Jaffna Muslim Association
UNITED KINGDOM · THE NEWSLETTER

November
2026



30 October 1990. Thirty-six years on, we

remember.

the day we were told to leave.

ILLUSTRATION (AI-GENERATED)

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19 hidden letters, one message. Can you find them all?

Remembrance, reflection and a year of work. What's

inside.

Thirty-six years after Jaffna's Muslims were forced from their homes, we remember the day, and look at how our community continues to rebuild and come together.

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30.10
1990
PAGE 04



? 19 **The hidden-letter hunt.** One gold letter is hidden on every page from 03 to 21. Collect all 19 in order to reveal a message, then check your answer on the back page.

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A message from the secretary.



B.M. Farzan

SECRETARY, JMA UK

"Preserving these memories and sharing them with future generations is essential to protecting our history, heritage and identity."

THE 6TH EDITION

Led by our younger generation · November 2026

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
My dear JMA UK members, brothers and sisters,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 6th edition of our JMA UK Newsletter. I am particularly delighted that this edition is led by our younger generation, reflecting their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to keeping our community connected through this electronic medium.

30.10.1990 READ MORE ON PAGE 04

One of the key topics in this edition is **30 October 1990**, the day of the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Jaffna, Sri Lanka. We remember the painful experiences, hardships and challenges faced by our families. Preserving these memories and sharing them with future generations is essential to protecting our history, heritage and identity.

This newsletter also highlights the planning and organisation of our Annual Family Gathering 2026, along with feedback on its successes, challenges and areas for improvement. Through face-to-face meetings, open discussions and collective efforts, we worked together to overcome difficulties and identify better ways forward.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to all current and past Executive Committee members and the wider community for their valuable contributions and support. Every effort, whether through time, advice, resources or voluntary service, has helped strengthen our association.

We are also pleased to recognise our project leaders for their dedication and successful completion of projects. The Youth Corner provides another valuable platform to encourage young talent, creativity and active participation in community development.

Let us continue strengthening our unity, sharing our knowledge and working together for the betterment of our society. I sincerely hope this newsletter will provide useful information, meaningful messages and inspiration to our community.

Finally, my sincere thanks to our youth editorial team, contributors and everyone who made this sixth edition possible.

May Almighty Allah bless our efforts and guide JMA UK towards a brighter future.

With sincere regards,

B.M. Farzan

SECRETARY, JMA UK

Jazakum Allahu Khairan.



ILLUSTRATION (AI-GENERATED) · NOT A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE EVENTS

30.10.1990

இனச்சுத்திகரிப்பு நாள்

On the morning of 30 October 1990, the Muslims of Jaffna were given two hours to

leave.

Thirty-six years on, we remember the day, the people, and the homes they left behind.

2 hours
THE TIME JAFFNA'S MUSLIMS WERE GIVEN

14,844
MUSLIMS IN JAFFNA, 1981 CENSUS

~72,000
MUSLIMS EXPELLED FROM THE NORTHERN PROVINCE

30 OCTOBER 1990

The day we were told to leave

Every year on 30 October, Jaffna Muslims around the world remember the day an entire community was forced from its homes.

Early on the morning of 30 October 1990, the LTTE ordered the Muslims of Jaffna to gather at Osmania College. There they were told to leave the peninsula within two hours. They could take little more than the clothes they wore and a small sum of money.

Within hours, the entire Muslim community of Jaffna had gone. Families left behind homes, shops, land, mosques and the graves of their parents. Across the Northern Province, around 72,000 Muslims were driven out in the same days of October 1990, from Mannar, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu.

Most of those expelled made their way to Puttalam District, where many families lived in temporary settlements for years. Others rebuilt their lives across Sri Lanka and overseas, including here in the United Kingdom.

In 2002, the LTTE's Anton Balasingham called the expulsion a "political blunder" that could not be justified. After the war ended in 2009, the road home slowly reopened, but return has been gradual and, for many, incomplete.

We remember not to reopen wounds, but so that this history is known, especially by a generation born far from Jaffna. Our elders carried this day with dignity. It is now ours to carry, and to pass on.

TIMELINE

1981
Census records 14,844 Muslims living in Jaffna.

30.10.1990
Jaffna's Muslims are given two hours to leave.

1990s
Displaced families settle in Puttalam and beyond; many later move overseas.

2002
JMA UK is founded by Jaffna Muslims living in the UK. The LTTE calls the expulsion a "political blunder".

2009
The war ends and return to the north slowly begins.

2026
Thirty-six years on, we remember.

WATCH OUR REMEMBRANCE FILM

Never *forgotten.*

Made for the 30 October remembrance. Scan the code, or visit youtube.com/watch?v=Ip4OG25mJa8

Figures: Sri Lanka 1981 Census; widely reported accounts of the October 1990 expulsion.

