

Based on the information we have received to date, the total number of **Emails** sent to the Prime Minister from Lajna in the UK is **3940**.

Letters

All Lajna and Nasirat in the UK were also instructed to send a letter to the Prime Minister expressing their concern and putting forward the views of our Jama'at on the various issues. A template letter was written by the National Tabligh team and provided to all Lajna and a

further template letter was sent to all Nasirat. Alhumdulillah the response from all Regions has been positive.

Based on the information we have received from the Regions to date:

- (i) the total number of letters sent to the Prime Minister from **Lajna** in the UK is **2069**
- (ii) the total number of letters sent to the Prime Minister from **Nasirat** in the UK is **730**
- iii. **Work of the Ahmadi Muslim Women's Student Association**

Alhumdulillah AMSWA were able to set up an online blog where student Lajna posted several articles as well as open letters expressing concern at the Prime Minister's proposals. Mashallah we now have **20 posts on this blog** and it continues to grow. Several AMSWA members have also been raising awareness within their universities about issues relating to the potential banning of the niqab and the introduction of anti-segregation policies.

iv. **Work of the Social Media Committee**

Concern at the Prime Minister's proposals was expressed through the Lajna Imaillah Twitter account and through posts on the Media Team blog *personalmusings*. Several Lajna posted articles on this blog.

v. **Radio and Television**

One Lajna appeared on the **BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast Show** as well as on the **Victoria Derbyshire Show** on Television to discuss issues such as the veil and potential effects of a niqab ban.