



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2008**

## **FAIR PRESS RELEASE: ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S SPEECH AND SHARIAH LAW**

FAIR believes in working towards improving social cohesion in Britain but does not feel that the application of Shariah Law within the British legal system would necessarily work towards achieving this.

Allowing the dust of hysteria to settle for a moment, the number one priority for British Muslims is to curb rising levels of Islamophobia, and add to the welfare of not only their own but all British communities.

Furthermore, the Muslim community has been left in the strange position of being lambasted for a position it has not advocated or taken.

Putting this entire episode in context FAIR believes that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams has not advocated the replacement of British Law with the Shariah but rather voiced opinions on a number of complex issues. What he meant is perhaps best elucidated by him.

**[Ends]**

### **Notes**

The full text of the Archbishop's Temple lecture 'Civil and religious law in England: a religious perspective'  
<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1575>

The full transcript of Dr Williams' interview with Christopher Landau of the BBC World at One programme:  
<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1573>