

114 Canterbury Street Gillingham Kent ME7 5UH

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KENT MUSLIM WELFARE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION 2000



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Chapter 1

PREAMBLE

Resolution: "We, the members of the Kent Muslim Welfare Association, do hereby adopt the 'Constitution 2000' (in replacement of the older [Amended] one of the 22nd February 1977) in the special meeting held on 16 Rabi-ul-Awal 1414 Hijri, corresponding to 8th August 1993, and pledge to serve it, uphold it and protect it, so help us Allah, Amen"

1.1 <u>Name</u>

The name of the organisation shall be "The Kent Muslim Welfare Association", (KMWA). It shall be a religious, charitable and cultural organisation with no political affiliations whatsoever.

1.2 Belief

The fundamental belief of this organisation is " La Elaha Illal-Lah Mohammed -ur- Rasool Allah" [There is no God but Allah and Mohammed (Peace be upon him) is His prophet]. (And we also believe that he is the last prophet).

1.3 Objects

The object of the KMWA is the advancement of the Islamic religion among Muslims living in the County of Kent.

1.4 Powers

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the **KMWA** may exercise the following powers:

- 1.4.1 To propagate through peaceful means the Religion and tradition of Islam in accordance to the teachings of **The Holy Quran** and **Sunnah** and the Laws of **Sharia**.
- 1,4,2 In adherence to the above but not otherwise, to establish, acquire and maintain premises for Mosques and centres for facilitating regular congregational prayers, teaching-seminars (Waaz) and religious gatherings for all Muslims.
- 1.4.3 To provide religious facilities mentioned as above, with an equality of opportunity to all Muslims who believe in the Kalima, 'La Ellaha Illal-



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Lah Mohammed-ur-Rasool Allah'. The finality of Prophet Mohammed (SAS) is paramount to this belief.

- 1.4.4 To provide and promote the Islamic religion and cultural education and tradition to groups of all ages and sexes, by creating institutional facilities for the purpose.
- 1.4.5 To raise funds and to open and operate Bank and other institutional accounts.
- 1.4.6 To invest surplus funds on adhoc basis.
- 1.4.7 To rent, lease or buy premises and necessary equipment.
- 1.4.8 To undertake research and to publish studies relevant to its objectives.
- 1.4.9 To charge fees/prices etc. for its output on a non-profit basis and without engaging in any permanent trading activity.
- 1.4.10 To employ, and manage waged or unwaged staff. Such staff cannot be member/s of the BoT and can be lawfully dismissed by the BoTs if necessary.
- 1.4.11 To effect all necessary insurance and to expend funds otherwise as necessary to fulfil its objectives.
- 1.4.12 Subject to such consent as may be required by law, to sell, mortgage, charge or borrow on security, any real property belonging to KMWA, only as far as the laws of Sharia do not conflict with such activities.
- 1.4.13 In general the **KMWA** shall have powers to carry out all its objects and perform all its functions laid down in the Constitution 2000 and within section 72 of the Charities Act 1993.

1.5 Functions

In pursuing these objects, and ancillary thereto but not further or otherwise, the **KMWA** shall fulfil the following functions:

1.5.1 To acquaint all statutory and voluntary organisations, especially in the KMWA's area of benefit, with the requirements of Islam and its practices and to obtain facilities for the followers of Islam who are the users of such institutions, in particular for Muslim pupils and students in various educational institutions.

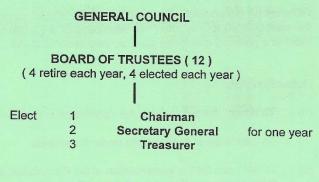


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- 1.5.2 To support all Islamic organisations in the fulfilment of their objectives and functions on the basis of their charitable, religious and cultural outlook but not on any political or sectarian stance.
- 1.5.3 To obtain and provide information, advice, and support to Muslim individuals and to Islamic organisations on all matters of Islamic Faith and Sharia.
- 1.5.4 To liaise with the agencies of State as well as with any voluntary, charitable or religious organisations where such liaison is believed to be beneficial to the **KMWA** in general and to its members in particular.

