LUTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS

26th March 2018

To

Sunni and Luton Councils of Mosques

As a voluntary body of members from different faith communities in Luton, we want to express our deepest shock and regret at the 'Punish a Muslim Day Letter' posted around the country and circulated widely on social media. This is highly provocative and is a direct threat of inciting violent extremism against one particular faith community.

At our staff and trustees review meeting at the end of the last year, we analysed how a recent generation of young people over the past 8 years in Luton, have grown in an atmosphere of either hating or being hated. We have been therefore alarmingly concerned how this must have impacted and shaped our young people in Luton. We have been highlighting this concern over the past few years, but it is heartening to witness in various meetings that this concern mirrors our analysis and is being highlighted as of utmost importance, requiring urgent attention.

They say thoughts lead to actions and actions lead to habits and habits lead to character. Punish a Muslim Day is an extremely evil thought and therefore, it needs 'extreme' condemnation, before it has a slightest chance of dangerously and negatively influencing any form of action, damaging the peaceful co-existence in our town and nation.

Alongside multitude of other individual and institutional voices we have heard so far, in various meetings and social media communications, we continue to abandon and reject and condemn such willful acts of promoting violent hatred.

While such extremist thoughts and intentions are best nipped in the bud, what might go a long way is also the power of our positive thoughts in combating the fear. May we all long continue working as one community and standing together as citizens, friends and neighbors, by constantly fostering simple yet powerful tools, such as showcasing our attitude of gratitude towards mutual appreciation, compassion, and care for one another.

For & On behalf of Luton Council of Faiths

Zafar Khan	Natu Bhai	Gulie Butcher	Kishore Kaler
(Chair)	(Vice Chair)	(Vice Chair)	(Treasurer)

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