

MUSLIM COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS



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FRIDAY 21 JULY 2023 — LONDON MUSLIM CENTRE

Seeking social and spiritual renewal

Faith communities in the UK have a cherished record of providing value and hope to adherents and the wider society. The Muslim Community Association (MCA) is proud to be a part of the long historic tradition of faith based organisations in the UK and is playing a positive role in contributing towards a cohesive and thriving society.



mcasite.org

I N T H E N A M E O F A L L A H
T H E M O S T G R A C I O U S
A N D M O S T M E R C I F U L

Honourable guests, distinguished leaders and members of the Muslim Community Association, I greet you with the Islamic greetings,

*Assalamu 'alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.
May the Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon you.*

It is indeed my great honour and privilege to formally welcome you all to this auspicious occasion to celebrate the good work done in the community and in particular, by individuals whose services and dedication have helped improve the lives of many British Muslims. These individuals are not only known for promoting community cohesion, they also go out of their way to help the Muslim community deal with the impact of deprivation, health and social inequality. More importantly, they even take personal risks to confront the flood of Islamophobia that blights the lives of many here in the UK. We thank and commend them for their support and solidarity with the Muslim community.

This evening, we are gathered here to recognise some of these great individuals. Let me say from the outset that everyone that are nominated for tonight's awards are all winners especially because they have been noticed and have been nominated. They are all in fact ambassadors of dialogue, peace and community building and indeed are friends of the Muslim community. There are also many more out there - ordinary men and women that are on the side of justice and humanity and will do everything within them to stand up for that and we applaud them too.

The Muslim Community Service Awards (MCSA) and Gala Dinner this evening is the first of its kind hosted by the Muslim Community Association, and we would like to thank each of you for being here tonight to share this joyous occasion with us.

We would like to also thank our supporters and sponsors for this event. They include the Muslim Council of Britain, the UK Islamic Mission, and the Islam Channel. A special thanks to the East London Mosque and its chair Br Ayub Khan, who is here today, for kindly allowing us to use its venue today to host this programme.

MCA is a faith-based community organisation enshrined with the values of mainstream Islamic principles. The organisation and its members are dedicated to serving the

communities around them by promoting a middle-path understanding of Islam and its spiritual teachings, ideals and moral values. Its key objective is to strive for the pleasure of Allah (God) by worshipping Him and serving humanity. Above all, MCA is committed to community development which is key to building a peaceful, just and prosperous society.

Muslims are a significant part of the diverse makeup of the UK. According to the recent census, 18% of the overall population belongs to minority groups, of which 6.5% (more than one-third) are Muslims. However, 61% of Muslims in England and Wales live in the lowest 40% of areas in the country ranked by deprivation score.

We believe that the successful integration of Muslims into mainstream society is good for the country as a whole. More importantly and without wishing to become political, British Muslims long for greater integration in social, economic and political equality among fellow citizens. However, we strongly resist assimilation that demands shedding our religious and cultural attributes just to "fit in". Assimilation by definition, erases the characteristics of minority groups and enforces absorption into the majority culture - which is counter-productive in the medium and long term.

WELCOME



For Muslims, the responsibility to recognise the contribution of fellow citizens in helping the Muslim community is equally important. This is why we believe projects like the Muslim Community Service Awards will foster deeper understanding, remove prejudices and improve harmony, for our society's benefit.

Through our work, we have discovered many in our communities whose service for humanity benefits individual Muslims and our organisations. These people have genuine humanity that compels them to tackle issues of hate and divisions in the community. These individuals readily challenge and confront the peddlers of anti-Muslim hatred that manifests due to cultural and media distortion but also structural racism and inequality which fuel such sentiments. They ignore the personal risks and backlash that usually come with taking such bold stances.

Yet sadly, we feel they are not adequately recognised for their contributions, nor are many Muslims aware of them. Whilst many Muslim bodies recognise the services of Muslims, we have today set out to encourage Muslims to recognise the services of others. This awards ceremony is premised on the prophetic saying: "He who does not thank people does not thank God". So, we thank every one of you for your individual contributions.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in this Awards ceremony. We are pleased to have recognised your excellent work for humanity, irrespective of creed, background or race. Those of you who have not been successful this time around, are winners too - and your continued and selfless efforts are appreciated and recognised - we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

I would like to extend our gratitude to the nominators and the judges who worked diligently within a short time to adjudicate between the nominees. A special thanks to the organising committee of MCSA for their time and effort to put on this amazing event and for the first time - May Allah SWT bless all of you and reward you with the best both in this world and the next.

We are determined to continue with this initiative and make it a calendar event. We would welcome any feedback, ideas and support from you, and please forgive us for our shortcomings in the organisation of this event.

Musleh Faradhi

Convenor, Muslim Community Service Award (MCSA)
President, Muslim Community Association (MCA)

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Judges'

Dr Zahid Parvez BSc MSc MBA PhD FHEA CMgr MCM

Dr Zahid Parvez He has a BSc Degree in Chemical Engineering, an MSc in Information Technology and an MBA, all from Aston University, Birmingham.

After graduation, Parvez worked for a number of companies as a Chemical Engineer and a Software Developer before he joined the Wolverhampton Business School, in 1992, where he worked as a Senior Lecturer for 20 years.

During his work at the University, Parvez completed his doctorate in e-democracy from the University of Birmingham (in 2004). Currently he is a Chartered Manager and is a Fellow of Advanced HE (FHEA). He has also been an external examiner at a number of universities including Staffordshire, Hertfordshire and Wales. He had a brief stint as the Chief Executive at the Mutah Trust before moving into his present position as the Rector of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education in 2012.

Parvez was President of the Young Muslims between 1988-1990 and later joined the Islamic Society of Britain and was elected President between 1996-1998. He joined UK Islamic Mission in 1982 and was elected President between 2011-15. He has been a trustee in a number of charities, including The Islamic Foundation, Madina Trust, and Muslim Aid.

His book, *Building a New Society: An Islamic Approach to Social Change*, articulates the approach of the Prophets of Islam in building communities.

Mohammed Kozbar

Mohammed Kozbar is the Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) and the chairman of Finsbury Park Mosque (since 2005). He holds a Master's degree in Charity Management from St. Mary's University, London.

