## How to contact Shabana Mahmood MP

## Hajj Travel Updated Summer 2014 Information booklet

Telephone 0121 661 9440

Email shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk

Write House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

#### Come to an advice surgery

SOHO First Friday of the Month: 4pm -

6pm

Soho Health Centre 247-251 Soho Road

Birmingham B21 9RY

LADYWOOD Third Friday of the Month:

4pm - 6pm

Ladywood Community Centre Saint Vincent Street West, Ladywood, Birmingham B16 8RP ASTON First Saturday of the Month:

10am - 12noon Broadway School The Broadway Perry Barr B20 3DP

NECHELLS Third Saturday of the Month: 10am

- 12noon

Nechells Green Community Centre

Melvina Road Birmingham B7 4QU

For Muslims across the globe undertaking the Hajj is an incomparable spiritual experience. Sometimes it is accompanied by considerable stresses and strains caused by unscrupulous travel operators, a confused visa regime and complex health requirements. Dealing with these issues is an unwelcome distraction from the purpose of undertaking the pilgrimage. In the past four years I have received a number of complaints from local residents about trips that have unfortunately gone wrong—often at the last minute. I have written this booklet to pull together the information I have found out over the last few years. I hope this guide will provide a useful starting point for those setting off on the Hajj.



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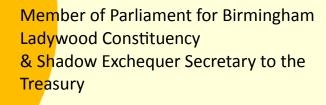




The constituency of Birmingham Ladywood covers Ladywood, Soho, Winson Green, Summerfield, Hockley, the Jewellery Quarter, City Centre, Aston, Birchfield, Newtown, Nechells, Digbeth, Highgate and parts of Small Heath and Bordesley Green. If you are not sure go to

http://findyourmp.parliament.uk





Covering the wards of Aston, Ladywood, Nechells and Soho



# Booking your trip—dealing with travel agents

### Your notes.....

TOP TIP

You must book your trip through a travel agency that is authorised by the Saudi government. This is because the Saudi government only issues Hajj visas to the authorised agencies.



It is likely your trip will include flights. Make sure the operator you book has a current ATOL licence. Do not take the operators' word for it! Go and check on the ATOL website http://www.caa.co.uk/ and select check an ATOL.



Make sure the specific trip you have booked is covered by the ATOL scheme. You will know that it is covered because the tour operator will give you an ATOL Certificate as soon as you pay over any money for the holiday - even if this is only a deposit. This certificate will protect you if the company goes bust.



Make sure you get a written copy of the terms of the contract for the trip—this should include a detailed itinerary, details about transport connections including flights, an appropriate contact for the agency for you to use whilst on your trip.

| you to use winist on your trip.   |  |               |                              |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| LIST OF BIRMINGHAM AUTHORIZED AGENCIES FOR UMMRAH AND HAJJ SERVICES                                     |  |               |                              |  |  |  |  |
| ALHIDAAYAH TRAVEL<br>LIMITED  | EDUCATIONAL HAJJ &<br>UMRAH LTD  | HIJAZ TRAV    | EL LIMITED                   | PAK TRAVELS LTD  |  |  |  |
| 436 COVENTRY ROAD SMALL HEATH BIRMINGHAM B10 0UG TEL: 01217537890 AL-HIDAAYAH.TRAVEL QIBLA HAJJ AND UMI | 119 PERSHORE ROAD EDGBASTON BIRMINGHAM B5 7NX TEL:08456027764 HAJJUMRAHUK.COM RA UMRAH AN SPECIALIST |               | M<br>8777<br>L.CO.UK         | 530 COVENTRY ROAD<br>SMALL HEATH<br>BIRMINGHAM<br>B10 0UN<br>TEL:01217720542<br>PAKTRAVELS.COM |  |  |  |
| 50 PARKFIELD ROAD<br>ALUM ROCK<br>BIRMINGHAM B8 3AU<br>TEL:01213279248<br>QIBLAHAJJANDUMRA.CO           | 495 COVENTRY<br>SMALL HEATH<br>BIRMINGHAM E<br>TEL:0121766525<br>M MARHABATOUR                       | 310 OJS<br>55 | BIRMIN<br>B10 OU<br>TEL: 010 |  |  |  |  |

Source: Saudi Arabia Embassy Website, London Correct at time of going to print. You should check the Embassy website for further updates

### Back my visa campaign



During last year's Hajj season the Saudi
Government restricted the number of visas
available and many people found out they would
not be able to go and perform the Hajj. Some
people told me they received full refunds from their agents
but others told me they lost all or some of their money. I
am meeting with a representative of the Saudi Government
to raise these issues and to ensure that people don't get
caught out again.

