



FosterFriday

Friday Sermon (Jumma Khutbah)

On the day, during the Jumma Khutbah, mosques across the country will talk about the important role foster carers and adopters play. Highlighting, why we urgently need more people from the Muslim community to come forward.

#fosterfriday2019 #youcanadopt



Guideline Fostering Khutbah

Friday Sermon (Jummah Khutbah) to be delivered on Friday 20th March 2020 as part of national Foster Friday campaign.

The approach

How we would like the masjids to approach the khutbah is to highlight the importance of Muslims getting involved in fostering and adoption.

1. Everyday Muslim children are put in the care of non-Muslims

- Children are losing their faith.
- Children feel uncomfortable practicing their religion in non-Muslim houses.
- Children lose their faith identity.
- Children are allowed to do things contrary to their religion.
- We must also support non-Muslim cares to better understand Islam.

2. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was also fostered

- As a young baby he was fostered by Halima Saadia and others. As he got older he was fostered by his grandfather and uncle.
- Reward of fostering taken from the story of Halima Saadia. Her mount straight after picking up the prophet as a child grew strength, Her breasts filled with milk, her goat and camel started providing more milk, her state went from poverty to comfort.
- Comparisons can be drawn between the spiritual and worldly reward. Fostering in our times comes with monetary reward and also spiritual reward. Just like that of Halima Saadia.

3. The Prophet himself fostered

- Zayd Ibn Harithah.

4. What did the Prophet (pbuh) say about fostering and adoption (these are some from many)

- Ibn Majah in a hadith said "The best house among the Muslims is one where an orphan is well treated, and the worst house among the Muslim is one where an orphan is badly treated".
- "I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him will be in Paradise like this." Putting his index and middle fingers together. Narrated by Sahl bin Sa'd.

Some fostering statistics

- **Over 4000 Muslim living in care**, many are living with Non-Muslim carers.
- **In 2018, 4,250 unaccompanied refugee children living in care mainly from Muslim** countries Sudan, Eritrea, Albania, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria.
- **There is a urgent need for more Muslim foster carers.** Rotherham March 2019 '53 Muslim children in care, only 3 Muslim families available.
- The greatest need being for foster carers is for **older children, sibling groups, special needs and unaccompanied refugee children.**
- Foster Friday started in 2017 by Muslim Foster Network is the only dedicated day for raising awareness about fostering in the Muslim community. In last 2 years Muslim Foster Network has supported over 2000 people considering fostering.

Some adoption statistics

National Adoption Week is taking place on 14-20th October 2019.

The latest statistics from the Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGB) reveals that of the children awaiting adoption:

- **28% are aged over 5 years**
- **4% have a disability**
- **20% are from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background**
- **57% are in sibling groups**

A sizeable proportion of the Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic children will be Muslim children

Muslim Foster Network is not for profit you can register online at www.muslimfosternetwork.org.uk.

Over the next few months there will be fostering workshops taking place across the country, gives details of local event.

Some stories

Mohammed came to the UK from Egypt, upon arrival in the UK his father was arrested, him and his siblings were unfortunately separated and put into foster care, **Muhammed remembers being given pork to eat, and other non halal food. The reason for this was because his foster carers were not Muslim and was not aware of his religious practices.**
(Asylum seekers from Egypt)

Henna at the age of 15 lived with her mother and siblings. Her mother and father separated due to domestic violence. Her mother suffered years of abuse at the hands of her drug addicted father. Because of her mother's severe depression Henna had to take care of her siblings, eventually social services got involved and placed Henna and her siblings in foster care, all got separated. **Henna was placed in a mixed foster home with teenage males non mahrams.** She started smoking and drinking and following her friends. Her brother and sisters also ended up in non-Muslim foster houses.
(Pakistani family from Bradford)

The point of these stories is to show that children end up in foster care for different reasons and situations, and it is our responsibility to give them shelter in Muslim households. Remember children are innocent.

Although a lot of the statistics above speak about refugees, Many children from the UK who come from broken homes etc are ending up in the care system. Now more than ever we need more Muslims to be involved in foster care.

Positive Story

There are many good examples of Muslim foster carers, one family supported by Muslim Foster Network who became approved in 2018 are currently looking after a 11 year Muslim girl. Earlier this year the family is all going to perform Umrah and they will take the foster daughter with them. Not only are they safeguarding the faith of this child they are also nurturing her to feel part of the family. This child would not have this opportunity if they were placed with non-Muslim carers.

(Muslim Foster Carer)