Kozbar is a member of the Islington Faiths Forum where he represents the Muslim Community in North London. He has been a member of the Islington Police Advisory Group (IAG) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) London Scrutiny and Involvement Panel.

He sits on the diversity panel for ITV London and he is a regular columnist for IB Times UK and the Middle East Eye.

Together with others, Kozbar helped create a vibrant mosque that is the Finsbury Park Mosque, which was previously hijacked by extremists. The mosque is today part of the Inter Faith Network and the Islington Faiths Forum.

Kozbar has initiated many projects to promote interfaith, community harmony and understanding, these include the Visit My Mosque Open Day, Street Iftars, and commemoration the Srebrenica Genocide.

Following a terrorist attack outside the mosque in June 2017, Kozbar engaged with government officials, including Prime Minister Theresa May, to identify policies to avoid future attacks.



Judge Belayeth Hussain

Judge Belayeth Hussain came to the UK in the early seventies, then aged 11. He grew up in the East End of London, completing his secondary education in Tower Hamlets. In keeping with the norm of his generation at the time, after leaving school he started work. However, in his early twenties, he became involved with the anti-racist movements, challenging such phenomenon as “paki bashing” (prevalent at the time), which inspired him to return to education.

Whilst studying part-time, Hussain obtained the position of counsellor at a national NGO where his employer permitted him to study for a degree in law. He then moved to private practice where he qualified as a Solicitor in 1998. In 2001, he was appointed an adjudicator. He now holds the position of Judge of the First-tier Tribunal. He is one of the first professional judges from the Bangladeshi community.

From the beginning of his engagement in anti-racist work, he has held positions in numerous charitable and voluntary organisations. Although constrained by his judicial office, he continues to play a significant role in the charitable and voluntary sectors.

Hussain enjoys travelling, he recently completed a cultural tour of Europe, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Croatia, Lithuania, Iceland, Norway and recently South Africa.



Dr Husna Ahmad OBE

Dr Husna Ahmad is the CEO of Global One 2015 which is a faith based International NGO focussed on women. She has recently been appointed an Associate Professor at the Department of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham.

She is a key Adviser of the newly inaugurated Global Muslim Business Forum (GMBF). She is a member of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development. She also sits on the Steering Committee of The World Bank’s Moral Imperative Initiative.

Ahmad is currently a Board member of Faith for the Climate and the Palmers Green Mosque, respectively. A member of the Women’s Faith Forum UK and an Executive committee member of Barnet Faiths Forum, Ahmad has been contributing to interfaith and community cohesion for decades. She is also a prominent international speaker, author and thought leader, focusing particularly on faith, gender and the environment.

Ahmad is the Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum and the Coordinator for the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANSSC). She received an OBE in the New Year’s Honours list in 2010 for her services to disadvantaged people and promoting social justice.



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What We Do, And Why

We are entirely independent, representing the broad Islamic ethos and traditions of our membership, through dynamic leadership that fulfils our organisational mission.

As a national umbrella organisation, our efforts are broadly divided into three overlapping directions. Locally, we support our affiliates to reach their goals; nationally, we offer a representative voice in external circles; and globally, we campaign for wider communities, including bringing focus to human rights issues.

MCB
MUSLIM COUNCIL
OF BRITAIN



Empowering Communities

We excel at leading community projects and initiatives around the country. Working at both a community and national level, we support British Muslims to reach their full potential.



Advocating For Equality

Our work makes a meaningful impact in the everyday lives of Muslims in Britain and overseas. Challenging bias, lobbying against human rights breaches and striving for a fairer society both home and abroad.



Celebrating Strengths

We work to champion the achievements of British Muslims and celebrate our mutual successes, so that together, we can grow stronger.



Creating A Bright Future

Working in communities, schools and businesses, we embrace Islamic principles to guide us toward a just and successful future.

Leon Silver

Winner Community Cohesion

Leon Silver is the president of East London Central Synagogue, also known as the Nelson Street Synagogue, which is set in the heart of London's East End, not far from the iconic East London Mosque. The Synagogue dates back to 19 August 1923, when the foundation stone was laid by B. Bernstein, the first President of the Synagogue.

A retired professional actor, Silver has been a lifelong activist, community organiser and a prominent advocate for the rights and freedom of marginalised and persecuted communities. He is known to have said that he wouldn't be here if his grandparents and his mother as a child hadn't been allowed into Britain as refugees. This was from the East European pogroms & dire poverty

before, during & after the First World War. Most relatives stayed, including his great grandfather, & were later to perish in the Holocaust. This is perhaps why he has been actively campaigning for refugee rights here in the UK, who are largely from Muslim backgrounds.

Silver regularly shares platforms to highlight the plight of Muslim refugees, victims of racism and Islamophobia, as well as the impact of the cost-of-living amongst the Muslim community and others.

He is a founding member of the United East End, which was formed against the backdrop of the English Defence League trying to target the Muslim community in Tower Hamlets, namely the East London Mosque. Silver was in the front-line resisting the fascists. Since 2012 and for several years after, Silver along with other faith leaders helped mobilise the community and they stood shoulder-to-shoulder in front of the East London Mosque to resist the EDL and Britain First from marching in front of the mosque. They declared in unison, "this is our mosque, and we are here to defend it!"

The Muslim Community Association was a major partner in the coalition that resisted the EDL in East London.

Silver is a founder member & Steering Group member of the Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum (THIFF), a representative of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, and an Advisory Group Member of Bow Food Bank, based in Tower Hamlets.

Silver has been a good friend of the Muslim community and is always ready to make time to attend meetings, protests and consultations. He is also a known and regular face in local mosques and community centres.

"Silver regularly shares platforms to highlight the plight of Muslim refugees, victims of racism and Islamophobia..."

Reasons for Nomination

Leon Silver is a good friend of the Muslim and an active community activist. He was a very active in protesting against the English Defence League when the repeatedly tried to march in front of the East London Mosque and other parts of the borough.

He regularly engages the Muslim community, offering his help and advice on community issues but also on strategic matters pertaining to community harmony and development.

He brings a Jewish perspective to issues of discussion and concerns, making it easy for members of other faiths, especially Muslim, to digest and contextualise. For example, whenever there are tensions in the Middle East, namely the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Silver is a voice of reason.

