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# Friday Sermon

**Jumma Khutbah (Friday Sermon)  
on Fostering & Adoption**

#FosterFriday2020 #YouCanAdopt



**100 Mosques**

**100 Ambassadors**

**100 Families**

In partnership with



# Guidelines for Foster Friday Sermon

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**The Friday Sermon (Jumma Khutbah) will be delivered on Friday 20th March 2020 as part of The Muslim Foster Networks (MFN) national Foster Friday campaign.**

## The approach

We would like mosques to approach the khutbah to highlight the important role the Muslim community can play to support the needs of children in care.

## 1. Why we need more Muslims Foster Carers & Adopters

- Fostering and adoption is an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling role.
- Local authorities need more carers to meet the faith and cultural needs of Muslim children.
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children wait the longest to be placed in adoption.
- Children should be able to feel comfortable practicing Islam with their carer.
- We should help non-Muslim carers to support the Muslim children in their care.

## 2. Key Facts

- There are over 80,000 children in care in England. Estimated 6,000-7,000 Muslim children.
- 5,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (Refugee) Children living in care mainly from Muslim countries Sudan, Eritrea, Albania, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria. Most are teenagers.
- In some areas over 90% of children are placed away from faith group due to shortage of Muslim carers.
- Foster Friday started in 2017 by MFN is the only dedicated event for raising awareness about fostering and adoption in the Muslim community.
- In the last 3 years the MFN has supported over 3,000 people considering fostering and adoption.

## 3. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was also fostered

- As a young baby our Prophet (pbuh) was fostered by Halima Saadia and others. As he got older, he was fostered by his grandfather and uncle.
- Reward of fostering taken from the story of Halima Saadia. Her mount straight after picking up the prophet as a child grew strength, her breasts filled with milk, her goat and camel started providing more milk, her state went from poverty to comfort.

- Comparisons can be drawn between the spiritual and worldly reward. Fostering in our times comes with a monetary reward and also spiritual reward. Just like that of Halima Saadia.

#### 4. The Prophet had fostered

- The Prophet (pbuh) himself had fostered Zayd Ibn Harithah (ra).

#### 5. What did the Prophet (pbuh) say about fostering?

- Ibn Majah in a hadith said, **“The best house among the Muslims is one where an orphan is well treated, and the worst house among the Muslim is one where an orphan is badly treated”.**
- **“I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him will be in Paradise like this.” Putting his index and middle fingers together.** Narrated by Sahl bin Sa’d.

## Case Studies

### We took our foster daughter on Umrah

There are many good examples of Muslim foster carers, one family supported by Muslim Foster Network who became approved in 2018 are looking after a 12-year old Muslim girl. Last year in the Easter holidays, the family went to perform Umrah and they took their foster daughter with them. The foster carer told us ‘I was so excited when I got the news, I arranged for her to talk to her birth parents to share with them how excited she was to go on Umrah’. Not only are these foster carers protecting the Imaan of this child they are also nurturing her to feel part of the family. This child would not have this opportunity if she was placed with non-Muslim carers.

### I have enjoyed looking after non-Muslim children

Another Muslim foster carer who was supported by Muslim Foster Network told us that, “I am the main carer, my husband is also an approved foster carer and a big support to me. I have fostered 4 teenagers and 3 children. My first child was an emergency placement but was the longest one and ended after six and half years. Our best part of the experience was with our first child who was although not culturally matched with us but the attachment developed between us was overwhelming.”

### My faith needs were not met

Shaz, 18, who was cared for by non-Muslims, told the BBC: “I felt like I didn’t belong and I had to be white.” Two-thirds of councils in England have a shortage of black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) foster carers, according to BBC analysis of official figures. Shaz described how he felt that he had to look a certain way and he was asked to eat pork but then he explained that he cannot eat it and he used to get into arguments. It came to a point where he felt he needed to do something about it and raise more awareness.