

# **Suggested Khutbah Guidance for EDL Riots and Muslim Response**

## **1. Opening Duas.**

2. Dear Brothers and Sisters, you have all seen the TV screens and carnage the racists have created on the streets our country. The events seem mindless and senseless. Shops have been looted, property has been damaged, mosques have been attacked with worshippers inside, people have been assaulted, ethnicity checkpoints erected, the homes of Muslims or perceived to be Muslim have been damaged and attacked and refugee centres have been burnt and barricaded from the outside so people can't escape.

We have also seen the emergence of the something called the Muslim Defence League who have come out onto the streets with the intention of protecting Muslim communities, mosques and individuals and communities.

There has also been strong criticism from Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer and senior leadership within the government and police. The police have been protecting mosques and been liaising with Muslim community representatives across the country.

## **3. How should we view and respond to what is happening in our country and place where live and work?**

In times of calamity, we are also advised to recite the following general Duas from the Qur'an:

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best disposer of affairs. (3:173)

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return. (2:156)

And to turn to Allah asking for forgiveness for our heedlessness and also to offer shukur and praise to Allah for the blessings that we enjoy. In the United Kingdom we enjoy peace, security, work, education and wellbeing. Most importantly we are able to practice religion and voice our opinions about issues that are important for the UK e.g. Palestine, education.

We should turn to Allah seeking guidance and patience to deal address these issues so that they don't escalate and be a source of anguish for us and our neighbours and country at large.

## **4. What do the Racists want to achieve?**

The racists and their enablers seek in their approach to do the following:

- Cause fear amongst us.

They are doing this by announcing their presence at different locations across the country that they may turn up. This is a lie. They don't have the numbers to do this. The racists

are a minority in this country and ordinary decent people the majority. The fascists and extremist need violence to erupt to recruit more people.

- They want us to change our behaviour and not go to the mosque our normal business
- They seek to portray Islam and Muslims as being anti-British
- To cause further civil strife and divide communities “us against them”
- They also want to get Muslims to react in an aggressive and violent manner that will be used to further their narrative that Islam and Muslims are violent.

Finally

- They want to make life difficult for us here in the UK and also enable draconian laws to come into play that will hamper civil liberties and prevent us from practicing our religion but also to prevent us from using our good circumstances to campaign for justice here in the UK and abroad e.g., Palestine.

## 5. What is our response?

After prayer and turning onto Allah our framework and response in this current time should be inline with what Allah (swt)says in Surah Fussilat:

(O Prophet), good and evil are not equal. Repel (evil) with that which is good, and you will see that he, between whom and you there was enmity, shall become as if he were a bosom friend (of yours). (41:34)

Allah is requiring us to use our intellects and to reasons and show patience. Allah draws us to the notions of good and evil. Maulana Maudoodi in reflection of the verse says:

“...As against this evil, the good which appears to be utterly helpless and powerless, goes on operating and working and it becomes dominant in the long run. For, in the first place, the good has a power of its own which wins the hearts and no man however perverted and corrupted, can help esteeming it in his own heart.

Know that the Quresh and the leaders not only had they tried to prevent the message of Tawhid and also the social reform that Prophet Muhammad was bringing to people. They inflicted great harm onto the Prophet Muhammad, His family and companions so much so that Lady Summayyah and her husband were martyred, Hazrat Bilal and others were subjected to serve torcher on the open sand.

In response Allah taught our Prophet a strategy that uses human psychology so magnificently that it has the potential of transforming our relationships with people around us.

The strategy is simple yet so difficult at the same time. it requires us to take the higher road and exercise patience.

First, when the good and evil are engaged in a face to face conflict and their nature and merits become apparent and known, after a long drawn out struggle, not many people would be left, who would not start hating the evil and admiring the good.

Evil should be resisted not by the mere good but by a superior good, as if to say: "If a person treats you unjustly and you forgive him, it is the mere good. The superior good is that you treat the one who ill-treats you with kindness and love. "

The result would be that "your worst enemy would become your closest friend," for that is human nature itself. If you remain quiet in response to an abuse, it will be mere goodness but it will not silence the abuser.

But if you express good wishes for him in response to his abuses, even the most shameless opponent will feel ashamed, and then would hardly ever be able to employ invectives against you. If a person doesn't miss any opportunity to harm you, and you go on tolerating his excesses, it may well make him even bolder in his mischiefs. But if on an occasion he gets into trouble and you come to his rescue, he will fall down at your feet, for no mischief can hold out against goodness"

So, our response should not be just of mere forgiveness but rather be also about kindness and mercy.

This is what Imam Kelwick from Liverpool the imam of Abdullah Quilliam did when racist protesters were outside the mosque.

He came out and engaged them, showed openness and allowed people to talk, he thanked and engaged non-Muslim community members defending the masjid and also served food to all. This kindness of willingness to listen to share a moment and allow the person to engage his humanity enabled the opening.

The response shattered the narrative portrayed of Muslims and imams of being angry and bloodthirsty and it fed into the wider consciousness and tiredness of war and bigotry.

What we should not do is to come together in the form of physical resistance. It should be noted that the fascists want us to trap us and want us to react aggressively. To both young and mature we ask you to exercise patience and not to congregate.

## **6. The second part of our response needs to be about preparedness:**

We should be building our strength both individually and collectively

- Individually go about your normal business, work, studies and family life. However, stay alert and show caution.
- Let the police and state do their jobs
- Individually we should be kept peace and working towards peace in society in our families, in our communities. volunteering in local projects is a good way to do this. for example, you can volunteer in our mosque initiatives and or wider community initiatives organised by other charities and council.
- Be good and neighbourly Muslims as this is a requirement of our religion
- Individually we should increase our love for Allah and his Messenger and give Dawah in speech and action

- Individually we should be going to the gym and learning self-defence
- Individually we should be performing excellently in our studies
- Individually we should be reading and learning more. We have become a community who doesn't read any more. This will help us to articulate our faith and values better
- Don't share information without checking source and also try to not spread fear and or rumours.
- Write to and share your concerns with your local MP, councillors and council leaders

**Collectively we should be:**

- Working to bring peace and harmony in our communities
- Recognise that this is a war of perception and so we must not act through anger or mob violence, don't fight fire with fire. Let the fire burn itself out and don't add to it.
- Working with non-Muslim neighbours and friends and creating spaces to work together and also friendship
- Be celebrating that we are British Muslims. The place where we live is important and so we have to claim and own our citizenship. Be proud even despite the problems that we have e.g. prevent, or inequality of treatment by police and or anti-Muslim discrimination in employment and or other areas. we nevertheless need to overcome these by campaigning for rights but also upholding peace in society.
- Allah has made a perfect religion for us and called us Muslim. and by virtue that we live here in the UK lets be proud of being Muslim, of having a complete religion and living in the UK as British Muslims and be a force for good and fulfil our role in society
- Maintain good interfaith relations with the different faith communities in our neighbourhoods including Christian, Jewish, Sikh and Hindu communities. don't not fall into the easy sloganeering and or antisemitic rhetoric.
- Maintain links with police and other local strategic partners

**7. Closing Duas**

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**Notes to Imams and Masjid Presidents:**

This is an outline for the Khutbah please add more Hadith and Quran and sayings about building peace with all people and creating harmony.

Talk about getting young people not to engage in counter protests and if they do avoid violence and do so peacefully.

For Imams to make links with the local churches and other places of worship and to ask for help and solidarity in a meaningful manner.