A POEM FOR THE DAY

இனச்சுத்திகரிப்பு நாள்

30 ஒக்டோபர் 2026

Ethnic Cleansing Day, remembered in verse

துரோகத்தின் உச்ச தினம்
துரோகிகளின் வேட்டை தினம்
துன்பங்களின் அவல தினம்
துயரங்களின் நினைவு தினம்...

வாழும்வரை மறவா தினம்
வாழ்வியலில் கோர தினம்
வாழ்வுதனை வெறுத்த தினம்
வாழ்க்கையினை தொலைத்த தினம்...

பகைமையின் உச்ச தினம்
பரதேசியாய் நின்ற தினம்
திக்கற்று திணறிய தினம்
திசைகலெட்டும் சிதறிய தினம்

பலநூறாண்டு வாழ்ந்த இடம்
பலநினைவுகளை சுமந்த இடம்
பழமைகள் பல பதிந்த இடம்
பசுமையான நம் வசிப்பிடம்...

தாயாய் சேயாய் பிணைந்தவரை
தார்மீக உரிமையை பறித்தெடுத்து
விரட்டி வெளியேற செய்தனரே
விரசம் காட்டி வைதனரே...

கைக்குழந்தையும் தோளில் தொங்க
கைத்தாங்கலாய் வயோதிகப் பெற்றோர்
கையில் வெறும் இருநூறு ரூபாயுடன்
கைவிரி கோலமாய் விரட்டினரே...

பாசிசப் புலிகளின் வன்மத்தால்
பாவப்பட்ட நம்மவர் உடைமைகளை
சூறையாடி கொள்ளை அடித்தனரே
சூழ்ச்சியினால் சொத்தை வென்றனரே

தமிழருடன் இணைந்தே வாழ்ந்தோம்
தம்தட்டிலே ஒன்றென உண்டோம்
தன்மாரிலே தோளிலே சாய்ந்தோம்
தன்னிகரில்லா அன்புடனே பிணைந்தோம்

வரலாறுகள் மீண்டு வருகின்றது
வரலாற்றுத் தவறுகள் புலப்படுகின்றது
வடுக்களையது ஞாபகம் செய்கின்றது
வரும் தலையினருக்கு கற்பிக்கின்றது...

இனிவரும் காலம் செழிக்க வேண்டும்
இனிதாக நாமும் ஜொலிக்க வேண்டும்
இழந்தவைகளை மனதில் நீக்கி
இளைஞர்களை முன்னேற்ற வேண்டும்...

யாழ் சமூகம் மீள வேண்டும்
யாழ்ப்பாணமும் மிளிர வேண்டும்
பண்பட்ட நம் பாரம்பரியம்
பரணி போற்ற ஓங்க வேண்டும்...

— *Sironmany* —

F M Rozaan

AN ESSAY · ஒரு கட்டுரை

முப்பத்தாறாவது வருடமும் இன்னும் முடிவுறாத் துயரமும்

The thirty-sixth year, and a sorrow not yet ended

Yarl Azeem யாழ் அஸீம்

> **இந்த மண் எங்களின் சொந்த மண் – இதன்**
> **எல்லை யார் தாண்டெனச் சொன்னவன்**
> **இந்த மண் எங்களை ஈன்ற மண்**
> **எமக்கிடமில்லை என்றெவன் சொன்னவன்**
>
> **தந்தையர் தோளெமைச் சுமந்த மண்**
> **தாயாரின் மடியிலே சாய்ந்த மண்**
> **பந்தடித்தோடி நாம் ஓய்ந்த மண் – தமிழ்**
> **பாடியும் பேசியும் வாழ்ந்த மண்**
>
> From a poem by Professor C. Sivasegaram, written after the October 1990 expulsion.

1990ம் ஆண்டு ஒக்டோபர் மாத இறுதியில் வடமாகாண முஸ்லிம்கள் தமது தாயக மண்ணிலிருந்து வேரோடு பிடுங்கி வீசப்பட்டதை முன்னிட்டு கவிஞரும், பேராசிரியருமான சி. சிவசேகரம் அவர்களால் எழுதப்பட்ட கவிதையின் சில வரிகளே அவை.

வடபுலத்திலிருந்து முஸ்லிம்கள் வெளியேற்றப்பட்டு முப்பத்தாறு வருடங்களாகியும், இன்னும் முழுமையாக மீள் குடியேற்றம் செய்யப்படாமல் அகதி முகாம்களில் வாழும் அவலம் தொடர்கிறது என்பதே கசப்பான உண்மை. சில அரசியல்வாதிகளாலும், சில இனவாத சிந்தனை கொண்ட உயர் அரச அதிகாரிகளாலும் இம் மக்கள் மாற்றாந்தாய் மனப்பான்மையுடன் ஒதுக்கப்படுகின்ற நிலை இன்னும் காணப்படுவது வேதனைக்குரியதாகும்.

