



# COSMOS UK

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10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2024

AL FURQAN MASJID, LUTON

REFLECTING ON A DECADE OF UNITY AND ACTION

# Welcome and Introduction

## Welcome Message:

- Qirat
- Welcome from the President of COSMOS UK – Shakeer Nawas
- Recognition of key attendees: Affiliate members and special guests.

## Overview:

- COSMOS UK has been a **unifying force** for the Sri Lankan Muslim diaspora in the UK **since 2012**.
- **Mission:** To represent and energise efforts for the collective benefit of the Sri Lankan Muslim community.



# History of COSMOS UK

## Timeline Highlights:

- Founded on *22nd April 2012*.
- Catalyst: Attack on *Dambulla Masjid* and lack of government action.
- Delegation led by *Br. Junaideen Mubarak* presented a memo to Sri Lankan High Commissioner.
- Early efforts focused on protecting SL Muslim rights and integrating SL Muslims into British society.
- Evolved into a trusted voice for advocacy and interfaith dialogue.



## **Vision:**

"An umbrella organisation to represent, focus, and energise appropriate action to resolve issues and create collective positive impact for the Muslim community, in particular Sri Lankan Muslims."



## **Mission:**

To establish an inclusive forum that fosters respectful discussions and effective decision-making.

Focus on achieving COSMOS UK's stated aims and objectives.

# Vision and Mission

# Key Aims and Objectives

Provide	Provide a common platform for discussion and action on key issues.
Promote	Promote cooperation and unity among Sri Lankan Muslim organisations in the UK.
Support	Support initiatives that benefit the Muslim community.
Foster	Foster understanding of Islam and Muslims in British society.
Advocate	Advocate for Sri Lankan Muslim rights in both Sri Lanka and the UK.
Promote	Promote harmony with other communities.





# Key Achievements

## Highlights of the Past Year:

- Humanitarian Efforts: Container shipments for Sylvia Lanka Foundation.
- Interfaith Engagements: Iftar at SLHC, Westminster Abbey events.
- Political Advocacy: APPG AGM, meetings with MPs and British High Commissioner.
- Campaigns: Forced cremation issue, Gaza Press release, and Palestine marches.
- Cultural Events: Independence Day celebrations with affiliates.



# Activities Overview

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## Achievements Across the Years:

- Advocated against forced cremation policies with OIC, UNHRC, and Lord Ahmad.
- Coordinated protests and awareness after the *2014 Aluthgama attacks*.
- Established APPG in *2018*, ensuring parliamentary representation with 13 MPs.
- Organised numerous interfaith and cultural events promoting understanding and unity.





# Affiliates and Their Role

## Affiliates:

- 17 affiliates representing Sri Lankan Muslim communities across the UK.
- Active participation in COSMOS initiatives and events.

## Examples of Affiliates:

- SLMC (East Ham), SLMCC (Harrow), SLMA (Slough).
- SL Liverpool Association of Muslims, Kingsbury Islamic Cultural Centre, and more.



# Sub-Committees



APPG MEETING 06.07.2022



## Membership Sub-Committee:

- Increase membership and female/youth participation.

## APPG Sub-Committee:

- Strengthen APPG relationships, engage with youth.

## Media Sub-Committee:

- Establish a communication calendar and engage with public media.

## Events Sub-Committee:

- Plan annual events: Independence Day, Iftar sessions, annual gatherings.

# Priority Focus Areas

Enhance	Enhance collaboration with affiliates, UK politicians, and SL leaders.
Increase	Increase youth and female participation in leadership and events.
Organise	Organise an affiliate leaders' meetings
Develop and distribute	Develop and distribute COSMOS UK promotional materials (flyers, merchandise).



# Challenges and Opportunities

## **Challenges:**

- Increasing political and community engagement.
- Tackling Islamophobia.
- Balancing advocacy in SL and integration into British society.

## **Opportunities:**

- Expand partnerships with APPG, UNHRC, OIC, and other key bodies.
- Engage more youth and female members to sustain growth and innovation.
- Increase visibility through media and interfaith events.

# Letter from Presidential Secretary – October 22, 2024



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சனாதிபதி அலுவலகம்  
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT



October 22, 2024

Mr. Shakeer Nawas  
President  
Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organizations - United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Nawas,

I wish to convey my appreciation for your message of felicitation to H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on his recent appointment.

H.E. the President wishes to engage with overseas Sri Lankan communities to contribute to the country's development. As underlined in his inaugural address after being sworn in as Head of State on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, he stated his commitment to fostering a common identity for all Sri Lankans, free from ethnic divisions, while also expressing his intention to collaborate on initiatives that promote peace and social harmony.

H.E. the President conveys his sincere best wishes to you and the members of the Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organizations-United Kingdom.

Sincerely

  
Dr. N S Kumaramayake  
Secretary to the President

## •Acknowledgment of COSMOS UK's Felicitation

- Appreciates COSMOS UK's message to H.E. the President of Sri Lanka.

## •Engagement with Overseas Sri Lankan Communities

- Demonstrates interest in collaborating with overseas Sri Lankans for national development.

## •Commitment to Unity and Harmony

- Advocates for a common Sri Lankan identity, free from ethnic divisions.
- Expresses willingness to support initiatives promoting peace and harmony.



# Message from the MCB Secretary General





# Thank You and Closing

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- Gratitude to affiliates, members, and leadership for their contributions.
- Acknowledgement of progress made over the last decade.
- Call to action: Collaborate and engage to achieve future goals.