



**FOSTER CARE LINK**  
Specialists in Muslim, Asian, Black and Ethnic-Minority Placements



159B Stoke Newington High Street  
London N16 0NY  
Telephone: 020 7923 0330  
Facsimile: 020 7923 1754  
Email: [admin@fostercarelink.com](mailto:admin@fostercarelink.com)  
Website: <http://www.fostercarelink.com>

26 April 2004

**PRESS RELEASE ..... IMMEDIATE**

## **ISLAMIC FOSTERING SERVICE LAUNCHING FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2004**

On Friday, the Sabbath of the Islamic faith, a new service will be launched providing religiously and culturally appropriate foster homes for Muslim children in the care system.

After almost two years spent on development, the Directors, Ismail Amaan and Mohamed Munaf Zina, have launched the 'Islamic Fostering Service', a project of Foster Care Link, which is the first government registered service of its kind<sup>1</sup>.

Families from across London Boroughs and the surrounding counties have already been recruited, trained, assessed and approved to provide fostering placements to Muslim children.

Director of the Islamic Fostering Service and Foster Care Link, Mohamed Munaf Zina, made the following statement:

"There is a crisis in the care sector in that a national shortage of 8000 foster carers exists<sup>2</sup>. The problem is even more acute within the Muslim community. An estimated 2000 Muslim children are in care, and the majority commonly end up in non-Muslim households that are not religiously or culturally appropriate. The Islamic Fostering Service seeks to change this by working closely in partnership with Local Authorities. We have Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian, Mauritian and dual-heritage households speaking languages as diverse as Gujarati to Pushtu willing to offer safe, caring homes to these children across the Greater London area. In time we hope to make a national impact on reducing the number of Muslim children that are placed in inappropriate homes, an aim shared within the sector especially Local Authorities."

Ismail Amaan added:

"The Prophet Muhammad was himself an orphan. In childhood he was fostered, and in adulthood he set an example by fostering. Islam has a rich tradition of encouraging foster care, and Muslims are therefore potentially a resource for Britain in addressing the shortage of carers that exists."

Both Directors have worked extensively in the community and voluntary sector, including involvement in the government's Sure Start scheme for young children and parents. They have collated a diverse management and staff team, including a manager with fourteen years experience in fostering and a social worker that is also a qualified Islamic scholar.

The Islamic Fostering Service seeks to make a lasting and long-term contribution to assisting children and young people, setting solid foundations for a secure future life. People interested in becoming foster carers, or Local Authorities wishing to make placements should visit the website [www.islamicfostering.com](http://www.islamicfostering.com) or can contact Foster Care Link on 020 7923 0330. They can also email on [admin@fostercarelink.com](mailto:admin@fostercarelink.com)

**ENDS**

For further information visit [www.fostercarelink.com](http://www.fostercarelink.com) or contact Ismail Amaan, Tel: 020 7923 0330  
Email: [iamaan@btconnect.com](mailto:iamaan@btconnect.com)

---

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

<sup>1</sup> Independent agencies must be inspected and registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection, Foster Care Link's registered service number is 49096

<sup>2</sup> See research by the Fostering Network, <http://www.thefostering.net/comdir/cditem.cfm?NID=453>