1.6 Structure



plus

Three Signatories to sign Property/ies Deeds and to liaise with the Charity Commissioners who will be official custodians of such properties.

Shall

create as many or as few Sub Committees, e.g.:

EDUCATION, FINANCE, YOUTH, WOMEN, JUSTICE, BUILDING & CONTENTS.

Sub Committee Chairs to be elected Trustees, except for Women. Committee co-ordinators (selected by Chairmen approved by BoT) shall be from general membership. Women, Sub Committee to select its own representative on BoT. (Again the Women's Sub Committee Chair and its Representative on BoT to be approved by BoT).

All Co-ordinators (plus the Women's Sub Committee Representative who shall become Ex-officio member of the BoT); can attend and fully participate in its meetings, but do not vote.



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ALL positions re-electable and re-appointable. The BoT formulate their own STANDING ORDERS/CODE OF PRACTICE. They should be 'SCHEDULED' to the Constitution (5.5). Charity Commissioners to become Official Custodians of KMWA properties.

Chapter 2

GENERAL COUNCIL, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SUB COMMITTEES; (FORMATION, DUTIES/FUNCTIONS, MEETINGS).

2.1 General Council:

GC shall be the sovereign body of the KMWA. It shall comprise of all the members eligible to vote (see 'Membership' 3.1). When members meet in a properly convened session, they become the GC.

2.1.1 Duties/Functions

- (a) To adopt, amend or scrap the constitution and its Schedules.
- (b) To create other Associations under its umbrella.
- (c) To set rules for the interpretation of the Constitution 2000, on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees only.
- (d) To authorise postal ballots if required.
- (e) To elect the Board of Trustees by popular vote according to the rules of elections.

2.1.2 Meetings

- (a) All meetings of the GC will be called by the Secretary General of the BoT in Consultation with the Chairman. It is recommended that there shall be at least one normal meeting of the GC, other than the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year.
- (b) The AGM shall be held on the first Sunday of April each year. (Under special circumstances, the BoT can extend the date for up to six weeks, without effecting the following year's AGM). There shall be a set Agenda which shall include Chairman's and Secretary General's annual reports, Treasurer's report, Audited Accounts and relevant minutes. Notice of the meeting shall be circulated at least two weeks ahead of the AGM.



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- (c) Special Meetings: A special meeting can be called at 28 days notice with a set agenda.
- (d) Emergency Meeting: An emergency meeting can be called on matters of extreme urgency without prior notice.
- (e) There shall be no other business discussed at the special or emergency meetings except the one for which they have been scheduled, but the GC shall have the power to suspend this Rule by a 2/3 majority if a request is made and a vote for discussing another item is carried out by that vote.
- (f) Minutes of GC meetings, including the AGM shall be circulated within six weeks of such meetings.
- (g) No GC meeting shall run for more than 120 minutes. At the end of this period, if the business is still incomplete, than a vote should be taken, by show of hands, for extending the time limit.

2.2 The Board of Trustees (The BoT)

The BoT shall be the controlling body responsible for the day to day running of the affairs of the **KMWA**. It shall have the management and executive functions. It shall be answerable to GC only. It shall have twelve members. Except as provided in 2.2.1 (a). Four of the Trustees (1/3 of the Board) shall resign and the same number shall be elected in the AGM, each year.

2.2.1 Formation (Elections)

- (a) After the adoption of the Constitution 2000, in the first properly convened AGM the GC shall elect a Board of Trustees comprising of 12 Trustees. At the next AGM four of these shall resign and four shall be elected. In the second AGM the second batch of four shall resign and four shall be elected. From then onwards each trustee shall serve three years before his office is offered for election through his resignation, one third of the Board resigning each year. The first 12 elected Trustees can decide among themselvesas to which FOUR wish to retire at the next AGM and which FOUR wish to retire in the following AGM. The last FOUR have to retire in the following AGM.
- (b) The Board of Trustees shall be elected by means of a secret ballot.