வடபுல முஸ்லிம் அகதிகளின் மீள் குடியேற்றத்தை தடுப்பதில் முக்கிய காரணியாக அமைவது தாம் வாழும் பிரதேசத்திலிருந்து வாக்குப் பதிவுகளை ரத்துச் செய்து விட்டு மீளக் குடியேறும் மாவட்டத்தில் பதிவு செய்து கொள்ள வேண்டும், இடிந்து சிதைந்த அவ்வீட்டில் வாழ வேண்டும் என்பதுமாகும்.

மீள் குடியேற்றத்தை தடுக்கும் நோக்கத்துடன் உருவாக்கப்படும் இவ்வாறான இறுக்கமான சட்ட திட்டங்களும், திட்டமிட்டு தயாரிக்கப்படும் நிபந்தனைகளும் தொடரும் வரை வடபுல முஸ்லிம் அகதிகளின் மீள் குடியேற்றம் எவ்வாறு சாத்தியமாகும்?

1990 ஒக்டோபரில் வடபுல முஸ்லிம்கள் இனச்சுத்திகரிப்பு செய்யப்பட்டு, சகல பொருட்களும் கொள்ளையடிக்கப்பட்டு வெளியேற்றப்பட்ட சம்பவம் உலகறிந்த விடயம். இடிந்து தகர்ந்து போன அம்மக்கள் வாழ்ந்த வீடு, காணி உறுதிப்பத்திரம், முன்னர் குடியிருந்ததற்கான வாக்குப்பதிவு, இவைகள் யாவும் இருக்கும் போது இம்மக்கள் தாயக மண்ணில் வாழ்ந்த உரிமையை நிரூபிக்க வேறென்ன ஆதாரம் வேண்டும்?

இனச்சுத்திகரிப்புக்கு உள்ளாக்கப்பட்டு, சகல சொத்துக்களும் பறிமுதல் செய்யப்பட்டு இருபது வருடங்களின் பின் மீளக்குடியேறும் வடபுல முஸ்லிம்களுக்கும், 2, 3 வருட குறுகிய கால இடம்பெயர்வுக்குப் பின் மீளக்குடியேறும் தமிழ் மக்களுக்கும் ஒரே நிபந்தனைகளை விதிப்பது எவ்வகையில் நியாயமாகும்?

ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் இவ்வாறு நினைவு கூரல் அவசியம்தானா? இதனால் என்ன பயன் எனச் சிலர் வினவுகின்றனர்.

(1) தமிழ் மக்கள் அவர்களுக்கு இழைக்கப்பட்ட கொடுமைகளுக்கு எதிராக 87 ஜூலை கலவரங்களை நினைவு கூர்வது நியாயமோ, அதேபோல் எமக்கெதிரான ஒக்டோபர் 1990 இனச்சுத்திகரிப்பை நாம் நினைவு கூர்வதும் நியாயமும் எமது உரிமையுமாகும்.

“மக்கள் தமது வரலாற்றை முதுகில் சுமந்த வண்ணமே முன்னோக்கிச் செல்கின்றனர்.”

“People move forward carrying their history on their backs.” · Allama Iqbal

(2) “மக்கள் தமது வரலாற்றை முதுகில் சுமந்த வண்ணமே முன்னோக்கிச் செல்கின்றனர்” என்றார் புரட்சிக் கவிஞர் அல்லாமா இக்பால். நாம் கற்ற பாடங்களையும், படிப்பினைகளையும், வரலாற்றையும் இவ்வாறான நினைவு கூரல் மூலம் எமது இளைய சந்ததிக்கு எடுத்துக் கூற வேண்டியதும், பதிவு செய்ய வேண்டியதும் நமது வரலாற்றுக் கடமையாகும்.

(3) எமக்கு இழைக்கப்பட்ட வரலாற்றுத் துரோகத்தை நினைவு கூர்வதன் மூலமாக, எமக்கு இழைக்கப்பட்ட அநீதிக்கு எதிராக நாம் மீள் எழுச்சி பெற வேண்டும் என்ற விழிப்புணர்ச்சியை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கும் இவ்வாறான நினைவு கூரல் அவசியமாகும்.

நினைவு கூரலானது ஒக்டோபர் முப்பதுடன் நிறைவுற்றாலும், எமது எழுச்சிக்கான கலந்துரையாடல்களும், செயற்றிட்டங்களும் தொடர வேண்டும் என்பதை ஒவ்வொருவரும் உணர்வதுடன் செயற்பட வேண்டும். இந்த உணர்வும் உறுதியும் எமக்குள் ஏற்படவில்லையெனில் இந்த நினைவு கூரலிலும் அர்த்தமில்லை.

