



18th November 2004

## Press Release

Embargoed until 00:01 hours on Monday 22nd November 2004

### Othello's Coming Home

There will be a tempest brewing at **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** as it goes Moorish to mark this year's Islam Awareness Week. The Globe will highlight some of the plays that touch on Muslim characters and Muslim lands in an effort to give recognition to the process of dialogue and cultural exchange that dates far back in our country's history. The **Islamic Society of Britain** will launch the national event from the Globe theatre on Monday 22nd November 2004 at 6pm.

“Shakespeare is part of our heritage and his plays remind us of the global communities that we live in and the need for respect and goodwill. It's about bringing the idea of interchange and contact between communities to the forefront. Instead of Muslims being seen as distant and removed, we hope to see today's Muslims and their every day contributions being recognised as part of the patchwork that makes up Britain today,” said Shafeeq Sadiq, National Co-ordinator for IAW.

Making much ado about it all, IAW's theme this year is '**Your Muslim Neighbour.**' Cities all over Britain will participate by opening up their mosques, their community centres, their homes and above all their hearts in order to build friendships, trust and respect. “We want to lay to rest once and for all the notion that communities want to be closed and cut off,” Mr Sadiq maintained. “This winter's tale will be one of friendship and cohesion - working together on our amenities and public arenas for the benefit of all.”

Communities will be synchronising their grassroots drive, their cultures, their expertise and their faith into working together for a better Britain: a Britain that is at ease with its diversity; whether it be on the football pitch, in an international game or with the family next door, who practice a different religion.

**[Ends]**

#### Notes to Editors:

1. The Press Office will be happy to assist in developing local angles and putting you in touch with local groups and organisations participating in the project or any enquiries about covering these events. See [www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk) for activity details.

2. For Media enquiries please contact the Press Officer on 07005 947 199, email: [press@iaw.org.uk](mailto:press@iaw.org.uk) or email: [admin@iaw.org.uk](mailto:admin@iaw.org.uk). (Alternative contact number: 07092 359 611).
3. Islam Awareness Week runs from 22nd - 28th November this year.
4. This year's launch will be from the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre at 6pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004. Invited Guest speakers include:
  - Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt (Secretary of State for DTI)
  - Charles Hendry MP (Deputy Chair of Conservative Party)
  - Liberal Democrats representative
  - Iqbal Sacranie (Secretary General, The Muslim Council of Britain)

### Notes to Picture Desks:

1. During the event, the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre will be **lighting up their walls** with **dynamic Islamic images projected from the riverbank**, which will continue throughout Islam Awareness Week until 28th November.

Islam Awareness Week is organised by the Islamic Society of Britain, which is affiliated to the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB).

For further details please visit the IAW website: [www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk)

