COSMOS UK - AGM REPORT 2021



# COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS (COSMOS -UK)

**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021** 

AT : SRI LANKA MUSLIM CULTURAL CENTRE - HARROW - UK
ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

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#### **AGENDA**

#### بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

AGENDA-Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Sri Lanka Muslim Cultural Centre, Harrow.

- 1. 4:00 pm Registration, Asar Prayers and Refreshment
- 2. 4:40 pm Opening of 8th AGM by Recitation of a Chapter of Quran by Moulavi Anas SLMCC
- 3. 4:45 pm Welcome Speech by President of COSMOS Mr. Liyas Abdul Wahid
- 4. 5:00 pm Apologies for Absence by General Secretary
- 5. 5:05 pm General Secretary of COSMOS Mr. Shakeer Nawas Report-Presentation & confirmation of last AGM Minutes & past year Activity report etc.
- 6. 5:30 pm Treasure's Financial Report by Mr Mukshid Zawahir: Presenting Last year Financial Report and Current financial situation.
- 07. 5:40 pm Dissolve Current Office Bearers and Election for appointing new Office Bearers
- 08 5.45 pm Speech by Imam Thalha Siddiq of SLMCC on Importance of Social Service
- 08. 6:15 pm Short Speech by New President and Vote of Thanks
- 09 6.25 pm New Office bearers and Executive Committee Members Group Photo
- 09. 6:35 7.00 pm End of Meeting and Refreshment

#### PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT AGM OF COSMOS ON Sunday 19th November 2018

Dear Bothers,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wababaraltuh

#### بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

I address you as the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organization UK (Cosmos UK) and this is my last speech as president of this wonderful organisation. It is good to see representatives of our affiliate organization attending this Annual General Meeting. I am honoured, privileged and thankful to have all of you here at SLMCC today and supported throughout my tenure for almost three years. Although as I am thanking all of my office bearers, executive members but I must name one of them out of all is our General Secretary Mr Shakeer Nawas who was with me day in day out throughout my Presidency. We helped each other in good and bad times to benefit this organisation. I must also thank all our ex-presidents, all three of them helped, advice when needed throughout my tenure but Mr Mubarak and Mr Azahim Mohamed names should be mentioned here. Mr Azahim Mohamed was one of my pillars of support throughout.

As you all know Cosmos UK was established in 2012, now almost nine-plus years, out of that my services to this organisation is almost seven years which is almost ¾ of the time of COSMOS UK. Alhamdulillah, I am honoured to lead this organisation last almost three years and two terms as General Secretary. I did my best to the community and as well as to the organisation. COSMOS UK is mostly well known to many not only among SL Muslims but also to very well known to wider Muslims all around the world and among non-Muslims too. There are so many occasions there were many individuals/organisations/institutions approached us by all sort of life when it comes to any Sri Lankan Muslim matters needed to discuss.

I am sure our Secretary will produce all or most of the activities since our last AGM but let me highlight few important ones which I believe is vital.

- Organised wonderful Sri Lanka's Independence Day celebration in 2019 at SLMA Slough premises, was attended by more than five hundred people from all communities, Chief Guest was then SL High Commissioner H. E Manisha Gunesekera, the special guest was Hon Tan Dheshi (MP for Slough) and council members from Slough Borough Council
- 2. Meeting with various British officials, Ministers and MPs to address the plight of the Sri Lankan Muslims who suffered racial attacks in Digana, Ampara, Kurunagala, Minuwangoda and various other places.
- 3. Hosted World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims Conference at Marriott Hotel in London. As far as I am aware conference of this calibre outside Sri Lanka is the first time hosted and it was a successful one. Many delegates from many parts of the world attended and

- Alhamdulillah, we thank whoever supported to host this successful conference in London.
- 4. Establishing our own APPG was very much myself and Br Azahim Mohamed effort, we both tirelessly work hard to bring where we are now. Alhamdulillah now we have 13 members in the APPG and many MPs are aware of the group as well as our organisation. To get here we all put in so much hard work and we thank you for all of them. I take this opportunity to thank our APPG chair Hon. Blackman and all member MPs.
- 5. Forced cremation was the biggest issue we as Sri Lankan Muslims faced since we established, I must say it was a very successful campaign we as a responsible organisation we took a very successful campaign with MCB to address this issue on various levels. We made this issue international, we manage to contact OIC, UNHRC officials, Lord Ahamad, international HR activists and many dignitaries to address this issue. We had many appreciation messages from various community members from Sri Lanka.
- 6. Finally FCO Meetings: never missed any meetings, usually all their meeting are weekdays, I am the only Muslim representative speak on behalf of our community and have never been shying away to put forward our community issues to the FCO officials including the British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Our organisation is well recognised by the FCO officials and we are known to them for any future engagements.

As years to come, Cosmos UK will have a greater involvement and will be called to play a role in standing up for Sri Lankan Muslim communities in Sri Lanka and in the UK.

