

Aksaa Ltd

Project proposal for

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme

- 1. Islamic Cultural Awareness Seminar for Non-Muslim Professionals working on the PVE Agenda**
- 2. Empowering Muslim Women**
- 3. Capacity Building for Faith Leaders & Institutions**
- 4. Working with & engaging the Muslim Youth**
- 5. Engaging with Maddressah children**

Introduction

Aksaa Ltd is a leading agency that specialises in Islamic Cultural Awareness training courses. We have been successful in delivering courses for public sector organisations from various disciplines ranging from the Police, Fire and Criminal Justice services to Schools, the NHS and the different departments of local authorities.

Since our establishment in January 2004, over 10,500 people have gone through the course with 95% very positive feedback.

Aksaa Ltd are now the market leader in delivering training courses, workshops and talks on Islam and the Muslim culture; tackling questions around Islam and Terrorism. We have also delivered a number of training sessions to Faith Leaders, Imams and Mosque Committee members and also to the Muslim Youth.

Please see appendix 1 for delegate feedback and comments from our past courses.

We have a pool of professional management and training consultants who have to date, been delivering Islamic Cultural Awareness courses to public sector professionals across eighty different locations throughout the UK.

We also have a team of female speakers who are used on a sessional basis to deliver talks on women in Islam to public sector professionals, as well as sessions on Islam to schools and colleges across the UK.

Kaushar Tai is the Director of Aksaa. He has delivered faith leaders training programmes as part of management training for Muslim community leaders and Youth Leadership workshops on behalf of Local Authorities and Faith Regen and Mosque Institutions.

PVE Agenda

Aksaa Ltd have designed a series of workshops for public sector organisations who are working on the **Prevention of Violent Extremism Agenda**.

The workshops have a total of 12 full day modules as follows:

(You may choose as many modules you require to meet your training requirements).

For all Public sector organisations working on the PVE strategy, this proposal will assist in with their work by way of a series of training workshops designed for three separate groups:

1. **PROJECT 1**
Islamic Cultural Awareness Seminar for Non-Muslim Professionals working on the PVE Agenda – 3 days
2. **PROJECT 2**
Empowering Muslim women in tackling violent extremism - 3 days
3. **PROJECT 3**
Capacity Building for Faith Leaders & Mosque Institutions – 3 days
4. **PROJECT 4**
Working and engaging with the Muslim Youth – 3 days
5. **PROJECT 5**
Engaging with Maddressah children (Muslim Supplementary School)

PROJECT 1

Islamic Cultural Awareness Seminar for Non-Muslim Professionals working on the PVE Agenda

Aims and Objectives of the course

This course is specifically designed for Non-Muslim public sector professionals who work with Muslims from diverse communities and are associated with working on the PVE agenda

Day 1 will cover:

- A better understanding to the background of Muslims in Britain
- An insight into basic beliefs & practices
- A visit to a Mosque
- Public Sector Development issues for Muslim communities
- How best to work with Muslims and meet the needs of PVE

Day 2 will cover:

- Different Islamic Movements in Britain
- Opportunities to discuss the possible cause of radicalisation of the Muslim Youth and possible solutions
- Islam and Terrorism and the concept of Jihad
- Islamophobia in Britain and its impact

Day 3 will cover:

- Examples of good practice
- Group work to discuss what public sector organisations can actively do to prevent violent extremism
- Muslim sensitivities and the media
- The impact of Foreign Policy among the Muslims in Britain
- Muslim sensitivities – eg Middle East conflict

Methodology

The course will be very much participative with many opportunities to ask questions. The prayer area situated within the Mosque complex will be visited which will provide an ideal opportunity to learn about the features of a Mosque and a chance to observe how prayers take place.

The courses will be delivered by means of presentations, group discussions and group case studies. There may be some sessions where we invite guest speakers who present in specialised areas.

Who is the course for

All non-Muslim public sector workers
Those who have responsibility to work on the PVE agenda

Outcomes

- Bringing confidence to Non-Muslim professionals in working with the Muslim community.
- The opportunity to learn about Islam and the Muslim Culture.
- An opportunity to visit a local Mosque in the area and establish contacts with the Imam and or Mosque Committee member.
- Learning about the Islamic view point on Terrorism and the concept of Jihad.
- The chance to ask questions in a friendly & peaceful environment
- The opportunity to discuss the possible causes of radicalisation of the Muslim Youth and what strategies could be put into place for possible solutions.