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- (c) At the conclusion of his term of office, a trustee shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of three years. Officers can also be chosen consecutively.
- (d) The outgoing BoT shall appoint at least two Election Officers and shall formulate and display in KMWA Mosque/s and centres 'Elections Procedures/Rules of Election' and an up to date list of members for the election of the next BoT, at least 14 days before such elections are held. It is the duty of the present BoT to ensure that the elections are held on time and are held fairly.
- (e) The Procedures/Rules of Election, shall not contravene any Clause of the Constitution.
- (f) There shall be proper nominations. The nominees for election should give an undertaking that they understand the current Charities Act and the KMWA Constitution 2000 and fully undertake their responsibilities knowing all that is involved in these documents. There shall be an independent Proposer and Seconder. The Consent of the candidate is essential.
- (g) The Election Officers can be from within the membership or from without. They should be capable persons, should be able to command respect of the community and are considered to be neutral in the election of the Trustees. They shall conduct the elections, according to the Rules set for them by BoT.
- (h) Qualifications for the member of the BoT:

Only those KMWA members are eligible to become the member of the BoT who are

- qualified members of the KMWA under Membership Clause 3.1
- · who are over 18 years of age
- who are not disqualified under section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 because of bankruptcy or conviction for an offence of dishonesty or deception
- who are not closely related to each other by blood or by marriage
- who self certify thier eligibility under this clause and who undertake to be in touch with the general membership - for example: by attending prayers, as often as possible, in the Mosque/s of the KMWA as well.



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(It is recommended that the new Trustees shall undergo a training session to be organised by the Secretary general for them to understand their role as a Trustee).

2.2.2 GENERAL: Duties/Functions of the Board of Trustees:

- (a) In its first meeting after the AGM, the BoT to elect a Chairman, a Secretary General and a Treasurer as the KMWA and BoT Officers for a period of one year.
- (b) To safeguard all properties of the KMWA for its present and future use so that no change ever occurs to the detriment of its original purpose or for the benefit of any other than its members.
- (c) To appoint at least three members of the Board, authorised to be signatories on deeds and documents of conveyance and to supervise that the Charity Commissioners are the official custodians of the KMWA properties.
- (d) To assist with the work of its Officers, to approve/adopt their initiatives and to help them succeed in the execution of their policies within the framework of the Constitution.
- (e) To form Committees as required under 1.5 and to appoint their Chairman and to approve their co-ordinators.
- (f) To formulate procedures and rules, within the framework of the Constitution 2000. Such rules may form the Directive Principles and should be appendixed in the schedules Section of the Constitution for guidance to the future Trustees, but shall not be binding on them.
- (g) To raise funds, approve finances and the budgetary targets presented by the Officers, and to receive periodical reports of the expenditures incurred.
- (h) To dissolve any of the Committees if its continuation becomes prejudicial to the interests of the KMWA or it becomes dormant and therefore ineffective, or if its dissolution resolves a situation which cannot be resolved otherwise.
- (i) The BoT may at any time invite the resignation or dismiss person or persons from the membership of the GC, or of the BoT and/or its Sub Committees, if such person or persons, without good cause, fail to fulfill the obligation to any of the bodies of the KMWA, or whose actions become prejudicial to the interests of the KMWA, or whose activities may harm the



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good interests of the KMWA and its members, or who by his/their actions or failings, bring the good name of the KMWA in disrepute, or who deliberately engage/s in activities which are contrary to the objectives and functions of the KMWA. Person/s effected shall be entitled to the following grievance procedures.

(j) Grievance Procedures:

If a member or a group of members or a member of paid staff has any grievance/s he/she is entitled to

- make a verbal or a written representation to the Secretary of the BoT, who will try to resolve the matter.
- (ii) if the matter is not resolved then it shall be referred to the Justice Committee.
- (iii) if the matter is still not resolved, then a written representation can be made to the BoT' by asking the Secretary to make the complaint an agenda item of a BoT meeting.
- (iv) if the complainant/s is/are still unsatisfied with the outcome, or nothing is done about his complaint for six weeks then he shall ask the BoT to appoint a Tribunal to hear grievance/s.
- (v) The BoT shall appoint such a Tribunal within one month of receiving such a request. The Tribunal membership and terms of referance will be negotiated by the Justice Committee with the parties. The Tribunal's decision shall be endorsed by the GC and shall be binding.

