



Muslims of Britain launches campaign to defend marriage

London, 24 May 2012: The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), the umbrella body representing Britain's Muslims, has today launched a campaign to defend marriage, in particular by opposing the government's proposals to change the legal definition of marriage.

A new website, [Muslims Defending Marriage](http://www.mdm-campaign.org.uk/) (<http://www.mdm-campaign.org.uk/>) has today been launched which will be the campaign's main tool. The website features an online petition, briefings and useful links.

Farooq Murad, the MCB's Secretary General said: "We have launched Muslims Defending Marriage (MDM) as we felt we had a duty to defend the meaning of marriage, guard its sanctity and protect the welfare of children".

David Cameron yesterday offered a free vote on the Government's plans to legalise gay marriage. Whilst the Prime Minister is facing fierce opposition to the move from some on his own benches, including ministers, Downing Street stressed again this week about the Government's determination to get it onto the statute book before the end of the parliament.

"Other faith communities have already taken steps to evidence the strength of feeling in favour of keeping marriage intact. It is imperative that the Muslim community does all it can to contribute to this because we have a sacred duty to stand up for marriage and to support those, of whichever faith, that are doing so. We are aiming at mass participation from the Muslim community on an issue that will have such far reaching consequences for everyone" said Farooq Murad.

The MCB is calling upon concerned citizens to respond to the government's 12-week consultation on its proposals for same-sex marriage. The deadline for submissions to the consultation is 14 June 2012 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/>

The MCB stands opposed to discrimination in all its forms, including homophobia. The purpose of this campaign is to stand firm for the true definition of marriage, as with other faiths, Islam recognises **marriage** as a union between *a man and a woman*.

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.

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