PROJECT 2

Empowering Muslim Women

A presentation given by Muslim women to help discuss issues around tackling of violent extremism - 3 days

Aksaa has a team of women speakers across the UK who deliver sessions on women in Islam to non-Muslim Public sector professionals.

These, experienced, knowledgeable and skilled women are ideally placed to deliver the “Empowering Muslim Women” training programmes.

What Aksaa has learnt in the five years of delivering such training programmes that Muslim women have a key role to play in challenging prejudice and stereotypes both within their own communities and in the wider society.

Muslim women possess a largely untapped potential to challenge the attitudes that can foster violent extremist ideas. They are at the heart of communities undertaking a multitude of roles. Resilient communities cannot be built and sustained without their active participation.

The aim of the “Empowering Muslim Women” course is to encourage Muslim women to be at the forefront of counteracting extremist ideologies amongst young Muslims.

This training programme will help to establish a stronger voice among the participants, increased confidence and the knowledge to challenge and tackle violent extremism more confidently.

A three-day leadership training programme will enable Muslim women participants to:

- Discuss issue that will help identify and address signs of violent extremism.
- Have confidence to tackle extremist ideologies by promoting shared values and citizenship
- Draw on principles rooted in the Islamic faith empower Muslim women to become more active as citizens, to promote an inclusive message to younger generations and to challenge the cultural barriers which prevent Muslim women from having a voice in issues affecting their lives.
- See how they can articulate the true message of Islam concerning Jihad, Suicide bombings and democracy.
- Discuss issues that affect Muslims suffering in other parts of the world
- Discuss how to tackle issues that have an impact on Muslims in this country and overseas.
- Explore issues and misconceptions about the position of Muslim women in Islam.
- Develop presentation skills, assertiveness, confidence building, identifying signs of hate and conflict resolution skills.
- Give an insight into the Muslim women’s role and their contribution to public life in Britain.
- Help promote citizenship, “shared values” and the responsibility to engage and build good relations with all communities in Britain.

Methodology

It is proposed that there would be total of three days of training to cover the above topics delivered by experienced Aksaa Muslim women trainers.

The courses will be delivered by means of presentations, group discussions and group work.

Who is the course for

To respect modesty aspects this session will be open to women only.

Outcomes

- Bringing confidence to Muslim women in the current climate and circumstances.
- Have had the opportunity to discuss with other Muslim women about the issues relating to violent extremism in a structured way.
- Learn about the Islamic view point on gender equality, Islam and terrorism and the concept of Jihad.
- Encourage involvement and participation in the life of the District and presenting positive images of Muslim women.

PROJECT 3

Capacity Building for Faith Leaders & Institutions

Aim and Objectives of the Course

- To help build capacity to English and non-English speaking Muslim Leaders, Mosque committee members and scholars.
- To help enable key Muslim Leaders and scholars to utilise their theology training in a more positive, appropriate and effective way.
- To provide them with the skills and tools to relay information to Muslim Youth and help to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in our communities.
- To develop skills on effective communication and improve presentation skills
- To learn about the role of the various government agencies that provide public services including Social Services, Housing, Environment, community development, planning etc.
- To share knowledge and experience with others on the course

Methodology

It is proposed that there would be total of three days of training to cover the above topics.

The courses will be delivered by means of presentations, group discussions and group work. There may be some sessions where we invite guest speakers in specialised area.

Who is the course for

Mosque Committee members, Muslim Scholars, Imams of Mosques and Muslim Leaders

Outcomes

- Bringing confidence to faith leaders about addressing violent extremism and promote tolerance
- To create a pool of champions in this cause
- The application of Islamic teachings to contemporary society, helping to bring about change and encourage participation in initiatives to facilitate cohesion
- Encouraging involvement and participation in the life of the District and presenting positive images of Muslim residents

PROJECT 4

Working and engaging with the Muslim Youth

Aim and Objectives of the Course

- To help build capacity to the Muslim youth and potential Leaders
- To help enable the Muslim youth to be active in the community
- To discuss the possible causes of radicalisation of the Muslim youth
- To have a frank discussion about the impact of Foreign policy and what can be done to air views that concern the youth today
- Looking at role models in the Muslims community
- Discuss integration v assimilation
- Discuss how best to help prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in our communities and particularly among the youth.
- To learn about the role of the various Government agencies that provide public services including Social Services, Housing, Environment, Community Development and Planning etc.
- To share knowledge and experience with others on the course

Methodology

It is proposed that there would be total of three days of training to cover the above topics.

The courses will be delivered by means of presentations, group discussions and group work. There may be some sessions where we invite guest speakers in specialised area.