(The effect being that the BoT cannot over-rule the Tribunal decision. If the BoT is itself a party, then it has to accept the decision of the Tribunal - just as an individual Member has to.)

(k) Vacancy

The BoT can co-opt a Trustee to fill in a vacancy. The GC in its next meeting shall endorse such vacancy or an election shall be held. Same rules for filling a single vacancy shall apply as electing the members of the BoT.

2.2.3 SPECIFIC:Duties and Functions of the BoT's Officers:



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The three BoT Officers shall be KMWA's managers and shall be in constant touch with each other. They shall act as one body:

- (a) to fulfill the responsibilities which fall upon the BoT for the employment, management, support and conditions of service of paid staff.
- (b) to keep and maintain Minutes of all its meetings and of the meetings of all the bodies of the KMWA and to maintain all books of accounts, and to establish and maintain efficient financial management of all KMWA's accounting.
- (c) to ensure the fulfilment of the responsibilities, functions and duties of all the Committees of the **KMWA**.
- (d) to prepare reports of all the activities of the BoT's and its Committees and to present them to the BoT and to the GC at their appropriate meetings.
- (e) subject to the approval of the BoT in its next meeting, to fill in a vacancy on short term basis of an Officer absent for valid reasons.

The Chairman Shall

- preside at all meetings of the KMWA (GC, BoT and Officers) (except Committees) and except that part of the AGM when elections are held.
- · liaise with the Secretary General in his work
- · act as a spokesman on public occasions
- uphold the Constitution 2000 of the KMWA
- ensure the efficient and proper conduct of the affairs of the KMWA
- sign all minutes, prepare and present all relevant reoports
- sign cheques with other signatories
- perform all the function of the Secretary General in his absence

The Secretary General shall

- be the chief executive officer of the KMWA
- shall uphold, administer and execute the Constitution 2000, and in doing so:
- shall co-ordinate all activities of the BoT, its Officers, its
 Committees and all functions of the KMWA convevne all
 meetings, prepare and circulate all the Minutes, conduct all
 correspondance, keep all records, prepare his reports to
 relevant bodies, sign cheques as a joint signatory



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- · supervise and administer all paid staff
- be the keeper of all records of all immovable properties of the Association
- liaise with the Member Organisations and other Muslim Organisations and institutions outside Kent including the Embassies of the Muslim World
- hold the functions of the Chairman in his absence
- act as an agent of the employer, KMWA, in looking after all the interests of its paid employees
- act as KMWA principal spoksman
- keep and maintain KMWA office/s
- delegarte his functions to appointed officials, who shall act on his behalf

(Functions delegated as such do ease the work load but do not absolve the Secretary General of his responsibilities.)

The Treasure shall

be chief accounts officer of the KMWA and his dutioes and functions shall be crucial for the solvancy of the KMWA and are briefed as follows

- to chair the Finance Committee to sign all cheques: there shall be three authorised signatories for signing the cheques the Chairman, the secretary, the Treasurer
- prepare monthly and annual accounts for submission to the BoT and GC, respectively and to maintain all account books
- to get the accounts audited internally, but above all by an independant and approved charter Accountant
- to see that such independent Auditors (a firm of Chartered Accountants) are appointed in the AGM
- finally to submit the audited accounts to the Charity
 Commissioners each year and print and circulate the same to the membership

2.3 Committees

The BoT shall appoint as many or as few Sub Committees. Recommended ones are as follows:-

