



President: Dr H Dewji

Secretary: Mr Mohsin Asaria

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Request for a day off to commemorate Ashura on Tuesday 10th September 2019.

I hope this letter finds you well. By way of introduction, my name is **Mohsin Asaria**, and I am a community member of Hyderi Islamic Centre – a mosque based in Streatham. I am writing to inform you about an upcoming religious commemoration which is taking place over the next couple of weeks for our members, and to which some of our students may allude in the coming days.

BACKGROUND

Every year Muslims, and more particularly Shia Muslims, commemorate the day of Ashura. This is the tenth day of the first Islamic month which marks the death anniversary of Hussain Ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. He, his family and his friends took a stand against the oppressive tyrant of their time, ultimately laying down their lives for the sake of human values; honour, respect, dignity and love. These tragic events took place in 680AD. Muslim communities around the world congregate in their respective centres each night throughout this month, in particular during the first 12 nights (this year falling on 1st to 12th September 2019) where these events are narrated and their moral lessons are discussed. The commemoration culminates on this coming Tuesday – the day of Ashura, which was the day they all took that final stand. This day is spent in prayers and in eulogising the tragedy that befell Hussain and we would appreciate if you would allow the student to take Tuesday 10th September 2019 off to partake on this annual occasion.

WHY DO WE STILL REMEMBER THE DAY OF ASHURA?

The actions of Hussain represented a conscious choice to courageously resist and sacrifice everything for a higher cause. In his own words he said: "I have not risen to spread evil or to show off, nor to spread immorality or oppression. But I have done so for the betterment of the Islamic faith, and to propagate goodness and forbid against evil." Despite this event occurring 1400 years ago, Hussain's stand and his message still resonates today. For more information on Hussain Ibn Ali and his legacy, please visit www.whoishussain.org or contact us using the details at the top of the letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mohsin Asaria
Hon. Secretary

