



Reading Council for Racial Equality
1 St Giles Court, Southampton Street
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2QL
0118 9510279 E-mail: info@rcrc.co.uk

7th January 2010-01-06

Mr Brian Moore, Chief Constable

Wiltshire Police constabulary

Police Headquarter

London Road

Devizes, SN10 2DN

Dear Chief Constable Moore,

Re: Proposed Wootton Bassett Protest by Islam4UK

I am writing to you following the announcement, by the group Islam4UK, of plans to hold a demonstration at Wootton Bassett regarding the British troop operations abroad. In support of the Wiltshire Islamic Centre and other local organisations, I am writing to urge you to reject this application.

Although the proposed protest is outside our area, we have been contacted by local people who are very concerned. It is also clear that there is a risk of spreading bad feeling and hate across the region.

We agree with those who feel strongly that the proposed protest is inflammatory, insensitive and aimed at stirring up hatred and disunity in our communities.

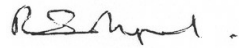
If this march were to go ahead, it would be at a detriment to community relations nationally. Indeed, we see little difference between what the organisers are doing from the messages of hate from far right political activists. It is likely that such racist organisations will try to counter this protest with their own brand of hatred. We would ask you to reject any such proposal from them too. The real victim in all of this will be all sections of the ordinary peace loving community.

The proposed event echoes last years marches by the English Defence league, and a similar protest in Luton. As far as we are concerned, all such organisations have nothing other than hate to offer and we do not believe that they represent any significant body of the population.

We support the principle of freedom of speech/ expression. However, the objective of protests like these is to abuse such freedoms to stir up hatred and you do have powers to stop such provocation. We would support you in the exercise of those powers.

I close by assuring you that we at the RCRE are working to address Extremism in all of its ugly forms and we would be writing to you in similar terms if the provocation were from any group trying to incite hatred.

Yours sincerely,



Rajinder Sohpal

Director