

Statement by the  
**CHRISTIAN MUSLIM FORUM**  
**in advance of Franklin Graham's visit to Blackpool**

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As British Christians and Muslims, we value the freedom to share our faiths with others. Mission and da'wa are part and parcel of our traditions and are wholly compatible with good inter religious relations.

Mindful of the controversy surrounding the visit of Franklin Graham to the Festival of Hope in Blackpool this weekend, and the concerns expressed by Christians and Muslims in the North West, we commend our [Ethical Guidelines for Christian and Muslim Witness in Britain](#) agreed in 2009 and still in demand today.

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**The key points are reproduced here:**

- 1. We bear witness to and proclaim our faith not only through words but through our attitudes, actions and lifestyles.*
- 2. We cannot convert people, only God can do that. In our language and methods, we should recognise that people's choice of faith is primarily a matter between themselves and God.*
- 3. Sharing our faith should never be coercive; this is especially important when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Everyone should have the choice to accept or reject the message we proclaim and we will accept people's choices without resentment.*
- 4. Whilst we might care for people in need or who are facing personal crises, we should never manipulate these situations in order to gain a convert.*
- 5. An invitation to convert should never be linked with financial, material or other inducements. It should be a decision of the heart and mind alone.*
- 6. We will speak of our faith without demeaning or ridiculing the faiths of others.*
- 7. We will speak clearly and honestly about our faith, even when that is uncomfortable or controversial.*
- 8. We will be honest about our motivations for activities and we will inform people when events will include the sharing of faith.*
- 9. Whilst recognising that either community will naturally rejoice with and support those who have chosen to join them, we will be sensitive to the loss that others may feel.*
- 10. Whilst we may feel hurt when someone we know and love chooses to leave our faith, we will respect their decision and will not force them to stay or harass them afterwards.*