

Azzubillih

My respected Scholars, My elders, Brothers and Sisters, Salaam Alaykum

I stand before you on behalf of the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme, a Scheme run by The World Federation. We would like to record our thanks to CoEJ for facilitating this and also Peterborough Jamaat for allowing me to speak today.

As we commemorate the tragedy of Kerbala, there are a number of lessons to be gained from this grievous event. As the muhib-e- Ahlul Bayt, it is not only our duty but our responsibility to keep the flame of lady zainab alive! The lady of knowledge, whose piety and patience not only illuminated those close to her, but ensured that her message echoes eternally.

It is on this pretext that marhum mulla asghar had a vision to ensure that no community child should remain illiterate, for it is only through education that we can excel in today world and ensure the love of our ahlul bayt is embeded into our hearts and minds, it is only then that we are can hand over the batton as mohibs of Hussain to the next generation.

For over 30 years The Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme, or ZCSS as it's known, has provided education to tens of thousands of needy Shia's worldwide in a bid to raise literacy levels in our communities. For education not only enhances an individual, but removes an entire family from the cycle of poverty. Not only are they able to become better muslims, but better shias and more importantly be ready for the arrival of al hujja the master of our time.

The catalyst for all of this, is education, how privileged are we sitting here today that basic education for our children is free but these needy shias have an uphill battle.

For a mere £10 a month you are able to sponsor a child from primary to secondary school. Those going to college and universities is £55 a month.

Let us reflect what is £10 a month for us or for those who are able £55 a month. Imagine the impact that you will have as the wasila through which not only will they come out of the cycle of poverty but inshA be part of the family that will be welcoming Imama Mahdi.

Take the example of ghulam abbas in India, your community sponsored, today he is a graduate teacher teaching in a school and his entire family is out of poverty, he is giving back to the community and all for what? Just £10 a month. This is the difference you can make. But there are many more such gulam abases that need your sponsorship in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri lanka, Bangladesh and Haiti.

For further information, we have volunteers in the ladies and gents as well as syed Muhammad jawaad from WF including myself who will be happy to talk to you about this. We hope that when we go back to London today we will take with us 50 sponsored students and many more.

And I am sure as a community that you will not let me down. The multi-fold reward for this thawaab e jaariya will inshA, through the wasila of the lady of knowledge be given to you in this world and will continue in the hereafter.

Together let us empower and educate the new generation of shias and be part of this noble scheme.