
Date: January 12, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of **Taghyeer**, the founding organization of the *We Love Reading* (WLR) initiative, we are pleased to express our strong support for the partnership between Taghyeer and the **Young Leaders Academy (YLA)** in implementing the *We Love Reading South Africa* program.

Established in Amman, Jordan in 2006, WLR was created to cultivate a love of reading for pleasure among children by training local volunteers to become Reading Ambassadors who build “living libraries” in their own communities. Today, WLR operates in over **80 countries**, having trained more than **8,600 ambassadors** and reached **over 570,000 children worldwide**.

We are encouraged by the strong early results of the South African pilot led by **Adv. Mahomed Vahed** and the Young Leaders Academy. To date, the program has:

- Trained **55 volunteer Reading Ambassadors**
- Conducted approximately **28 read-aloud sessions**
- Reached **over 250 children**
- Distributed **1,100 age-appropriate books**
- Established **55 living libraries** in under-resourced communities

These outcomes reflect a compelling model of **faith-inspired leadership translated into inclusive social impact**. While rooted in the Qur’anic imperative of *Iqra*, the South Africa program serves children of all faiths and backgrounds — demonstrating how Islamic values can drive solutions that uplift society as a whole.

We commend YLA's community-anchored approach, working in partnership with Islamic NGOs and Early Childhood Development Centres to identify, train, and support volunteers. This structure ensures both **local ownership and accountability**, strengthening the sustainability of the program as it scales.

Taghyeer views this collaboration as a values-aligned and strategic partnership. We believe the *We Love Reading South Africa* initiative has strong potential to become a **national literacy movement**, advancing not only educational outcomes but also a new model of Muslim philanthropy that is impactful, measurable, and lasting.

We therefore offer our full endorsement of the Young Leaders Academy's application and look forward to the continued growth of this partnership in service of children, families, and communities across South Africa.

Sincerely,

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