I cannot leave without mentioning a few names. Whose help and support I have been privileged to enjoy. Mubarak Junaideen, Azahim Mohamed and Rizwan Wahab for their advice and tireless support. Shakeer Nawas our Secretary for the support throughout my tenure. Our Treasure Mukshid Zawahir and Ubaid Abdeen were always there whenever we needed. And to all the Executive Committee members and the affiliates for their support given to me to take Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisation UK (Cosmos UK) to another level.

Finally, I invite all of our members to consider the guidance provided in the passage "By (the Token of) Time (through the ages), Verily Humankind is in loss, Except such faith, and do righteous deed, and (join together) in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy." – (Quran 103:1-3)

Liyas Abdul Wahid President Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisations. UK



#### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 2018

Date: Saturday 11th November 2018 Time: 5:00 pm- 7.30 pm

**Venue: SLMC - East London** 

Attendees: The meeting was chaired by the President of COSMOS UK Mr Azahim Mohamed, General Secretary - Liyas Abdul Wahid, Executive committee members, over twenty-five attendees from all our affiliated organisations, and few observers from outside of our affiliated organisations.

#### **MINUTES**

- 1. **AGM Start** 6<sup>th</sup> AGM was started at 5:00 pm by Reciting a Chapter of Quran
- Welcome Speech The meeting was Chaired by Mr Azahim Mohamed, Chairman of COSMOS UK and followed by his Welcome speech. He thanked everyone made effort to come to the AGM and then for their corporation throughout the year in various Cosmos activities:

Followings noted from Mr Azahim's speech:

- "As the President Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organization UK (Cosmos UK). It is good to see representatives of our affiliate organization attending this Annual General Meeting. I am thankful for the privilege of being surrounded by an excellent team of volunteers who have spent countless hours discharging their roles within the Executive Committee and its subcommittee.
- Two excellent years where the Cosmos achievements have been numerous and significant. All events undertaken during the year 2017 and 2018 is mentioned in the General Secretary's report. My heartfelt thanks go out to each of the organizers, who with their team exemplified dedication in their preparation. The vast amount of time invested in their effort to plan and coordinate was evident with the consistent outcome of such wonderful events as the Independence day celebrations, Leadership event, Media and TV events, organizing events for visiting Sri Lankan Minister and MP's.

- Discussion on Sri Lanka Constitution, Meeting British Minister and MP's to discuss the Plight of the Sri Lankan who suffered racial attacks in Ampere, Gintota and Digana.
- The formation of the All-Party Parliament Group. Headed by Bob Blackman MP and other MP's and members of the Lords are a significant achievement. Today we have a voice to speak out for the Sri Lankan Muslims in the House of Commons. Let me thank the Minister of State for South Asia and Asia pacific Hon Marks Field MP for taking up our Sri Lankan Muslims issues in the House of Commons. And the number of MP's questioning the Foreign Secretary on many occasions. What we need to do is that we get more MP's to the APPG. This can only be done by our affiliate's members by requesting their MP's to join the Group. Cosmos UK is now part of the Foreign and Commonwealth team representing the Sri Lankan Muslims.
- Meeting about Cosmos UK meeting with the Sri Lanka President HE Srisena in London. Secretary Bro Liyas, contacted the SLHC official requesting a meeting with the President. Our request was well entertained. And a slot was given to us. Later on in the day the SLHC called Br Liyas and enquired if another group along with Cosmos can meet with the President. He rightly agreed. But the other group whose spokesperson was a media person had then refused to be a part of Cosmos. What a shame! To me, this was a missed opportunity. Even at the hotel foyer I met with this groups Secretary and pleaded to go as one united Muslim group. Our meeting with the Sri Lanka President was a tremendous success. But the other group failed miserably. Further Azahim claimed that he recently saw a clip on Facebook where the President talks of the Muslims are not a united group in the UK.
- To this end, the two Muslim groups Cosmos UK and SLMDI met in Leicester. And discussed in length our issues. And we finally, agreed that we need to work together for the Sake of our Muslims Brothers and sisters. We agreed that SLMDI will 2019 Organise the Sri Lanka Independence Day Celebrations and also, help in the arrangements with any demonstration in support of our Sri Lankan Muslims. Cosmos UK will invite the SLMDI to meetings and press briefings with the foreign and Commonwealth Office. Now that we have organised an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) we will invite SLMDI also, to participate. I have been in contact with Secretary

