

Wednesday 9 July, 2025
The Royal Regency, London

MUSLIM COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

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A few words by
Central President

From the Central President **A few words**

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST
GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

Dear Honourable Guests,

Assalamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh – May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

IT IS WITH IMMENSE joy and deep honour that I welcome you to the second Muslim Community Service Awards (MCSA) and Gala Dinner. It is heartening to see so many familiar faces here today, as well as new ones. Thank you for gracing us with your presence and for making the time to spend this evening with us as we celebrate a truly special occasion.

This Award is our way to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by individuals in our society—especially our non-Muslim friends and colleagues—whose dedication and service have positively impacted the lives of British Muslims.

Like every other good deeds this practice of recognising, acknowledging and celebrating the friendship and support extended to us by our non-Muslim friends, also stems from the tradition of our noble Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings be upon him ﷺ. Allow me to share with you such an amazing story from his life. It is the story of Mu'tem ibn 'Adi, Chief of Banu Nawfal tribe in Makkah and a contemporary of the Prophet ﷺ who never embraced Islam. Yet, during the most crucial moments of crisis he extended his protection and support to Muslims. When the entire Muslim community was placed under detention for three years in the valley of Abu Taleb and almost a Gaza style total siege and boycott was enforced, it was Mu'tem who dared to break the siege on a number of occasions and supplied food for the

hungry detainees. And again, when Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ preaching mission to Tayef, ended in rejection, ridicule and repression; it became impossible for him and his group to re-enter Makkah without pledge of protection from some leading figure in the city, accordingly the Prophet ﷺ send messages to few, no one responded except Mu'tem. He announced that he is pledging protection and along with his four sons escorted the Prophet (pbuh) to Ka'ba. On a different time when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was in a position of power he ﷺ generously recognised Mu'tem's contribution, although Mu'tem died the previous year. After the victory of the battle of Badar, a group of seventy leading Makkans were brought to him as prisoners of war. Looking at them the Prophet ﷺ commented if only Mu'tem was alive today and asked me I would have unconditionally set all of them free.

That is why this initiative is unique, perhaps the first of its kind, dedicated to honouring the contributions of our non-Muslim allies, this effort seeks to foster unity, understanding, and gratitude at a time when division, mistrust, and conflict are far too prevalent across the globe.

Too often we fall into the binary of “us vs them,” forgetting that we are all members of one human family, bound by shared values. As Muslims, we are taught to uphold justice, kindness, compassion, honesty, integrity, patience, forgiveness, modesty, respect for elders and parents, loyalty, and above all, love for God and His Messenger. Do these values conflict with British values? Certainly not. While our faiths may differ, our core human values unite us.

When we abandon this spirit of unity we sow the seed of distrust, division and dispute that extinct man's humanity and too often reduces man into mere animals as we are witnessing in Gaza today. Perhaps this is why we must also take a moment to express our deep anguish and moral outrage over the ongoing violence and suffering in Palestine and across various parts of the Middle East. The relentless attacks on innocent civilians, the destruction of homes, hospitals, and places of worship are not only deeply unjust—they are violations of humanity. As people of conscience, we condemn all forms of aggression and call for an immediate end to the bloodshed. Justice, dignity, and peace must be upheld for all,





regardless of nationality or creed. The voices of the oppressed must be heard, and their suffering must never be ignored.

In these moments of global unrest, it is important to remember that Islam is not merely a religion, nor simply a mission. It is a complete and balanced code of life, a timeless source of peace and harmony. It offers guidance on all aspects of human life spiritual, moral, social, legal, and economic in a way that is relevant and compassionate in all circumstances. It is this holistic way of life that inspires us to serve others, to speak up for justice, and to build bridges of understanding. In times of tension, conflict, and injustice, we have a tendency to look for the enemy or the perpetrator—which is natural, because there can be no pathway to finding solutions without first recognising the problems at hand. Yet in those same moments, we often find allies—people who stand with us in solidarity, offering friendship and support.

