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Centre for Turkey Studies

Building bridges between Turkey and the UK

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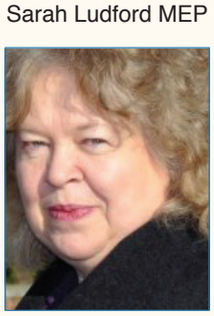
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the Labour Party Leader Ed Miliband

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present to you, on behalf of the volunteers of the Centre for Turkey Studies, our second report of activities.

It is remarkable what the Centre for Turkey Studies has achieved over the last two years, especially as its activities are organised by a team of volunteers and very limited funding. The centre's work is funded via fundraising dinners and donations from individual members of the community living and working in the UK.

Thanks to the ceaseless outreach-activities across communities and partnership with various institutions in Turkey and the UK, the Centre for Turkey Studies has managed to invite top experts from across Turkey and the UK to discuss timely matters pertaining to Turkey's domestic politics, foreign policy, social changes and economic future. To date, over 90 top speakers, panelists and senior guests have contributed to the Centre's wide range London-based policy forums, receptions and networking dinners.

Our flagship event, the monthly Centre for Turkey Studies Westminster Debate which is hosted in the Houses of Parliament by members of parliament from all political parties, attracts consistently over 100 interested guests from the British public.

We still have a long way to go and I hope that this report demonstrates the Centre for Turkey Studies is making good progress. The key challenge to the work of the centre has been the issue of raising funds for its projects and that still remains to be a challenge. We therefore urge you to make a donation to the centre so that we can continue our work. A donation can be made online via **www.ceftus.org.**

I would like to thank, first of all, the centre's volunteers, taking so much initiative themselves, and working extremely hard to meet goals and deadlines. I thank in particular to the members and supporters for their strong support given to the centre. And last but not least, the Centre for Turkey Studies thanks the advisory board members and institutions for volunteering your time and supporting the centre.

Ibrahim Dogus
Founder and Director,
Centre for Turkey Studies

"It is remarkable what the Centre for Turkey Studies has achieved over the last two years, especially as its activities are organised by a team of volunteers and very limited funding."

Anglo-Turkish relations have taken on a new significance in the past two years with the signing of the strategic partnership in 2010 and the Turkish President's State visit to Britain in November 2011. With hundreds of thousands of Turks, Kurds and Turkish Cypriots and thousands of Turkish businesses here, the Turkish community is hugely important in Britain. Our deepening bilateral relationship contributes directly to our prosperity and security.

As Britain aims to strengthen its links with Turkey, and help the country work towards EU accession, the role of the Centre for Turkey Studies (CTS) remains as important as ever.

That is why an organisation like the CTS – the first Turkey-focused policy forum in London – has such an important role to play. I welcome the Centre's focus on relations between Turkey and Britain, and on Turkish, foreign affairs, economic issues and social developments. The Centre has made great leaps over the past year, growing in size and influence very quickly. Its Westminster Forum series in Parliament has been particularly impressive.

As Britain aims to strengthen its links with Turkey, and help the country work towards EU accession, the role of the CTS remains as important as ever. I am convinced that the organisation will continue to go from strength to strength and I wish every-one attending this special anniversary dinner an enjoyable evening.

Best wishes,

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

"As Britain aims to strengthen its links with Turkey, and help the country work towards EU accession, the role of the CTSD remains as important as ever."

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister and
Leader of the Conservative Party

*We were unable to receive the PM's message for the centre in time for the print run. Above is PM's message for 1st anniversary dinner. Please check ceftus.org for further updates.

I am delighted to be here and would like to congratulate the Centre for Turkey Studies and Development (CTS) on a successful first year. The work that you do plays a crucial role in highlighting the important relationship between Turkey and the UK and the contribution of the Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot communities to Britain.

The Liberal Democrats are proud to have as one of our Peers Baroness Hussein-Ece, the first Turkish Cyrpiot woman to be a member of either Houses of Parliament. Meral has worked closely with Ibrahim Dogus, a founder of the CTS, for a long time and has been very active within the Turkish community in London, including helping to establish the first Turkish Women's Group.

I congratulate the Centre for Turkey Studies and Development on its efforts over the last year to strengthen relationships, promote debate and become a source of expert knowledge as the first Turkey-focused policy forum in the UK.

There is a highly entrepreneurial Turkish community here in London with many thriving businesses that continue to grow and reinvest. The CTS does an important job of promoting this contribution and tonight sees us celebrate this, displaying just how the CTS are able to bring together people from a variety of backgrounds who share an interest in Turkey's development and its relationship with the UK. Furthermore the CTS Community Award is a fantastic initiative to recognise the contribution made by particular individuals and groups.

I congratulate the Centre for Turkey Studies and Development on its efforts over the last year to strengthen relationships, promote debate and become a source of expert knowledge as the first Turkey-focused policy forum in the UK.

Best wishes,

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats

*We were unable to receive the Deputy PM's message for the centre in time for the print run. Above is PM's message for 1st anniversary dinner. Please check ceftus.org for further updates.

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats Party

"I congratulate the Centre for Turkey Studies and Development on its efforts over the last year to strengthen relationships, promote debate and become a source of expert knowledge as the first Turkey-focused policy forum in the UK."

I want to congratulate the Centre for Turkey Studies on your second anniversary.

I know that over the last two years, Ibrahim and his team have worked incredibly hard to raise the profile of the centre and strengthen links between Britain and Turkey. This is particularly valuable now, as Turkey shows increasing economic and diplomatic confidence and as we have vibrant Turkish and Kurdish communities here in Britain. When Labour was in government we worked to retain good relationships between Britain and Turkey and we strongly supported Turkey's accession to the EU. I am fully committed to continuing to strengthen the bonds between our two nations and I acknowledge the work the Centre does in helping to support this.

I wish the Centre for Turkey Studies and all the best for another successful year.

Ed Miliband

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Leader of the Labour Party

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Leader of the Labour Party

> "I am fully committed to continuing to strengthen the bonds between our two nations and I acknowledge the work the Centre does in helping to suport this."