- Br Affam Ismail. And hope we can participate as a united Muslim Group in future actives.
- He further thanked Leicester Brothers Haji Sheik Ismail, Yoonus, Sheikh Salman, A W Farook, M R Fazil and Marjan Junaid for arranging this meeting. Cosmos UK Azahim Mohamed, M Liyas, Mukshid Zawahir, Lukman Harris and Obaid.
- SLMDI was represented by its President Nazeer, Afham Ismail and Ayshan Abdullah and two others. We need to continue this dialogue from time to time so as not to break the united flow.
- The Lunch meeting with Muslim Ambassadors and High Commissioner. along with Muslim MP's and MP's involved with the All-Party Parliamentary Group had to be shelved for the time being. Due to unavoidable circumstances.
- As years to come, Cosmos UK will have a greater involvement and will be called to play a role in standing up for Sri Lankan Muslim communities in Sri Lanka and in the UK.
- I cannot leave without mentioning a few names. Whose help and support I have been privileged to enjoy. Lukman Harris Cosmos scriber and for his advice and tireless support. Shakeer Nawaz our media man. We have had issues with the Tamil Press and media in getting our PR reported. He was able to break this deadlock. Our reports are now widely reported in all languages. Our Secretary AlHajj M Liyas is a tower of strength to Cosmos UK. "What a Secretary". Murshid Zawahir our Treasurer and Akram Azeez. SLMCC, Slough Mosque, Kingsbury Mussalla and Sri Lanka East London Mosque. For hosting Cosmos events. And to all the Executive Committee members and the affiliates for their support given to me to take Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisation UK (Cosmos UK) to another level.
- III. Apologies: No apologies were reported
- IV. Last AGM Minutes was presented by Secretary Liyas Abdul Wahid around 6:00 pm to the attendees.
  - **a.** Approved after Actions were briefed from Last Minutes
- V. Secretary Report:: At 6.25

Mr Liyas Abdul Wahid, Secretary of COSMOS presented the Annual report of 2018 and explained all past year activities.

Bro Liyas welcomed everyone 6th AGM, at Sri Lanka Islamic Centre East London, Pilgrim Way, East Ham. He took the opportunity to thank the President and committee members for providing the facilities to use this venue and providing excellent support. Bro Liyas thanked "current President, all pass presidents, all ExCo members and especially all of our affiliates who supported us throughout our past terms. Liyas also apologised to the members for not having our fifth AGM as we planned last year for various reasons such as we all were busily involved in dealing with the SL Muslim issues.

Cosmos had two good years in terms of providing services with the help of Allah to Sri Lankan Muslims communities living here in the United Kingdom, other Sri Lankan communities, British Muslims, Muslims living in Sri Lanka and Global Communities. Our involvement is not only limited to Sri Lankan Muslims but also various other communities too and we are very much involved in the peace and reconciliation programme to bring permanent peace in Sri Lanka by involving other faith communities. Since the last AGM, we have had few major events which were hosted by COSMOS UK with our member organisation such as the launching of APPG for COSMOS UK, attending eight FCO meetings, hosting many Sri Lankan politicians, meeting visiting Sri Lanka president H.E. Maithripala Srisena, couple of public meetings to discuss SL Muslim issues, leaders meeting at SLMA Slough and Special Gathering to commemorate 69th & 70th Independence Day of Sri Lanka, both events were very successful.

COSMOS UK arranged a public meeting to discuss the ongoing attack against Sri Lankan Muslims in Sri Lanka after Digana, Kandy attack, it was well-received and successful. Since then many of our members have volunteered to join us in our day to day activities.

Since last June 2016, we have had six Executive Committee members meeting in different venues, although attendance records was poor throughout the year, All the meetings were very productive and actioned many proposals. He also wants to thank Vice President Mr Anas Eliyas for his contribution to the organisation and

big thank for our committee members including our treasurer Mukshid Zawahir, Mr Rizwan Wahab, Mr Lukman Harees, Mr Ubaidur Rahman, Mr. Junaideen Mubarak, Rahmatullah Rasheed. Akram Azeez, Fiyaz Hussain. Special thanks to Brother Lukman Harees, Br Shakeer Nawas, Ubaid Rahman for their wonderful service to our media unit. Assistant Secretary Sadat Sadiq for his tireless support for giving number one advice and services throughout last years. All the Activities tell a good story of our productive involvement of the organisation in various events and they are reported as follows:

- 1. Establishment of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisations (COSMOS UK). It was a historical moment on 28th June 2018, when we managed to establish APPG for COSMOS UK. As you are all aware we all including the president, General Secretary and all other committee members put tremendous effort to achieve this goal which was a success. Alhamdulillah we managed to get the support of five British Member of Parliamentarians to form the group since a couple of more MPs already joined the group.
- 2. Special Gathering to Commemorate 69th & 70th Independence Day of Sri Lanka.

69th Independence Day was held on 05th Feb 2017 at SLMCC Harrow. Chief Guests was H.E. Amari Wijeyawardena, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Special Guests Hon. Bob Blackman, Hon. Gareth Thomas, Harrow Mayor Cllr Rekha Shah, Dr Handupelpola Mahinda-Buddhist Priest, Dr Omer El-Hamdoon-Depuity SG of MCB, Cllr Kareema Marikar and many special guests. It was a successful event and popular among all communities of Sri Lankans living in the UK. Guest Speech was delivered by Dr Kamal Gammanpilla.

70TH Independence Day was held on 10th February 2018 at SLMCC Harrow. Chief Guest was H.E Amari Wijeyawardena, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to London, Special Guest were Hon. Bob Blackman, Harrow Mayor Cllr. Kareema Marikar, Mr Haroon Khan-Secretary General of MCB, Dr Handunpelpola

Mahinda, Guest Speaker Mr Lesly Debb and many other guests. This was a well-attended event with very successful.

