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THE PRIME MINISTER

I send my warmest wishes to everyone observing the holy month of Ramadan. I know what an incredibly important and special time of year this is for Muslims in Britain and around the world.

Ramadan is when the spirit of giving comes to the fore and I am so proud when I hear, every year, about the generosity and acts of kindness from Muslim communities that help others in need at home and overseas.

The holy month is a time for contemplation, to fast, and to pray, and to think deeply about others. This Ramadan, I hope that we can reflect upon a key aspect of our shared history: the bravery of those who fought and died for our freedoms nearly 100 years ago.

Just days after Eid, we will be marking 100 years since the First World War where many thousands of Muslims travelled from the sub-continent to fight to defend our freedom. They were guided and sustained by their bravery, comradeship and above all, by their faith. So this Ramadan, and this centenary, we will remember them and reflect upon their sacrifice.

Finally, Ramadan is a time for community, where people come together with friends and family to mark the nightly iftars. Last year it gave me enormous pleasure to see how many community iftars were taking place across the country, and I am delighted that the Government will again be supporting the *Big Iftar* programme with hundreds more communities coming to together to break bread and get to know their neighbours.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Britain's Muslim communities for everything they do for our country. You make an immensely positive contribution in so many ways and I am delighted that some of the very best aspects of Muslim life will be celebrated side-by-side with other communities across the country.

So wherever you are this holy month I wish you Ramadan Mubarak.

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