



روح المغرب
spirit
of Morocco

Jewish singers in the 1930s,
Tissint, Morocco



روح المغرب

at

Royal Albert Hall



“You are my brother
and I love you, I love you
when you bow in your
mosque, kneel in your
temple, pray in your
church. For you and I
are sons of one religion,
and it is the spirit”

Gibran Khalil Gibran

” أنت أخي وأنا أحبّك، أحبّك
ساجداً في مسجدك،
وراكعاً في هيكلك ومصلياً
في كنيستك، فأنت وأنا
أبناء دين واحد هو الروح “

جبران خليل جبران

The CCME (Council for Moroccans abroad) was established by Royal Dahir in December 2007 for an initial four-year term. The CCME is in charge of monitoring and assessing public policies of the Kingdom, pertaining to its Diaspora across the globe; thus ensuring the protection of their rights and enhancing their participation in the political, economic, cultural human and social development of the country as well as advocating for co-existence and civic participation in their respective country of residence. The CCME is made up of five distinct working groups to monitor and engage in issues of migration, and generally contributing to THE nurturing of better relations between Morocco, and the rest of the world.

www.ccme.org.ma

The CCME is made up 37 members, all appointed by Royal decree. For the Moroccan Diaspora living in the UK, Souad Talsi MBE is the appointed member. She is also the founder of the only Moroccan women organisation in the UK, Al-Hasaniya Moroccan women Centre.

www.al-hasaniya.org.uk



Foreword from the CCME Secretary General

DR ABDELLAH BOUSSOUF

I'm delighted to see CCME partnering with Nour in this year's event and exceptionally proud to be given an opportunity to showcase our diverse cultural heritage.

In these troubled times we live in , cultural heritage to spread peace and co-existence has never been so vital and nowhere more so needed than in the continent of Europe as we know it today.

Cultural Heritage is often said to be an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values and so events like Nour, not only offer the opportunity to cement such belief but they also play a vital role to transcend prejudice, eradicate misunderstanding and allow hope, fraternity and sorority between people.

One of the most vital components in our glorious heritage is tolerance and acceptance of others; and although our diverse ethnicity and religious beliefs may differ, there is a stronger bond that brings us together and that's our cultural heritage as a nation of this ancient kingdom called Morocco.

We hope that our modest contribution this year will offer an overview of our ancient nation, its traditions, cultural heritage and diverse ethnic makeup.

We are especially delighted to celebrate this day the 6th November here in London with you all as it is our national day in Morocco. "On this day in 1975, 350,000 Moroccans, marched peacefully into the Western Sahara to reclaim it as an integral part of our territory, then occupied by Spain.

Wishing you all a fabulous festival

Thank you
Rabat October 24th , 2016



Souad Talsi MBE
guest speaker at the NOUR 2014

Introduction:

There was a time when the world was truly vast and people were very much apart. A time when everyone relied on scarce forms of obtaining news, a time when one wrote a letter to a loved one, and waited days if not weeks to have news back.

Today's technology, has shrunk the world into a minute entity; With the abundance of news providers, social media and fast and instant messaging, we have come to learn about events as they occur, good, bad or ugly.

Technology has also meant opening a free for all channel to those whose intentions are not always conducive to the greater good.

The last year or so have been particularly poignant for all. The devastating results of erroneous religious narratives, whether in Europe or elsewhere have all touched us here and INDEED impacted on how we view matters and treat each other.

With this in mind it is pertinent that relentless optimism, vigilance and cooperation for the greater good must be the principal on which everyone must live by. We must work on what bring us together, and not what divides us.

And nowhere to my knowledge has this cooperation been as spectacularly positive as the one in our tiny village, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

This borough has not only been my home since the age of 12 but also the home of over 10000 Moroccans in addition to other Arab nationalities. It welcomes the immigrant, the refugee and persecuted; the businessman and the diplomat: from the Arab world and beyond.

Kensington and Chelsea encompass in particular, the mosaic, the multi-coloured tapestry of cultures that are the rich diversity within the Arab world as we know it.

Our tiny village that is the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, has changed tremendously since the 70s, and it has changed for the better, precisely because of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Whether as immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers or business people, a significant number of the UK Arab community in all its superb ethnic and cultural mix, has chosen this borough as its permanent home.

Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea is a home that boasts with superb Arab presence; from our local Moroccan Garden in the North of the borough to the Borough's own Nour Art festival.

Golborne Road is often referred to as the London Marrakesh, with its colourful Moroccan shops, cafes and traders. It is worth taking a stroll on a Saturday to see, feel and smell the strong Moroccan presence and may be even practice Moroccan Arabic dialect and pick up few items after a good haggle!! Always haggle; it is the pleasure of doing business with Moroccans!

Arabic is now the second most spoken language in this wonderful borough of ours. It is only through tolerance, mutual respect and indeed coexistence that two so different cultures have been able to be part of our integral lives here and in perfect harmony.

The good examples are many to mention and I hope that the efforts, hard work and indeed positive energy ploughed by all concerned, will continue to bear the fruit of positive citizenship and tolerance.

As a member of the CCME, it has become my duty to look out for all Moroccans within the UK and I was indeed pleasantly surprised that there is a vibrant Moroccan-Jewish community thriving in North-Finchley. It is well established and has its own synagogue. We have since created an association called MimounaUK with an ethos and principal of bringing both together to show tolerance and spread tolerance. We hope MimounaUK will be a major contributor to next year's festival.

And finally a big thank you to the Royal borough for being a great home, a supporter and indeed a marvellous host: that has not only accepted our traditions and respected our faith, but continually encouraged our integration. The unyielding support has been overwhelming and I'm deeply grateful.

Wishing Nour festival, success and long life.

Souad Talsi MBE
October 2016



Message from
Professor Albert
Sasson

Rabat, 22 September 2011

Mrs Souad Talsi MBE

Al-Hesaniya Moroccan Women's Project Ltd.

London W10 5PL

e-mail: www.al-hesaniya.org.uk

Dear Souad,

Let me first of all congratulate you, once again, for your outstanding work and dedication to the cause of Moroccan women inside and outside our dear country. It was a pleasure to collaborate with you earlier on and organizing this encounter on "Morocco on the Move" whose memory I really cherish.

The 6th of November 2011 devoted to the finale of the festival of arts at the Royal Albert Hall will certainly be a memorable night. It will be a demonstration of our cultural heritage, so diverse and so representative of what our country is really.

I fully support such an event, which fully deserves the support of the C&ME and its secretary-general Mr Braouf. The artist selected is an outstanding one and deserves all our compliments.

I should have wished to be able to attend this wonderful concert and night, but you will excuse me because of previous commitments. I am sure that the Moroccan Jewish members will respond to your invitation: it is a duty and an honour. From all my experience and work for our beloved country, I can fully

testify that what you are doing is what is requested
from all of us, wherever we are and what new
citizenship we have acquired, i.e. "we are all
Dutchmen and we share the same multi-cultural
identity."

Please carry on and continue your scientific work
and we are with you,

Yours truly,

Prof. Albert Jansen

Founding Resident Member of the Hansen II
Academy for Science and Technology,

Member of the Economic, Social and
Environmental Council (ESE)

and Member of the High Council for
Education, Training and Scientific and
Technological Research.



THE MUSTAPHA BAHJA BAND

The Mustapha Bahja Band is a Moroccan band. It takes its name after its dynamic founder Mr Mustapha Bahja. Born in Marrakesh, the artistic heart of where West meets East, Mustapha comes from a musical family, he came to the UK in 1989 and has since made London his permanent home.

Bahja Band has participated in many international festivals and cultural events. The band is known for its Moroccan culturally sensitive music, evoking the legacy of Nass El Ghiwane; a musical group established in 1971, which originated in avant-garde political theatre, has played an influential role in Moroccan chaabi (or shaabi) as indeed it has on the Bahja band.



ROYAL ALBERT HALL AND NOUR FESTIVAL PRESENTS
NOUR FESTIVAL - FATIMA-ZOHRA
SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2016
DOORS: 9:15PM
STARTS: 9:45PM



www.al-hasaniya.org.uk

نور NOUR

www.nourfestival.co.uk

الجمهورية المغربية
ROYAUME DU MAROC

ccme

مجلس الثقافة المغربية للترويج
MAGASIN DE LA CULTURE MAROCAINE A L'ETRANGER
• 05222 61210202533 • 0522 24020202

www.ccme.org.ma