It is no secret that British Muslims have endured rising levels of Islamophobia and hate. In just the past few days, we have seen mosques attacked in Ireland, individuals targeted, and disturbing rhetoric from certain politicians, journalists, and media outlets—rhetoric that only aggravates fear and division. And yet, in the face of such adversity, we have also witnessed tremendous support from friends who stand beside us. These individuals have worked to combat deprivation, health disparities, and social inequality. Many have taken personal risks to defend and support Muslim communities—and for that, we are deeply grateful.

In line with the timeless pronouncement of the Prophet Muhammad, *"He who does not thank people does not thank God,"* it is our collective duty to recognise, appreciate, and honour these contributions. To each of you who has helped in any way, we say: Shukran lakum - thank you!

In these uncertain and troubling times, the world needs a renewed commitment to the shared values of love, compassion, justice, and fairness. I urge our community to draw inspiration from the Madinah Neighbourhood Model—a model of peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Pagans, Jews, Christians, and others. This remarkable example of unity turned a once-fractured society into a harmonious and civilised one. People of different faiths lived side by side, practising their beliefs freely and respectfully. So today, I make a universal call: Let us stop the killings in the name of war, and strive for peace, love, and tranquillity by embracing the spirit of the Madinah Model in our own communities.

Turning to tonight's ceremony—Congratulations to all winners and runners-up of this year's Awards. Your work, regardless of race, creed, or background, exemplifies the highest service to humanity. While we cannot award every nominee, we express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who were nominated. Whether or not you receive an award this evening, you are all role models and shining examples for us all. And to those who were not selected this time—please know that your selfless efforts have not gone unnoticed. You are all winners in the eyes of this community.

As mentioned, the Muslim Community Service Awards and Gala Dinner is led by the Muslim Community Association (MCA). Our organisation is rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and the Prophetic traditions, promoting a balanced and compassionate understanding of Islam. MCA members are guided by the values of their faith and strive to uplift individuals, families, and society through a variety of initiatives. I extend my sincerest thanks to all those in MCA who have worked tirelessly to organise this beautiful event. We also express our gratitude to our supporters and sponsors for making this evening possible, including:

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Finally, thank you to all nominators for your thoughtful submissions. We have seen a remarkable increase in the number and diversity of nominations this year. A special thanks to our judges, who carried out their duties with diligence and integrity.

I hope this evening brings joy, meaningful connections, and lasting memories. May Allah bless you all.

Assalamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullah.
Thank you.

Barrister Hamid Hossain Azad
Central President
Muslim Community Association



For more information mcsa.org



"Issues around equality, rule of law, respect for people's rights and above all the equality of citizenship which is so important in this country are issues that cannot be ducked."

— **Rt. Hon. Dominic Grieve**

Runner-up, Justice & Equality, MCSA 2023



Awards Categories:

- Community Cohesion**
- Community Engagement**
- Education and Development**
- Community Welfare**
- Justice and Equality**

“The most important human right is equal treatment... If we really practiced equal treatment in our country and in the world then there would be no torture, there would be no slavery, there would be no undue censorship or intrusion into people’s private and family lives because we would do what all the great faiths and cultures of human history have preached, which is treating other people as would like to be treated... its really not that hard”

— **Baroness Shami Chakrabarti**

Winner, Justice & Equality, MCSA 2023







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25	22	RAMADAN NO TEA & TOUR	26	31	28
Jul'25	Aug'25	Sep'25	Oct'25	Nov'25	Dec'25
26	30	27	25	29	27



Judges' Award

Marcus Ryder is the CEO of the Film and TV Charity, supporting the wellbeing of those in the film, television, and cinema industries while tackling inequality and discrimination. He became Chair of RADA in 2021 and founded the Sir Lenny Henry Centre for Media Diversity in 2020. With over 30 years in media, he co-authored Access All Areas and co-edited Black British Lives Matter. He received an MBE in 2022 and an honorary doctorate from Bournemouth University in 2024.

Following the events of October 7 and the devastation in Gaza, Marcus led efforts to support Jewish, Muslim, and Arab film and TV professionals, commissioning a wellbeing survey. This resulted in industry roundtables and the first sector-wide antisemitism and Islamophobia training. His work has amplified Muslim voices and laid the foundation for a more religiously literate and inclusive industry.