As someone whose four grandparents & mother came to the U.K. as refugees, he understands the plight Muslim refugees and the racism and Islamophobia Muslims suffer in Britain. Trying to give comfort and confidence to fellow Muslims in the local community, Silver explains that "Many of the problems the Bangladeshi community have faced are the same as the Jewish community." He has been helping fellow Muslim community members tackle these challenges and work for a more inclusive society.



Denis Hawes

Runner-up Community Cohesion

Dinny Hawes has been involved in small-scale community projects in developing countries for most of his working life. He has lived and worked in The Gambia, Yemen and Somalia. From the late 1970s until his retirement in 2004, he worked for an international development agency, Progressio, as its Director of International Programmes.

Hawes has been committed challenging poverty and inequality through practical skills-sharing and advocacy with local communities including in Latin America, South East Asia, southern Africa, Somalia and Yemen.

Hawes has worked with the prominent Muslim charity Muslim Aid where he developed policies both for the UK HQ and for its overseas programmes. He helped provide in-house training as well as forge links with other development agencies.

His contribution to upskilling and supporting Muslim communities in the developing countries and the Global South has been phenomenal. He continues to strive hard to ensure the rights of Muslims are protected and respected in the UK and abroad.

Since retirement, he has been engaged in community work through providing English language support for refugees and asylum seekers who are predominantly from Muslim background. Hawes has also worked

as an Amnesty International member, supporting victims of conflict and injustice such as in Palestine and the Middle East. He works with the Palestine Trauma Centre, helping victims of Israeli bombardment and aggression of the Palestinians, mainly in the besieged Gaza Strip. He has also been active in Fair Trade initiatives.

"His contribution to upskilling and supporting Muslim communities in the developing countries and the Global South has been phenomenal"

Reasons for Nomination

Hawes is a great friend of the Muslim community. His resume catalogues a lifetime commitment and help towards Muslim communities here and abroad. He has contributed significantly to strengthening Muslim organisations and professionals through training, policy support, fundraising and developing policies.

Hawes has been a great advocate of justice and fairness, especially for Muslim causes. Since his retirement, he has been actively working in support of Palestinian and Yemeni Muslims. He is the secretary of Palestine Trauma Centre, which is dedicated to supporting and improving the lives of Palestinian children traumatised by indiscriminate Israeli bombardment and conflict.

Hawes has been instrumental in forming a partnership between the Muslim Community Association and the Palestinian Trauma Centre at the height of the recent Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Hawes lifelong dedication and commitment to helping Muslim communities in the UK and abroad is deserving of this award.



Late Neil Jameson

Winner Community Engagement

Much loved and respected in life, when Neil Jameson sadly died from cancer in April this year, the outpouring of grief, condolences and homage to his lifelong contribution to helping others has been overwhelming. The reactions from the Muslim community have been particularly significant which is expected given Jameson's close work and support of Muslims in the UK. He was a stalwart of social justice, friend of the oppressed and a very competent community organiser who got things done.

Jameson dedicated over 50 years in the charity sector, and held senior posts including with Save the Children, the Children's Society and the Society of Friends. In 1989, he founded Citizens UK which continues to play a significant role in community organising and supporting local initiatives.

Muslim organisations, mosques and leaders have benefitted immensely from Jameson and Citizens UK. A faithful Quaker who sought peace with himself and others, he accepted and respected everyone's distinctiveness. He felt British Muslims were making significant contribution to society but sadly this was not being recognised. In 2016 he commissioned a comprehensive report into 'Islam, Participation and Public Life', which called for an end to the barriers stopping Muslims from engaging in public space.

Jameson has always worked hard to empower marginalised communities, especially Muslims. He articulated this

beautifully: "I am seeking a legacy of a stronger, more powerful, and better organised civil society, where people learn the necessity and advantages of working with others, to experience 'the art of politics' and 'organising for the common good'.

In 2004, The Guardian named Jameson as the UK's most significant public servant. His ground-breaking and inspiring legacy is the Living Wage campaign started in 2001, which resulted in £1bn in higher wages for low-income workers.

Jameson was a visionary who through the organisations he set-up and supported offered a model of a national mobilisation based on the principles of democracy, sharing, listening, building power and public action.

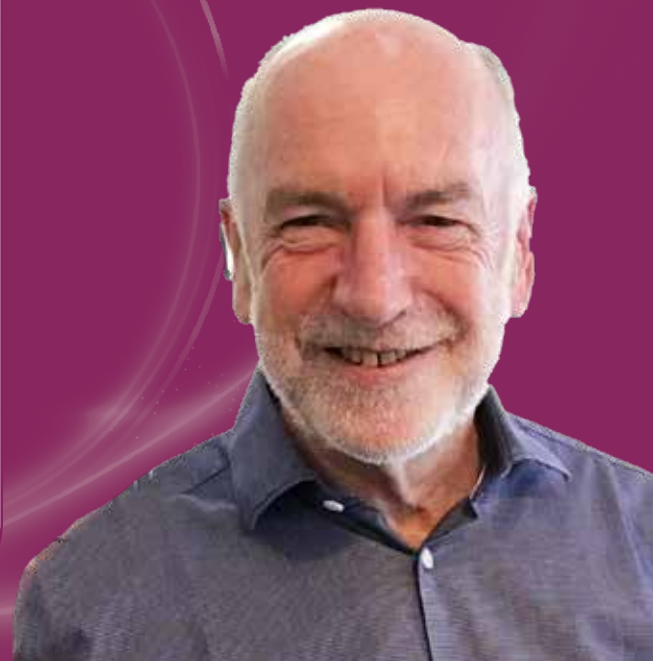
"always worked hard to empower marginalised communities"

Reasons for Nomination

In 2016, Jameson commissioned a comprehensive report into 'Islam, Participation and Public Life' which called for an end to the barriers stopping Muslims from engaging in public spaces. The report highlighted that Muslim community and faith leaders were retreating from public life, fearful they will be tarred with the same brush as extremists simply for having faith, for speaking out on issues of injustice, and expressing solidarity with the persecuted. Jameson was a close ally and friend who was able to help in word and deed.