3. Leaders Meeting: COSMOS UK arranged a Leaders Meeting in May 2018 for all our affiliates in SLMA Slough (Masjid Al-Jannah), it was a well-attended event and very well organised. Many leaders from SL Muslim community in the United Kingdom attended this workshop and their views and suggestions were well received. Much brilliant suggestion was expressed for future activities of COSMOS UK and the event end with delicious lunch sponsored by Masjid Al-Jannah management.

#### 4. Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

We managed to register Cosmos representatives with FCO first time, my self and our president Mr Azahim Mohamed attend regular meetings, we are the only organisation for SL Muslims invites for their regular meeting and also we have the privilege to call any private urgent meeting with FCO-South Asia official.

FCO Special Meeting: Cosmos requested a special meeting to discuss SL Muslim issues and we had been given an opportunity to meet four of the important FCO officers including the acting High Commissioner to Colombo. The meeting was held on 16th June 2017 at 9:30 am and lasted up to 11:30 am Submitted a well-drafted report on SL Muslim issues and explain to the FCO officers our concern in the meeting and it was a successful meeting.

Also, we update regular basis any attacks/concerns to Natalie Gower who is the Secretary to Head of South Asia. Our press release reports have been sent to her to pass on to her department. What we do when attended FCO meeting: Usually it is two-three hours meeting, we discuss things its matter to our community, update on any incidents, we express our concern as British Sri Lankan Muslims. Also, they give us their update on SRI LANKA, sort of works they do it in SL such as reconciliation among communities, meeting with the Foreign Office or President, PM etc.

After Digena attack, there was an FCO meeting (Feb/March-2018), we requested part of the Agenda to be Kandy Attack to be discussed, our request was accepted, given an hour to present the report with detailed information with proof. Our presentation was well received and promised it will be taken to relevant authorities in Sri Lanka and UK.

#### 5. UNHRC and Geneva Workshop:

As we are all aware it is the most important body for human rights issues, it is imperative to have some sort of connection with this body. There are many organisations within the UN, there is an organisation for minorities, where our contacts in Geneva working close with them. Cosmos delegation attended the two-day workshop organised by our brothers in Geneva, we discuss in detail as a diaspora living in Europe, what we can do as one body to pressure the Sri Lanka government to act on minority issues. We also discuss short, medium and long term plans. It was noted that there is not a single SL Muslim organisation register within the UN where we can do lots of influences through UNHRC or other bodies within the UN. Even if we need to call for a side meeting or submit a report we always have to go through organisations/countries that are registered with them. Most of the time country like Afghanistan, Syria etc. This issue we COSMOS taken very serious, we discussed in detail with a couple of individuals who are working in UN, we put our self forward to register/represent with them. Alhamdulillah, we initiated the process of registering COSMOS with them, the initial stage of Profile acceptance was accepted, and we are seriously working on it and Insha Allah we will make sure our representation inside UN body.

Side Meeting in UN. Br Lukman and Mr Ruwan Perare attended on behalf of Cosmos and delivered a speech that was well-received after the Digena attack.

6. Meeting visiting SL MPs and President H.E Maithripala Sirisena.

Cosmos delegation met H. E. Maithripala Sirisena at Hilton Hotel London in 17tApril 2018, was a very good meeting, we conveyed our concern to the visiting president and handed over the letter of concern to him at the meeting.

We meet many if not all MPS visiting UK from Sri Lanka. Reason to discuss our concerns, show hospitality, making connections to use them when needed.

10th October 2017: Discussion on Constitution Changes with visiting MP Hon. Jayanpathi Wickramarathne at SLMCC Harrow. It was a very good meeting, he delivered a very good speech and also a very good Q&A time.

Met following MPs: Rishard Badurdeen, Rauf Hakeem, Mujibur Rahman, Rossie Senanaykae, Sunil Handunethi, Ali Zahir Moulana,

Meeting with President: Managed to make an appointment to meet the SL president, our delegation of nine members were at the meeting, Cosmos put forwarded important concern issues about our community facing in Sri Lanka were forward to him also suggestion was put forward too. It was well received by the President and HC privately thank COSMOS for our professionalism.

#### 7. British MPs:

We have a very close relationship with a few British MPs our self through our affiliates. Hon. Bob Blackman, Gareth Thomas, Reading MP Alok Sharma, Through Slough mosque Hon Tan Dhesi.

The second time we managed to arrange an All-Party Parliamentary Group, on both occasions it was successful. Many MPs attended our drop-in sessions. It is an important achievement in the entire SL community in the UK, as you are all aware we must have a lobbying group., where we can have say.

APPG cross-party meeting was very successful, many MPs attended, importantly Hon Mark Field, who is State minister for South Asia & Asia Pacific-FCO. He assured our concern were taken into his counterpart in Sri Lanka, will keep regular pressure in various way to bring permanent peace in SL. The letter has been sent to Hon Mark Field sign by many MPs who agreed to sign on our meeting and copy will send to HC with front cover letter by Hon Bob Blackman. We met Hon. Tom Brake, Lib Dem MP for Wallington & Carshalton at his office

in Portcullis House. Was a very good meeting and we encouraged him to join our APPG and he is now a member of the group.

