

## Leeds Grand Mosque

### Press Release

#### **Protest against the offensive cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.)**

Leading British Muslim organisations including **MAB** and **MCB** are to jointly hold a rally in Trafalgar Square, London, beginning at 1.00pm on Saturday 11th February 2006, to protest against the rising wave of Islamaphobia across Europe and the gratuitously offensive cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) which have been reprinted in many newspapers around the world.

Leeds Muslim Community as the rest of Muslims in Britain have been deeply hurt both by the provocative actions of the newspapers that printed and reprinted these caricatures of our beloved Prophet, but also by the shameful actions of a small group of extremists who have once again rushed in to tarnish our good name.

“Such actions aim to deepen the gap between the Muslim community and their societies and to hinder the efforts of those who are working tirelessly to build bridges and achieve mutual respect and understanding” said Zaher Birawi, The Chairman of Leeds Grand Mosque.

Regardless of any negative efforts or blows towards dismantling what has been built and achieved, our efforts will continue and not be stopped in it's tracks. This will have no affect whatsoever on the good positive relations that the Muslim community has with other communities and organisations in our society and we hope that this will remain and prosper.

**The rally on Saturday** will aim to help British Muslims to express their feelings peacefully and will call upon the newspapers concerned to recognise and apologise for the enormous offence and needless distress they have caused to millions of Muslims across the world.

[ENDS]

8 February 2006