

**Foster Care  
Fortnight**

The Fostering Network



## Friday Sermon (Jumma Khutbah) on Fostering

Organised by:



**My  
Foster  
Family**



**Muslim  
Foster  
Network**

In partnership with:

**M C B**  
The Muslim Council of Britain



**The British Board of  
Scholars & Imams**



# Guidelines for the **Foster Friday Sermon**

## **The Context**

Across the world, we continue to witness the heartbreaking realities faced by our Muslim brothers and sisters- from the ongoing oppression in Palestine to the devastating conflict in Syria. Many have been forced to flee their homes, seeking safety and stability- often undertaking dangerous journeys across borders and seas in search of refuge.

Among them are countless young people and children, many of whom arrive in Europe and the UK completely alone, without parents or family to care for them.

It is estimated that there are currently over **7,000 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children** in care here in the UK - many of them from Muslim-majority countries. While giving to international causes remains vital, we must also recognize our duty to support those who are already here, in our own communities.

One of the most impactful ways we can help is by stepping forward as **Muslim foster carers** - to provide safety, compassion, and the comfort of Islamic values to children who have already endured so much.

We are urging **all mosques** to use these updated guidelines and deliver a **Jumma Khutbahs between the 16th – 23rd of May 2025**, focusing on the importance of fostering and the vital role the Muslim community can play in supporting vulnerable Muslim children in care here in the UK.

Let us respond to this call not only with our hearts, but with meaningful action.

## **1. Why We Need More Muslim Foster Carers and Adopters**

- Fostering is an incredibly rewarding and meaningful responsibility. It offers immense blessings - not only in this life, as you care for and protect the wellbeing and faith (Eeman) of a vulnerable child—but also in the hereafter, where the rewards promised by Allah for such acts of compassion are beyond measure.
- There is a growing and urgent need for more Muslim foster carers to support Muslim children in care. Local Authorities and Independent Fostering Agencies are often unable to meet the cultural and religious needs of these children due to a shortage of Muslim carers.
- Children from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds often wait longer to be placed, which can cause emotional distress and disrupt the development of secure, trusting relationships.
- Every child deserves to feel at home and comfortable practicing their faith. For Muslim children, this includes the ability to pray, fast, eat halal, and maintain Islamic values - and that's much easier when they're placed with a family that understands and supports their faith.
- Where Muslim children are placed with non-Muslim carers, the wider Muslim community has a key role to play in offering support, guidance, and resources to help those carers meet the child's spiritual and cultural needs effectively.

## 2. Key Facts

- There are over 83,000 children in care in England. Estimated 7,000 - 8,000 Muslim children.
- 7,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (Refugee) Children living in care mainly from Muslim countries Sudan, Eritrea, Albania, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria - Most are teenagers.
- In some areas over 90% of children are placed away from faith group due to shortage of Muslim carers.
- Foster Friday started in 2017 by MFG is the only dedicated event for raising awareness about fostering in the Muslim community. In the last 3 years the MFG had supported over 3,500 people considering fostering.

## 3. Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) Was Also Fostered

- From the very beginning of his blessed life, our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) experienced fostering. As a baby, he was lovingly cared for by Halima Saadia and later raised under the guardianship of his grandfather and then his uncle.
- The story of Halima Saadia beautifully illustrates the immense blessings tied to fostering. After taking the Prophet (ﷺ) into her care, her life transformed: her weak mount suddenly gained strength, her breasts filled with milk, and her once-scarce provisions began to flourish. Her goat and camel gave abundant milk, and her home, once marked by hardship, was filled with ease and blessings.
- This story is a powerful reminder of both the spiritual and worldly rewards that fostering can bring. Today, foster carers not only receive financial support but also the priceless reward from Allah for nurturing and protecting a young soul—just as Halima Saadia did.

## 4. Guidance from the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) on Fostering and Caring for Orphans

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) didn't just speak about the virtues of caring for others—he lived them. He fostered and cared for Zayd ibn Harithah (RA), who became so beloved to him that he was often referred to as “the beloved of the Messenger of Allah.”
- In a powerful hadith recorded in Ibn Majah, the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “The best house among the Muslims is the one in which an orphan is treated kindly, and the worst house is the one in which an orphan is mistreated.” This teaches us that the way we treat vulnerable children defines the moral and spiritual standing of our homes.
- In another well-known hadith, the Prophet (ﷺ) promised a great reward for those who take care of orphans: “I and the one who cares for an orphan will be in Paradise like this,” and he held up his index and middle fingers together, showing how close such a person will be to him in the Hereafter. (Narrated by Sahl ibn Sa'd, Bukhari)
- These teachings remind us that fostering and caring for children - especially orphans - is not only a social responsibility, but also a direct path to the pleasure of Allah and closeness to our beloved Prophet (ﷺ).

## Case Studies

### We Took Our Foster Daughter on Umrah

A Muslim family approved in 2018 through the Muslim Foster Network are caring for a 12-year-old Muslim girl. During the Easter holidays, the family went to perform Umrah—and they took their foster daughter with them.

The foster carer said, “I was so excited when I got the news. I arranged for her to talk to her birth parents to share how excited she was.”

This family is not only protecting her Imaan but also helping her feel loved and part of the family. She might not have had this opportunity with non-Muslim carers.

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### I Have Enjoyed Looking After Non-Muslim Children

Another Muslim foster carer supported by the Muslim Foster Network shared:

“I am the main carer, but my husband is also approved and supports me. We’ve fostered 4 teenagers and 3 children.”

She spoke fondly of their first foster child, an emergency placement that lasted six and a half years.

“We weren’t culturally matched, but the attachment we built was overwhelming.”

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### My Faith Needs Were Not Met

Shaz, 18, was fostered by non-Muslim carers. He told the BBC, “I felt like I didn’t belong, like I had to be white.”

He said he was asked to eat pork and often had to explain why he couldn’t. Arguments followed, and he felt isolated.

With two-thirds of councils facing a shortage of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic carers, Shaz is now raising awareness to help others like him feel more understood and accepted.