



**SECTION C: ONE PAGE ONLY -ADDITIONAL PAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**Personal Statement of: Javed Rafiq**

**For Nomination to the Management Committee/Board of Trustees (delete as appropriate)**

Please explain why you wish to be nominated and what **skills and experiences** you will bring into the Management Committee/Board of Trustees. Do not make comments on previous office holders. This section will be made public.

*Reason for standing as a candidate*

I would like to help to ensure that the Masjid is a warm welcoming place, is alight with activity and serves the needs of the Muslim community firstly as well as be a place for the wider community to respect.

Uniting the community is key to my vision for a better Kingston Muslim community. To bring about this unity, we need to:

- make the masjid a place where all are treated equal irrespective of creed, race, colour, fiqh.
- value each and every person's opinion
- give respect to our Imams - who are our community leaders - rather than just treat them as employees.
- learn to take advice from the imams in all matters.
- Give respect to the musallees and members.
- See ourselves (the Committee and trustees) as servants of the community.
- Have fear of Allah and work for His pleasure alone.
- Be just and fair in our dealings with fellow muslims and the community and not have any oppressive and manipulative traits.
- Engage with the wider community including schools, council departments, councillors, voluntary organisations among others.
- Have youth, women and elderly programs to encourage inclusiveness.

*Skills/expertise/qualifications that I bring to KMA*

- Senior Software Engineer by profession, which allows me to have good analytical skills.
- Extensive experience in volunteering (30 years) and community engagement
- Governance experience - currently Chair of Kingston Race and Equalities Council
- Local networking - regular engagement with Police Commander, Council officers, Councillors, Mayor and other Voluntary Organisations
- Education experience - primary school governor
- Level headed
- Team worker