எனவே இத்தகைய சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் வடமாகாண அரசியல்வாதிகள், சமூகசேவை நிறுவனங்கள், நலன் விரும்பிகள், புத்திஜீவிகள் ஒன்றிணைந்து இம் மக்களுக்கு இழைக்கப்படும் அநீதிகளை ஜனாதிபதி, பிரதமர், இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு ஆகியோருக்கு அறியத்தருவதுடன், ஜனாதிபதி ஆணைக்குழு ஒன்றை அமைப்பதற்கும், வடமாகாண முஸ்லிம்களின் மீள்குடியேற்றத்துக்கான விசேட திட்டங்களையும் உருவாக்க முயற்சிப்பதுடன், எமக்கு இழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள அநீதிகளை சர்வதேச மயப்படுத்தலுக்கான வேலைத்திட்டங்களை விரிவு படுத்த வேண்டியதும் காலத்தின் கட்டாயமாகும்.

கடந்த பத்து ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் 27.09.2016 அன்று ஐரோப்பாவில் வசிக்கின்ற யாழ் முஸ்லிம்கள் ஜெனீவாவில் அமைந்திருக்கும் ஐக்கியநாடுகள் தலைமைச்செயலக வளாகத்தில் இராஜதந்திரிகளுடனான விசேட சந்திப்பொன்றை ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்தனர். குறித்த சந்திப்பில் யாழ் முஸ்லிம் சமூகப் பிரதிநிதிகள் சார்பில் நோர்வேயில் வசிக்கும், நோர்வே நகர உள்ளூராட்சி சபை உறுப்பினரும், சுற்றாடல் அமைப்பின் பிரதம ஆலோசகருமான ரவூப் அனீஸ், யாழ் முஸ்லிம்கள் மீள் குடியேற்றத்தில் எதிர் நோக்கும் சவால்கள் பற்றி விரிவாக எடுத்துரைத்திருந்தார்.

மேற்படி முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்ட ஆக்கபூர்வமான நடவடிக்கையானது பல்வேறு காரணங்களால் தொடரப்படவில்லை என்பது கவலைக்குரிய விடயமே.

காணாமல் போனோர், இனப்பிரச்சினைக்கான தீர்வு, செம்மணி புதைகுழி விவகாரம் போன்ற விடயங்களில் தமிழ் மக்களும், புலம்பெயர் தமிழ் அமைப்புக்களும் அவர்களது பிரச்சினைகளை சர்வதேச மயப்படுத்துவதில் காத்திரமான பங்களிப்பைச் செய்துவருவது யாவரும் அறிந்த விடயமே.

எனவே கடந்த பல வருடங்களாக தொடரப்படாமல் விடுபட்ட முயற்சிகளை, மேலும் பல புத்திஜீவிகளையும் இணைத்துக்கொண்டு தொடர்ச்சியாக முன்னெடுக்கப்பட வேண்டும் என்பது அனைவரது எதிர்பார்ப்பாகும். ஆக்கபூர்வமானதும் பயனுள்ளதுமான உயரிய பணிகளை மேற்கொண்டு பலரது நன்மதிப்பையும் பெற்று வரும் Jaffna Muslim Association -UK அமைப்பானது, வடபுல முஸ்லிம்கள் வெளியேற்றப்பட்ட இம் முப்பத்தாறாவது வருட நினைவு கூரலில் தீர்மானமாக உறுதி பூண்டு, எமது மக்கள் மீள்குடியேற்றத்தில் எதிர் நோக்கும் இன்னல்களையும், சவால்களையும் சர்வதேச மயப்படுத்துவதில், செயற்றிறன் மிக்க செயற்பாடொன்றை நோக்கி முன்னெடுத்துச் செல்வதே பயனுள்ளதாக அமையும்.

— Yarl Azeem · யாழ் அஸீம்

Her family had to leave a lifetime behind with

two hours *and 50p.*



Words by Zaina Mohamed Fazil

A granddaughter's reflection on 30 October 1990, written for the next generation of JMA UK.

Thirty-six years ago, my father, grandparents, aunties and uncles were expelled from their homes, leaving behind everything they had worked for and built.

Black October: the ethnic cleansing of Sri Lankan Muslims out of Jaffna by the LTTE.

Alhamdulillah, my father has now settled and is doing well, but over 90% of the population are still suffering from the injustices of this incident. He may have settled, but no amount of stability at this stage can erase the memories and suffering he faced in his own homeland. I feel it is an obligation upon me to bring awareness to this, as these are my roots and they shape who I am.

Living here in the United Kingdom, it's easy to forget to be grateful for all the privileges we have. Alhamdulillah for everything. We can wake up every day and be sure that we have a roof over our heads. We don't ever have to think about what we would quickly grab if we were kicked out of our homes and lifestyles on a random Tuesday in October.

