

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalaamu Alaykum 

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN CALL FOR INPUTS: DRAFT SA MUSLIM CHARTER

The preparation of a draft charter was assigned to several academics, professionals and Ulama. It is intended that the draft charter will be disseminated to the greatest possible number of Muslim organisations and individuals for their inputs, comments, and suggestions. These will then be considered and where appropriate, a revised version of the draft will be further disseminated. Various discussion meetings may also be held. It is hoped that a final SA Muslim Charter will be adopted by Muslims of South Africa at dates to be announced in various towns and cities across the country. The final charter will remain open for adoption by all that agree to abide by its terms.

You / your organization/ your Jamaa is cordially invited to submit inputs, comments, and/ or suggestions towards improving the Draft Charter by the due date to the following fax or email:

Due Date: 15 December 2010

Fax: 0865149644 / **Email:** info@awqafsa.org.za .

Soft copies may be downloaded from www.awqafsa.org.za.

SECTION 1

FOREWORD TO THE DRAFT SA MUSLIM CHARTER:

Despite their diversity, Muslims of South Africa share common values and principles which are unknown to the majority of South Africans. This charter aims to outline the essential principles of Islam which will contribute to a better understanding of the Muslim community, as well as lay the foundation for its interaction with the broader South African society.

It is a historical fact that Muslims have contributed significantly to the development of South Africa. Today, they are to be found in every province and, indeed, in every city and town across the country. While their forebears were brought by the colonialists as migrant workers and political exiles, they now command a permanent presence here.

The Muslim presence in South Africa demands a framework of citizenship based on justice, equality of rights, and recognition of Muslims as a religious community in its own right. There is a need for greater co-operation amongst Muslims, other South African communities and, in line with developments in the African Union, between them and the rest of Africa.

The Muslims of South Africa undertake to work for peace and the general welfare of society and to engage in inter-cultural dialogue.

It is the above considerations that have led South African Muslims to formulate this charter.

THE DRAFT SOUTH AFRICAN MUSLIM CHARTER

PREAMBLE

Whereas the South African Muslim citizenry in democratic South Africa requires a framework of citizenship based on justice, equality of rights and recognition as a religious community as part of the landscape of this country, with deep historical roots, and as a community that contributed to the freedom anti-apartheid struggles and as a community that continues to contribute significantly to the development of this land and its people.

Furthermore there is a need for greater co-operation among South Africa's Muslims, and a desire for mutual recognition between the South African Muslim community and other South African communities and, in line with African Union's ideals and values, between the South African Muslim community, the rest of Africa, the Muslim world and international community in general.

And whereas South African Muslims have a responsibility to strive towards peaceful co-existence by working in the interest of the general welfare of the South African society and through active engagement in inter- and cross-cultural, ethnic and religious dialogue in the spirit of human fraternity.

70 Now it is proposed that a charter is an ideal mechanism to capture the vision and mission of the
71 Muslims of South Africa. This charter outlines the essential principles of Islam and seeks to contribute
72 towards a better understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Muslim community, as well as laying
73 the foundation for its positive interaction with the broader South African and global communities.

74 **NOW THEREFORE WE, THE MUSLIMS OF SOUTH AFRICA UNEQUIVOCALLY**
75 **DECLARE THAT:**

76 **SECTION ONE**
77

78 **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

79 ***Article 1 - Understanding the term Islam***

80 Islam means 'submission' to the will and law of the Almighty Allah (add Arabic SWT with an
81 explanation note).

82

83 ***Article 2 - Worship***

84 We shall worship no-one else except the Almighty Allah and demonstrate this consistently in all our
85 daily actions.

86

87 ***Article 3 - Sanctity of Life***

88 We uphold the sanctity of life irrespective of race, religion or ethnic orientation.

89

90 ***Article 4 - Equality of Humankind***

91 We shall uphold the equality of Humankind

92

93 ***Article 5 - Justice***

94 We shall stand firm for justice.

95

96 ***Article 6 - Dawah / Invite***

97 We shall call to the way of Islam with kindness, wisdom and fair admonition.

98

99 SECTION 2

100 RELATIONS BETWEEN MUSLIMS

101

102 **Article 7**

103 The Muslim is bound by the testimony that: “There is no deity but Allah alone and that Muhammad (s)
104 is the final Messenger of Allah” and not by any geographic, national, ethnic or racial considerations.