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*The***Judges**

Judge **Belayeth Hussain**

Judge Belayeth Hussain arrived in the UK in the early 1970s at age 11 and was raised in London's East End, completing his secondary education in Tower Hamlets. Like many of his generation, he entered the workforce after school. In his early twenties, inspired by involvement in anti-racist movements responding to widespread discrimination, he returned to education.

While studying part-time, he worked as a counsellor at a national NGO whose support enabled him to pursue a law degree. He later moved into private practice and qualified as a solicitor in 1998. In 2001, he was appointed an adjudicator and now serves as a Judge of the First-tier Tribunal. He is among the first professional judges from the UK's Bangladeshi community.

Judge Hussain has held numerous roles in charitable and voluntary organisations, continuing to support community work while respecting the limitations of his judicial position. His lifelong commitment to justice and equality has shaped both his professional path and community contributions.

A passionate traveller, he recently undertook a cultural tour across Europe and South Africa, including visits to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Croatia, Lithuania, Iceland, and Norway.

Dr **Basil Mustafa**

Dr Basil Mustafa is a distinguished academic and researcher in Islamic studies and leadership education. From 1998 to 2020, he held the Nelson Mandela Fellowship in Educational Studies at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, where he advanced significant scholarship on leadership, ethics, and Islamic thought.

He served as an Associate Tutor at Oxford's Department for Continuing Education (2008-1998) and held an Associate Fellowship at Saïd Business School (2012-2010). From 2014 to 2017, he was Visiting Professor at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's International Business School, contributing to international academic collaboration.

Dr Mustafa's research focuses on Values-Based Leadership and the Sira (life and example of the Prophet Muhammad), examining how spiritual ethics can shape contemporary leadership models across community and institutional contexts.

He has contributed extensively to international seminars, academic forums, and leadership development programmes, particularly within Muslim contexts, influencing thought leadership in education, interfaith dialogue, and policy innovation.

Dr **Zaza J Elsheikh**

MBBS PGDipLP

Dr Zaza Johnson Elsheikh is a dual-qualified medical doctor and solicitor, as well as an experienced mediator and International Commercial Arbitrator (CIArb). She brings a multidisciplinary approach to conflict resolution, law, and community work.

Fluent in Arabic and a committed pluralist, she helps counter radicalisation through mediation and mentoring, often with the Metropolitan Police. She also works as a Conflict Resolution Trainer, Restorative Justice Practitioner, and community advocate, especially for Muslim women.

Her outreach includes churches, mosques, schools, and universities, where she leads seminars on conflict resolution. She supports children, including those with Special Educational Needs, in managing conflict.

Dr Elsheikh founded BIMA, a multi-faith association of Mediators and Arbitrators, to promote dialogue and peaceful resolution in diverse communities.

Her work bridges legal, social, and faith perspectives to advance cohesion and justice.



Dr **Husna Ahmad OBE**

Dr Husna Ahmad is CEO of Global One 2015, a faith-based international NGO focused on empowering women. She was recently appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham.

She serves as a key adviser to the Global Muslim Business Forum (GMBF) and is a member of the UN Multi-Faith Advisory Council on Religion and Development. She also sits on the Steering Committee of the World Bank's Moral Imperative Initiative. Her current board roles include Faith for the Climate and Palmers Green Mosque.

Dr Ahmad actively contributes to interfaith work through membership in the Women's Faith Forum UK and the Executive Committee of Barnet Faiths Forum. She has promoted interfaith dialogue and community cohesion for decades. A prominent international speaker, author, and thought leader, she focuses on faith, gender, and the environment.

She is Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum and Coordinator for the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANSSC). Dr Ahmad was awarded an OBE in the 2010 New Year's Honours list for services to disadvantaged communities and social justice.



Dr **Zahid Parvez**

BSc MSc MBA PhD FHEA CMgr MCMI

Dr Zahid Parvez holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering, an MSc in Information Technology, and an MBA, all from Aston University. He began his career working as a Chemical Engineer and Software Developer before joining Wolverhampton Business School in 1992, where he served as a Senior Lecturer for 20 years. During this time, he completed a PhD in e-democracy at the University of Birmingham in 2004.