As we recover from the current economic crisis, the case for a strong bilateral partnership between Britain and Turkey has intensified over the last 12 months. Turkey is one of the world's fastest growing economies and driven by its young and entrepreneurial workforce, it is forecast to be one of the world's top ten economies by 2050. Our commercial relationship with Turkey is strong and growing, supported by business networks such as the UK-Turkey CEO Forum, which will help deliver a doubling in bilateral trade by 2015.

Our partnership is also built around shared interests in security and defence where we cooperate closely in NATO to establish stability in Afghanistan and the Western Balkans. On Syria, Turkey has played an important role in intensifying the international pressure on the Assad regime and few countries are better placed to influence events across North Africa and the Middle East where the situation remains uncertain.

It is within this context that organisations such as the Centre for Turkey Studies make an important contribution. In providing a forum for debating foreign affairs, economic issues, and social developments in Turkey and the region, the Centre for Turkey Studies is helping to strengthen the myriad ties between Britain and Turkey at a governmental, commercial, cultural, and educational level. I applaud the work of the Centre for Turkey Studies since its founding two years ago and I look forward to its important contribution in the coming years.

Rt Hon William Hague MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

"In providing a forum for debating foreign affairs, economic issues, and social developments in Turkey and the region, the Centre for Turkey Studies is helping to strengthen the myriad ties between Britain and Turkey at a governmental, commercial, cultural, and educational level.

I am delighted to offer, on behalf of Labour's foreign affairs team, my congratulations the Centre for Turkey Studies on its second anniversary.

Our team will continue to work, as Labour did in government, to support Turkey's accession to the EU. Through the work of our Westminster and Brussels' based team, in partnership with Labour Friends of Turkey, we will continue to push for progress on this front and advance the case for Turkey's EU membership, as well as advancing a deeper understanding of Turkey and its relationship with the UK.

The Centre for Turkey Studies will provide a very welcome contribution to this ongoing debate and I look forward to having opportunities to work together in the future.

I wish the Centre for Turkey Studies the best of luck in launching this important and significant endeavour.

Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP,
Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

"The Centre for Turkey Studies will provide a very welcome contribution to this ongoing debate and I look forward to having opportunities to work together in the future."

Dear Mr Dogus

I am happy to provide the following message of support for the Centre for Turkey Studies' anniversary reception:

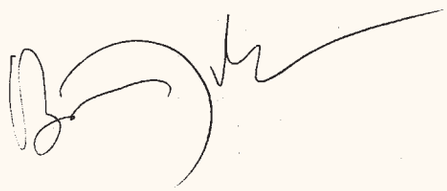
"London is home to many a community and it is no surprise that so many Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriots have chosen to make London their home, bringing with them skills, experience and a unique savvy that has enriched and transformed life in the capital in so many wonderful ways.

With London having such a sizeable Turkish-heritage community, it is wholly appropriate that the first Centre for Turkey Studies (CTS) is located in the capital, and I welcome the organisation's efforts to focus on Turkey and United Kingdom relations on economic issues, foreign affairs and social developments in Turkey and the region.

There is little doubt that since its establishment, the CTS has enabled Londoners to discuss a range of subjects linked to Turkey and the UK via its forums, round tables and panel. I welcome all such conversations as they enable us explore an increasingly important relationship.

With all this in mind, I very much hope that the anniversary reception is enjoyed by all, and I wish the CTS every success in its ongoing work."

Yours sincerely



Boris Johson
Mayor of London

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

"There is little doubt that since its establishment, the CTS has enabled Londoners to discuss a range of subjects linked to Turkey and the UK via its forums, round tables and panel."

Mission

The Centre for Turkey Studies is an independent and non-partisan organisation inaugurated in April 2011 with the support of Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg in London.

The centre aims to serve as a Turkey-focused public policy forum for the British public and its communities originating from Turkey, and to create a dialogue between experts from Turkey and the UK with the aim to build bridges between the two countries and their peoples.

The centre provides an open forum promoting expert opinions and debates focusing on Turkey and UK relations, foreign affairs, economic issues and social developments in Turkey and the region. The centre hosts experts, leading politicians, academics and opinion formers from Britain, Turkey and beyond.

As a policy forum, the Centre for Turkey Studies organises monthly speaker series, panel discussions, round tables and dinner events in the British Parliament, think tanks, academic institutions and the City of London.

In addition, it conducts case studies at the requests of think tanks, public institutions and the private sector interested in questions related to the economic, political and social development of Turkey and the region.

Objectives

1. To host forums, round tables and panel discussions dealing with subjects related to the analysis of Turkey's:
   - Domestic politics, foreign affairs and economic development;
   - Accession process to the European Union;
   - Relationship with the UK, EU, Middle East and North Africa, Black Sea region, Central Asia and the Caucasus;
   - Increasing geostrategic importance as energy conduit to Europe;
   - Changing society and the role of Islam for democracy and secularism;
   - Civil society, human rights and minority issues
   - Potential as role model for the Islamic world;
   - Diaspora communities and their economic, social and political relationship with their countries of origin.
2. To create contacts and strengthen relationships between experts, politicians and opinion-formers from Turkey, Britain and Europe, and between migrant communities and the majority population.
3. To work in conjunction with governments, think tanks, research and media institutions, NGOs and the private sector.
4. To conduct case studies and research at the request of institutions, public bodies, governments and corporations and provide expert opinions on the economic, political and societal development of Turkey and the region.
5. To publish conference reports, policy briefs and recommendations concerning Turkey and the neighbouring region.
6. To act as a non-party political and non-governmental institution with the aim of providing expert opinion and advice.

1st Anniversary Reception and Dinner

The Centre for Turkey Studies launched by Nick Clegg in London in April 2011 celebrated its 1st anniversary at the famous Park Lane Sheraton Hotel in April 2012. The centre also hosted the first Community Achievement Awards at the event.

The Community Achievement Awards aims to improve solidarity among Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot communities as well as promoting successful individuals and institutions as good role models for the younger generations and aspiring new businesses. The awards ceremony held in April 2012 in Park Lane Sheraton Hotel was attended by a great number of politicians, business people, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Among them were the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, Baroness Meral Hussein Ece OBE, columnists Cengiz Candar, Ali Bayramoglu, Amberin Zaman, Hilal Kaplan, and Aykan Erdemir MP for Bursa. The evening hosted more than 500 eminent guests.