Jameson leaves behind a monumental legacy of building power in civil society to work for justice. The Muslim Charities Forum (MCF) wrote, "We have lost a great pillar for social justice and community cohesion." Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London described Jameson as "tireless in campaigning for social justice and his commitment and passion improved the lives of thousands of Londoners across our city." The Muslim Council of Britain described Jameson as "a community advocate, [and a] social justice champion [who] was a great friend to Muslim communities".

Jameson's practical support to Muslim organisations and leaders across the UK has been instrumental. He has trained and mentored many in the community too who carry his legacy of community organising and empowerment.



Seeking social and spiritual renewal

The Muslim Community Association (MCA) is a community organisation whose values are enshrined in the Qur'an and the Prophetic Traditions. It charts a balanced message, the Middle Path (al-wasatiya) understanding of Islam and its members are guided by the spiritual teachings, ideals and moral values that emanate from their faith.

Aims:

The aims of MCA are to bring about a spiritual, moral and social renewal based on faith-based values.

Objectives:

The objective of MCA is to strive for the pleasure of Allah (God) by worshipping Him alone and serving humanity.

Who we are

MCA is a collective of community activists, Muslim personalities, scholars and professionals from different backgrounds. Our membership comprises mainly of British born and bred Muslims. Youth, women and the elderly are all catered for within the organisation. Over the past decades, a number of MCA members have gone into successfully lead various local and national projects in the United Kingdom, which is a testament of the organisation's contribution and outreach.

What we do

Since its inception, the MCA has evolved to deliver timely community-based work and initiatives. Faith communities in the UK have a cherished record of providing values and hope to their adherents as well as the wider society, and in-turn contributing towards the building of a cohesive society.

MCA is active in the fields of education, youth development, interfaith dialogue, outreach and awareness through collective community endeavours. It also provides training and development and helps its members and the wider Muslim community be civic minded and play an active role in society, including engaging in the democratic process.

MCA values partnership work with other organisations, to help remove barriers in accessing education and public services. It has been also known for its activeness in campaigning for social justice issue issues in the UK and abroad.

A core part of MCA's effort is to correct negative characterisation of Islam and Muslims which abound in the media, literature and popular culture. We address these through dialogue, debate and positive interaction which take the form of organising seminars, workshops, exhibitions, as well as publishing and distributing Islamic literature.

We are firm believers in dialogue and discussion that lead to better understanding and appreciation of one and another.

For more information, visit: mcasite.org



Sister Christine Frost

Runner-up Community Engagement

Born 1937 in Limerick, Ireland she has been working and living in the Will Crooks Estate in Poplar, London since the mid-1970s.

She was awarded an MBE for her work in deprived areas of Tower Hamlets which is sandwiched by the affluent financial districts of Canary Wharf and Liverpool St. For over 50 years, Christine has been campaigning and serving the community, with many of the beneficiaries being Muslim.

As far back as 1969, she initiated the Neighbours in Poplar to support families in poverty, reduce loneliness and create a sense of community. She later founded the South Poplar and Limehouse Action for Secure Housing (SPLASH), to campaign for socially affordable housing. In September 2021, SPLASH marked the centenary of the Poplar Rates rebellion by protesting in front of the mural of the 30 councillors who went to prison instead of imposing a tax levy on the poor.

In the 1980s, housing was a major issue in the area, the LDDC was

demolishing 500 Council Homes to make way for the Limehouse Link and the DLR. On the back of the Housing shortage, the racist British National Party (BNP) targeted the growing number of Bangladeshi families settling in the area as the source of the problem. In response, Christine teamed up with women from local churches to support the Bengali Mums. On the Will Crooks Estate they ran workshops on How to Vote, ensuring that Bangladeshi women who had never voted in their lives, knew how to use their vote. On election day, local women organised transport and many Bangladeshi women were taken to cast their vote - most for the first time. The racist councillor Derek Beacon was also unseated and a measure of tolerance was achieved. Her detractors labelled Frost a 'Bengali lover' which she wore as badge of honour.

Both the Neighbours in Poplar and SPLASH projects have helped and provided support to many thousands of local people, especially Muslim parents, the elderly suffering from loneliness, youngsters receiving mentoring support as well encouragement to do better in life.

During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Christine together with her battalion of dedicated volunteers cooked and distributed meals, ran a food bank and arranged vaccination trips. Christine persuaded Canary Wharf businesses to donate food and gifts at Christmas time to Neighbours in Poplar. The group has cooked and delivered over 38,000 hot dinners to isolated people of all faiths, since March 2020.

One of Christine's most recent successful projects is gardening for local women. Over 30 green-fingered Sylheti (Bangladeshi) women put everyone to shame and the project has been a balm for ladies suffering from depression and loneliness; the project has been beneficial for older men too.

In October 2021, Christine was given the Tower Hamlets Freedom award at a ceremony in the Tower of London, recognising her decades of work supporting vulnerable and isolated people.

Local people, irrespective of faith background, find Christine a very warm, loving and welcoming character who they can turn to anytime.

Reasons for Nomination

Sister Christine Frost has been working and serving her local community for nearly 52 years. She has dedicated most of her life in the service of the community, with many of the beneficiaries being Muslim.

She founded two pioneering charities to help the community, the Neighbours in Poplar and SPLASH. These projects alongside other initiatives have provided much needed help and resources to local residents, namely the elderly, women, those suffering food-poverty, isolation, depression as well as housing issues.

Christine started her work to support local people, Muslim families from Bangladesh, as early as the 1980s when they were targeted by the racist BNP. She helped Muslim women understand how to vote, provided ESOL classes and employment support.

She has been extremely successful in lobbying businesses in Canary Wharf as well as the local authority to help the local community, such as establishing food banks. She regularly opens up her centre, a former Church, for Islamic classes and discussion sessions.

Christine is a community veteran who has offered so much, the local Muslim community is indebted to her for kindness, support and advocacy.



Peter Osborne

Winner Education and Development

He was born on July 11, 1957, in Poole, England, is an award-winning journalist, broadcaster, and author. He was educated at Sherborne School and later graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge, with a BA degree in history in 1978. Osborne started his career in the corporate finance division of NM Rothschild in 1981.

He began his journalism career at Robert Maxwell's Financial Weekly magazine in 1985. Over the years, he has worked for various news outlets, including The Evening Standard, The Daily Telegraph, The Express, and The Daily Mail. He was the chief political commentator of The Daily Telegraph until his resignation in early 2015. He now writes about politics for Open Democracy and the Middle East Eye.

