



ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM SOCIAL SCIENTISTS (UK)

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Press Release

The AMSS UK is pleased to announce that its prestigious Building Bridges Award for 2008 will be presented to 'A Common Word' project on 3rd November 2008 on the occasion of the 1st Catholic-Muslim Forum Conference, 4th-6th November, Vatican City. The Award will be presented by Dr. Anas S. Al-Shaikh-Ali, Chair of AMSS (UK).

The announcement was made in a message by Dr. Al-Shaikh-Ali and conveyed by his eminence Dr. Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia and member of the AMSS UK Advisory Board, at the Opening Lectures of 'A Common Word and Future Muslim-Christian Engagement'. The Conference was convened by the Rt. Hon. Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, arranged in collaboration with Cambridge University Interfaith Programme and hosted by the University of Cambridge on 12–15 October 2008.

The importance of *A Common Word Between Us and You*, and Pope Benedict XVI's esteemed support, signal a new era of mutual respect and harmony between the Abrahamic faiths. 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 *Common Word* project is a superb initiative to not only generate awareness, understanding, and respect, but also, and most importantly, establish trust through promoting interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution and intellectual discourse.

The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS UK) is a non-profit organization based in London and committed to the development of perspectives on contemporary local and global issues through research, scholarship, conferences and publications.

The AMSS UK presents two annual Awards, the *Building Bridges Award* and the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. The *Building Bridges Award* was inaugurated in 2003. The Award is given for outstanding accomplishment by individuals, groups and organizations. Previous distinguished recipients have been Charles Le Gai Eaton (2003), Karen Armstrong (2004), the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams (2005), Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey (2006), and Professor Ekmeledin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC (2007).

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