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Community Achievement

Male Business Role Model:
Ahmet Akdogan

Health:
Dr Teoman Sirri

Politicians:
Handan Ozbek

Female Business Role Model:
Vildan Yetisal

Female Business Role Model:
Sehriban sonmez

Female Business Role Model:
Handan Ozbek

Most Charitable Person of the Year:
Aligul Ozbek

Male Business Role Model:
Tuncel Nalbantoglu

Most Inspiring Non-Profit Organisation:
IMECE

Most Inspiring Non-Profit Organisation:
DERMAN

Awards 2011 - 2012

ceftus.org

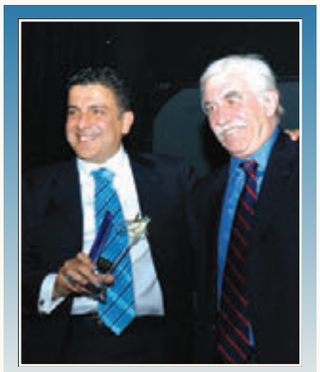
Faith-based Community Organisations:
Alevi Kultur Merkezi (Centre for Alevi Culture) & Cemevi
Israfil Erbil

Business of the Year Award:
Turkish Food Centre - Huseyin Ucar

Academic of the Year:
M. Kemal Beyazit

Media and Press:
Halil Yetkinoglu

Sports Person of the Year:
Turgut Esendagli



Jury Special Award:
Nural Ezel

Male Business Role Model:
Onder Sahan

Life Achievement Awards - Senior Role Model:
Nafiz Bostanci

Year's Most Inspring Educater:
Ertanc Hidayettin

Jury Special Award:
Sabire Camgoz

Arts and Culture:
Cigdem Aslan

Male Business Role Model:
Ali Guryel

2nd Anniversary

The Centre for Turkey Studies has operated ceaselessly since its launch in 2011 and initiated various events.

The Centre for Turkey Studies inaugurated Community Achievement Awards in 2011 where successful individuals and businesses from communities originating from Turkey and Cyprus are supported by recognizing their achievements and contributions to the British society.

The centre launched British Kebab Awards in 2013 with the support of Nadhim Zawahi Conservative MP in the British Parliament. The awards aim to celebrate the years long contribution of the kebab businesses to the British economy and help change the unfair image for the kebab businesses as 'food after a drunken night-out' to a respectable and healthy food alternative in London and elsewhere in the country.

The centre organised monthly 'Westminster Debates' in the British Parliament where a panel of keynote speakers from Turkey and Britain discuss issues regarding Turkey's domestic and foreign affairs. The debates have become a platform for everyone interested in Turkey to find out expert opinions on issues, and join the debates and express views.

The centre held joint forums with London based think tanks and academic institutions.

The centre organised community events such as receptions in the British Parliament and dinner events where communities can gather to socialise and network.

The Centre for Turkey Studies is the first Turkey-focused policy forum and think tank based in London and continues building bridges between Turkey and Britain since its launch in 2011. The Centre for Turkey Studies as an independent and non-partisan organisation has an exclusively objective approach in conducting its work and activities.

Community Achievement Awards 2012 - 2013

The Centre for Turkey Studies will host the 2nd Community Achievement Awards at this year's anniversary event.

The nominations suggested by the public for the second Community Achievement Awards will be determined by a jury of eminent members of the communities. Among them are Baroness Ece OBE, councillors Dogan Delman, Yasemin Brett, Dilek Dogus, business people Mustafa Topkaya, Hasan Dikme, Turhan Ozen, Enver Kannur, Aligul Ozberk, Sadan Gurses, Isil Guler, Siddik Bakir, and Professor Ibrahim Sirkeci and Dr Ipek Demir.

The Centre for Turkey Studies proudly presents the nominees and the categories for the Community Achievement Awards 2012 - 2013

Community Award for Female Role Model

Aydin Turkan
Emma Edhem
Serap Pollard
Sadiye Arslan
Emel Bostanci
Sule Kangulec
Cigdem Beykoylu
Gulay Icoz
Ayfer Orhan
Suna Uzum
Dr Celia Jenkins
Pervin Saglik

Community Award for Male Role Model

Ismail Demir
Ahmet Durmus
Ali Demirbag
Gursel Aksu
Tahsin Ibrahim
Ahmet Oykener
Erkan Tarim
Israfil Erbil
Yusuf Cicek
Ali Matur

Professional Categories:

Media
Faruk Zabci
Yilmaz Ozyigit
Nevsal Elevli
Mihrisah Safa
Ismail Karakas
Semih Ozyigit
Kemal Erdemol
Mahir Tan
Raziye Akkoc
Figen Gunes

Digital Agency
Emre Egesel

Arts and Culture
Serap Pollard,
Sumer Erek
Huseyin Caglayan
Arzu Kara
Yesim Guzelpinar
Dogan Ors
Ali Haydar Yesilyurt
Burak Gulsen

Politics
Ertan Hurer
Ayfer Orhan
Nilgun Canver
Ahmet Karahasan
Yusuf Cicek

Education
Deniz Konca
Kelami Dedezade
Aydin Mehmet Ali
Nurcan Ozcelik
Nadide Koroglu
Dr Erdal Turkbeyler
Umit Cetin

Science and Innovation
Profesor Esen Bayar
Binali Dikme

Legal Service
Serpil Ersan
Ibrahim Sal
Emel Bostanci
Ayhan Yalcin
Erdogan Dervis

Civil Service
Yashar Ismailoglu

Retail
Yasar Halim
Taylan Cavus
Kemal Ucar
Mustafa Suleyman
Veyis Acil
Vildan Yetisal
Mehmet Goztas
Erdal Aktas

Food
Mem Laz
Antepliler
Kervan Restauran

Financial Services / Accountancy
Munir Tatar
Altan Kemal
Aysel Enguzekli
Haydar Ulus
Mehmet Kemal

Property / Estate Agents
Dream Moves
Easy Properties
Range Homes
Fileys Properties
Kingsly Properties

Wholesalers / Suppliers
Hasan Ayrancioglu
Ahmet Durmus
Firat Mayil
Altan Gultekin
Erkan Tarim
Mehmet Duman
Ali Matur
Ali Sancak
Erol Ozkan
Ekmel Kaya
Oktay Gokyildirim
Metin Pekin