Osborne has been recognised for his work, winning the Press Awards Columnist of the Year in 2012 and 2016. He also received the Drum Online Media Awards for best commentary/blogging in 2017 and 2022 and was named

Freelancer of the Year in 2016 for articles he wrote for the Middle East Eye.

Osborne has penned several books, including *The Triumph of the Political Class*, *The Rise of Political Lying*, *Basil D'Oliveira: Cricket and Controversy*, *The Assault on Truth: Boris Johnson, Donald Trump and the Emergence of a New Moral Barbarism*; and his most recent title, *The Fate of Abraham: Why the West is Wrong about Islam*. His book on the D'Oliveira affair won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year in 2004.

His latest book, *The Fate of Abraham*, talks about the Cold War fading into history and being replaced by a new supposed conflict, between Islam and the West. After the events of 9/11 and the advent of the 'war on terror', this narrative seemed prophetic. But, as Osborne reveals in this masterful new analysis, the concept of an existential clash between the two is a dangerous and destructive fantasy. His new book was first launched at the London Muslim Centre in the presence of hundreds of people. Subsequently there have been many more events in the UK and abroad, where diverse audiences were keen to get more insights from Osborne.

Osborne has also made several polemical documentaries with filmmaker Paul

Yule, including "Mugabe's Secret Famine" (2003), and "Afghanistan - Here's One We Invaded Earlier" (2004).

He was a commissioner for the Citizens Commission on *Islam, Participation, and Public Life*, a group set up to explore how civil society could help unlock British Muslim potential for the benefit of all.

Osborne has been an apologetic advocate for justice and freedom, especially Muslims here in the UK and abroad. In the UK, he has spoken out and written extensively on how Muslims are being targeted, including by the Far-Right, Neoconservative lobbies such as the Henry Jackson Society and Policy Exchange, the Prevent strategy, the Israeli lobby, amongst others.

He does not shy away from addressing global issues that affect Muslims too, such as the plight of the Palestinians, the Rohingya, Uyghur Muslims, victims of the Srebrenica Genocide, and the persecuted movements and communities under brutal dictatorships in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria and in the Gulf. More recently he has been covering the tensions sparked in the Leicester between Muslims and Hindus, provoked by Hindutva extremists linked to India's paramilitary Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Reasons for Nomination

Peter Osborne's relentless dedication to political commentary and human rights advocacy is noteworthy. He consistently raises his voice against injustices both domestically and globally, showing a fearlessness in confronting issues that are often considered taboo, such as the pro-Israel lobby in Britain.

His book, *The Fate of Abraham: Why the West is Wrong about Islam*, is a poignant exploration of Western misconceptions about Islam. Through a host of articles and television appearances, he has staunchly defended the Muslim faith, challenging prevailing negative narratives and striving to correct misperceptions.

As an award-winning British journalist and author, Osborne has written extensively about Islam and Muslims, offering a critical perspective on their portrayal in media and political discourse. He has persistently highlighted the issue of Islamophobia, arguing for its recognition as a significant problem in the West.



Katie Marshall

Runner-up Education and Development

Katie Marshall is the Principal at Ark John Keats Academy. The academy is part of the Ark network of schools, which works to make sure that all children, regardless of their background, have access to a great education and real choices in life. The charity has 39 schools in its network.

Katie joined the teaching profession through TeachFirst in 2011 and remains committed to their core purpose of addressing educational disadvantage in the UK.

She is passionate about excellent teaching and excellent school leadership and the impact this has on outcomes for children in the most challenging contexts. Muslim students and parents alike speak highly of Katie, for her openness, inclusivity and cultural sensitivities.

Katie has been a pivotal figure in the school and through her multipronged and dynamic leadership she has been committed to making sure every child has the potential to succeed, even those in the most challenging circumstances. She is a strong believer in children attaining their best.

Students at Ark John Keats make strong progress, achieve excellent academic outcomes and go on to impressive destinations.

Currently, the school has more than 1800 students, of which roughly 30% are Muslim which is a good reflection of the community. Muslim students attending the school feel at ease and make steady progress in their studies. The staff at the school work hard to make sure every student, regardless of background, realises their full potential.

Katie and the wider school have carefully considered how to support students of all backgrounds, including Muslim students, such as prioritising community and cultural awareness, organising family events, and liaising with local community groups. For example, this year Katie arranged Iftar events for parents and families during Ramadan, provided facilities for Muslim students to pray in school, and made sure Halal food is available.

The school also provides help to students and families facing financial difficulties.

“Muslim students and parents alike speak highly of Katie, for her openness, inclusivity and cultural sensitivities.”

Reasons for Nomination

Katie Marshall discharges her role effectively as the headteacher at Ark John Keats Academy where roughly 30 per cent of the students hail from the Islamic faith. She has been keen and committed to making sure every student feels at home and is able to realise their full potential by getting a good quality education.

Katie understands the multicultural makeup of the local community and understands the sensitivities that come with it. She is respectful and accommodating of students' needs, including religious. To this end, she has ensured students in the school have facilities to pray, have Halal food and during Ramadan she has organised Iftar events for parents, students and the local community.

Katie also understands the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and other societal pressures impacting students and families. Her school offers financial and other support to students and families in need of help and assistance.

Above all, Katie has been committed to an inclusive education that is respectful and accommodative of students cultural and religious needs. Muslim students in her school feel accommodated and parents look up to her as a model headteacher.



Vaughan Thomas

Winner Community Welfare

Vaughan Thomas has been a Welfare Rights caseworker for over 20 years, now working for the Norfolk Community Law Service. He has given talks to the National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers (NAWRA) and to Student Nurses at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital. In May 2019, Vaughan became the Lord Mayor of Norwich for two years.

Born in Nottinghamshire, Vaughan moved to Norwich with his wife as they have five sons, three of whom went to the University of East Anglia in Norwich. The reason for the move. Vaughan has been a Norwich City Councillor since 2015. He has had a varied career; worked as a labourer in Sunderland and at one time trained to be a Metropolitan Police Officer, before deciding that was not the career for him.

