



## PRESS RELEASE

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**AMSS (UK)**  
**2006 BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD**  
**PRESENTED AT 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATIONS FORUM**

*The AMSS 2006 Building Bridges Award has been jointly presented to **Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero** and **Prime Minister Recep Tayyib Erdogan** at the First Annual Alliance of Civilisations Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The event took place in Madrid, Spain. The presentation was made by Dr. Anas Al-Shaikh-Ali, Chairman of the **Association of Muslim Social Scientists** (UK).*

The **AMSS (UK) Building Bridges Award** recognises and highlights the outstanding achievements of individuals who have made a significant contribution either to their field of expertise, or to the promotion of social harmony, or to inter-cultural and interfaith dialogue.

Living and working together in diversity is a challenge and religious beliefs and differences in cultures can sometimes give rise to deep-seated negativities. **The Alliance of Civilizations Project** is a superb initiative to generate understanding, respect, and awareness, through promoting interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution and intellectual discourse. Its aim to foster a culture of global peaceful co-existence, and thereby international stability, is a credit to its visionaries.

This award pays tribute to Prime Minister Zapatero's proposal and Prime Minister Erdogan's co-sponsoring of The Alliance of Civilizations Project.

The **Association of Muslim Social Scientists (UK)** is based in London and aims to bring Muslim Social Scientists and those interested in the study of Islam and Muslim communities together to discuss current developments in the field of the social sciences and to work towards promoting better understanding and greater interdisciplinary cooperation through publications, conferences, seminars and workshops. The AMSS has on its Advisory Board leading Muslim and non-Muslim academics, scholars and personalities.