

Councillor Faizullah Khan

The Worshipful The Mayor of Hackney

Also on behalf of:

Madam Mayor Cllr Ann Jackson, The Worshipful The Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Councillor Nurul Islam, The Deputy Mayor of Camden,

Councillor Angela Meader, Deputy Mayor of Lambeth

"Thank you very much,

Assalamu aleikum,

Peace be with you all.

I will not change the gear unless you ask me (joke).

I was not expected to address you but it is my great honour and pleasure.

I was able to make it to this hall with all the hardships which are around. My car is parked just outside Westminster Abbey and I had to walk all the way up to Buckingham Palace and to take this route from here; because peace is very dear to me..... But I think that I am taking the liberty. After reading my message, I would like to add on something.

The Lord Almighty Allah, the God in which I believe has one name, which is "Haleem". The meaning of "Haleem" is 'Tolerant'. He is all-tolerant. The very existence of this universe and this world in our lives is due to his tolerance.

My Lord is most Tolerant.

Elsewhere in the Qura'n he has said, and I believe he is all-powerful to do all the things which he wants to do at any time. If he would have desired and wished he would have made all people in the same religion, so there is a purpose of creating us in different religions. But with tolerance and tempered with his mercy which is all-bounding, he says elsewhere that his mercy has wrapped everything, so whatever we are, wicked, evil; his tolerance is prevailing for us to continue our lives and this is in my religion. I am taught that Allah (God) loves each and every creation; every human being; more than his or her mother will love, and it is 90 times.

So I believe in God who has created you who is your creator too and I believe that he is merciful. And I believe that he is all-powerful in the scheme of things as earlier spoke. We have a very vague jigsaw of things in front of us. We cannot see what is the desire, what is the meaning of it; but we are supposed to accept and to carry on and to spread the message of peace and harmony. This is my message to you. That peace and harmony are the fruits of understanding and tolerance and we should promote them all the time.

Thank you".