#### 8. Helping Rohinge community in UK

13th November 2017: Mr Azahim has been invited to attend a meeting with UN representative on Rohinghe Issues. Mr Azahim attended the meeting and many issues were discussed at the meeting. He made a good connection with UN Rep and other attendees for any future purpose. They do recognise Cosmos as a good representative for SL & Burmese Muslims.

#### 9. Other Organisations:

International Alert: many meetings, cosmos is the only Muslim organisation been invited for their regular meeting and sole organisation to share information. They help us in various ways as they have connections with SL authorities and many other NGOs in the world.

Ethera Api: We work closely with them, a couple of our exco in their committee too. It's a JVP wing in the UK, we have been invited to yearly events, and given speeches too. We have been given equal representations in all their event. We promote through them peace and harmony in SL. They help us in various ways.

16th July 2017: Ethera Appri Congress at Novotel Hotel.

Mr Azahim Mohamed and Liyas were invited as special guests to Ether Api annual event which was attended by SL MP Sunil Hadunnethi. On behalf of Cosmos, Mr Liyas Wahid was represented, honoured to light the lamp to start the event and delivered a short speech on behalf of our president. Met couple of Parliamentarians of JVP, when they visited UK. Hon Sunil Haduneththi is my regular contact. September 2018 Ethera Api annual event was attended by our Treasurer Mr Mukshid Zawahir and he did a very good presentation too.

#### 10. Faith Organisations:

We attend various faith events, meeting any faith leaders from Sri Lanka. We met a couple of times leaders of Sri Lankan communities, also head of the interfaith group in SL. Rev. Ebenise Joseph, ex Wesley college Principal in London Hotel. We met through International Alert.

We been invited many occasion from London Buddhist Vihara for their events, we invite for our events, and I can assure we have built a very good relationship with Kingsbury temple and Hindu 'Kovil' in Wembley through Ram Raj.

#### 11. Sri Lanka High Commissions in London:

If and when any new important officers are appointed, we go and meet them in order to keep a good relationship. When Amari Wjeywardena was appointed as new High Commissioner, our delegation went and met her. We offered our support, also our intention to work closely with her office. It is important we keep a healthy relationship with the high commission as it is the point where we can have a connection with SL authorities. We also met Mr Haleem when he was appointed, and we are closely working with him too.

05th October 2017: Meeting with Mr Haleem- new Secretary to the HC and replacement for Mr Yoganathan. Mr Azahim Mohamed, Mr Mukshid Zawahir and Mr Liyas Abdul Wahid attended the meeting at 4:00 pm. It was an introductory meeting and he promised us to have a good relationship with Cosmos. We had various representation with HC, such as any incident that happens in Sri Lanka, we meet the High Commissioner, we express our concern, most of the time we sending the letters to H.E president, PM, Ministers through HC. We have been invited for their events such as Iftar, Deepavali, Avurudu, Independence Day celebration etc. we always make sure our representation is there.

12. COSMOS UK-SLMDI Relationship: As many of you are aware historically there was some friction between the two organisations which got waste when we went to meet H.E Maithripala Sirisena in London. Both organisations thought it was both parties interest we reconcile our self, going forward we both organisations work together for the betterment of the community. With regards,

the meeting was arranged by Br Yunoos with few other brothers in Leicester to reconcile both parties differences in May 2018. Cosmos delegation was included Mr Azahim Mohamed, Mr Liyas A Wahid, Mr Mukshid Zawahir, Mr Lukman Harees, Mr.Ubaid Zainul Abdeen. Both parties concluded to co-operate with each other without any conflicts in future and agreed to meet again." Bro Liyas concluded his report once again thanking everyone.

## VI. Presentation of Treasurers' Report and Adaptation of Financial Report.

Treasurer Mr Mukshid Zawahir presented the Treasurer's report, was passed on to the attendees and presented last year financial report to the committee. In his comments he included the following:

- Presented the breakdown of income & Expenditure.
- He kindly requested more contributions from all affiliates & suggested having a healthy cash flow to the organisation.
- Also, he gave a couple of reasons for the uncollected subscriptions which some of the attendees did not welcome his comment.
- Financial report adopted.

### VII. 7:30 pm Current Executive committee was dissolved and called for the Election:

- Mr Liyas Abdul Wahid was elected as President. President was elected without any contest.
- Mr Shakeer Nawas elected as General Secretary
- Dr Nassar Ibrahim name was elected as Vice President
- Mr Mukshid Zawahir was elected as Treasurer
- Mr Ubaid Zainul Abdeen was elected as Assistant Secretary and Mr Basit Abdul Rahman was elected as Assistant Treasurer.
- VIII. New President speech and Vote of Thanks: President of COSMOS UK Mr Liyas Abdul Wahid thanked all the committee members for electing him as a new president of the organization and also he thanked both previous presidents for doing an excellent job. He promised to continue the good work to an excellent standard and promised to do more for the community.

