

## **MCB opposes the discriminatory gay marriage law**

The Muslim Council of Britain is appalled to see the utterly discriminatory provision of the new gay marriage legislation proposed by the government. Farooq Murad, the Secretary General of the MCB said, "We find it incredible that while introducing the bill in the House, culture secretary Maria Miller could keep a straight face when offering exemption for the established Church while in the same breath claiming, 'fairness to be at the heart of her proposals'.

The government announced that, the Church of England and Church in Wales will be banned in law from offering same-sex marriages, with other religious organisations able to opt in to holding ceremonies.

Mr. Murad added, " It is not just the 'Church of England and Church in Wales' who "explicitly" stated strong opposition' as Mrs. Miller says, the Muslim Council of Britain along with most other faith groups also made equally strong representation". He said "no one in their right mind should accept such a discriminatory law. It should be amended to give exactly the same exemption to all the religions." The MCB is seeking an urgent meeting with the Culture Secretary to express the concerns of the Muslim community on the proposed legislation.

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors

The Muslim Council of Britain is the UK's largest Muslim umbrella body with over 500 affiliated national, regional and local organisations, mosques, charities and schools.

For further information please contact the MCB:

The Muslim Council of Britain,

PO Box 57330,

London,

E1 2WJ

Tel: 0845 26 26 786

Fax: 0207 247 7079

**[media@mcb.org.uk](mailto:media@mcb.org.uk)**