Manufacturing
Cafer Mahiroglu
Huseyin Karaman
Binali Dikme

Best Employee
A to Z
Euro Med
JJ Fast Food
TFC supermarkets
Tas restaurants

Young Entrepreneur
Asaf Karakus
Huseyin Osoy
Nihat Ozdal
Firat Mayil

Health
Dr Teoman Sirri

Non-profit Organisation Award

Balik Arts
Hackney Cypriot Centre
IMECE
Daymer
Pazder
Bozcader

Lifelong Achievement Award

Sefik Mehmet
Cahit Baylav
Dr Ziya Radman
Ozkul Beyzade
Tuncel Nalbantoglu

Turkey's Path to A New Constitution: Possibilities and Obstacles

With Professor Fuat Keyman of Sabanci University and Professor Levent Koker of Atilim University

December 2012,
the House of Commons

Chaired by Oksana Antonenko, Senior Political Counsellor at EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a panel with expert speakers who analysed the necessity for a new constitution, the process of the parliamentary negotiations to draft a new constitution and the potential outcomes a new constitution can have in advancing Turkey's democratic reforms. Professor Keyman emphasized the significance and the urgency of Turkey's first potential civil constitution. He argued that a new constitution should ensure equality first and foremost and individual rights as well as freedoms for its diverse peoples and pluralistic society. Professor Koker analysed some articles regarding Turkish-ness in the current constitution and argued that the constitution reflects a nationalist approach rather than a democratic and inclusive constitution. Koker also indicated that the current constitution enables only centralised governance; however democratisation requires decentralisation in order for local democratic movements to succeed.

Syria and Turkey's Foreign Policy

With Mike Gapes Labour MP for Ilford South, Columnist Kadri Gursel of Turkish daily Milliyet and Dr Bill Park of King's College

November 2012, the House of Commons

Chaired by Siobhain Mc Donagh Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a panel with eminent speakers who examined the conflict in Syria and Turkey's foreign policy regarding Syria. Mike Gapes MP analysed the Syrian uprising and the UN, Britain and France's response to the brutal conflict in Syria. Kadri Gursel outlined Turkey's policy on Syria and argued that Turkey expected the Syrian regime to be toppled within months, hence provided support publicly for the opposition. Gursel further argued that Turkey approached Syria with interventionist aims rather than democratic values. Dr Bill Park analysed the role of the Kurdish minorities in the region and suggested that Turkey signals a move towards backing opposition against the Syrian Kurds in addition to the Assad regime.

Religion, Society and Politics in a Changing Turkey

With Muslum Sari CHP MP for Istanbul, Guven Karatas Istanbul CHP Provincial Vice-President, Professor Dr Istar Gozaydin of Dogus University and Dr Bill Park of King's College

October 2012,
the House of Commons

Chaired by
Solicitor Sadiye Arslan LLB

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a panel with CHP politicians and academics who examined the role of religion in the formations of society and politics in Turkey. Muslum Sari indicated the financial and social restrictions that the Alawite community experiences due to the state-led policies and that the AKP government reflects a more sectarian approach against non-Sunnis in Turkey. Dr Istar Gozaydin suggested that the Department of Religious Affairs was built to establish and ensure the state's presence and role in the social organisation of religion and Sunni understanding of Islam is preeminent in the state's policies. Dr Bill Park analysed the increasing conservatism of the government and argued that the governing party came to power as a reaction against years of oppression on religion and religious people in Turkey.

Power and Authority

With Journalist and Political Scientist Nuray Mert

September 2012,
the House of Commons

Chaired by Journalist Murat Ozcelik

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a forum with the acclaimed journalist and scientist Nuray Mert. Mert examined the issue of freedom of expression and restrictions on rights and liberties in Turkey. She suggested that the governing party, AKP, was promising in regards to ensuring religious liberties, especially removing the ban on wearing headscarf in public places. However, she continued, the government has represented a contradictory attitude when politically criticized and challenged. She argued that there are many people including journalists and students who have been imprisoned purely for political reasons by the government. Hence, she added, the power that the government achieved by democratic elections has not produced freedom of expression for all, but dictatorship for the centre. Mert further argued that the 'Kurdish problem' would only besolved with peaceful negotiations with BDP (Peace and Democracy Party) and PKK, and without treating the Kurdish issue as a terrorism issue. Lastly, Nuray Mert analysed Turkey's approach towards the Syrian conflict in relation to Kurdish minorities in the region.

The Balcony of Authority:
A Brief History of the New Regime in Turkey

With Author and Journalist
Ece Temelkuran

May 2012,
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London

Chaired by
Professor Dr Ibrahim Sirkeci,
Director of Regent's Centre for Transnational Studies

The Centre for Turkey Studies held a debate with Ms Ece Temelkuran who gave a fruitful explanation on the current political situation in Turkey. She also gave insightful analysis on PM Erdogan's so-called 'balcony speeches', conservatism in today's Turkish society, and evaluated both the current legal cases on "KCK" (Unions of Communities in Kurdistan) and the "Ergenekon".

The Condition of Alawis under 10 years of AKP Government

With Dr Aykan Erdemir
CHP MP for Bursa

May 2012,
the House of Commons

Chaired by
Eric Joyce MP for Falkirk

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a roundtable discussion with Turkish and British MPs. Dr Aykan Erdemir MP outlined the human rights violations that the Alawi community has experienced in Turkey and their struggles that they have undergone in order to achieve fundamental rights and freedoms. Erdemir suggested that the current governing party, AKP, has taken some steps towards improving the plight of the Alawis by organising various meetings and workshops.

However, he argued, the government's attempts demonstrated a lack of understanding Alawis and their causes as the government also invited the prime suspect of the 1978 Maras Alawi massacre, Okkes Sendiller, to the workshops.

Turkey's Foreign Policy:

Syria and its Kurds and Turkish Modernization, the Consolidation of Democracy and the Cult of Ataturk

With Journalist Amberin Zaman
of the Economist and HaberTurk
and Journalist Hilal Kaplan
of Turkish daily Yeni Safak

May 2012,
the House of Commons

Chaired by
Journalist Firdevs Robinson,
Senior Research Associate of the
Foreign Policy Centre

The Centre for Turkey Studies hosted a forum with two well-known journalists from Turkey. Mrs Zaman analysed Turkey's foreign policy regarding the Syrian conflict and the Kurdish minorities in the region. Mrs Kaplan examined the political transformation of Turkey in relation to the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Ataturk.