But my family did.

At around 10:30am on Tuesday 30 October 1990, they heard the deafening sound of loudspeakers ordering all the Muslims to leave their hometown in just two hours. They were stripped of all their belongings and gold, and were only allowed to carry 200 rupees, about 50p today. Only two hours and 50p.

10:30am
THE LOUDSPEAKERS SOUND

2 hours
TO LEAVE A LIFETIME BEHIND

Rs 200
ALL THEY WERE ALLOWED TO CARRY



"How do I say goodbye to the only home I've known my entire life? What's going to happen next? Will I even survive?" These are likely the questions and anxieties that clouded their minds, and the minds of all the others.

Whenever I meet my family in Sri Lanka, they share their stories with me, and I would be lying if I said I don't return from those conversations emotional, pondering how much it affected them. Especially my dadama, who tells me of the difficulty of leaving a place she had known as home all her life, and moving from city to city because of the expulsion.

It was unfair. It was unjust. It was absolutely brutal. But my family made it, alhamdulillah.

Unfortunately, that's not something they can all say. So many Sri Lankan Jaffna Muslims are still struggling and suffering because of this horrid injustice. That's why I believe it is essential that we raise awareness of this incident and try our very best to support those affected in every way we possibly can.

This is also your sign to hear the stories of your family if you haven't done so already, and to spread awareness to the best of your ability.

We are the next generation, and we are obliged to show our support for them. It is our duty to show them that their stories will be shared; to promise them that they will not be forgotten.

And we are the proud children of Jaffna Muslims who *more than survived a war.*

Zaina Mohamed Fazil





Thirty-six years on, some still ask:

why remember?

Why Must We Commemorate October 30—the Day of Our Expulsion?

Raheem Rajhi

AN ESSAY

Thirty-six years have passed since we were forcibly expelled from our homeland. Yet, the wounds left behind by time remain unhealed.

From time to time, questions arise as to why we must commemorate the mandatory expulsion of October 30, a dark stain on the history of the LTTE. Some argue that this is past history and there is no need to dig it up. Others claim that doing so will jeopardize inter-ethnic relations.

Why must the forced expulsion we endured be remembered every October 30?

FIVE REASONS

01 We must know our roots and heritage

02 Our expulsion holds many lessons for the next generation

03 We have yet to receive justice

04 Information regarding our forced expulsion could be distorted

05 Will it damage inter-ethnic relations?

01

We Must Know Our Roots and Heritage

I would like to share a brief incident to illustrate this.

Kurt Zadek Lewin, known as the father of modern social psychology, was a Jew who migrated from Germany to the United States during World War II. He established a Jewish organization dedicated to the development of Jewish education and put forward three key principles:

1. Arrangements must be made for every Jewish child to receive a quality education.
2. Family security must be ensured.
3. They must mandatorily know about their heritage and religion.

The third point he highlighted is particularly noteworthy here. For a tree to spread its branches and stand strong, its roots are essential.

> *"For a tree to spread its branches and stand strong, its roots are essential."*

Our roots are just like that—we must know about them.

Just as we know our parents and family lineage, we must know where we came from and understand what happened to us.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF →

02

Our Expulsion Holds Many Lessons for the Next Generation

Prior to 1990, even many who lived in Jaffna did not know that Muslims within the peninsula had been expelled multiple times. It was only when we were expelled in 1990 that we realized forced expulsions had occurred several times right within the peninsula itself. Had our parents, our community, our educational institutions, and our mosques reminded us of this history, perhaps the impact of the expulsion could have been mitigated to some extent. We might have been prepared for it, and our community might have given greater priority to education.

As Muslims, we never know where, when, or how a crisis will strike us. However, forced expulsion is a reality that has persisted from the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the present day. It occurred even centuries ago in modern European history—in Spain. Regularly reminding our future generations about this expulsion will enable them to prepare themselves educationally.

03

We Have Yet to Receive Justice

When we were expelled, what we lost was not merely movable and immovable property; we lost our youth, our education, our native place, and all our memories. Today, by the grace of Allah, many of us are in a good position, but have we received justice for anything we lost? Until that justice is served, if we do not recall the injustice committed against us, who else will?

The Jewish community knows that if they stop commemorating the Holocaust endured during World War II, sympathy toward them will diminish. Around 400 films and over 20,000 books have been produced about the Holocaust. They commemorate January 27 every year as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. How many films have been released about the expulsion of Northern Muslims? How many books have been published?