- He thanked all the executive members, office bearers for arranging the AGM and supporting throughout.

A special appreciation and big Thanks to the host of the occasion President Mr Ammanulla and his members of SLMC of East London for their excellent hospitality arrangements.

XII 08:15 PM Dinner was served. COSMOS UK

#### 8th Annual General Meeting-Secretary's Speech

19th September 2021

Assalamu Allikum W W,

I would like to welcome everyone here tonight for our 8<sup>th</sup> AGM, at Sri Lanka Muslim Cultural Centre (SLMCC), Harrow. May I take this opportunity to thank the President and committee members for providing these facilities to use this venue and providing excellent support. Also, may I thank our current President, all past presidents, all ExCo members and especially all of our affiliates who supported us throughout our past terms. May I also apologies to the members for not having our seventh AGM as we planned last year mainly due to lock down and Covid 19 Pandemic.

The motto of Cosmos UK as revealed in the Quran "And hold fast, all together, to the rope of Allah and be not divided among yourselves"- Al Quran 3:103. This is indeed very relevant to all

of us in this current political and social context and we must understand the power of Unity for greater strength where divide and rule has become the norm of this world to distract and bring conflict amongst all communities. We have seen the consequences of this in our own eyes in the recent years in many parts of the world including our beloved motherland.

I wish to Thanks Our President Bro Liyas Abdul Wahid who has served COSMOS UK for over 7 years in Secretary and President role in most difficult and Challenging time of Sri Lanka. I must admit he is a honest, wonderful leader who love to impart knowledge and share his experience and wisdom. I really enjoyed and privileged to be the General Secretary during his tenure. Liyas is a committed and Focussed leader who stood with his decisions and principles and made some firm stance backfired amongst members and lost some members but I can confidently say this was his style of Management and he always had good intenetions for the organisation as a whole.

I also wish to Thank and show our gratitude to our Past Presidents Bro Azahim Mohamed, Bro Mubarak and Bro Rizwan who has served this great organisation and guided me and our team very well. They have maintained highest standards and we need to continue this legacy for the benefit of our future generation.

Sadly, we are going to miss some of our long served Executives such as Bro Anas Elias who played an important and vital role in Cosmos Executive meetings and always very honest and critical in his opinions for the betterment of our organisations. He has come forward in many Public forums to defend Cosmos decisions and we really value and appreciate his actions. Further Bro Luckman also played an important role in Cosmos although he is not in any position in last 2 years. His writings, report reviews have helped in COSMOS to draft some of the excellent reports and diplomatic letters to many.

I have failed my duty If I don't mention about Bro Mukshid who is a wonderful supporter in our work as responsible for finance. I must also name few members like Bro Hussain Fiyaz, Bro Jazeel, Bro Ubaid, Bro Rahumathullha, Bro Akram, Bro Jazal, Bro Naffi, Bro Shibly, Bro Shah. A wonderful young talent in our community Bro Adil and all other Executive members always ready and supported in our activities. THANK YOU ALL. Without your supports we would not be able to achieve many positive results to our community here in UK and Sri Lanka.

#### Some Activities of COSMOS UK in November 2018 to To date

Our President has already mentioned some of the highlights and important tasks we have taken during our tenure in his report and we have our Press Releases in our Website with all our activities uploaded for further information. I have summarized some points and activities for the benefit of our audience.

In recent years the amount of violence and attacks against minorities is sharply rising in many parts of the world including Sri Lanka. Cosmos UK is in the forefront in highlighting these issues and finding a solution to curb these regular occurrences through organizing discussions, involving in peaceful coexistence events, organizing multi-faith events, media participation's, leaders/community meeting etc. In recent years Cosmos UK has highlighted the issues through

the All Party Parliamentary Group Cosmos (APPG Cosmos), meeting and discussions with Sri Lanka Government officials who visit UK, engage positively with Sri Lanka High Commission officials in London, active participation with Civil Society movements etc.

Cosmos as an organisation in last three years faced many challenges in terms of providing services with the help of Allah to Sri Lankan Muslims communities living here in United Kingdom, other Sri Lankan communities, British Muslims, Muslims living in Sri Lanka and Global Communities. Our involvement not only limited to Sri Lankan Muslims, but also various other communities too and we are very much involved in Peace and reconciliation programme to bring permanent peace in Sri Lanka by involving in other faith communities. The major challenges and resources were during this term was spent on organizing World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims Conference in UK in 2019. The inauguration of this event was held at SLMCC - Harrow on 18.10.2019 and Conference was held at London Mariot Hotel on 19th October 2019. In line with Cosmos UK proactive approach this World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims Conference UK – 2019 would be another foundation in bringing various international diaspora organisations under one roof to discuss matters and implement conference outcomes for the benefit of all Sri Lankan's.

