



19th March 2004

Press Release

FAIR Outraged by the Desecration of Muslim Graves in Plumstead

On Thursday 18th March, at least 40 Muslims graves were desecrated at Charlton cemetery in Plumstead, South East London.

This barbaric act of vandalism is being treated as a faith hate crime by the Metropolitan Police. Detective Inspector Karl Amos of the Greenwich Community Safety Unit said:

"We utterly deplore the sentiments behind this crime as well as the crime itself and are seeking to reassure the faith leaders in our community that this sort of crime will not be tolerated."

The desecrated gravestones were identified as belonging to Muslims because of their unique style and inscriptions. Resentment towards Muslims in the UK has once again increased after the Madrid bombings. Muslim communities have expressed fears of a backlash.

FAIR will be working alongside the Metropolitan Police to campaign to find the perpetrators of this sickening Islamophobic crime.

[Ends]

FAIR FUNDING APPEAL

FAIR is an independent voluntary sector organisation established for the purpose of raising awareness of and combating Islamophobia and racism, monitoring specific incidents of Islamophobia and racism, working towards eliminating religious and racial discrimination, and campaigning and lobbying on issues relevant to Muslims and other multi-ethnic communities in Britain.

We have several projects to tackle each of these areas, and we are making a significant progress.

- 1. Faith & Positive Images**
- 2. Equality Casework Monitoring**
- 3. Media & Popular Culture Watch**
- 4. Policy Research & Lobbying**

Further details on each of these projects are available on our website, www.fairuk.org

FAIR is always in need of charitable donations in order to continue our work.

Donations of any size are always valued and much appreciated. At the end of every year we will be able to give you a breakdown of exactly where the money you have donated is spent.

To make a donation, please visit our website at <http://www.fairuk.org/howtohelp.htm> or contact us on the details below

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