He is currently the Rector of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education, a position he has held since 2012. Dr Parvez is a Chartered Manager and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA). He has served as an external examiner at several universities and was formerly Chief Executive of the Muath Trust.

Dr Parvez has long been active in faith and community leadership. He served as President of the Young Muslims (1990-1988), the Islamic Society of Britain (1998-1996), and the UK Islamic Mission (2015-2011). He is a trustee of several charities, including The Islamic Foundation, Madina Trust, and Muslim Aid.

He is also the author of *Building a New Society: An Islamic Approach to Social Change*, which explores prophetic models of community development.



Prof. **Aaqil Ahmed**

Prof. Aaqil Ahmed is a former Head of Religion and Ethics at both Channel 4 and the BBC and also served as Head of Multicultural Programming at Channel 4. His award-winning work has earned numerous prestigious honors, including EMMYs and BAFTAs, reflecting his impact on British broadcasting. He currently serves as a Non-Executive Director at OFCOM, Elstree Film Studios, and Film Cymru. Additionally, he is a Director at MEDR, Wales' education and training regulator, and acts as a Senior Independent Panellist for Public Appointments in Wales.

Prof. Ahmed leads Amplify Consulting Ltd, a media production and communications consultancy serving clients across media, broadcasting, festivals, education, governance, charity, and corporate sectors. His current projects include serving as Broadcasting Consultant for Bradford, the UK City of Culture 2025, and delivering bespoke training sessions focused on leadership, diversity, and Islamophobia within media and film industries.

He is Professor of Media at the University of Bolton and lectures at several universities across the UK. Prof. Ahmed is a published author, speaker, and event chair, widely recognized as a leading voice on media, diversity, religion, demographics, and culture.



Muslim Community Association

A broad-based British Muslim Organisation

Our History

Britain has a rich history of being home to a diverse range of faith communities, providing value and hope to those belonging to these communities both in the UK and across the globe. As part of this legacy, the Muslim Community Association (MCA) continues to play its part in this British tradition and seeks to play a positive role in contributing towards a cohesive and thriving society. From its initial vision and conception in 1988, MCA has evolved through the years to deliver community-based work, responding to a number of issues and trends over time.

Our Vision and Mission

MCA's vision is to see a righteous, just and peaceful society, and its mission is to inspire people to become God conscious. The Muslim Community Association (MCA) is a community organisation whose values are rooted in the Qur'an and the Prophetic Traditions. It charters a balanced message, guided by faith in working collectively to bring about betterment for all. The aim of MCA is to bring about a spiritual, moral and social renewal based on faith values common to all. The objective of MCA is to strive for the pleasure of Allah (God) by serving humanity.

Our Principles

MCA celebrates being a faith-based organisation that embodies the values of Islam, centred around the worship of Allah (God). It strives to use the spiritual teachings, ideals and moral values of Islam to shape its approach and ethos, geared towards an overarching aim of bringing about a moral and social renewal and in serving humanity.

Our Members

MCA is an ensemble of respected Muslim personalities including scholars, professionals and community activists. Our membership is diverse, comprising of men, women of all ages and backgrounds and young people born and bred in the UK, who are striving collectively to build a balanced and all-inclusive organisation that serves the needs of the community.

Our Work

With servitude at the heart of its work, MCA engages in the following pathways to meet its core objectives:

- community outreach initiatives in the fields of education, family and youth
- initiating interfaith dialogue through open awareness projects
- facilitating development and learning for its members and the community in areas of civic duty, democracy and positive activism

Our Partners

MCA is a non-partisan organisation which values partnership with other organisations with a collective aim of removing barriers to education, employment, and public services. It is known for its work on social justice issues in the UK and abroad.

Our Community

MCA recognises that the fabric of a community is held together through cohesion and harmony. MCA, therefore, works to demystify the controversial and divisive issues that have become obstacles to this, through engagement, dialogue and open discussions with those from all backgrounds. As a broad based and diverse Muslim organisation in UK, MCA seeks to accommodate the needs of all groups, setting aside differences and concentrating on common matters.

We have seen our work positively impact outcomes in a variety of contexts. With a better understanding and appreciation of one another, we endeavour to continue this journey and work hard to bring benefit to our communities.

