

Greeting ... (1-2 minutes)

First of all I would like to congratulate all those who initiated and formulated the much needed ethical witness statement.

Where as I on behalf of IPCI agree and support the contents whole heartedly, there are two points that in my opinion need to be reviewed.

Number (2) "we can not convert people, **ONLY GOD CAN DO THAT**. In our language and methods we should recognise that people's choice of faith is primarily a matter between themselves and God".

It is in my opinion incomplete. According to the Holy Quran 42:13 "He guides whom He wills" (and) He only guides those who wish to be guided", that is because there is no compulsion in religion, the Holy Quran 2:256.

It is important to clarify this point otherwise on the day of judgement the unbelievers can blame God for not guiding them.

Number 2 should therefore be amended to read:-

**"God Almighty guides whom He wills and He guides those who wish to be guided. In our language and methods we should recognise that people's choice of faith is primarily a matter between themselves and God"**.

Lastly, I have major problems with number 10, "Whilst we may feel hurt when someone we know and love chooses to leave our faith, we will **RESPECT** their decision and will not force them to stay or harass them afterwards".

From a Muslim perspective this is not factual, as a Muslim will never **respect** their decision. In a real scenario an open and frank discussion will be held and they will be reminded that by so doing they are going backwards for it is a precondition for a Muslim to believe in Jesus (pbuh) who predicted the arrival of Muhammad (pbuh) just as Prophet Moses (pbuh) had predicted the arrival of both Jesus and Muhammad, peace be upon them, (the Holy Quran 61:6, Deut. 18:18-19, John 14:16, 15:25, 16:7, 12-14...)

They will be reminded that it could be said that a Muslim is, in any case, first of all a Jew because it is a precondition in Islam to believe in Moses (pbuh) and the Torah; then a Christian because it is a pre-condition in Islam to believe in Jesus (pbuh) and the Gospel. But the fact is that neither Moses (pbuh) preached Judaism nor did Jesus (pbuh) preached Christianity but they, like all true Prophets of God preached the only universal message, that is to believe in One God, to obey His commandments in order to attain peace and that is the meaning of Islam, (the Holy Quran 2:136 and 42:13).

If all fails then it will be reluctantly tolerated in accordance with the Holy Quran 3: 86-91. In fact such an incident did occur in the life time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) when one of the Muslim migrants from Medina to Abyssinia did actually become a Christian; it was tolerated.

I therefore suggest that either number 10 is left out altogether or amended as below:-  
**"Whilst we may feel hurt when someone we know and love chooses to leave our faith, where as we may discuss at length the matter with them, we will not force them to stay or harass them afterwards"**.

Finally, I must say, I do firmly believe that if we, Christians and Muslims, strive to attain a peaceful, harmonious, tolerant and inclusive society in Britain, it can be achieved, God willing.

Thank you all and Peace be with you.