



Guidance for those wishing to lead Friday (Jumma) Prayer at City, University of London

City, University of London

Chaplaincy & Faith Advisory Team

www.city.ac.uk/faith

Students' Union

www.culsu.co.uk

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Introduction:

City, University of London and the **City, University of London Students' Union (CULSU)** alongside the **CULSU Islamic Society**, **CULSU AhlulBayt Society** and **CULSU Madinah Society**, have worked together to provide City community-led Friday (Jumma) Prayer on University premises. The **Friday Prayer Group**, which oversees this on-campus prayer, includes representatives from each of these groups.

The purpose of this is to allow University student-led and staff-led Friday Prayer which will contribute to the City community, as well as cater to an important religious obligation of Muslim students. As well as this, the opportunity to lead Friday Prayer will allow skills development and experience for those who apply to lead prayer.

All interested students and staff can apply to lead Friday Prayer. The Sermon deliverers' school/ideological background will be made known in advance. The Sermon will be open to all to record.

Training:

Depending upon their previous experience, those who wish to lead prayer may be asked to undertake a course of preparatory training before they can lead Friday Prayer.

Training will be provided by reputable external providers in conjunction with the University Imam. These external providers, and the training provided, have been agreed by the University and Students' Union. External providers are regularly reviewed by the Friday Prayer Group.

Once students have undertaken this training the Friday Prayer Group will schedule a date for them to lead the prayer. This is to ensure that prayer leaders are able to have a positive experience leading the prayer for their fellow students and staff, and to allow them to develop the appropriate skills and abilities to undertake such a task.

The training is designed to be flexible and to take account of the diverse forms of accepted prayer.

Elements of Jumma to be developed through training:

Jumma is Dhikrullah (a reminder of Allah) Qur'an (C62:V9). Those who undergo the preparatory training will be enabled to deliver the Sermon in accordance with this and develop appropriate skills for leading Prayer. It is intended that the training should be a positive developmental opportunity for those aspiring to lead Prayer, and those who complete the training will be considered to be able to deliver Friday Prayer to the satisfaction of the Friday Prayer Group.

Those seeking to deliver Jumma will learn the following through training. This may build upon knowledge and skills which they already possess, and trainers will take account of previous knowledge and experience while delivering the training:

Knowledge:

- A basic knowledge of faraidh (obligation) of cleanliness.
- An understanding of the correct ablution requirements.
- An awareness of wajibaat, sunan and mustahabaat.

- Knowledge and understanding of the requirements for leading the Prayer.

Abilities and Skills:

- Ability to accurately and clearly recite the Qur'an.
- Good time management skills.

Personal Attributes those leading Friday (Jumma) Prayer should aspire to:

As well as the abilities, skills and knowledge developed through the training, those undergoing training to lead Jumma should aspire to the following personal attributes. It is understood that these are personal attributes, and not subject to external test, but those seeking to lead prayer should seek to fulfil these to the best of their abilities.

- Those leading Jumma should be of a pious nature (mutaqi). They must be respectful of others and not bear grudges or ill will against another person.
- The leader should pray five times a day and practice taqwa i.e. not associating anyone with Allah, being honest, honouring agreements, not bearing false witness, and being able to demonstrate sincerity and fairness.

Requirements for the content of Jumma:

Those leading Jumma can select one of the topics approved by the Friday Prayer Group, or can agree a topic with the University Imam. However there are a few things which students must adhere to in terms of content:

- Khutbah must consist of Dua, Salaat to the Prophet, Sahabah and Ahlul Bait. There should be no condemnation or cursing of any of the companions (Sahabah) of the Prophet (Peace be on Him) or highlighting them in any negative way. Historical issues of disputes amongst the companions should be avoided.
- Topics must start with Verses from the Qur'an and Hadeeth. If any other books are quoted in explanation of the above, its source/s must be stated.
- In addition to the religious requirements the person delivering Khutbah must respect and adhere to the times allocated for Khutbah, Salaat completion times and the assigned topic.
- The speaker must concentrate on the given topic. Only one topic may be spoken about.
- Those leading Jumma must not:-
 - Speak against any other Muslim sect/s, its belief system/s its leaders, followers or practices, directly or indirectly or promote a particular view, teacher or Sheikh in this country or abroad.
 - Condemn, attack or ridicule people of faiths or no faith.
 - Attack social customs/practices of groups in order to highlight any Islamic value. Islamic virtues stand in their own right.

- No politics of any nation, groups or its leaders or practices may be condemned or attacked directly or otherwise.
- Foreign issues are not to be raised, nor promotion of any individual society or other union.
- Hate speeches, incitements or deviation from the agreed subject are not permitted.
- If the person due to lead the prayer is unable to do so because of illness or for any other reason, they must inform the University Imam before prayers begin so that he may make alternative arrangements. The person due to lead the prayer cannot substitute another speaker in their place without the permission of the University Imam.

Allocation of prayer dates:

The Friday Prayer Group will allocate the dates of Friday Prayer to those who have applied to lead it and completed appropriate training.