Seeking
social
and
spiritual
renewal



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Education and Development

Winner | **Professor Francis Thomas Davis**

Professor Davis is a leading academic in public policy and community development, currently based at the University of Birmingham and a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, University of Oxford. His career spans prestigious roles at Cambridge and Oxford, ministerial advisory positions at Cabinet level, and a legacy of service-driven innovation. Over the decades, Professor Davis has made significant contributions to education and interfaith engagement. In the early 1990s, he spearheaded fundraising efforts for victims of the Bosnian conflict, including initiating Catholic charities' first grant to Islamic Relief. He has actively supported Muslim communities through academic partnerships, such as helping the Muslim Council of Britain publish Oxford and Cambridge lectures and co-chairing major interfaith conferences in London and Birmingham.

His work designing religious literacy training for Foreign Office staff—featuring a pioneering module on Islam—demonstrates his commitment to inclusive education. Recently, he launched a Catholic-Muslim young leaders training scheme, fostering the next generation of interfaith changemakers. Professor Davis's long-standing contributions reflect the power of education as a bridge between communities, to foster connection, inclusion, and transformation.



Runner-up | **Professor Paul Reynolds**

Professor Reynolds is a highly seasoned political and economic adviser whose extensive work spans more than 60 countries, many with significant Muslim populations. As the former head of Liberal Democrats International and a veteran of numerous global initiatives, he has consistently championed critical issues affecting Muslim communities both in the UK and internationally.

His broad advisory roles include serving as Chief Political Adviser to Coalition Forces in Iraq in 2003, supporting British diplomatic and military missions in Afghanistan, and consulting for the World Bank in Yemen. Within the UK, Professor Reynolds works closely with Muslim embassies, community organisations, and government bodies, providing strategic counsel on foreign policy, combating Islamophobia, and promoting human rights issues.

He has also actively supported advocacy efforts concerning the Rohingya and Uyghur crises, offering valuable guidance to campaigners, policymakers, and international organisations. Through his behind-the-scenes diplomacy and principled commitment to Muslim rights, Professor Reynolds has made a significant and lasting impact on both international and domestic affairs.





Community Cohesion

Winner | **Dr Chris Allen**

Dr Chris Allen is a leading academic and policy expert who has dedicated over two decades to researching hate, extremism, and Islamophobia in the UK. A Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and the Royal Society of Arts, he is also an alumnus of the US Department of State's International Visiting Leadership Program and the John Adams Society.

Chris's body of work is grounded in both academic rigour and real-world impact. His research has examined the ideologies of the far right, the experiences of Islamophobia victims, and the UK's Prevent strategy. His influential book *Islamophobia* (2010) remains a cornerstone in the field. His work has informed submissions to key national bodies, including the House of Lords, the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Islamophobia and Universities, and the Home Affairs Select Committee on Hate Crimes.

Notably, Chris's recent investigations into Hindutva extremism in Leicester have sparked important national conversations—despite exposing him to personal risk and public backlash. His willingness to challenge harmful narratives and stand up for marginalised communities reflects a rare blend of academic integrity and moral courage. Through fearless inquiry and impactful advocacy, Dr Chris Allen continues to shape a more informed, inclusive, and resilient Britain.



Runner-up | **Oliver McTernan**

Oliver McTernan is a respected mediator and co-founder of Forward Thinking, a charitable organisation that fosters dialogue and mutual respect between faith and secular communities, particularly around the Middle East peace process.

With extensive experience in conflict resolution - including initiating post-war talks between NATO and the former Yugoslav government - Oliver has built a reputation for principled leadership in some of the world's most sensitive political arenas. A former visiting fellow at Harvard's Weatherhead Center, he also serves as a Senior Associate Fellow at the UK's Defence Academy.

Through Forward Thinking, Oliver has long supported Muslim individuals and organisations across the UK and abroad. His defence of those marginalised by rising Islamophobia has often placed him under criticism and scrutiny, yet his commitment has never wavered.

Oliver's efforts have empowered Muslim and Arab youth through global innovation networks and supported interfaith collaboration under intense social and political pressure. His courage and vision embody true community cohesion in action.



