The System of Consultation (Shura) in Jama'at

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Recitation of the Holy Qur'an

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۚ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيْظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوْا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ۖ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْاَمْرِ ۚ فَاِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللّٰهِ ۚ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِيْنَ ﴿۱۶۰﴾

And it is by the *great* mercy of Allah that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough *and* hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them in matters *of administration*; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who put their trust *in Him*. (3:160)

Pledge

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَّا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad (ﷺ) is His servant and Messenger.

I solemnly pledge that I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, wealth, time and honor for the sake of my faith, country and nation. Likewise I shall be ready to offer any sacrifice for guarding the institution of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya. Moreover I shall deem it essential to abide by any Maroof decision made by Khalifatul Masih. *Insha'Allah.*

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Hadith

عَنْ أَبِي مَسْعُودٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ـ صلى الله عليه وسلم ـ
" الْمُسْتَشَارُ مُؤْتَمَنٌ "

It was narrated from Abu Mas'ud that the

Messenger of Allah(ﷺ) said:

"One who is consulted is entrusted."

(Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith 3746)

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History of Shura

- Holy Prophet^{saw} used to consult his companions, collectively and individually.
- Promised Messiah^{as} used to consult with members on matters related to the whole Jama'at, individually and annually at Jalsa Salana.
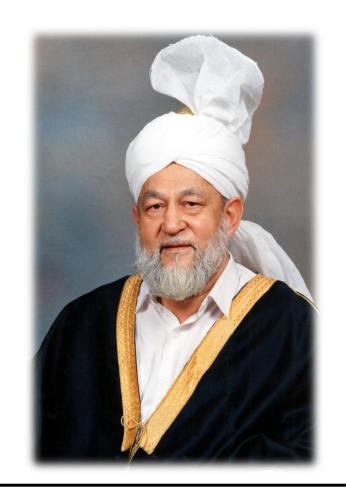- Majlis-e-Shura established as an institution in 1922 by the second Khalifa.

Majlis-e-Shura presents recommendations, not decisions.

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Shura - A Distinction of Islam

"The injunction to hold consultations, which has been made binding upon Muslims through the Holy Quran, is so clear and explicit that no instance of it can be found in any other Divine Scripture. It is one of the many distinguishing features of the Holy Quran. No religion can produce an example of the elaborate system of consultation and Shura which the Holy Quran has laid down for the Imam and for Muslims at large."

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV, Friday Sermon, 31 March 1995

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Importance of Shura

- Most important institution in Jama'at after Khilafat.

- Hadhrat Musleh-e-Maud[ra] states:

    - "Representation in this Majlis is such a great honor that even a monarch of the entire world would feel honored to be part of it."

    - "People...do not realize that it is God's favor upon them that they have been chosen to participate in this Majlis, which is going to mould the future of the world." (The System of Mushawarat in Jama'at Ahmadiyya)

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What Happens in Shura?

- Majlis-e-Shura deliberates on one or more proposals as follows.

- First, subcommittees are formed for each proposal. Each subcommittee has a chairman and secretary and is composed of 20-30 members.

- The subcommittees spend several hours discussing their proposals. They draft a set of recommendations, which are presented before the entire Shura body for discussion and vote.

- Are all proposals received presented in Majlis-e-Shura for deliberation? NO. Only those proposals are discussed which are pre-approved for discussion.

- Majlis-e-Shura must have at least one proposal: Fiscal Budget for the next year!

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Who Can Send a Proposal?

1. Any Khadim can come up with a proposal.

2. The proposal should be shared with the Qaid Majlis to be discussed in a general meeting of that Majlis.

3. The general meeting should discuss and vote on that proposal. Refine and improve the wording whenever possible.

4. Qaid Majlis will send the proposal through the regional Qaid to the National Aitmad department.

5. National Amila recommends approval/rejection to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih.

6. Approvals accepted by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih are added to the agenda and presented in Majlis-e-Shura for deliberations.

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Dos and Don'ts of a Shura Proposal

- Proposals should lie within the scope of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya.
  - Incorrect Proposal: "Parents of all Khuddam should read a certain book this year."
  - Incorrect Proposal: "Every Majlis should have one Khadim run for the local Mayor."

- Proposals should concern Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK not one Majlis or region.
  - Incorrect Proposal: "We should organize a camping trip every month in our Majlis."

- Proposals should lie within the teachings of Islam Ahmadiyyat and the directives of Khalifatul Masih
  - Incorrect Proposal: "We should offer 3 prayers instead of 5."

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Dos and Don'ts of a Shura Proposal

- Proposals which are beyond the scope or current capability of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK.
  - Incorrect Proposal: "We should launch our own Satellite for improving communication."

- Proposals which have been received in the last three years cannot be presented, unless there are exceptional circumstances which require them to be discussed again.

- Do not submit lengthy proposals. Proposals should be brief and to the point. Avoid sharing extensive background or giving suggestions as part of the proposal.

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Administrative Proposals

Proposals of administrative nature are ones that can be resolved by National Amila, regions, or Majalis without having to go to Shura.

- Example Proposal: "Khuddam should be trained for crisis handling."
  Why it is Administrative: Amoomi department is already working towards this goal.

- Example Proposal: "Regional Tarbiyyat camps should be held"
  Why it is Administrative: Tarbiyyat department says they can work with the regional Qaideen to organize these camps.

- Example Proposal: "Create a Database of business owners to help facilitate jobs."
  Why it is Administrative: Sanat-o-Tijarat department will work towards creating it.

- Example Proposal: "Tree planting should be organized at the National Ijtema"
  Why is it Administrative?

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Some Accepted Proposals from Past Shuras

- Develop a stronger transitional program for Atfal going into Khuddamul Ahmadiyya which includes Tarbiyyat, Taleem, and recreational activities.

- Deliberate on the root causes for the low attendance in general meetings and devise a comprehensive plan to address them.

- Deliberate on ways to increase the level of understanding of Nizam-e-Jamaat among Khuddam and Atfal.

- Deliberate ways so that members of Majlis-e-Shura understand the sanctity and responsibilities associated with being part of it

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Implementation of Shura Recommendations

Importance of Majlis-e-Shura:

- Developed materials on importance of Shura that are shared well in advance of Shura

- General meetings, regional seminars and Qaideen meeting with Respected Sadr sahib being held on the importance and processes of Majlis-e-Shura

Understanding of Nizam-e-Jamaat:

- Developed a presentation on Nizam-e-Jamaat that was shared widely.

- Training on Nizam-e-Jamaat a part of FQC, Atfal to Khuddam onboarding sessions and Amila meetings

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Majlis-e-Shura Life Cycle

1. Majalis send proposals for discussion in Shura.

2. National Amila deliberates on proposals and recommends whether they should be presented in Majlis-e-Shura. These recommendations are sent to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih, who makes the final decision on which proposals will be presented in Majlis-e-Shura.

3. The accepted proposals are added to the agenda and presented in Majlis-e-Shura for deliberations.

4. Majlis-e-Shura deliberates and finalizes its recommendations on each accepted proposal and sends them to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih for final approval.

5. Recommendations accepted by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih get implemented by Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya at all levels.

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Shura Representative Elections

1. "...be most careful when electing their representatives and should choose the best people to represent them." (Hadhrat Musleh-e-Maud[ra])

2. Delegate are able to attend this year's Majlis-e-Shura on Oct 11 - 12, 2025. This includes starting from Saturday till Sunday.

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