Vaughan is passionate about education and environmental issues as well as workers' rights. He has been an active Trade Unionist for many years and has been representing school support staff across Norfolk for GMB members.

Vaughan was first elected to Norwich City Council for Mile Cross Ward in 2015 and spent two years on Cabinet as the Equality and Fairness Portfolio Holder. He has served on the Licensing Committee, Scrutiny, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Cross Party Committee, Sustainable Development Committee and Personnel Committees. He also sat on the Twinning Committee. Vaughan has been a Trustee of Norwich Living Wage Charity from its inception.

He feels passionately about the community and has seen residents' have their rights cut back and curtailed over the years. He has seen the growth of food-poverty across the community and to this end he has helped secure a food bank for members of the Norwich Muslim Community Association serving their constituents and beyond its membership for the wider community.

Vaughan has always been there to help the less fortunate and those who find themselves in life's difficulties. Vaughan has used his connections, knowledge and experience to help mitigate and address problems, barriers and discrimination faced by local residents.

"...community and has seen residents' have their rights cut back and curtailed over the years. He has seen the growth of food-poverty across the community and to this end he has helped secure a food bank..."

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Reasons for Nomination

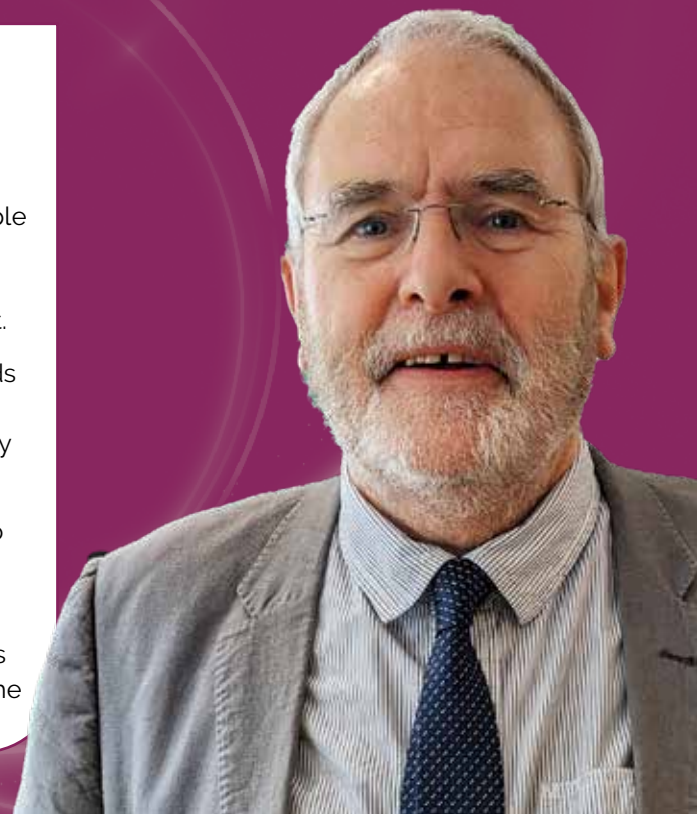
Vaughan Thomas has been a good friend of the Muslim community in Norwich, especially the Muslim Community Association. As a City Councillor, Vaughan has been helping local Muslim groups and residents with their concerns and needs.

A long-time welfare rights advisor, he has helped thousands of people come out of difficulties. Helping residents collectively secure many £millions by representing them at Tribunals. He has been a good listener – he is someone people can approach and talk to in comfort.

Vaughan has been very active in charity work too, he has raised funds for numerous charities including Citizens Advice, Shelter, Mancroft Advice Project, Age UK Norwich, Equal Lives and Norfolk Community Law Service.

During the Pandemic, he helped find funds and resources helping to initiate Food Banks as well as other provisions for the community.

Vaughan's political, welfare, legal and charity work makes him a formidable and very resourceful person to be around. Indeed, he has used his experience and portfolio to help many in the community. The Muslim community of Norwich is grateful for his help over the years.



Rev. Prebendary Alan Green

Runner-up Community Welfare

Reverend Prebendary Alan Green joined St. John's in Bethnal Green, in the east end of London in 1998. In 2010, he was made a prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral in recognition of his interfaith work and encouragement of the arts. Born in Brighton in 1956, he studied Theology at the University of Oxford. He was ordained in 1984 and served in a number of parishes in Liverpool and Oxford before moving to St John on Bethnal Green.

Working with the East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre, he was part of a small group of interfaith and community leaders who formed the United East End to challenge far-right groups such as the English Defence League and Britain First. Green played a pivotal role in mobilising the community and securing support from other faith communities to resist the EDL. He was a regular visitor to the East London Mosque where he addressed worshippers and visitors, so much so that he was affectionately known as "Imam Green".

In 2011, Green led an interfaith delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina organised by Dr Abdullah Faliq from the East London Mosque which was sponsored by Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum. The delegates participated in the Srebrenica Genocide funeral and memorial service held in Poticeri town in Srebrenica. Green met the former Grand Mufti Dr Mustafa Ceric as well as survivors of the genocide.

Green also established the No Place for Hate platform to create a space to report hate crimes. He was the chair of the Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum for sixteen years, bringing people of all and no faiths together to work in harmony. He was integral in trying to keep places of faith open during the pandemic.

"Green played a pivotal role in mobilising the community and securing support from other faith communities to resist the EDL."

