



Youth Network Desk (YND)

**Report for the Term
2003 – 2006**

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THE
WORLD
FEDERATION

OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Registered charity in the UK No. 282303



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report will focus on the activities overseen by the Youth Network Desk during the term 2003-2006 and make recommendations for the next term.

1.2 The Desk has several objectives:

- To provide opportunities for youth to serve on all boards and desks
- To work with Regional Federations and local Jamaats to co-ordinate youth involvement in decision making
- To strengthen relations with other Shia and Non-Shia youth organisations

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 Disaster Relief

The YND has encouraged the youth to participate in planned fundraising activities for several disasters. The youth raised money for the funds outlined.

2.1.1 The Iraq Relief Orphan Appeal involved raising money in partnership with the ZCSS to sponsor orphans in Iraq for their education and living costs. The YND campaign launched was international with collections orchestrated from North America, to Dubai and Europe. The highlight of this campaign was the street and underground collection day in London which raised over £16,000.

2.1.2 The Iraq Relief Eye Clinic Appeal raised money in partnership with the Medical Advisory Board to initiate an Aeinullah Eye Clinic in Sadr City, Baghdad. As part of this appeal, the Desk liaised with the Ahlul-Bayt Islamic Mission (AIM) in order to raise funds from across the Shia community. Notably, the youth of New Jersey launched their "Salaam" Wristbands, which were sold to great acclaim in North America; while 10 youth took part in the British 10K run to raise money through sponsorship for this appeal.

2.1.3 The Tsunami Aid Appeal was organised to raise money for victims of the South-East Asian tsunami, to provide them with long-term assistance. Many youth were involved in the street collection in Birmingham city centre, UK.

2.1.4 The Pakistan Earthquake Appeal involved raising money to provide blankets and shelter for victims of the earthquake, so that they could survive the coming winter. Again, the YND utilised its strong network and worked alongside youths from various Regional Federations to encourage the community members to donate. The Youths of London organised a collection in early January.

2.1.5 The Ali-Asghar Water Appeal raised money to dig boreholes and wells in the Indian Subcontinent and in East Africa. This project raised enough money to build wells and dig boreholes for



hospitals, orphanages and schools. This project was successfully run by the Youth and involved setting up an international network of co-coordinators who oversaw collections in their Jamaats and local communities.

2.2 Ramadhan Relief

The Youth Network Desk has played a prominent role in coordinating Ramadhan Relief funds during the term 2003-2006.

2.2.1 During Ramadhan 1426 / 2005, the Ramadhan Relief fundraising was run using the iconic voucher system as well as by selling lapel ribbons to be worn on Eid day. Funds were also raised via online donations, which has provided a reliable method for the global community to donate to various projects and appeals.

2.2.2 During Ramadhan 1425 / 2004, the fundraising utilised the voucher system as well as other collection methods. As usual, the funds raised were sent to the target areas to provide food parcels, clothing and bedding to the most needy around the world.

2.3 Documentary in India

The Desk has begun the process of making a documentary in India about the work of the World Federation in India, focussing on the work undertaken in capital projects, Ramadan Relief, secular & religious education and business loans.

2.3.1 This documentary will be filmed, directed and produced by the youth, and will help with marketing the activities of the World Federation; therefore inspiring further donations from our community in the future.

2.3.2 The filming for the documentary will take place in December 2006 and January 2007, and an advance preparation party visited the prospective filming sites in July 2006.

2.4 Khoja Culture Event

This event (Loughborough, UK, June 2005) was organised in partnership with the Women's Desk, where participants could air their views regarding their identity and the impact of living in a Khoja Culture.

2.4.1 The occasion was aimed at being a pilate event, a springboard to inspire our youths globally and to instil within them awareness regarding our Khoja Shia Culture.

2.5 North-America Liaison Visit

The Youth Network Desk sent a team to North America (June 2005) to liaise with community leaders, in order to further involve the youth in community leadership. Recent executive committees have been formed with a large proportion of under-30s; which is a



testament of the great strides taken by North American communities in involving their youth.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Explore new strategies in integrating youth in strategic activities of the World Federation.
- 3.2 The networking agenda should become the sole responsibility of the regional federations. YND of the World Federation should be disbanded.
- 3.3 There is an urgent need to create leadership capacity amongst our youths to ensure that our future generations have the ability to lead within our communities.
- 3.4 The World Federation will seek innovative ways to involve our youths within the institution. The World Federation India documentary, discussed above, is an example of a special project aimed at giving space to the youth to deliver projects for the whole community.
- 3.5 The World Federation will aim to create significant leadership capacity amongst our youths to ensure that our future generations have the ability to lead within our communities.
- 3.6 It can be foreseen that YND will be increasingly redundant due to the presence of regional YND which could potentially lead to the duplication of roles, i.e. both structures aiming to 'network' youths. The YND of regional federations should be empowered to carry out local strategies.