



THE PRIME MINISTER



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Nawruz Mubarak

I am so sorry that I cannot be with you tonight but I am delighted to send my very best wishes and Nawruz Mubarak to all Ismailis worldwide.

I am thrilled that Eric Ollerenshaw and Angie Bray are hosting the event this evening and I know they are close friends of the community.

The rich cultural tradition of Nawruz, the spring festival of renewal, is a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next. It has been celebrated for over 3000 years in the spirit of compassion, family and encourages us to commit to a better world that promotes universal human rights, freedom of expression, peace and progress.

Under the leadership of His Highness the Aga Khan, Ismailis have continued to espouse the view of Islam as a thinking, spiritual, faith community and one that teaches compassion and tolerance.

I know that the Ismaili Community has had a well-established presence in the UK for over half a century. In keeping with the ethos of the community, I am aware that a significant number of Ismailis are involved in volunteering and making a meaningful contribution to British society, playing their part in improving the quality of life of those who are less fortunate.

Have a great and joyous evening.

19 March 2013