Regional (Hilal) Testimony Coordinator

Introduction

The UK is divided into 12 Regions. Therefore, we have created 12 UK Regional Hilal Groups on WhatsApp, with multiple Local Groups (LG) under each Regional Group (RG). The purpose of the LG is to undertake the sighting, reporting, and training of any new members. The purpose of the RG is to coordinate sighting activities between the different LGs and collect all the LG reports for sharing at a national level (across the UK).

Moon Sighting and Reporting

It is usual for many volunteers to travel 5 - 10 miles away from their home to a suitable location with a clear view of the western horizon before sunset. They will return home about 1-hour later and send their report to the ICOUK website. These reports may get published within the next hour depending on the volumes. This method of operation works fine when these reports are not required for making a declaration for the start of the month. However, recent experience has shown (eg. on 9/8/2021 / 29 DH 1442) that some UK Hilal Committees need these reports very quickly in order to help them make a rapid decision soon after the UK sunsets.

Coordinator Responsibilities

The role of the Regional (Hilal) Testimony Coordinator (RTC) will be to collate all the sighting reports from their own UK Region (rapidly and accurately) and **share** them with the nominated Testimony Panel Member (TPM) as soon as possible (via phone/texts), even before they are reported to the ICOUK website (via the Internet).

The personal qualities and experience required for the RTC roles are given below:

No.	Description	Essential	Important	Desirable
1	A graduate with relevant technical/communications skills[1]	✔		
2	Has at least 6 months of moon sighting and reporting experience[2]	✔		
3	Able to interpret visibility maps and HMNAO websurf data[3]		✔	
4	Able to identify sighting report locations and match with data[4]		✔	
5	Has experience in taking Hilal photos and image editing software			✔
6	Has an understanding of moon sighting Fiqh and Testimony			✔
7	Is able to liaise with the general public and scholars alike[5]		✔	
8	Provide training to others to enable cover when required[6]		✔	
9	To ensure all user reports are sent to the ICOUK website[7]			✔
10	Provide character reference of volunteers to scholars[8]			✔

The summary role of the Regional (Hilal) Testimony Coordinator (RTC) is given in the diagram below.

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[1] The role may include accessing a website database to obtain the reports (and be aware of cybersecurity)
[2] Having practical experience will help ask the right questions to isolate mistakes
[3] Predicted Crescent Visibility Data will help decide if the report needs to Referred for expert opinions
[4] To be able to obtain sighting location details using Google Apps/MetOffice forecasts
[5] Needs to be able communicate with general public/families, masjid committee and scholars
[6] Must be transparent with skill transfer to help others provide cover during absences (eg. medical/travel)
[7] All verval reports needs to be followed up by written reports for transparency, publicity and data analysis
[8] Personal contacts with volunteers (via phone, texts, zoom etc) regularly can help provide a positive reference