Reasons for Nomination

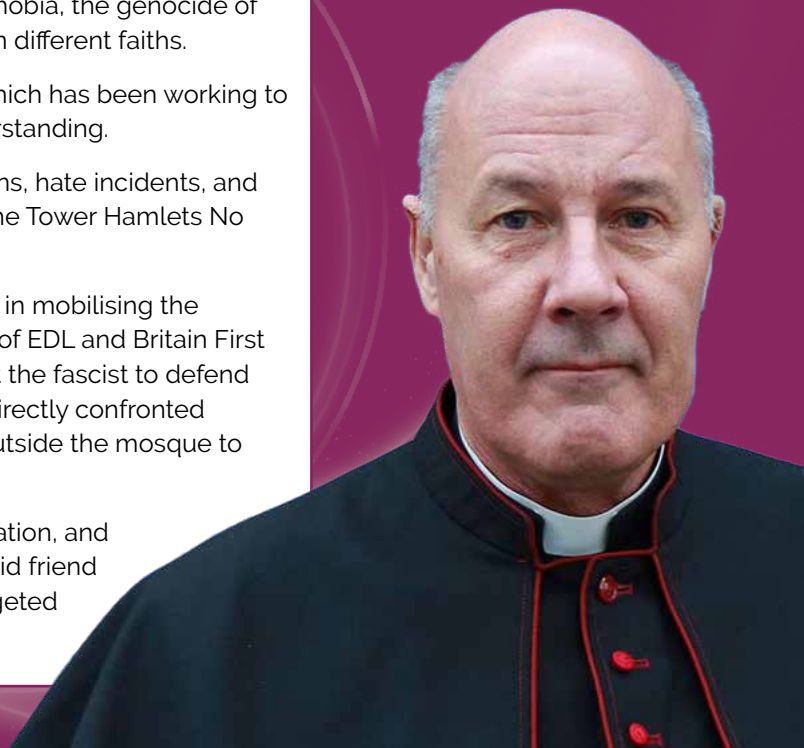
Reverend Alan Green is a strong advocate for interfaith understanding and cooperation. He has worked closely with the Muslim community in East London for many years. He has spoken out against racism, Islamophobia, the genocide of Bosnian Muslims, and has worked to build bridges between different faiths.

In 2005, Green founded Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum, which has been working to bring communities together and promote peace and understanding.

He has responded actively to all sorts of community tensions, hate incidents, and crime in Tower Hamlets for over twenty years. He chaired the Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum for over ten years.

As a founding member of the United East End, Green's role in mobilising the community and making a strong stand against the fascists of EDL and Britain First was formidable. He took personal risks to protest and resist the fascist to defend the East London Mosque and the Muslim community. He directly confronted Britain First thugs when they tried erecting large crosses outside the mosque to defend so-called Christian values.

Green is a true champion of interfaith dialogue and cooperation, and he is an inspiration to people of all faiths. He has been a solid friend of the Muslim community especially when it was being targeted by fascists and other peddlers of hate.



Sharmishta Chakrabarti

Winner Justice and Equality

The Rt Hon Baroness Shami Chakrabarti is a British politician, barrister and human rights activist. From 2003 to 2016, she was the director of Liberty International, a prominent human rights and civil liberties advocacy group.

From 2016 to 2020, she served as the Shadow Attorney General for England and Wales.

Chakrabarti is a vocal advocate for the rights of all, including Muslims in the UK. She has spoken out against Islamophobia and has called for greater understanding and respect for Islam. She has also worked to promote the integration of Muslims into British society.

In 2011, Chakrabarti published a report on Islamophobia in the UK, which found anti-Muslim hatred widespread and that it had a negative impact on the lives of Muslims. The report also made a number of recommendations for tackling Islamophobia, including education and awareness-raising, the development of policies and legislation to protect Muslims from discrimination, and challenging Islamophobia when it occurs.

Chakrabarti's work on Islamophobia has been praised by Muslim groups and human rights organisations. She has been described as a "leading voice" in the fight against Islamophobia and as a "champion of Muslim rights."

In 2009, Chakrabarti discredited the Prevent strategy as the "biggest spying operation in Britain in modern times". In a BBC interview in 2019, she talked about Islamophobia and argued that aspects of Prevent needed to be "reviewed and reformed" as it left many Muslims feeling othered and spied upon.

"Chakrabarti's work on Islamophobia has been praised by Muslim groups and human rights organisations. She has been described as a "leading voice" in the fight against Islamophobia and as a "champion of Muslim rights."

Reasons for Nomination

Chakrabarti has a solid track record of fighting for the rights and freedoms of people; she has been commended for her advocacy and defence of Muslims in the UK.

She has utilised her legal background to strengthen cases and campaigns she takes on, this has clearly been observable in her fight against Islamophobia.

Chakrabarti has shared innumerable platforms to call for justice of Muslims who have been disproportionately targeted by the Prevent strategy. She has also spoken out against racists and the far-right who attack Muslims.

Chakrabarti's 2011 report on Islamophobia in the UK highlighted the deep-seated racism and Islamophobia that exists in Britain and she put forward practical recommendations to tackle Islamophobia, including through education, media and legislation to protect Muslims from discrimination.

She believes "Muslims are an integral part of British society and we must all work together to build a more inclusive and tolerant society for all."



Dominic Grieve KC

Runner-up Justice and Equality

Dominic Grieve KC PC is a British politician and barrister who has served as a Member of Parliament for a number of constituencies from 1997 to 2019. During his time in office, he has been involved in various initiatives and campaigns in support of Muslim communities in the UK.

Grieve was Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament from 2015-2019. He was Chair of the Citizens Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life, launched in 2015. In 2017, the commission published a landmark report, *The Missing Muslims: Unlocking British Muslim Potential for the Benefit of All*.

His work as Attorney General has been in the field of Public and Constitutional Law with cases in the Supreme Court, the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. He has recently completed a review of governance for Islamic Relief Worldwide.

Currently, he is a visiting professor in Law, Politics and Human Rights at Goldsmiths, University of London and a member of the Northern Ireland Bar.

"...in the field of Public and Constitutional Law with cases in the Supreme Court, the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. He has recently completed a review of governance for Islamic Relief..."

Reasons for Nomination

One of Dominic Grieve's notable contributions was his active role in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding between different religious communities, including Muslims. In 2015, he helped to launch the Conservative Muslim Forum's (CMF) Interfaith and Social Cohesion Awards. He also served as the Honorary President of the CMF from 2015 to 2019.

Grieve has been unapologetic in his criticism of the significant segments of the British media's portrayal of Muslims, stating that it perpetuates negative stereotypes and contributes to Islamophobia. He has supported initiatives that help improve integration and inclusion of Muslim communities in the UK.

Grieve chaired the Missing Muslims report which highlighted the causes that prevent the integration of Muslims into British society and made several important recommendations for local authorities, businesses and the government.

In 2018, Grieve co-authored the "Islamophobia: Challenges, Causes and Consequences," published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims. The report called for greater efforts to tackle Islamophobia and improve the representation of Muslims in public life.

