



ALL CEYLON JAMIYYATHUL ULAMA
(COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS OF SRI LANKA)

**SERVING
HUMANITY**

SINCE 1924
[HIJRI 1343 AH]

OUR VALUES:

ISLAMIC | SRI LANKAN IDENTITY | MODERATION | ACCOMMODATIVE
| DIVERSITY & PLURALISM

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ABOUT

ALL CEYLON JAMIYYATHUL ULAMA

All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) has been in existence since 1924, and was incorporated by an Act of Parliament No. 51 of 2000. The objectives of the ACJU are farsighted and designed to serve the Muslim Community and the nation. At present ACJU has 163 Branches in 24 districts and over 8000 Scholars as subscribed Members.

The ACJU has organized itself into several divisions (Sub-committees) to serve its stakeholders, in which most of the veteran members are involved as volunteers, along with professional staff members in the forefront serving the community and the country together, focusing on the aspects of Ulama (Religious Scholars) Affairs, Muslim Community Affairs, Citizens Affairs and engagement with government authorities and other stakeholders.

VISION

To build an exemplary and disciplined Muslim community enriched with the Islamic values and teachings and contributing towards the upliftment of Deenul Islam and the betterment of the community and the nation.

MISSION

Providing spiritual, ethical and moral guidance to all levels of the Muslim community based on Islamic teachings, and contributing towards the development of educational, economic, social and cultural aspects of the community and nation, whilst building unity among the community and coexistence with all ethnicities.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide spiritual guidance to all levels of the Muslim community based on Islamic Teachings
- To work towards building individuals and families enriched with ethical and moral values
- To work towards the welfare of the Ulama and enhancement of Islamic Religious Education
- To contribute towards the development of educational, economic, social and cultural aspects of the community and nation
- To work towards upholding unity among the community
- To develop peaceful coexistence with all ethnicities
- To initiate all necessary efforts and activities to attain the objectives and goals of ACJU.

VALUES

- Islamic
- Sri Lankan Identity
- Moderation
- Accommodative
- Diversity & Pluralism

SECRETARIAT

The ACJU Secretariat which functions under the direct purview of the President and the General Secretary, overlooks secretarial matters of the organization such as official communications, legal matters, media related affairs, strategic planning, event/ program management and stakeholder engagement.

UNIT 01: STRATEGIC PLANNING & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This unit focuses on developing policies and procedures related to the functions of the organization in order to provide effective and efficient services to the community. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), manuals and other necessary documents to standardize internal processes are developed and reviewed as required by this Unit.

UNIT 02: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION

This unit bears the responsibility of organizing and coordinating official meetings of ACJU such as monthly Executive Committee meetings, Central Committee meetings and special meetings as necessary.

UNIT 03: CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Issuance of official statements, reports and official correspondence are carried out by this Unit under the direction and supervision of the President and General Secretary of ACJU.

UNIT 04: LEGAL & RESEARCH

Functions related to legal matters and research projects are undertaken by this Unit. This Unit also shall be coordinating with the legal consultants for consultation purposes, whenever necessary.

UNIT 05: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This Unit focuses on engaging with key stakeholders such as government authorities, embassies ect. in order to build and nurture collaborative relationships which would benefit the community and our Motherland.

UNIT 06: MEDIA

The Media Unit was established with the main goal of publicizing the ACJU's stand on national and day-to-day issues via media releases while raising

awareness among Muslims on Islamic teachings. Further the ACJU Media Unit publicizes the activities and services of ACJU among the public through various Media channels.

UNIT 07: BRANCH COORDINATION & MEMBERSHIP

The ACJU has a total of 163 Branches around the country which includes 139 Divisional Branches and 24 District Branches. These Branches are reorganized every three years and a new panel of office bearers are selected for optimum performance by this unit. Issuance of Memberships of ACJU and other related matters are also handled by this Unit.

The activities of this Unit are as follows:

- Reorganizing the whole set up of the branches.
- Implementing all divisional activities of the Head Office with the exception of the Fatwa Division.
- Providing all necessary training for branches.
- Monitoring the performance and service standards of each branch, and addressing issues with corrective measures and necessary follow up.
- Handling the entire Membership issuance process and related matters.

