Statement by Farooq Aftab of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association UK

My name is Farooq Aftab of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association. We are a grass roots organisation with more than 8,000 members in the UK. Our workers are volunteers and we work with youth through social educational, recreational and inter faith projects.

Our organisation is ‎founded on the principle that:

‎'A Nation can not be reformed without the reformation of its Youth'.

This is pertinent to today's discussion.

From our experience youngster at times find it difficult to engage and have access to public institutions and organisations, even those which purportedly set up to help youth. This could range from rigid membership criteria to general access.

We have also today heard about quotas. If I can briefly comment on this. Our parent organisation which is not made of youngsters has a national consultation day. Delegates have to be elected. One of the election rules states that 25% of elected delegates should be less than the age of 25. Perhaps there is a role for quotas.

Coming to my question what does the panel think that public institutions/organisations can do to ensure that they are open, accessible and engage so that the look and feel of them actually reflects our youth.

**Farooq Aftab**

**National Vice President**

**Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK**