

Summarised Friday Sermon

27 APRIL 2007

IMPORTANCE OF INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

- It was in year 622, that Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, introduced the *Charter of Madinah*, which in fact was the first ever written constitution in the history of mankind. It gave the people the right of protection, security, peace and justice; not only to Muslims, but also to the Jews who lived in the city of Madinah, as well as the allies of Jews who were non-Muslims.
- This is a great example of fairness, equality and respect towards non-Muslims, shown by our dear beloved Prophet s.a.w. When we are in times of good relations with everyone around us, we must use it to our best advantage by building social capital. Because with social capital we would be able to have the freedom to practise our religion with ease and without having others look at us with any form of suspicion.
- Social capital is to build on our good relations, by participating in national activities, volunteering and contributing money, time and effort for good causes. It can also be in the form of sharing with our non-Muslim friends our beliefs and core practices so that they may understand us a bit more. Moreover, we can also use social capital in trying times; when there is tension in relationships amongst races and religions due to the cause of unwanted events.
- For us to expect others to understand us, the basic rule and principle is for us to seek to understand them first. There are now many available platforms for us to engage our non-Muslim friends through dialogues and forums by learning and sharing about one another's religion with a non-judgmental mindset and way of thinking.
- Understanding another person is essential in avoiding conflicts and arguments, and it will lead to harmonious living between people of different backgrounds. It is important that for a group of people to be able to work and live together and can be achieved by understanding one another. It is a lot easier for one to accept another when there is an awareness of the similarities and differences.

