

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 March 2005

NUT welcomes Appeal Court ruling on Muslim dress at school

Commenting on the Court of Appeal ruling that Shabina Begum was unlawfully excluded from school for wearing traditional Muslim dress, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“It is important that schools respect the religious traditions of the communities represented among their pupils. There is no reason why the colour of any school’s uniform, for example, cannot be used for the jilbab.

“Schools have to take account of genuine health and safety concerns in subjects such as science or physical education but answers can be found to these practical problems.

“The NUT will be issuing guidance to its members in the near future on the jilbab in schools. That guidance has been drawn up following consultation with the Muslim Council of Great Britain, the Institute of Race Relations, the General Teaching Council, head teachers, local authorities and others.”

E N D

PR13/05

For further information contact: Olive Forsythe tel: 020 7380 4706 (office) 020 8313 1692 (weekday evenings) or if all else fails, 07879 480061.