Who is the course for

Muslim Youth, potential Young Muslim leaders

Outcomes

- Bringing confidence to young Muslims in the current climate and circumstances.
- Have had the opportunity to discuss with other young Muslims about the issues relating to violent extremism in a structured way.
- Learning about the Islamic view point on Terrorism and the concept of Jihad.
- Encouraging involvement and participation in the life of the District and presenting positive images of Muslim youth.

PROJECT 5

Engaging with Maddressah children through work and play

This is a two day course to be held over a weekend

On the second day the group will spend one hour experiencing archery. This will be provided by a professional company specialising in this (subject to a risk assessment carried out at the venue to be used)

Aims & objectives of the course

- To help engage with Muslim children who attend the Maddressah classes in the evenings and to discuss issues surrounding extremist views
- To help facilitate discussion around the possible causes of radicalisation and discuss ways to avoid getting involved
- To bring about confidence in discussing this issue between Maddressah teachers and the children, so that they can be empowered to approach the teacher in confidence should they ever need to on this matter
- To explain in simple terms the concept of Jihad in Islam and that Islam does not promote violence and extremism and that suicide bombing is sinful in Islam
- Discuss citizenship and the British way of life compared to their parent's country of origin
- To express strongly that it is compatible to live in Britain and practice their faith without any problems
- ***To have the chance to experience archery***

Methodology

It is proposed that there would be a total of two days training to cover the above topics including the one hour spent experiencing archery.

A maximum of 14 children are able to attend an archery session at any one time. In the event there are more than 14 children then separate sessions would be run on an alternating basis.

The courses will be delivered by means of play, quizzes, presentations, group discussions and group work. There may be sessions were a guest speaker is invited to present on some specialised areas.

Who is the course for?

Maddressah children with participation from the Maddressah teachers.

Outcomes

- Will have the opportunity to discuss this matter more opening and to help avoiding being embroiled in radicalisation.
- Learn about citizenship and the British way of life and how it is compatible in following Islamic principles
- Have the opportunity to experience archery (for the first time in most cases)

It is proposed that a charge of £2 per child will be made

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all who take part

Appendix 1:

Feedback from Islamic Awareness course

Below are comments from past delegates who have attended our general Introduction to Islam & the Muslim Culture Course.



"We were impressed with your honesty and the fact that you did not "duck" any of our questions..."
Jeanette Harold SureStart Armstrong



"I would happily commend this course to all public sector workers, particularly those involved in front-line service delivery to minority communities. It certainly dispels some of the media fuelled myths that have been used to portray Islam in a negative light".
*Inspector Brian Plastow
Community Planning*



"I feel that more people should participate in course like that to gain a greater insight to things we generally have little knowledge about., and as we are all aware lack of knowledge lends itself greatly to discrimination".
Anthony O'Farrell- Training Dept – HMP Liverpool



"The day greatly improved my knowledge and understanding of the Muslim faith and culture and I felt privileged to have been allowed to visit the Mosque and observe the prayers".
Lesley Shoniwa-Diversity Team



"The course has increased our awareness and dispelled a few myths. It will definitely help us deliver a better service to our clients in the future".
Nigel Baker



"After spending a day with you and the other people representing the public and voluntary sectors learning about what being a Muslim in today's world means I feel much more confident that I am better prepared to communicate with this important audience. It was quite an honour to sit at the back and watch one of the five prayer sessions".
Barbara Mesa-Marketing and PR Manager



"It was without doubt the most informative course I have attended"
Philip Wilde- Station Officer



LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

"During the course of the day I began to understand why it is a way of life and why it is so important to you and other Muslims. I was impressed with the information you gave us and found the day both informative and interesting. You also dispelled a number of myths..."
Miss M Young- Judicial Correspondence Unit



"I was very impressed with the course organization and the presentations by yourself and the other contributors who practice Islam. This has provided a good insight into the practice for myself and many colleagues of different religious backgrounds and has cleared up the myths about the position of women in the Islamic faith".
G.D. Lee -Housing Services

Quotes & Timescales

We propose to meet the various objectives by delivering specific workshops to meet the target audience and outputs. Dates & venues can be mutually agreed.

We would be happy to discuss with you to design a specific course for your organisation to meet your specific outputs and targets. **The two or three day workshops can be combined into one with most important topics covered.**

Our fees are £2220.00 plus VAT for each day of training for a maximum of 25 people. The fee would include an Indian Lunch but venue costs and general refreshments are not included in this fee.

Apart from the course that incorporates a visit to a Mosque, where we will arrange for the Mosque venue, all other modules can be delivered at your own premises.