



## CLARENCE HOUSE

I could not be more delighted that for the second year running my British Asian Trust is hosting an Iftar in London during Ramadan.

I know that this evening, in London, our whole Muslim community is coming together to break your fasts, just as hundreds of millions do each day of Ramadan as the sun sets, wherever in the world they may be. I am only sorry that I cannot join you myself...

Ramadan is a time for Muslims to open their doors to non-Muslim friends. Sharing a meal with other people is one of the most fundamental means of human connection and a source of tremendous joy that is too often lost in modern society and is not confined by the boundaries of faith and community.

It is most heartening to know that all of you – representing, as you do, the special bonds and close connections between the U.K. and Muslim communities around the world – have taken the time to come together, to eat together and to strengthen the friendships you share.

The appalling atrocities across Britain over the past three months have so tragically reminded us of just how important it is to build bridges between and across our communities. It is the only way to frustrate the twisted and distorted ambitions of those who seek to divide us.

And, if I may say so, Ramadan – a time of reflection and humility and for helping those in need – is a timely opportunity for us all to foster the understanding between us that we so urgently need.

I send my warmest good wishes to you all in this holy month. May your hearts be filled with peace, harmony and joy.

And I do hope you have a most enjoyable evening...

HRH The Prince of Wales