SUB COMMITTEES (DIVISIONS)

ULAMA (ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS') AFFAIRS

1. Committee for Islamic Religious Scholars' Affairs
2. Social Services Committee

MUSLIM COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

3. Fatwa Committee
4. Hilaal Committee
5. Education, Research and Publication Committee

6. Propagation & Guidance Committee
7. Women's Affairs Committee

CITIZENS' AFFAIRS

8. Council for Cooperation and Coordination

1. COMMITTEE FOR ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS' AFFAIRS

This Committee is dedicated to serve the interest of the Islamic Scholars who have served and continue to serve the community to the best of their ability. Also this Committee aims at providing the following wide range of services for the Ulama (Islamic Religious Scholars):

- Standardizing the Madarasa education system with the collaboration of the relevant stakeholders.
- Facilitating training programs for Ulama on spiritual, academic and skill development.
- Identifying qualified Ulama and categorizing them based on expertise, in order to best utilize them for the needs of the Muslim community.
- Supporting Ulama in their quest for Islamic-based higher studies.
- Uplifting the general living standards and well-being of Ulama.
- Creating self-employment opportunities for Ulama, with appropriate technical and vocational training, where necessary.
- Identifying the sacrifices and the services of the veteran Ulama and honouring them.

2. SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Social Services Committee focuses on the areas of relief aid, social services & counselling. Special trainings related to social services are provided to Ulama of the Divisional Branches on subjects such as Disaster Management, building relationships with other regional social service entities (within the frame work set out by the Government), rehabilitation and organizing special guidance programs concerning environment, health, education and other related matters.

The Committee maintains the policy of utilizing the funds raised for a particular social services project for the same, and in the event of any excess funds, it is transferred to another similar social services project.

3. FATWA COMMITTEE

The ACJU, as a recognized religious body to deliver guidance and non-binding religious opinions on socio-religious issues faced by people, carries out this unique project with consensus of opinion among Ulama of different Schools of Thought. The aim of Fatwa (non-binding religious opinion) is to simplify and present religious rules in matters that may cause confusion for the people and to create a lifestyle of peace and harmony. It is notable that the majority of the Fatwa issued by the Committee has been related to social, economic and inheritance related guidelines. Moreover, this Committee also issues timely guidance on national issues as needed, explaining the Islamic perspective.

The public are able to request Fatwa via phone, email, post or by visiting the ACJU Head office. All queries are handled by dedicated competent Scholars. While common fundamental issues are being responded immediately, complex queries requiring deliberation are submitted to the Committee during the monthly Fatwa meeting with prominent Scholars.

The objective is to deliver clear and accurate solutions and guidance to issues of religious nature, while documenting and compiling such discussions for future references.

4. HILAAL COMMITTEE

As per the Islamic teachings the lunar calendar is used to determine significant events and timings. This Committee is tasked with determining the Hijri Months, determining Salah (prayer) times according to various geographic locations in the country and providing accurate Qiblah directions.

A moon sighting mechanism has been developed according to international standards to determine the (beginning and end of) Hijri Months. According

to plans in place, Hilaal sub-committees at regional level, will assist the Committee in implementing this mechanism of Hilaal sighting. The respective local Jumu'ah Masjid representatives for Hilaal (crescent) sighting, shall operate under the local ACJU Divisional branches.

The final confirmation on the sighting of the first crescent is determined by the Colombo Grand Mosque, Department of Muslim Religious & Cultural Affairs & ACJU collectively and the respective decision shall be announced to the public. This decision shall be based on the agreed 5 criteria to determine the sighting of the crescent.

Public awareness of the Hijri month declaration are done through SMS, while the digital Hijri calendar is circulated through emails and is published in the ACJU website. Printed copies of the monthly Hijri calendar is dispatched via post to the annual subscribers.

In addition, the public shall be kept informed of solar and lunar eclipses as they occur and the related guidelines as per the teachings of Islam (Eg: Reminder on Eclipse prayer etc.)

Providing guidance to determine the accurate direction of the Qiblah considering the fact that due to dependence on technology, the direction of the Qiblah established in Masjids has been incorrect at times. The ACJU is planning to introduce a system based on the sun to identify the accurate direction of the Qiblah.

To achieve the above goals the ACJU has already conducted in-house training programs at Divisional levels.

5. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Education: Scientific researches are conducted in schools that need improvement in results & discipline. Motivation programs & trainings for school students, parents & teachers are undertaken for spiritual and academic guidance while looking into the dire needs of the underprivileged students, especially in Colombo.