| 1. Have you or any organising your Ha   | ties YES         | NO                         |                                       |  |  |  |  |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2. Have you experienced any of the following problems?  |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| □Difficulty obtaini   | ng VISAs on time | ☐Trouble finding a registe | ble finding a registered travel agent |  |  |  |  |
| □ Difficulty finding reasonably priced vaccinations □ Travel agents not delivering what they promised |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Please give details of any issues you faced:   |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| EMAIL   |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| FULL NAME   |                  | ADDRESS                    |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| MOBILE  |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| TELEPHONE   |                  | POSTCODE                   |                                       |  |  |  |  |
| Please post to: EPEEDOST PTUE PRIVI 7VIII. Shahana Mahmaad MP. Birmingham P1 2US du                   |                  |                            |                                       |  |  |  |  |

**Please post to:** FREEPOST RTHE-BRKL-ZYUL, Shabana Mahmood MP, Birmingham B1 3HS Shabana Mahmood MP may contact you using details you provide. Please write to her if you do not wish to be contacted

#### **GETTING A VISA**



Visa applications should be dealt with only through a Hajj & Ummrah visa services agents



To do the Hajj you need a Hajj visa. Hajj visas are not valid for work or residency.



Hajj visas will not be issued to individuals who have performed Hajj in the last five years.



Applicants must fill in an application form, provide 2 passport-sized photos and have a current passport which is valid for 6 months



Pilgrims need a meningitis immunisation certificate. (Pilgrims must have their immunisation at least ten days before travelling)



All females should be accompanied by a Mahram (husband, father, uncle, adult son, brother or nephew.) The accompanying Mahram must be at least **17 years old**.



All non-UK passport holders must have permanent residency in the UK.



Children can accompany their parents on the Hajj. Children and women under 45 must be accompanied by a Mahram.

Each authorised agent will be given a specific number of Hajj visas for the season.

#### Health & Vaccinations

## Checklist and useful contacts





The Saudi Ministry of Health has established a number of requirements that must be met by visitors to obtain an Entry Visa for Hajj and Ummrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for each Hajj season (2013 requirements below) check the updated regulations here: http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/healthawareness/hajj/Pages/default.aspx

meningitis



<u>Visitors from all countries:</u> are required to submit a certificate of vaccination with the quadrivalent (ACYW135) vaccine against meningitis issued no more than 3 years and no less than 10 days before arrival in Saudi Arabia. Any accompanying children under 2 years, will need two vaccinations 3 months apart to obtain adequate protection against the disease.

flu



The Saudi Ministry of Health recommends that international pilgrims be vaccinated against seasonal influenza before arrival into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly those at increased risk of severe influenza diseases, including pregnant women, children under 5 years, the elderly, and individuals with underlying health conditions such as HIV/AIDS, asthma, and chronic heart or lung. diseases.



MERS-COV—since July 2013 the Saudi
Ministry of Health recommends that

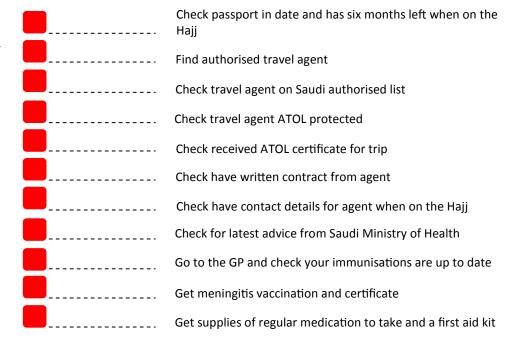
MERS-COV Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

elderly (above 65 years of age) and those with chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory disease, diabetes) and pilgrims with immune system deficiency, terminal illnesses, pregnant women and children

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND recommends pilgrims ensure that their routine immunisations are up to date. This includes MMR, tetanus and polio.

FURTHER INFO

- Health Portal of the Saudi Ministry of Health http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/HealthAwareness/Hajj/
- Public Health England Factsheet http://tinyurl.com/pcvsp9g



British Embassy PO Box 94351 11693 Saudi Arabia

EmailConsular.Riyadh@fco.gov.uk Telephone+966 (0) 11 4819 100

Correct at May 2014 to check—

https://www.gov.uk/government/world/ organisations/british-embassy-riyadh Foreign Office

https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/saudiarabia/safety-and-security

Health—National Travel Health Network and Centre

http://www.nathnac.org/travel/factsheets/

Hajj\_Umrah.htm Hajj Organisations

Association of British Hujjaj [Pilgrims] UK

http://www.abhuk.com/

The Council of British Hajjis

www.the-cbh.org.uk

Department of Business

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hajj-and-