Since October 2019 we had many Executive Committee members meeting and various Emergency meetings in different venues including

South London Islamic Center- Modern (6/01/2019)

71st Independence Day Commemoration Masjid Al Jannah (9/2/2019)

Meeting at Leicester organised by SLMA - Leicester with many Leicester based organisations under one roof on 17.03.2019

ASLAM- Reading ExCo Meeting. (24/3/2019)

World Forum Committee Meeting (Global Forum) at SLMCC on 13.4.2019

Easter Sunday Attack in SL - Public Meeting at SLMCC Harrow on 22/4/2019

Organised Peace Vigil and Peace Walk in association with SLMDI in remembrance of Easter Attack victims

Meeting with Deputy High Commissioner at Sri Lanka High Commission on 07/05/2019 on arranging Ifthar at SLMCC

Muslim Aid meeting at their office in White Chapel on 28/05/2019

Cosmso ExCo Meeting on Skype 03/06/2019

ExCo Special General Meeting hosted bt SLIFL - Liverpool on 07/07/2019

ExCo Executive meeting hosted by at Milton Keynes on 08/09/2019

World Forum (Global Forum) Organizing Committee Meeting on 22/09/2019

World Forum Special Executive Meeting at Regal International - Wembley to discuss Post Event of World Forum on 10/11/2019

Meeting with High Commissioner HE Manisha Gunasekera and Councellor Staffs at Sri Lanka High Commission on 19/10/2019 to discuss removal head scrarf (Hijab) on Passport / Visa Photo.

Zoom Exco Meeting on 06/12/2020 to discuss Cremation Issue in Sri Lanka

President and Secretary attended more than 10 Task Force meeting on Cremation subject set up by MCB.

Canada Organisations meeting on 17/01/2021 to discuss and support Task Force in USA and Canada in Cremation Matter.

UHRC Meeting on 17/2/2021

Cosmos members attended UNHRC side meeting via Zoom on 03/03/2021

Organised 3rd APPG Zoom meeting- AGM on 13/4/2021

Attendances at these meetings comparatively high compare to previous term meetings beginning of 2016/18 year were good compared to at the end as we had only five members attended. I would like to this opportunity to thank all of the members of executive committee and its subcommittee for their hard working throughout the years.

All the Activities tell a good story of our productive involvement of the organisation in various events and Our president also attends

Foreign and Commonwealth Office meetings and FCO Special Meeting regularly and update the British Foreign Office.

Donated funds to various projects including Net FM Face Mask Campaign, SL Army Disaster Unit, Support to various fundraising events such as Kinniya. We Thank all donors and afflaite organisations who supported this events.

There are many more reports and actions uploaded in Cosmos Website (www.cosmosuk.com) if members would like to read and understand Cosmos past activities.

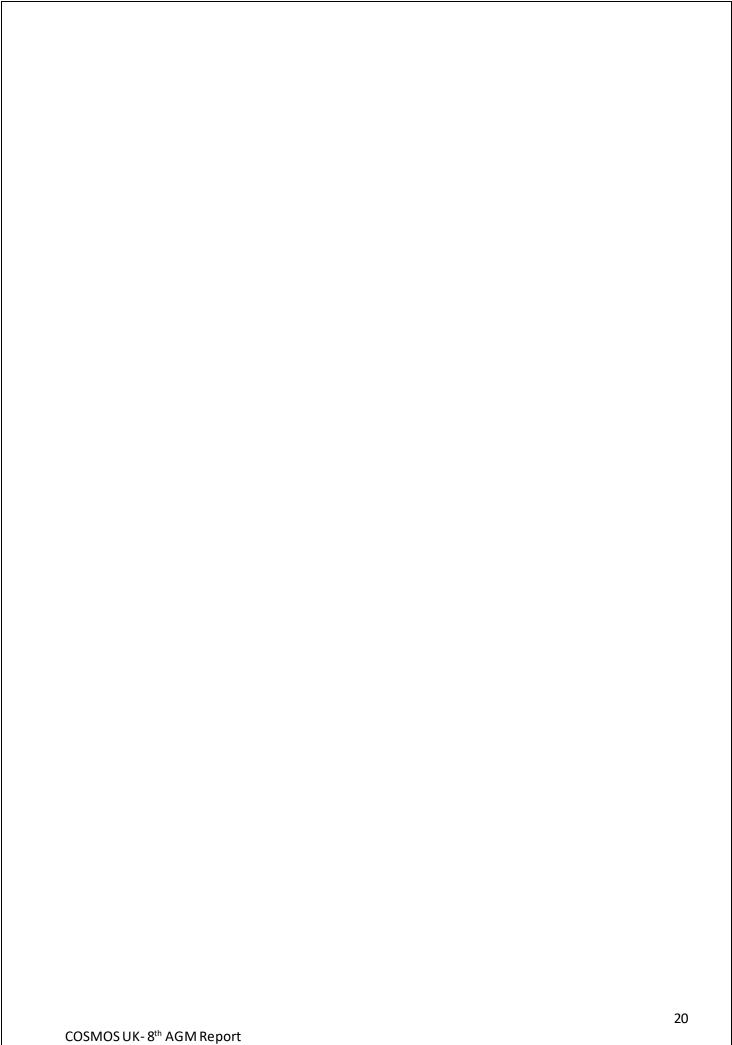
Thanking you

Shakeer Nawas

General Secretary

**COSMOS UK** 

19.09.2021



### **COSMOS UK**

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2021 ACCOUNTS FOR AGM 2021 - INCOME AND EXPENTITURE

