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*As-salaam alaikum,*

### **The MCB encourages Mosques to support 'The Welcome Directory'**

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is the largest and most diverse Muslim representative body in the UK, striving to achieve a just and cohesive society for all.

The 'Welcome Directory' provides vital and bespoke training for mosque leaders on how they can support and welcome Muslim prison leavers who come to their local mosque looking for help. This includes covering key issues like the prison experience, chaplaincy, safeguarding as well as who to go to for support.

Muslims in Britain are more than three times overrepresented in prisons. According to official 2020 figures, of the approximately 82,000 prisoners in the UK, 13,000 are of Muslim background (16%). This is despite Muslims only making up about 5% of the British population. With a large proportion of prisoners from Muslim background being under the age of 24 years old, it is vital that our communities offer our youth pathways for them to rebuild their lives and connect with Allah (SWT).

We urge your mosque to help in this initiative to support faith institutions to become places where people who leave prison, are also welcome. Please do take benefit from these services and help us create a society in which everyone has a place to belong.

JazakhaAllah Khair,

**Zara Mohammed**  
**MCB Secretary General**