04

Information Regarding Our Forced Expulsion Could Be Distorted

If we stop recalling the injustice done to us—or its true nature—the facts surrounding the expulsion will inevitably be distorted. Even while those of us who experienced or directly witnessed the forced expulsion are still alive, malicious propaganda is being spread by politicians, journalists, and writers claiming that Jaffna Muslims were expelled because a few among them acted as military informants. If our children lack adequate knowledge about this, false narratives alleging that all Jaffna Muslims were expelled due to wrongdoing could be spread in the future. Without this knowledge, our children will be forced to believe what others assert. To prevent this, they must be educated on the matter. Commemorating October 30 is an integral part of this effort.

05

Will It Damage Inter-Ethnic Relations?

The assertion by some that this will harm relations with the Tamil community is a foolish argument. The Tamil people have protested for the disappeared, against genocide, and even against the LTTE—did they stage a single protest anywhere when we were expelled from the North by the LTTE? As a Muslim, one can forgive what they did, but it cannot be forgotten. It is our duty to commemorate this day until compensation is provided for the injustice done to us.

Organizations bearing the name of Jaffna Muslims can host gatherings or organize peaceful rallies on this day. Those with writing talents can commemorate it by writing articles, poems, and plays. Those in the media sector can produce short films, audio-visual memorials, audio dramas, and feature films about this day. Religious scholars can highlight this during the final Jum'ah sermons of October. Competitions can be organized for children and adults with prizes awarded. This day can also be commemorated across social media platforms.

Therefore, covering up the injustice done to us by our own hands would be an injustice we commit against ourselves.

And Allah knows best.

- Raheem Rajhi

> *"As a Muslim, one can forgive what they did, but it cannot be forgotten."*
>
> RAHEEM RAJHI



Celebrating project success.

More than 165 families. Over 600 people. Five countries. How a committee, a campaign and hundreds of helping hands delivered the biggest gathering in JMA UK's history.

THE PROJECT

How we brought 600 people together

165+	600+	5	£11k+	80	6
FAMILIES	PEOPLE	COUNTRIES	CONTRIBUTED	CHILDREN ON STAGE	CRICKET TEAMS

Every successful event starts long before the day. For the Annual Family Gathering 2026, the groundwork was laid in in-person committee meetings, including one in East Ham in the run-up to the event.

Then came the campaign. Alongside WhatsApp messages, JMA ran its most structured promotion yet: digital posters, 3D animations, invitation and reminder videos, professionally produced sponsor adverts, online registration through Google Forms, and an upgraded website homepage. Members also delivered printed invitations door to door in East Ham, Luton, Leicester, Harrow and beyond.

The response was the strongest JMA has seen. More than 165 families registered, and over 600 people attended, travelling from across the UK and from France, Germany, Switzerland and Canada. Community contributions towards the event exceeded £11,000.

On 19 September, a programme of faith, family, sport and stage ran to time. Zuhr and Asr were prayed in congregation. Around 80 children performed in the Children's Talent Show, which began at 11:45 and finished on schedule at 13:25. JMA held its first-ever cricket tournament, with six teams, alongside youth football for the 7–10 and 11–16 age groups.

Not everything went to plan. Strong winds and another event at the venue meant some planned areas, such as a Youth Corner and a Gents' area, couldn't be built, and only two of the four planned football age groups could run. Those lessons are already shaping next year's planning, Insha Allah.

The result is a gathering the community will talk about for years, and a model for how JMA plans, promotes and delivers its events.



The welcome banner at the entrance on 19 September.

"Our aim was to nurture and manage every moment so that everyone could enjoy the gathering and feel welcome."

Mohamed Fazil Abdul Gaffoor
PRESIDENT, JMA UK







01 · PLAN
In-person committee meetings ahead of the day

02 · PROMOTE
Digital campaign plus door-to-door invitations

03 · DELIVER
A full programme, run to time by volunteers

04 · REVIEW
Lessons taken into next year's planning

NEXT: A PROJECT UPDATE FROM JAFFNA →



PROJECT UPDATE 01 · JAFFNA

Mankumban Masjid restore a legacy.

Generations of memories, faith and belonging, and an appeal to rebuild it.

WHERE THE PROJECT STANDS

Groundwork
Completed

Permissions
Approved with the mosque administration & Jamia Waqf Board

Fundraising
Happening now

Reconstruction
Begins once the target is reached

THE FUNDRAISING SO FAR

Target **LKR 40 million** (4 crore)

LKR 10m
DEPOSITED · 1 CRORE

LKR 20m
PLEDGED · 2 CRORE

LKR 20m
STILL NEEDED · 2 CRORE

A HEARTFELT APPEAL

For the reconstruction of ManKumban Pallivāsal, *Jaffna*

ManKumban Pallivāsal is more than just a mosque; it is a place deeply cherished by the people of Jaffna, carrying generations of memories, faith, unity and a profound sense of belonging. Its reconstruction is therefore a project close to the hearts of the entire community.

