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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalaamu Alaykum

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

Inspired by the Medina Charter of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (S A W) and the need for establishing a charter for Muslims primarily as a basis for co-operation on issues of common concern and their integration into South African society, prompted organizations including the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA) and the United Ulama Council of South Africa (UUCSA), to prepare a Draft SA Muslim Charter for discussion and adoption by the Muslims of this country.

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.

Hard copies may be obtained from the following offices:

Council of Ulama Eastern Cape: Ml Junaid Adam 0826571554
Jamiatul Ulama: Ml Ebrahim Bham 011 3738000
Jamiatul Ulama KZN: Ml Abdullah Khan 031 2077099
Muslim Judicial Council: Ml Abdul Khaliq Allie 0216844600
Sunni Jamiatul Ulama: Ml Yusuf Gaffaar 0312077063
Sunni Ulama Council: Sh Faizel Amirodien 0822197875
Awqaf SA: Raaghieb Najjaar 021 6964631

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact:

Ml Yusuf Patel 0825778311 (United Ulama Council of South Africa)
Mickaell Collier 0822164269 / Zeinoul Abedien Cajee 0828768027 / (Awqaf SA)
Yousha Tayob 0829265408

Prof Suleman E Dangor sedangor@telkomsa.net (University of KwaZulu-Natal) / Dr Mohamed Haron mum4mar2@gmail.com (University of Botswana)



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.



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

79 **NOW THEREFORE WE, THE MUSLIMS OF SOUTH AFRICA UNEQUIVOCALLY**
80 **DECLARE THAT:**

81 **SECTION ONE**

82
83 **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

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

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

87

88 ***Article 2 - Worship***

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

91

92 ***Article 3 - Sanctity of Life***

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

94

95 ***Article 4 - Equality of Humankind***

96 We shall uphold the equality of Humankind

97

98 ***Article 5 - Justice***

99 We shall stand firm for justice.

100

101 ***Article 6 - Dawah / Invite***

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

103



104 SECTION 2

105 RELATIONS BETWEEN MUSLIMS

106

107 **Article 7**

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

110 **Article 8**

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

113

114 **Article 9**

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

117

118 **Article 10**

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

120

121 RELATIONSHIP IN MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

122

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

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

126

127 **Article 12**

128 We shall deal with all communities justly and benevolently.

129

130 CITIZENSHIP

131 **Article 13**

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

133



134 **Article 14**

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

136

137 **SECTION 3**

138 **SOCIAL**

139

140 **Article 15 – Honour and Dignity**

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

142

143 **Article 16 – Family**

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

146

147 **Article 17 - Gender**

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

150

151 **Article 18 – Children**

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

153

154 **Article 19 – Covenants**

155 We shall honour all covenants.

156

157 **Article 20 – Property**

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

159

160 **Article 21 – Knowledge**

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

162



163 **Article 22 – Educational Institutions**

164 We shall encourage the establishment and maintenance of educational institutions.

165

166 **Article 21 – Sustainable Environment**

167 We recognise our responsibility towards the sustainability and conservation of the environment and
168 will work towards this goal.

169

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

171 We acknowledge the necessity to reduce carbon foot print and conserve water as a measure of extreme
172 urgency.

173

174 **Article 23 – Healthy Lifestyle**

175 We shall strive to observe a holistic healthy lifestyle.

176

177 **Article 24 – Healthcare Services**

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

179

180 **Article 25 – Labour Relations**

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

183

184 **Article 26 – Social Responsibility**

185 We recognise our social responsibility towards everyone and in particular the upliftment of the
186 disadvantaged and vulnerable.

187

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

189 We will strive towards participating in all shariah compliant sectors of the economy in a socially
190 responsible and ethical manner.

191

192



193 **Article 28 – International Relations**

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

195

196 **Article 29 - Accountability**

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

198

199 **Article 30 Corporate Governance**

200 We shall strive towards good corporate governance in conducting our organizational and financial
201 affairs.

202

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

205

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

DRAFT