Bank Balance as at 31st October 2018	£	£ 979.84
Income:		
Total Income	7420	
		7420

Expenditure:			
Total Expend	iture	7869.71	
			7050 7
			7869.71
Net Income o	ver Expenditure		-449.71
Netificomeo	ver experialiture		-449.71
Bank Balance	as at 31/08/2021		530.13
	Income Breakdown October 2018-31st Aug 2021	£	
Name	Income From	Amount	
29/01/2019	Rahmathullah-ref Banner		50
	Ahmed Mohamed-Banner		85
29/01/2019			
	cash deposit		250

15/10/2019	London Accident-conference sponsorship (Zulfi)	250
15/10/2019	Ahmed Mohamed-sponsorship-adv (Azahim)	500
18/10/2019	M Junaideen Ismail-Afham	300
18/10/2019	Dasa Consultancy-Jazal-ADV-SPONSORSHIP	500
28/10/2019	Muslim Aid-sponsorship adv	3000
11/11/2019	WASSHLtd	200
11/11/2019	Mohamed Rilwan-Marriott Manger	250

20/04/2020	A Ali Hassim-Covid19 contribution	10
20/04/2020	AXIA London-covid 19 contribution	100
21/04/2020	M Junaideen Ismail covid19 contribution	50
21/04/2020	F Aboosally	100
21/04/2020	KICC	100
21/04/2020	Liyas	100
21/04/2020	Ahmad Mohamed-Azahim	100
22/04/2020	SLMA Slough	300
23/04/2020	NIDA Foundation	100
24/04/2020	Jazal Marzook	100
30/04/2020	SLMCCUK	200
18/05/2020	SLMC	200

06/10/2020	Ahmaed Mohamed-Azahim-HC - Army Disaster mgt project	100
07/10/2020	SLMA Slough	300
26/01/2021	AL FURQHAN-Subscription Luton	60
		7420

#### Expenditure from Oct 2018-31/08/2021

Date	Details	Amount (£)
10/12/2018	chq 000006-slmcc-food cost	342
07/12/2018	chq 000007 food cost	80
30/07/2019	chq 000011	150
30/07/2019	chq 000008	210
15/10/2019	M Ifthikar-banner	140
15/10/2019	Marriott Deposit-Shakeer	1200
	chq-000010-Balance Marriot (£1446.28) plus £450-souvenier	
01/11/2019	printing)	1896.28
05/11/2019	Folder printing plus name budges (Adil),	597.78
	Shakeer (£200 NM Ameen, £50-tips waiters, £75 posters, paper plates	£90.28
09/12/2020	Conference Inaugration food cost-SLMCC-chq 0009	749.65
05/02/2020	SL HC-independence DAY SPONSORSHIP	200
29/02/2020	M Ifthikar-Banner-APPG	70
28/02/2020	MCB Annual subscription	100
	COVID19 special Mask to SL Hospitals-£1200 plus money trf chg	
22/04/2020	£50.00	1250

14/11/2020	MCB Annual subscription	100
03/12/2020	SL Army Emergency Management	650
12/03/2021	UNHRC Campaign expenses-stamps, envelop, printing etc	134
	Total	7869.71

#### NOMINATED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF COSMOS AFFLIATE ORGANISATIONS FOR YEAR 2021 / 2023

	Organisation	Nomination 1	Nomination 2	Nomination 3
1	SLMCC - Harrow	Mukshid Zavahir	Haseen	Shifan
2	SLMA-Slough(Masjid Al Jannah)	Akram	Uzair	Junaid
3	SLIF	Jazeel	Naseer Zubair	M Aliudumalebbe
4	SLMCC - Eastham	Amaanullha	Irshad Issak	
5	SLMA-Milton Keynes	Shameel Aliyar	Thajudeen	
6	Galhina Welfare Ass.	Ikram	Hidayathullha	
7	KICC	Irfan		
8	Masjid Abrar	Murzhi		
9	SL South London Ass.	Ubaid		
10	Sri Lanka Assembly of Muslims	Shakeer Nawas		
11	SLIFL	Adil		
12	SLAM	Rikas Kaleel		
13	SLBC-Bolton	Anif		
14	SLIA	Jazal	Sadat	
15	Interbuild	Asmil Farook		
16	SL West Yorshire Association	Rizni Hafeez		
17	SLICAM	Hussain Fiyaz		

#### Co - Opt Members (tbc)

- 1 Bro Mubarak
- 2 Bro Azahim
- 3 Bro Liyas-(Automatic membership for the next term)

Two Organisations applied for the membership and to be approved by the ExCo.

AidLanka

Al Furkhan-Luton



## JAZAKALLHA KHIRAN

(THANK YOU)

Report Prepared by: Mohamed Shakeer Nawas -General Secretary

secretarycosmosuk@gmail.com

19.09.2021