We are pleased to announce that the initial groundwork for this important project has been completed. The necessary permissions and approvals have been obtained in collaboration with the mosque administration and the Jamia Waqf Board. We are now progressing with the fundraising phase in preparation for the reconstruction work.

The estimated cost of the entire project is **LKR 40 million (4 crore)**.

Alhamdulillah, pledges amounting to approximately LKR 20 million (2 crore) have already been received, of which LKR 10 million (1 crore) has been deposited into the bank account. We sincerely appreciate everyone who has contributed and pledged their support. Further contributions are urgently needed to reach our target and commence the reconstruction work.

JMA-UK (Jaffna Muslim Association UK) is coordinating fundraising efforts in the United Kingdom for this noble project. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication in supporting this initiative alongside their other charitable activities.

AS IT STANDS TODAY



The mosque today: weathered domes and walls, cracked pillars, the old well, and ageing roof sheets inside.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

We warmly appeal to all members of the Jaffna community, well-wishers and generous donors to join hands in making this important project a reality.

Every contribution, however small, will make a meaningful difference.

TOGETHER, LET US RESTORE A LEGACY

May Allah SWT accept every contribution, bless the wealth of all donors, reward everyone involved in this noble initiative and make this project a source of continuous Sadaqah Jariyah.

Jazakumullahu Khairan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & PAYMENT OPTIONS

Br. Shawjeer
Assistant Secretary
07977 474647

Br. Rozaan
Treasurer
07450 216219

Br. Kishor Raheem
07791 670854

PROJECT UPDATE 02 · EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

A future doctor from Jaffna is about to get

one laptop *closer.*



The Laptop Appeal poster: Project 06, an educational project by JMA UK.

NOW UNDERWAY

We are pleased to announce that alhamdulillah our latest project is now underway - providing a laptop for a medical student starting university in Jaffna. The laptop is now getting ready for distribution, and this success could not have been achieved without all your support.

> *Save future lives by helping a student who will one day care for others.*

WHERE THE PROJECT STANDS

Appeal launched	Your support	Getting ready	In the student's hands
The Laptop Appeal, Project 06	Made possible by our community	Preparing for distribution now	Next, Insha Allah

Jazakumullahu Khairan to everyone who supported this project.

Behind every gathering of six hundred, there's a room like this, and a committee

around the table.

Two in-person committee meetings framed the Annual Family Gathering 2026: one to prepare, one to look back.

IN-PERSON MEETING 2 · BEFORE THE GATHERING

East Ham

The committee met in person in East Ham in the run-up to the Annual Family Gathering 2026, with the gathering banner already on the wall.



IN-PERSON MEETING 3 · AFTER THE GATHERING

Luton

After the gathering, the committee met again in person in Luton to review the event and look ahead. More overleaf.





IN-PERSON MEETING 3 · LUTON

After the gathering, *back to the table*

We held a feedback meeting to review and reflect on the annual gathering 2026. We discussed each topic in detail, from campaigning to end-of-day cleaning. It was a great opportunity in which we pointed out what went well and what can be improved for next year, as well as what wasn't as successful and why it was that way. Alhamdulillah we were able to make a few changes and suggestions that can be implemented moving forward and we hope that you will be a part of this process in'sha'allah. During the meeting, we all praised and were extremely grateful to all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters.

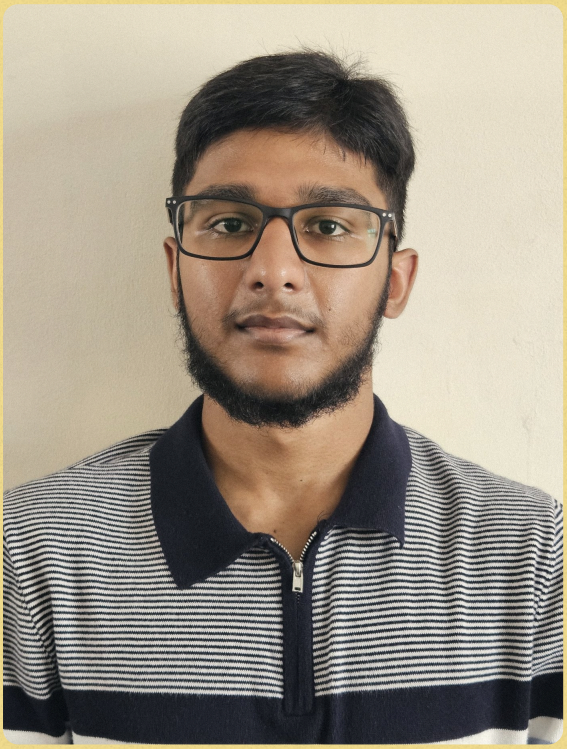
LUTON · AFTER THE GATHERING

Committee members gathered in Luton to review feedback from the Annual Family Gathering 2026.

One gathering done, the planning for the next one begins.