2011 - 2012 Westminster Debates

Democratization and Political Reforms in Turkey' with Veteran Journalist and Columnist Hasan Cemal of Turkish daily Milliyet and Columnist Bejan Batur of Turkish daily Zaman in January 2012

Leaving the mountains:
How may the PKK lay down arms? Freeing the Kurdish question from violence' with Journalist and Columnist Cengiz Candar in October 2011

Democratisation and Reforms in Turkey What future for Cyprus?' with Dr Ali Bayramoglu, Columnist, TV Broadcaster and Academic in December 2011

'Turkey's political reform process and its path towards a new constitution' with Dengir Mir Mehmet Firat, Former Deputy Leader of AKP in March 2012

Centre for Turkey Studies and Politics Exposed (LMU)

What the eye doesn't see: a national discourse on urban intervention, and Istanbul's changing landscape

February 2013, London Metropolitan University

The Centre for Turkey Studies in partnership with Politics Exposed (LMU) organised a public forum about the political reflections of urban planning models in Turkey, particularly Istanbul's. The keynote speakers were Atakan Guven of Space Syntax Ltd and Omer Cavusoglu of London School of Economics and Political Science. Guven analysed planning practice in Ankara and Istanbul since the late-Ottoman era and suggested a strong correlation between 'western inspired' nation-building and urban planning of these two major cities. Guven added that the 'turkification' policies and some political turning points affected Istanbul's urban planning. Cavusoglu examined the recent developments regarding Istanbul's regeneration project. He suggested that the change of some legislations and new laws enabled the construction companies to make profit whilst dismissing the environmental concerns of the city. He pointed out the extensive powers the politicians have in deciding the future of the city, and how the demands of the local communities have been ignored by officials in this process.

Centre for Turkey Studies and International Forum for Democracy and Peace (IFDP)

Can an emerging middle class offer a new order and the role of Turkish youth

January 2013,
the House of Commons

The Centre for Turkey Studies held a joint forum with IFDP. The founder and chairman of IFDP, Tuna Beklevic who was an advisor for the current Turkish minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bagis, was the keynote speaker. The event was hosted by the Labour MP Chris Williamson at the House of Commons and was chaired by Siddik Bakir of the Centre for Turkey Studies. Many guests from different communities attended the event.

Centre for Turkey Studies and Chatham House

Turkey and the Arab World: Ambition and Evolution

June 2012, Chatham House

The Centre for Turkey Studies held a joint event with world renowned think-tank Chatham House. The event was chaired by Sir David Logan KCMG, former British Ambassador to Turkey (1997-2001). The speakers were Mr Taha Ozhan - Director General of the SETA foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, Columnist Lale Kemal of daily Today's Zaman, Taraf and Jane's Defence Weekly, Dr Fuat Keyman-Director of the Istanbul Policy Centre and Mr Fadi Hakura - Associate Fellow at Chatham House.

Centre for Turkey Studies and Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Talking Turkey: Can Europe get on the same page?

April 2012, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

The Centre for Turkey Studies organised a round table discussion in collaboration with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) at the ISD offices in London, Mayfair. The participants were Jonathan Powell, former Downing Street Chief of Staff; Sasha Havlicek, Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD); Ivan Krastev, ISD Senior Adviser; Ann Wyman, Senior Adviser at Gatehouse and Cengiz Candar, veteran journalist and author from Turkey. The invitation only round table explored how the UK and the Europe might engage more coherently and strategically with Turkey beyond the parameters of the stalled EU accession process. The other participants of the round table included Dr. Tunc Aybak of Middlesex University; Katrin Bennhold of International Herald Tribune; Feryal Smith of Hackney City Council; Tina Fordham, Citigroup Director of Political Risk; Jordana Friedman, Deputy Director, Institute for Strategic Dialogue; Baroness Meral Ece, House of Lords; Jonathan Fryer, Lecturer at SOAS University; Stanley Johnson, retired politician; Philip Stephen, Assistant Editor at the Financial Times and Mustafa Topkaya, London-based entrepreneur.

Cengiz Candar Book Launch

February 2013

The eminent columnist and journalist Cengiz Candar launched his new book 'Mezopotamya Ekspresi: Bir Tarih Yolculugu' at an event at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) organised by the Centre for Turkey Studies. Former director of BBC Turkce, Mr Gamon Maclellan of SOAS chaired the event where Candar signed his new book for the guests and made a speech. Candar stated that the launch of the book has coincided with the MIT (the National Intelligence Organization) and Abdullah Ocalan meetings. He remarked that these meetings are very fragile and similar to dancing on the ice. The event attracted many guests from our communities.

British Kebab Awards

January 2013

The winners of the British Kebab Awards received their awards at a ceremony held in the British Parliament. The inaugural event sponsored by the Docklands Academy London were organised by the Centre for Turkey Studies British Kebab and Retail Awards. The event was hosted by Nadhim Zawahi Conservative MP.

Centre for Turkey Studies and IFDP Reception at the House of Commons

January 2013

London based Centre for Turkey Studies and the International Forum for Democracy and Peace (IFDP) organised a reception hosted by Conservative MP Nick De Bois in the British parliament.

Launch of the Centre for Turkey Studies website; www.ceftus.org at the House of Commons

September 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies, after having completed a successful year, has launched its new website in the British Parliament. The reception was hosted by Anas Sarwar MP for Glasgow in the Jubilee Room, House of Commons. The reception attracted a large audience from different communities. Emre Egesel, responsible for press and media relations at the Centre for Turkey Studies spoke about the new website. Egesel stated that the new website will allow the centre to reach out to larger audiences in Britain and Turkey. He also gave a short tour of the ceftus.org website.