Education, Youth, Women, Finance, Building and contents

2.3.1 Formation:



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- (a) The BoT shall create Committees by appointing its Chairmen in its first meeting after the AGM. Except fo women's committee, all Chairmen should be the elected Trustees.
- (b) The Chairman in turn shall appoint a co-ordinator of the Committee, who shall not be a Trustee. The co-ordinators shall be eligible to attend BoT meetings and shall take full part in discussions, but shall not vote. The Chairman and co-ordinator of a Committee shall appoint as many as many members of the Committee from the general membership.
- (c) Each Committe shall prepare its own Rules, Terms of Referance and policies for the year. They must be approved by the BoT before they can become effective.
- (d) The three officers of the BoT shall be able to attend any Sub committee meetings. The Co-ordinator shall act as Secretary of the Sub Committee and must keep the secretary General informed of all the meetings.
- (e) The Officers can be appointed as Chairmen of the Sub Committees.
- (f) Chairmen of all Committees must hand over thier reports to the Secretary general at least 14 days before the AGM, for inclusion in the Annual Report.
- (g) Women's Sub Committee shall have its own chairperson and co-ordinator. the Secretary General shall facilate the formation of this Sub Committee. This Sub Committee, if it so desires, shall appoint a representative to sit on the BoT, in the capacity of an officiating co-ordinator.
- (h) There is no time limit on the office of the co-ordinators, but they must be appointed/re-appointed yearly.
- (I) Objects of each Sub Committee shall be defined by the BoT and shall be attached to the schedule Section of this Constitution.

2.3.2 Duties/Functions

(a) Education:

to fulfil the Objects of this Constitution as relevant to education



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- to draw its own programme each year, with its calender of activities and its budgetary targets
- to facilitate the enhancement of Education account through funding
- to organise and supervise the smooth running of the KMWA schools and their educational programme
- to help the teaching staff, paid or volunteer, in the efficient fulfilment of their duties
- to to help the Secretary general in his supervision of such staff
- to act as governors of the KMWA Madarsas (schools)
- to establish and organise the KMWA Liberary.

(b) Youth:

- to liaise and help the Education Sub Committee in organising Youth Study Circles and seminars
- to organise activities for the youths of the KMWA.

(c) Women:

• to organise all activities relating to the women.

(d) Finance:

 to raise finances and to deal with all aspects of budgeting of KMWA. The Treasurer is the Chair of this important Sub Committee.

(e) Justice:

- to deal with any complaints referred to it by the BoT
- to function as a mini QAZIAT (an Islamic Court/Arbitration tribunal) for the settlement of minor civil matters between the members, if the parties so wish, the purpose is to avoid members to go to courts for trivial complaints.

(f) Building and Contents:

- to look after the maintenance of the KMWA immovable property/ies
- to look after the moveable property/ies (eg utensils, furniture, prayer mats and carpets, kitchenware etc) and to keep record and stock register/s of such properties
- to organise hiring of items as approved by the BoT.



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Chapter 3

ORGANISATION

3.1 Membership:

Any adult person (above the age of 16) and any organisation who/which believes in schedules 1.1 and 1.2 and accepts the Constitution 2000 shall, on approval of his/its application by the boT shall acquire any one of the following memberships of the association:

- (a) Life Member: On making a single payment of a subscription as set by the BoT from time to time.
- (b) General Member: On making an initial and then onwards a yearly payment of membership fee as set by the BoT from time to time.
- (c) Associate Member: On payment of any regular amount during the period of that payment.
- (d) Member Organisations: On payment of £10 per annum, (for the time).
- (e) All members carry the same rights except that (a) and (b) should normally be residents within the area of benefit of KMWA. Members of member organisations shall have all rights except the right to vote individually but their nominees shall have the right to vote.
- (f) Those who have completed six months of their membership shall have the right to vote.
- (g) Those who have completed twelve months of their membership shall be eligible to be candidates for the membership of the Board of trustees.
- (h) the membership applications, with the start date of membership, must be approved bu the Bot before a person becomes a member.
- (I) when a head of the family is accepted as a member, all female members of his family of whatever age and all members of his family under 16 years of age will become the members of the Association.



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(j) for the purpose of voting in the AGM each family unit under (10 above shall have one vote and only the person in whose name the membership is registered shall be eligible to exercise the right to vote.

3.2 Quorum:

The quorum of all meetings of all bodies shall be 50% of its membership, plus its Chairmah,

If a meeting is cancelled because it was in-quorate, then the following meeting, called for same agenda, shall have the quorum of 30% of its membership plus its chairman.