105 **Article 8**

106 We recognize diversity in the Muslim community and commit ourselves to consult one another in our
107 affairs.

108

109 **Article 9**

110 We commit to reconcile our differences using structures and resources from within the Muslim
111 community.

112

113 **Article 10**

114 We undertake to cooperate for common purpose for the betterment of society.

115

116 RELATIONSHIP IN MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

117

118 **Article 11 – Inter-Religious Relations**

119 We recognise the multi-cultural nature of our society and shall foster healthy relationships to achieve
120 common good.

121

122 **Article 12**

123 We shall deal with all communities justly and benevolently.

124

125 CITIZENSHIP

126 **Article 13**

127 We recognize the laws of the country in which we live without compromising our religious principles.

128

129 **Article 14**

130 We commit ourselves to nation building and societal upliftment in accordance with Islamic values.

131

132 **SECTION 3**

133 **SOCIAL**

134

135 **Article 15 – Honour and Dignity**

136 We shall protect the honour and dignity of all people.

137

138 **Article 16 – Family**

139 We shall reinforce the family as the key social unit of society and promote harmonious familial relations
140 and values.

141

142 **Article 17 - Gender**

143 We subscribe to the principle that males and females are equal with each having complementary roles,
144 rights and obligations.

145

146 **Article 18 – Children**

147 We shall promote the nurturing, development, caring, and protection of children.

148

149 **Article 19 – Covenants**

150 We shall honour all covenants.

151

152 **Article 20 – Property**

153 We respect the sanctity of property and the rights attached thereto.

154

155 **Article 21 – Knowledge**

156 We shall strive towards the attainment of excellence through the acquisition of knowledge.

157

158 **Article 22 – Educational Institutions**

159 We shall encourage the establishment and maintenance of educational institutions.
160

161 **Article 21 – Sustainable Environment**

162 We recognise our responsibility towards the sustainability and conservation of the environment and
163 will work towards this goal.
164

165 **Article 22 – Carbon foot print and conservation of water**

166 We acknowledge the necessity to reduce carbon foot print and conserve water as a measure of extreme
167 urgency.
168

169 **Article 23 – Healthy Lifestyle**

170 We shall strive to observe a holistic healthy lifestyle.
171

172 **Article 24 – Healthcare Services**

173 We shall strive to attain both equity and equal access to healthcare services for all.
174

175 **Article 25 – Labour Relations**

176 We shall strive to treat employers, employees and co-workers in a fair and responsible manner while
177 ensuring that the work environment is free from discrimination and harassment.
178

179 **Article 26 – Social Responsibility**

180 We recognise our social responsibility towards everyone and in particular the upliftment of the
181 disadvantaged and vulnerable.
182

183 **Article 27 – Economics, Trade & Commerce**

184 We will strive towards participating in all shariah compliant sectors of the economy in a socially
185 responsible and ethical manner.
186
187

188 **Article 28 - International Relations**

189 We shall strive to develop fraternal relations with the international community.

190

191 **Article 29 - Accountability**

192 We believe that we are accountable for all our deeds to society in general and to Allah in particular.

193

194 **Article 30 Corporate Governance**

195 We shall strive towards good corporate governance in conducting our organizational and financial
196 affairs.

197

198 **“Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoying what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in
199 Allah.” [Quran 3:110]**

200

201 **“And assist ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor: fear Allah: for
202 Allah is strict in punishment.” [Quran 5:2]**