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Centre for Turkey Studies Attends 'Global Turkey in Europe' Conference

November 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies attended the 'Global Turkey in Europe' conference jointly organised by many international organizations. A number of institutions including Stiftung Mercator from Germany, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAL) from Italy and Istanbul Policy Centre (IPC) from Turkey involved in the organisation of the conference which was held in German Marshall Fund's (GMF) Brussels Office. The director of the Centre for Turkey Studies, Ibrahim Dogus, attending the conference for the first time informed the participants of the centre's work.

Centre for Turkey Studies in Barcelona as a Guest of the European Commission

October 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies representing Turkey among 18 other countries joined the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) working group; one of the European Commission workshops. The two day long conference took place in Barcelona on the 10th and 11th October 2012. On behalf of Turkey, two associations participated in the conference: the Centre for Turkey Studies and Platform for Global Challenges.

Meeting with British Ministers

October 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies continues its hard work. Despite its very recent establishment, the centre has already organised important conferences and various events concerning the social, political and economic relations between Turkey and Britain.

Recently the centre's director attended the annual dinner organised by the Conservative Middle East Council (CMEC). In addition to many distinguished guests, more than 20 members of the parliament, members of the House of Lords and many ministers were present at the event. The director Ibrahim Dogus and one of the advisors of the Centre for Turkey Studies, Mustafa Topkaya, along with Huseyin Ucar with his spouse Sibel Ucar, Hasan Dogan with his spouse Lucia Dogan, Solicitor Sadiye Arslan, Journalist Aysegul Ekinci, Dan Byles Conservative MP and Lord Popat also attended the event.

The event commenced with president of CMEC Nicholas Soames and chairman of CMEC Baroness Morris' speeches emphasizing the economic and social relations that CMEC developed between Britain and Middle East countries.

The Centre for Turkey Studies representatives spoke with politicians about the centre's event and activities. Among them were Attorney General Dominic Grieve, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles, Adam Holloway MP, Nadhim Zawahi MP, Dan Byles MP and Lord Popat. The director of the Centre for Turkey Studies, Ibrahim Dogus, pointing out CMEC's important role in strengthening the social, economic and political relations between Britain and the Middle East, stated that the centre could work together with CMEC in the future.

Consul General of Turkey in London and the businessman Huseyin Ozer also attended the dinner organised by CMEC.

Meeting with Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper

November 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies carries on its events and activities. After meeting with Conservative ministers Eric Pickles and Dominic Grieve in recent weeks, the centre met with Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper at a dinner organised by Enfield Labour Party.

The dinner was held in the Aksular Restaurant located in Enfield. About 150 guests including many council members, Enfield Council leader Doug Taylor of the Labour Party, Andy Love MP for Edmonton, London City Council member Joanne McCartney as well as Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot council members Tahsin Ibrahim, Yusuf Cicek, Ayfer Orhan, Alev Cazimoglu attended the event. Mustafa Topkaya, Ibrahim Dogus, Chiara Rose Merrit and Yesim Gok on behalf of the Centre for Turkey Studies were present at the event.

The Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper made a speech at the event. She stated that Britain's economy is not growing due to the wrong policies of the coalition government and that the cuts enforced by the government threats social and economic life. She added that the Labour Party is working hard and preparing for the next elections.

Yvette Cooper speaking with Centre for Turkey Studies representatives about the recent developments in Turkey expressed that she closely follows the centre's work and hopes to regularly attend the centre's future events.

The director of the Centre for Turkey Studies, Ibrahim Dogus, speaking to our newspaper said that the Shadow Secretary Yvette Cooper is an important politician in the Labour Party. He added that they spoke with Yvette Cooper about the recent developments in Turkey and informed her of the upcoming events and activities.

Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Met with the Centre

December 2012

The Centre for Turkey Studies continues to meet esteemed British politicians. Ibrahim Dogus and Mustafa Topkaya of the Centre for Turkey Studies recently attended a dinner organized by the Labour Party of the Enfield Southgate region, and had the opportunity to exchange views with the Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Caroline Flint.

The dinner was held at Mozz Restaurant, one of the new restaurants of the Enfield Southgate region, by the Labour Party. Many business people and politicians including the prominent Enfield Council Leader Doug Taylor and former MP Joan Ryan attended the event. Many community representatives and business people attending the event comprised more than 100 guests. Among them were the distinguished Ali Matur, Mahir Kılıc, Hasan Dikme and Nafiz Bostanci of the communities.

Enfield Council Leader Doug Taylor made a speech on the services of the Enfield Council and the difficulties experienced due to the cuts. The Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Caroline Flint also made a speech in the event. She stated that Britain is suffering from serious problems due to the economic crisis and that the economy is not growing and unemployment continues to increase. Flint added that the coalition government, however, continues to aggravate the public's already difficult life with the cuts. She asserted that the Labour Party has been developing new policies in order to solve the problems due to the economic crisis and she urged everyone to join the Labour Party in forming new policies.

Caroline Flint having a private conversation with the Centre for Turkey Studies officials remarked that she closely follows the centre's work and that the centre has achieved an outstanding success with organized events and activities in relation to Turkey. She added that she would support the centre's work as much as possible.

Centre for Turkey Studies Met with the Labour Party Leader Ed Miliband

November 2012

Centre for Turkey Studies continues to meet Britain's important politicians. The centre met with the Labour Party leader Ed Miliband, Labour MP Tessa Jowel and many other politicians from the party. The director of the Centre for Turkey Studies, Ibrahim Dogus, and Mustafa Topkaya gathered with prominent business people who support the centre's work at an event in central London.

The Labour Party leader Ed Miliband urged the Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot communities to engage in politics more actively so as to let their voice to be heard. The director of the centre, Ibrahim Dogus, stated that there has been noticeable increase in party memberships from the Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot communities and that more and more people from our communities stand for various positions, hence there have been positive developments in the representation of our communities in politics.

The experienced Labour MP Tessa Jowel criticized the government in a brief speech she made in the event.

Special thanks to Felicity Kaya and Cigdem Aslan and bands for their musical performance

Istanbul - born Cigdem Asian sings in many languages and regional styles, In cluding Turkish, Kurdish, Greek, Bulgarian and Ladino, She has always enjoyed singing something integral to her family life. While studying English literature at Istanbul University, she regularly performed Rebetiko, Sephardic and other ethnic music of Turkey. In 2003 she moved to London and joined Dunav Balkan Group, which alongside various workshops broadened her repertoire and skills. In 2008 she was invited by Jim to sing with She'Koyokh. She is currently studying music at Goldsmith's University. In high demand for collaborations, European tours and cultural BBC radio and TV appearances she also tours her own project "Songs of Smyrna".

