

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Ever Merciful

Sample Friday Prayer Speech (*Khutbah*)

Saving Lives

PART ONE:

Salam Alaykum, Peace be with you,

Introduction - Importance of saving lives

Whenever there is an atrocity committed by people in the name of Islam, many of us quote the verse of the Quran: "*Whoever takes a life, unless it be for manslaughter or mischief in the land, its as if he killed all mankind. And whoever saved a life, it's as if he has saved all of mankind.*" (Al-Maidah (5); Verse 32)

The reason we do so is very straightforward. We want to show clearly that such violence and disregard for life has no basis in our faith.

However, we seem to be forgetting the second half of the ayah. "*Whoever saved a life, it's as if he has saved all of mankind.*"

How many of us truly act on it? How many lives can we say that we have helped save? As Muslims, it's our duty to help improve the society we live in, to benefit all the creation of Allah (SWT) and to showcase the beauty of Islam in action. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself said, "*Whoever believes in Allah and the last day, let him do good to his neighbour.*"

Do we even know our neighbours? Will those of other faiths or no faith turn around and ever say that they are glad that Muslims live in their country or their area? We have to be honest with ourselves.

Islam is not a theoretical faith

Islam is not a theoretical religion. It is a living, breathing and active one in which theory and practice go hand in hand. In that famous narration, the Prophet (peace be upon him) himself advised us to make *Du'aa* (supplication) **and** tie our camel – it's important to do both: taking action is essential as is trust in Allah (SWT).

So you can see that it is important for all Muslims to do what they can to be active in improving society. There are many ways we can do this. Some of us can do this by giving charity, others do it by volunteering to teach children at a school and others do it by coaching a local sports team (e.g. football or cricket)

Lifesavers introduction

Another way we can do this is by learning Basic Life Support skills such as First Aid. On **Saturday 30th September 2017**, our Mosque – *[Insert your Mosque Name]* – from *[1pm to 3pm or insert time]* will be joining more than 70 others across the country in opening our doors to the general public and having our local Muslim Doctors and Healthcare Professionals teach them Basic Life Support.

The session will be **free** and **open to all**. It will last for about 2 hours and will cover CPR, Recovery Position and dealing with choking. Attendees will receive a certificate at the end.

This is part of a national project called “Life Savers” run by the British Islamic Medical Association (www.britishima.org), a network of over 1,200 Muslim doctors and healthcare professionals. Its vision is for every mosque in the UK to run a Basic Life Support training session at least once a year.

This will be revolutionary in so many ways.

Where previously someone may have associated Mosques with fears and negative press, now they will remember it as the place they went to learn how to save a life. Whereas previously they would have no reason to visit a Mosque, now they will go to gain practical skills that they could not easily get elsewhere. More importantly, it will show Islam in practice. Saving lives and creating unity between people and communities.

PART TWO:

What would you do if someone collapsed in front of you?

More than 50,000 people in this country have a cardiac arrest every single year. This is when your heart stops pumping blood around the body. Just think of this number. Each one of these people is a human being who had hopes, dreams, family and friends.

They were just doing their normal every day activities, going to work, cooking food, playing football and then suddenly their heart has stopped. Now when this happens, there is a small chance, for a very few minutes, to save their lives. If you know Basic Life Support, you can start doing CPR and help them.

Imagine, just with your hands and a little bit of information you can learn in 1 or 2 hours here in the Mosque for FREE, how to save a life by the will of Allah (SWT). Why would you not take part?

Practical steps

The Lifesavers event on **Saturday 30th September** is about Muslim communities coming together and helping the wider community and our neighbours by saving lives and showing the true image of Islam.

If you want to help too, then you can do so by either:

- 1) Come to our Life Savers event on Saturday 30th September
- 2) Encouraging people to come and learn lifesaver skills on 30th September
- 3) Helping to organise Life Savers on a local, regional or national level with BIMA
- 4) Doing your own activity that aims to show the true image of Islam in your neighbourhood.

Whatever you do, make no mistake, you are continuing to do the community-building work inspired by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who the Quran describes by saying “*And we have not sent you except as a Mercy to all Mankind.*” (Al-Anbiya (21): Verse 107)

We are the *ummah* (community) of the Mercy of Mankind and it is time that we started living up to this great privilege.