In 2020, Grieve led an independent commission on Islamic Relief Worldwide and made 19 recommendations to improve its governance practices. This was received very positively by the charity. Above all, Grieve has been a voice of reason and support for the Muslim community, especially during difficult times.



لَا يَشْكُرُ اللَّهُ مَن لَّا يَشْكُرُ النَّاسَ

"They don't thank Allah who does not thank people".

— Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

To appreciate the contribution of those who work for the betterment of all, regardless of their background and have thus impacted the lives of British Muslims. The award recognises and thanks them for their service/support to the British Muslim Community.

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UKIM promotes and encourages mutual appreciation and friendly relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. Through its work, it aspires to see all citizens, irrespective of their colour, background, ethnicity, economic class and political affiliation, to live in dignity and peace with each other. This is because Islam aims to break the shackles that disunite human beings and restores dignity for all people. This was the mission of all the messengers of God and this is the mission that UKIM is delivering to the best of its ability and resources.

ukim.org



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EAST LONDON MOSQUE &
LONDON MUSLIM CENTRE



eastlondonmosque.org.uk

The East London Mosque, which incorporates the London Muslim Centre and the Maryam Centre, has a rich history, with roots in the London Mosque Fund established in 1910. It is one of the oldest mosques in the UK and the largest in Western Europe. Currently, nearly 8000 people can be accommodated in any one congregational prayer.

In addition to prayers and religious services, The East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre (ELM-LMC) provides a range of spiritual and community services that improve the quality of life of beneficiaries visiting or residing in London and beyond. Activities are categorised into Religious Services, Education and Training, Social Welfare, Community Cohesion, and Economic Development.

ELM-LMC has a long history of partnership work, these include Tower Hamlets Council, the local Primary Care Trust, The East London Communities Organisation (TELCO), Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum, the Metropolitan Police and many others.

Historically, a number of prominent people have been associated with the mosque who include, Syed Ameer Ali, the first Indian Privy Counsellor who was the Chairman of The Mosque Fund's executive committee until his death in 1928; Sir Hassan Suhrawardy also served as the Chairman of the executive committee; The Aga Khan III served as life President of the Board of Trustees; both Abdullah Yusuf Ali and Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall, first translators of the Qur'an, were trustees; Nathan Rothschild served as a trustee; Lord Lamington was a Vice-Chairman; the historian T. W. Arnold was a Secretary, and was later replaced by Sir Ernest Houston; Sir John Woodhead was a Treasurer as was The Earl Winterton.

islamchannel.tv

Launched in 2004, Islam Channel is a UK-based, free-to-air, English language, Islamic-focused satellite television channel and online media platform funded by advertising and donations.

It prides itself on developing original content for a Muslim audience. Broadcasting on Sky 737, Virgin 838 and Freeview 264 as well as on a number of international cable and satellite platforms such as DSTV in Africa, the channel reaches over ten million viewers monthly on its social media platforms. According to BARB data, combined with Home Office figures, Islam Channel reaches 60% of British Muslims. In the UK, it has two million viewers.

The top ten countries with the highest number of viewers are the UK, United States of America, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

The vision of Islam Channel is to place its viewers at the heart of everything. It seeks to celebrate Muslim achievement, showcasing the diversity and plurality of the British and global Muslim experience. The channel champions inclusivity to promote mutual respect between different communities, faiths and cultures. It is a major platform for Muslim perspectives in the media and ensures Muslim voices are heard. Importantly, Islam Channel challenges misconceptions about Islam and it stands up for the Muslims believe is their right.

In Ramadan 2021, Islam Channel broke its previous record for the most successful live charity appeal, raising a staggering £2.1 million in one night.

MCB MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN



mcb.org.uk

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is the UK's largest Muslim umbrella body with over 500 affiliates including mosques, schools, charitable associations and professional networks. Its mission is to empower Muslim communities to achieve a just, cohesive and successful British society.

Following the crises in the Balkans and the first Gulf War in the 1990s, there was a growing sense of apprehension amongst Muslims in Britain that Muslim communities lacked unity and coordination. In April 1994, approximately 50 community bodies and networks convened in Birmingham to form the NICMU - the National Interim Committee for Muslim Unity which was mandated to conduct a consult the community to establish the need for an umbrella body and seek views on its priorities and structure. NICMU released its findings on 25th May 1996 in Bradford, at which time the name "The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)" was chosen for the new organisation. The inauguration of the Muslim Council of Britain was held at Brent Town Hall in London on 23rd November 1997.

The MCB is entirely independent, representing the broad Islamic ethos and traditions of its membership, through dynamic leadership that fulfils the organisational mission.

As a national umbrella organisation, MCB's efforts are broadly divided into three overlapping directions. Locally, it supports its affiliates to reach their goals; nationally, it offers a representative voice in external circles; and globally, it campaigns for wider communities, including bringing focus to human rights issues.

The MCB works to empowering Muslim communities to reach their full potential; advocates for equality, challenging bias, lobbying against human rights breaches and striving for a fairer society both home and abroad; and celebrates strengths by champion the achievements of British Muslims and celebrating their mutual successes, so that together, they can grow stronger.

ukim.org

The UK Islamic Mission (UKIM) was established in 1962 to address the religious needs of the then newly settled migrant Muslim community in the UK. This included establishing mosques for worship, catering for the religious education of children, organising religious and community functions, and producing basic literature on Islam in English. The UKIM also worked to educate the Muslim community on how it could participate fruitfully and contribute positively to the moral and spiritual betterment of wider society within which they had made their homes.

Today, UKIM works to contribute to building a good society, which include establishing a network of mosques and Islamic schools, engaging in interfaith activities, producing literature in English for the new generation and for sharing information on Islam with the wider public. In addition, the UKIM made efforts to develop relief and welfare programmes in the UK and overseas.

UKIM branches organise public programmes, mosque open days, exhibitions, and setup leaflets and books stalls in public places for distribution. UKIM members and supporters provide food parcels to those in need. UKIM Imams and volunteers visit hospitals and prisons to cater for the religious needs of the patients and inmates. In addition to its own charity work, the UKIM raises funds to support the work of mainstream charities.

UKIM promotes and encourages mutual appreciation and friendly relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. Through its work, it aspires to see all citizens, irrespective of their colour, background, ethnicity, economic class and political affiliation, to live in dignity and peace with each other.



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