Celebrating the young people of JMA UK. Welcome to the

youth corner.



Talha Mohamed Sajeeth

MEDICINE · UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ACHIEVEMENT

Next stop: *Oxford.*

Congratulations to Talha Mohamed Sajeeth, who has secured a place to study Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Medicine is one of the most competitive courses in the UK, and applicants can choose only four medical schools. Talha applied to four, including Oxford, and after two interviews, Oxford offered him a place.

He earned it in the exam hall too, with outstanding A-level results.

A*	A*	A	A*
CHEMISTRY	BIOLOGY	MATHS	EPQ

THE ROAD TO OXFORD

01
Chose Medicine
Set his sights on one of the UK's toughest courses.

02
Applied to four
Four medical schools, including Oxford.

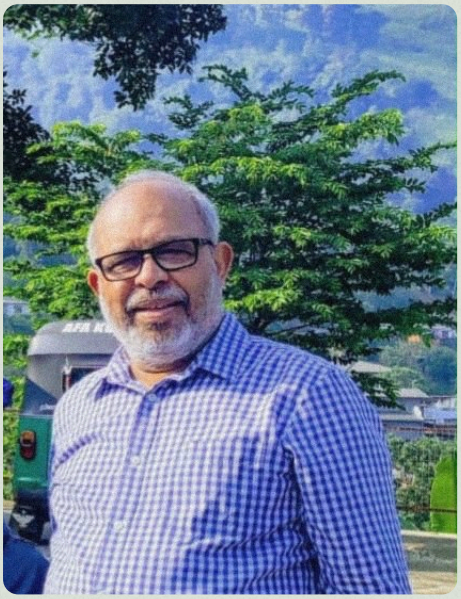
03
Two interviews
Through Oxford's interview stage.

04
The offer
A place to study Medicine at Oxford.

Talha is the son of **Abdul Salam Mohamed Sajeeth** and **Nismiya Sajeeth**. On behalf of JMA UK, we congratulate Talha and his family, and pray that Allah grants him success in his studies and makes him a source of benefit to our community.

To every young member reading this: aim high. Your achievement could be next.

Words from a past president.



Mohideen Shah-Jehan

PRESIDENT · APRIL 2004 – DECEMBER 2009

DURING HIS TERM

- Opened JMA's charity bank account
- Briefed 50+ UK charities on the Jaffna Muslim situation
- Raised funds for the 2004 tsunami
- Supported Osmaniya College's reopening
- Livelihoods for widows and displaced families
- Burial ground and sports land in Puttalam Thillaiyady
- Began JMA's charity registration

Assalamu Alaykum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuhu

I had the privilege of running office from April 2004 to December 2009, alhamdulillah.

During my time I opened a charity account with Lloyds bank in Camden Town, London. Also I brought attention to more than 50 charities around the UK about the Jaffna Muslim situation and built a relationship with other Sri Lankan organisations. During my time, Sri Lanka's worst geographical crisis affected millions. I was able to collect funds throughout the UK to help those affected by the Tsunami of 2004.

For the reopening of Osmaniya College after the expulsion of Muslims, I initiated with the members of JMA to help the students with the supply of books and stationeries, as well as providing teachers a salary.

I also had the opportunity of helping the displaced, especially widows, to start their self employment by supplying sewing machines and helping the men to start their own businesses by giving them required equipments such as bicycles.

To facilitate a burial ground in Puttalam Thillaiyady, we collected and bought plots of lands from various parties with the help of a Jaffna Organisation from Negombo/Puttalam.
To execute this, I collected funds from the communities of JMA living in the UK and other places including Europe and Sri Lanka.

Alhamdulillah, we purchased the big land to facilitate the burial ground. We have also organised a plot of the land for sports, such as football and cricket, for the children and elders in the vicinity of Puttalam Thillaiyady, which I personally visited and inspected in August 2008.

I also began to get the required details about registering JMA as a Charity organisation with the Charity Commission of the United Kingdom, which was completed after I left office.
In order to do so I got in contact with a professional from Leicester, who was involved in the registration of charities, giving him full information on the JMA objectives to help create a Constitution of JMA to be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Alhamdulillah, JMA finally got the Charity Registration number to be included in all the official letter heads and other matters.

25 years of JMA is fast approaching and my wish to the current committee is that they carry on the work that we began by preparing the next generation.

May Allah grant reward all those who support generously.

Jazakallah Khayran

Mohideen Shah-Jehan

One community, across two nations. Stay

connected.

See you in the next issue, Insha Allah.

THE HIDDEN-LETTER HUNT · ANSWER

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OUR ROOTS ARE IN JAFFNA

SHARE YOUR STORY

Have a story, a photo, a poem or an achievement for the next issue? Send it to **jmauk@ymail.com** and it could appear here.

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