Moreover, this Committee provides assistance to create an effective learning and teaching environment by facilitating essential infrastructure facilities and other necessary basic arrangements as much as possible.

Quran Madarasas: Identifying the requirement of restructuring the Quran Madarasa education system, the ACJU initiated an implementation program based on the framework and curriculum produced by the Department of Muslim Religious & Cultural Affairs. The syllabus is prepared in such a manner that it teaches the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the proper understanding of the Holy Quran, Hadith (traditions) of Prophet (Sal), 'A'daab' (good etiquettes, manners), 'Akhlaq' (morality, good social behavior), co-existence, Islamic history and Arabic Language.

This syllabus was free from all forms of extremism, terrorism nor any inappropriate content or ideology that may harm peace & harmony. The syllabus was prepared in accordance with the guidance and advice of the Directors and related officials of the Dept. of Muslim Religious & Cultural Affairs who had drafted the outline of the syllabus framework for preliminary Islamic Religious education.

Established with the aim of cultivating an enthusiasm amongst students towards learning the Holy Qur'an, the Sunnah and the Islamic teachings which would benefit the society; this project is one of the biggest projects carried out by the ACJU for the development of Qur'an Madrasas.

Research and Publications: This Committee is also tasked with publishing material including books, magazines and periodicals on Islam related matters and the translation of important works from their original languages. The Committee also undertakes the scrutinizing of Islamic publications including newsletters, magazines and other periodicals, and takes appropriate action where anomalies or discrepancies with the Aqeedha are found.

6. PROPAGATION & GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Propagation: This Committee focuses on assisting and guiding the community in dispelling misinformation about misguided movements. Also the Committee conducts awareness programs needed for the general public through every Divisional Branch on topics such as Hajj, Ramadhaan, family life, promoting unity & peaceful coexistence etc. It provides guidance to the community

on protecting themselves from major sins. The Committee regularly arranges and conducts awareness programs for the public on misguided movements and encourages the Ulama to guide the public as required.

Youth: With regard to Youth Affairs, this committee facilitates the acquisition of skills and orientation that will assist young people in making desirable choices for self-development and full participation at all levels in society.

It facilitates, implements and enhances youth programs, services and projects through the Divisional Branches of ACJU around the country in order to create patriotic and spiritually enhanced youth society with the ability to face modern challenges.

It also provides counselling and other services for youths with addiction problems, in order to rehabilitate them. It is a social responsibility to implement all possible measures to protect the youth from all forms of vices which may destroy their lives. The Committee focuses on developing rehabilitation programs while enriching the youth with spiritual guidance and also nurturing them to be future leaders of the society.

Special programs and projects are carried out with the objective of protecting the youth community from all forms of extremism, terrorism and any inappropriate ideologies that may harm peace & harmony.

Identifying the need for youth to be empowered, the committee explores possible mechanisms to support the youth for higher studies, provide needful technical and vocational training, strategizing manners to identify the basic skills of every youth and to develop their skills with the collaboration of government entities.

7. WOMEN'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The objective of this Committee is to provide guidance to the women of our community on religious teachings and on serving the community in appropriate and possible ways. Efforts shall be initiated by the ACJU Branches through monthly programs which shall be conducted for the

spiritual development of women and shall be beneficial for their social and personal lives.

The committee, is also working on providing premarital counselling with the collaboration of ACJU Branches, on how to lead successful married lives. It also provides guidelines for women in accordance with the Islamic Religious teachings, in matters such as higher education, community affairs etc.

8. COUNCIL FOR COORDINATION & COOPERATION

This committee focuses on humanitarian values and exists to foster and nature unity and co-existence between the Muslim and non-Muslim community which has been in existence for over a thousand years. The committee brings together various factions in the community including Da'wah Organizations and the Tharīqās (sects), within the Islamic principles, as well as the communities of other faiths, by taking effective steps to create and promote mutual understanding, unity, peace, cooperation, and peaceful co-existence among the people.

In its broader mandate the CCC focuses on fostering inter-community relations by means of dialogue, discussion and conventions while providing guidance to the public on harmony and co-existence through the Friday Jumu'ah Sermons.



*'Help each other in righteousness
and piety' (05:02)*

*'.. and do good deeds, so that you
achieve success' (22:77)*