Felicity Kaya is one of Britain's most talented young female singer/songwriters at only 21 years old, she has mature cutting edge vocal qualities that match some of the greatest both old and new that inspire her, As well as having fantastic qualities Felicity has a really great outlook on music and culture. Which has helped her develop her unique and very enchanting way of singing. Having a father from Turkey and mother from England has given her the amazing opportunity from both cultures. Her music is fusion of Jazz style singing, Latin beat and soulful lyrics.

To find out more about Felicity please check her out of YouTube Felicity Kayo and follower on twitter feticitykaya1 and on Facebook Felicity Kaya.

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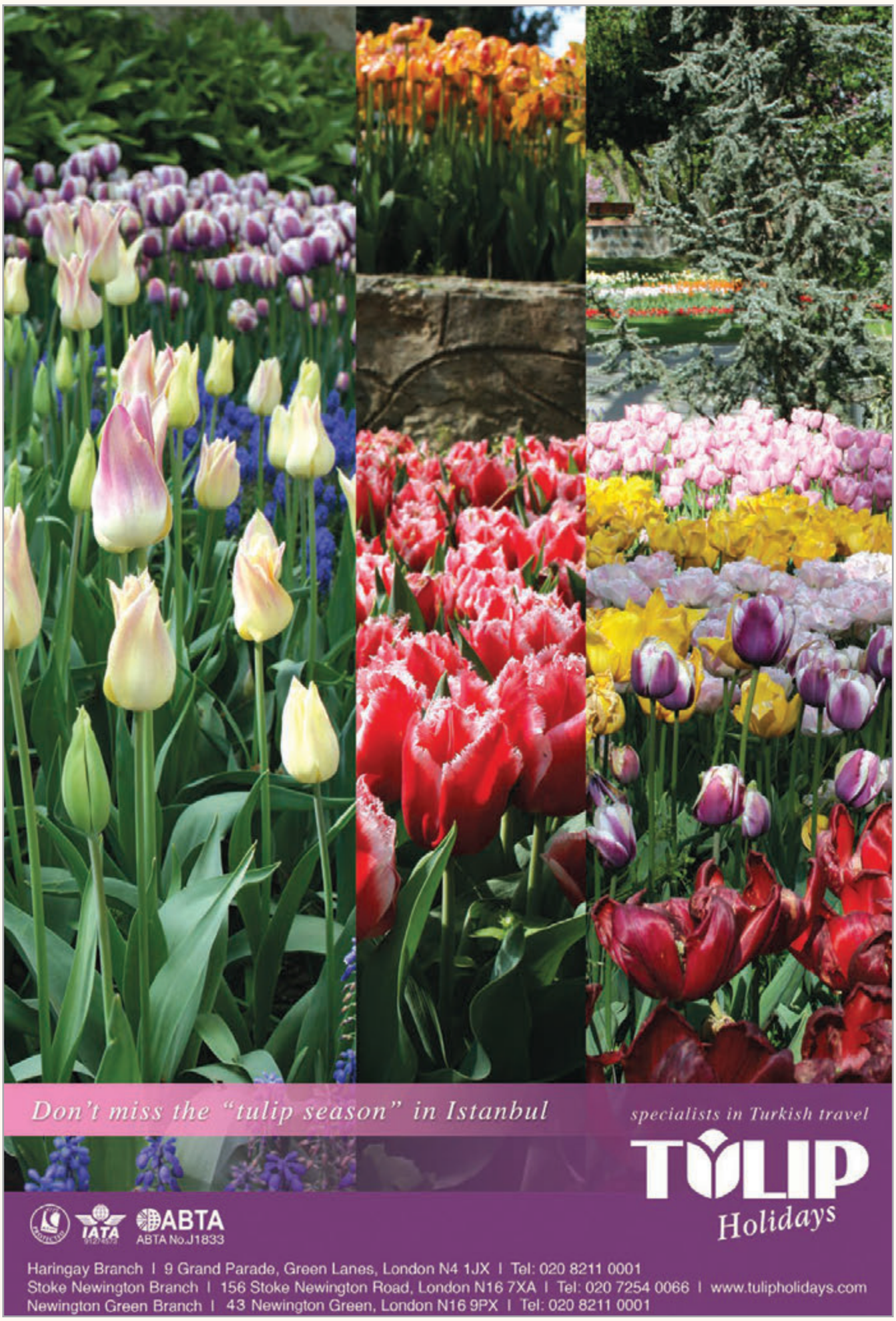
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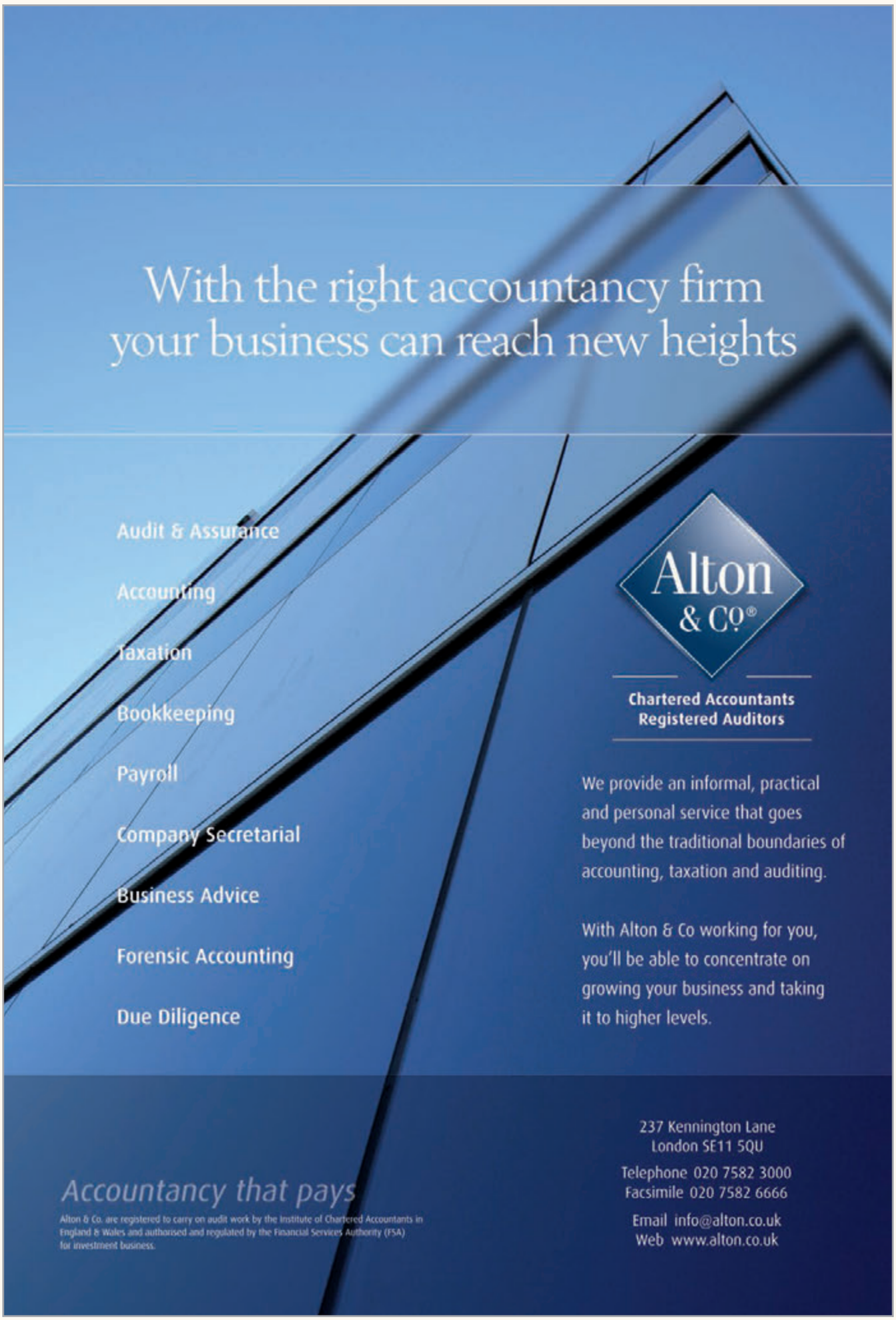
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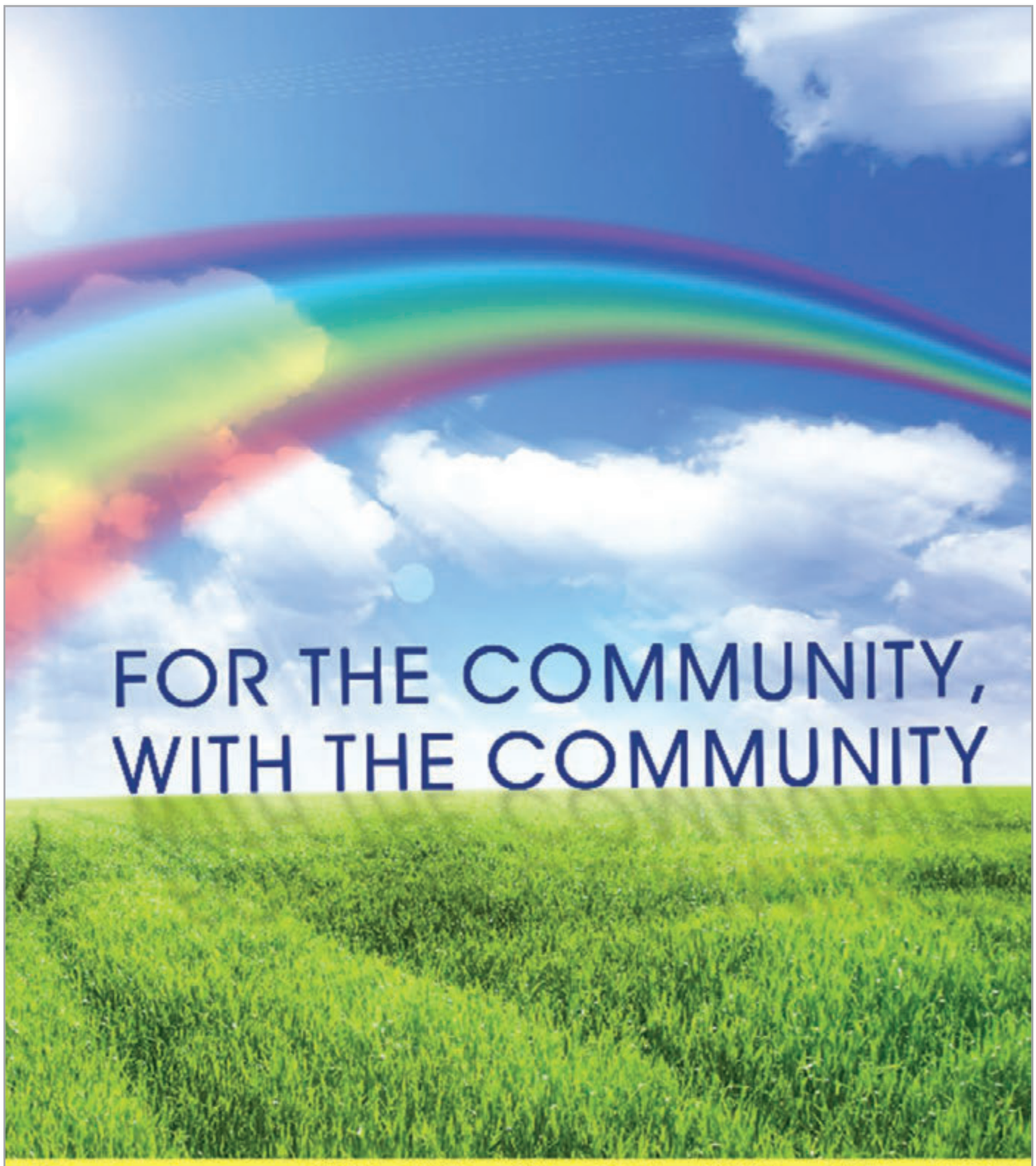

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