

Hate crimes against Muslims follow Boston bombings

The nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation said hate incidents in Massachusetts and New York occurred following the deadly bombings at the Boston Marathon.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) reports that a mother of Middle Eastern heritage wearing an Islamic headscarf, or hijab, was assaulted yesterday morning in Malden, Mass.,

by a white male shouting anti-Muslim slurs.

The victim told CAIR the attack occurred when she was walking with another Muslim woman also wearing hijab, while both were pushing baby

strollers. She said the alleged attacker shouted, "F*** you, F*** Muslims, you are terrorists," and struck her forcefully on the shoulder. The man, who appeared to be in his 30s, also reportedly made

statements blaming Muslims for the Boston Marathon bombings.

Local police were on the scene within minutes after the woman called 911 on her cell phone. CAIR has been in communication with the Malden Police Department about the attack.

"We thank the Malden Police Department for its swift and professional

response to this incident and urge national law enforcement authorities to be aware of the potential for other such attacks," said CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper. "American Muslims, along with all other Americans, are grieving the tragic deaths in Boston. Hate incidents are troubling, but have thankfully been isolated."

BY DR. A MAJID KATME

SPOKESMAN: ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION/UK

Urgent Appeal By Christian Leaders, Organisations and Priests to Imams, Muslim Leaders, Organisations and to all Muslims

Dear Imam,

KEEPING OUR TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE: OPPOSING THE REDEFINING OF MARRIAGE (to same sex 'marriage')

We are writing to you with great urgency on behalf of many Christian Churches and their leaders, about the new bill on same sex 'marriage' (also known as gay 'marriage'). Both our Holy Scriptures agree that marriage is between a man and woman for the best welfare of our children. We share your strong opposition to the government's proposed same sex 'marriage' legislation which is a great threat to real marriage, as well as to schools, children and religious freedom itself. Homosexuals already have civil partnerships and our concern is to save real marriage.

As Canon Dr. Chris Sugden said on Friday to 3,000 Muslims in the Mosque at Tooting Islamic Centre:

"Both our Holy Scriptures teach that the world we live in is real and that life is a gift. Real marriage between a man and a woman is part of reality which we cannot change and which no law can alter.

Real marriage produces real fruit, just as real trees produce real apples. We cannot choose to undo what God has made. Where will it stop? There are limits to our choices. There is no new teaching to come on this matter."

<http://youtu.be/DRz8U3eMLSg>

If this new bill becomes legal, our sons will learn that it is normal for boys to marry boys and

our daughters will be taught it is normal for girls to marry girls. Islamic organizations and Imams should be prosecuted for not hiring out halls to gay weddings, and so on.

Same sex 'marriage' (SSM) is not yet law and there is much we can do to ensure it never becomes law. There is going to be an important vote (the 3rd Reading) on it in Parliament's House of Commons in mid May. It is vital that as many people as possible, of faith or no faith, write to their own Member of Parliament (MP), whether Muslim or non-Muslim, before this vote, urging them to vote against gay 'marriage'. The more MPs vote against SSM, the more it will help Parliament's House of Lords, at the next stage, stop this harmful law.

So we are asking you to ask every member of your congregation, man and woman, in your Friday prayers, to write, phone or email their MP asking them to vote against SSM at the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill's 3rd reading. Please announce this after Friday prayers until the vote in May and publicise this widely to all Muslims.

To find out the name of their MP, people can

-go onto <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk> or enter their postcode in the box. This will give the MP's name and website.

- Alternatively, <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> will allow them to email their MP

direct.

One can contact his/her own Member of Parliament (MP) in one of these ways:

- By Email (after finding the Email address of the MP, as above)

- By sending a letter to him/her by post via the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

- By phoning the MP

- If there is time, by also visiting the MP in his/her office and demanding from him/her to vote against SSM in Parliament next month

- Please ask all family members over the age of 18, neighbours and friends (Muslim and non-Muslim) to write to their MP

If the MP does not give a satisfactory reply, it is fine to politely respond and challenge them again as often as necessary.

Please remember the more letters that are sent to MPs, the more we have a chance to stop this harmful new legislation which will destroy marriage and destroy our children in schools. No doubt it will be very helpful if you put this letter on your/other Muslim websites

Please find at the end of this letter to you, a sample letter to MPs. This is only a suggestion, and we encourage people to write their own letters as well, if they have time.

Because many people do not know their MP, in our Churches we have found it helpful to print the equivalent of this letter, ask people to sign it, putting their

address, especially the postcode, and leave it with us. We have then used their postcode to find their MPs' name and sent them all together to the MP in one envelope.

Thank you very much for taking this action. Please put this letter on your website and notice board. You can find out more about this issue on c4m.org.uk and

<http://www.spuc.org.uk/cam->

paigns or can call me, Canon Chris Sugden of Anglican Mainstream on 07808 297043, or our good friend Dr A. Majid Katme of the Islamic Medical Association on 07944 240 622. To organise a talk at your local mosque or to take part in a national imam's letter opposing gay marriage please contact Yusuf Patel (yusuf@sreis-lamic.org/ 07883 027 067).

Yours faithfully,

Dr Philip Giddings (Convener, Anglican Mainstream)

Canon Dr. Chris Sugden (Member of the Synod of the Church of England)

Jamie Bogle (Chair, Catholic Forum)

John Smeaton (CEO, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)

Dr Lisa Nolland (Working Party on SSM, Parliamentary Family and Child Protection Group)

Rev Lynda Rose (Voice for Justice UK)

Father Marcus Holden

Please see suggested letter to MPs overleaf. This is only a suggestion. Please ask people to write their own letter too if they wish so.

Letter to MP:

Dear

I am writing as one of your constituents to ask you to vote against the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill at its 3rd Reading in May.

This Bill is deeply hurtful to the community, will greatly damage our children and the vital institution of marriage and will be used to restrict freedom of speech, thought and religion. I am asking you to represent these great concerns fairly in your vote.

We will not forget how you voted on this when it comes to the next General Election.

Yours sincerely,

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....