3.3 Amendment to Constitution:

- 3.3.1 Except Clauses 1.1 and 1.2 and except that no amendment effects to change the association's Charitable status, the constitution 2000 may be amended by a 2/3rd majority of the members in a quorate meeting of the General Council.
- 3.3.2 All amendment/s proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary General, signed by not less than 20% of the current members, and shall be approved by the BoT for presentation to the GC, at least four weeks in advance of the GC meeting and circulated to all members at least 14 days in advance of the GC meeting considering such amendment/s.

3.4 Interpretation of Rules:

Any interpretation of any Rules under Constitution 2000 shall be carried out by the BoT, approved by the GC and shall be appendixed in Schedule 5.5 for historic referance. A professional advice or Charity Commission's interpretation may be obtained on matters of dispute or confusion as a matter of strength to such.

3.5 Dissolution:

3.5.1 The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a quorate meeting of GC, provided that at least 28 days notice of intention to move such are solution has been given in writing to all members and member organisations. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of KMWA, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of



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KMWA but shall be given or transferred to such other Islamic organisation having objects similar to KMWA and that the Charity Commission is kept informed of all proceedings and has determined its validity.

3.5.2 If notice of intention to move such are solution has been given as above to two successive meetings of the GC of the KMWA and neither have been quorate, then, providing the resolution provides for the application of all property of KMWA and has been approved in draft in writing by the Charity Commissionesr, or any other authority having charitable jurisdiction, the Chairman shall (persuant to this clause) declare the resolution passed 60 minutes after the time for the commencement of this second meeting had it been quorate, and shall dispose of any assets according to resolution.

Chapter 4

ISLAMIC EDUCATION AND WELFARE:

- 4.1 Basic Education under tenets of Islam shall be provided to all, members or non-members seeking that education from the KMWA. Madarsas, etc shall be created, organised and managed for this purpose. There shall be an active Education Committee, in close liaison with the Imams and Khatibs of the Mosque and Centres, providing this service. Islamic liberaries, book shops and travel shall be organised. It is the duty of Il members to co-operate in this project. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for Education and Welfare and should draft policies for its execution which should be appendexed from time to time in Schedule 5.5 of Constitution 2000 for referance.
- 4.2 further Education for the benefit of the adults of the community shall be organised on the above lines.
- 4.3 Conferences, Seminars and Youth camps shall be organised by the relevant Committees on lines as defined under 1.2, 1.2, 1.3 of the Constitution 2000. Visits to people in need, in bereavement, in hospitals and in prisons, etc are some examples.
- 4.4 Travel to Islamic places, Islamic countries, Umra, Haj, and any other aspect providing an Islamic experience to Muslims shall be arranged when possible. Information and facilities for such activities should be made available to the Members.



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Dawa shall be the most important characteristic of KMWA and Dawa by example, as well as by institution, shall be written in the policies of the BoT who shall chart a programme for its effective execution.

Chapter 5

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL (ISLAMIC)

- Marriages shall be performed under Islamic law and register shall be maintained for the record of such marriages. Divorces shall be mediated for the benefit of parties and especially for the benefit of children involved. If they do happen then an Islamic divorce shall be negotiated, without prejudice to the established law of the country. The role of the Justice Committee should be enhanced to adjudicate in small disputes, including divorces under Islamic Law.
- 5.2 Births shall be recorded of the member families and Aqiqa ceremonies shall be facilitated. Deaths in any Muslim family, member or not, shall be treated with Islamic expediency and decorum. If possible member's death record be kept as well.
- Youth Sub Committee should be encouraged to chart out a programme 5.3 for sport and entertainment of Islamic tradition and taste.
- 5.4 Standing exhibitions as well as special exhibitions should be organised for a visual display of Islamic belief and culture.
- 5.5 Miscellaneous and Schedules:

This chapter shall be kept open to include 'directive principles' and other 'rules' for the enrichment and record - of the thinking, philosophy and traditions of the KMWA. This section shall not be constitutionally binding on coming generation but shall provide an insight into the working of the KMWA over years of its institutionalism.

WA FARU DAMAN AL HAFEEZ

UPDATED BY THE CHARITY GOTOMISSION ON 30-5-1996 VIDE THEIR REPERENCE MAR 2/272834