



Centre issues apology, appoints new interim Chair and pledges immediate remedial action following troubling social media posts.

The British Muslim Heritage Centre (BMHC) has unreservedly apologised for any offence caused by the content shared by its Chair, Mr Nasar Mahmood, on his personal social media accounts. The Centre, a registered charity with a respected track record of promoting interfaith understanding and collaboration, has announced practical measures it is taking in response to the episode – including an independent review to ensure that its cherished values of mutual respect and interfaith collaboration are strongly upheld by all trustees and staff in the future.

The centre's response will be spearheaded by the Vice Chair, Mrs Saima Alvi, who has now taken up the position of interim Chair. Mr Mahmood is stepping aside as Chairperson whilst an independent review of the issues arising from the content shared is carried out.

Mrs Alvi says: "The British Muslim Heritage Centre wishes to unreservedly apologise for the troubling material shared by Nasar Mahmood on his personal social media posts highlighted by a recent media report. He has issued a personal apology in addition to the one made by the organisation.

"We will now instigate a thorough independent review of this episode to identify what action needs to be taken concerning the specific circumstances, as well as to highlight any lessons that may need to be learned. Please rest assured, the Board is committed to implementing the findings of the independent review. We take our values and responsibilities very seriously, and we stand ready to take required necessary actions, and to uphold them now and in the future."

Nasar Mahmood says: "I am deeply sorry for having given a platform to views and values that do not in any way reflect those of the centre, and for any offence I may have caused. It is right that I should step aside from my position whilst the independent review is undertaken."

The Centre is working to identify a suitable independent party to carry out a review as soon as possible. It will also continue to build on the existing engagement programmes that the BMHC is well recognised for, including:

- A fresh round of training in the coming months to increase awareness of political and religious sensitivities among staff and trustees, and to review the centre's social media policy to ensure the requirements and expectations are more strongly embedded.
- Increased investment in interfaith work with all communities, building on the excellent record established over many years.
- Expansion of the Centre's popular Stories of Sacrifice exhibition, which primarily highlights the contribution of Muslims to the allied war effort in the First World War, to more broadly reflect the sacrifices made by a variety of religious minorities in the fight against fascism, as well as the profound human cost of the Holocaust as a crime against humanity.
- Propose a new programme, led and encouraged by the Centre, to enable people of all faiths and backgrounds to visit sites associated with genocide against religious minorities, such as Auschwitz, Srebrenica and others, with a shared agenda of reflection and learning.