Community Engagement

Winner | **Mark Ereira-Guyer**

Mark Ereira-Guyer is a longstanding leader in civil society, with over 40 years' experience across the voluntary, faith, and community sectors. A former County Councillor and member of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, Mark's influence spans local government, national charities, and European networks. As co-founder of Civil Society Consulting CIC, he has supported Muslim-led and minority community organisations with governance, evaluation, and funding expertise—helping them build resilience, navigate crises, and sustain long-term impact. He has championed health equity, tackled Islamophobia, and amplified marginalised voices through projects like the Covid Champions initiative and the Steps to Sustainability programme. Mark's leadership during the 2024 summer riots was key in supporting Muslim communities in Oldham, Manchester, and London. His collaborations with Zara Mohammed, former Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain, and programmes empowering minority women in politics reflect a deep commitment to inclusion and social change. Through tireless engagement—from grassroots initiatives to EU forums—Mark has emerged as a vital ally and advocate for the Muslim community. His work exemplifies partnership-based community development and intercultural understanding.



Runner-up | **Carl Arrindell**

Carl Arrindell is a seasoned media professional and dedicated community advocate whose work has significantly strengthened engagement between British Muslim communities and wider society. As Director of International Operations and Strategic Planning at Islam Channel, he has played a crucial role in shaping the channel's editorial direction and outreach strategy, ensuring that diverse Muslim perspectives are accurately and effectively represented in mainstream discourse.

Beyond the newsroom, Carl has been a consistent and active presence at conferences, community forums, and advocacy events—using media as a powerful bridge to connect communities, highlight pressing social issues, and promote constructive dialogue across cultural and faith boundaries.

Carl's leadership has been instrumental in bringing Muslim voices into key policy conversations and fostering greater understanding between communities during moments of social tension and transformation. His exceptional ability to connect people, platforms, and ideas has made him a central figure in advancing meaningful, inclusive engagement throughout the UK.





Community Welfare

Winner | **Professor Cathie Mason**

Professor Cathie Mason, Her Majesty's Coroner for Leicester, has significantly transformed end-of-life services for Muslim communities through her pioneering partnership with the Muslim Burial Council of Leicestershire (MBCOL). Under her leadership, Leicester became the first city in Europe to offer Virtual Autopsy (CT scanning) as a free, accessible alternative to invasive postmortems—honouring Islamic practices while fully upholding legal and medical standards.

This groundbreaking initiative, uniquely funded through the coroner's budget rather than private donations, ensures that all families—regardless of income or background—can access respectful, culturally appropriate services during their time of grief.

Professor Mason's compassionate yet innovative approach has not only greatly benefitted Leicester's Muslim community but also influenced coronial services nationally and internationally, including in countries such as Australia. By championing dignity in death and cultural sensitivity in public services, she has set a new benchmark for inclusive, respectful care.



Runner-up | **Kathleen Jackson**

Kathleen Jackson has been a pillar of community welfare and intercultural understanding in Loughborough since 1977. Beginning by teaching English to newly arrived South Asian immigrants, she helped generations of families integrate, thrive, and feel at home.

Her cultural sensitivity led her to travel to Bangladesh and India in the early 1980s to learn about the communities she supported. In Sylhet, moved by the hardship of children in slums and tea gardens, she co-founded a "school under the stars," founding Friends of Khasdobir, a UK charity supporting education and development in Bangladesh.

Over 25 years, Kathleen's fundraising—via church events and community dinners—raised about 40,000£ annually. These funds now support 12 pre-primary schools, youth training, and aid for widows. Her work spans continents but is grounded in relationships: home visits, shared meals, and Eid celebrations build trust and friendship between Bangladeshi and British families in Loughborough.

Kathleen's story shows how quiet dedication and deep connection can build stronger, more inclusive communities at home and abroad.



Justice and Equality

Winner | **Chris Nineham**

Chris Nineham is a social justice campaigner and co-founder of the Stop the War Coalition. For over two decades, he has worked to foster unity and mutual understanding during some of the most polarising moments in recent British history - particularly in solidarity with Muslim communities facing public scrutiny and far-right hostility.

During the Iraq War and the rise of the English Defence League, Chris played a vital role in supporting institutions like the East London Mosque and the Islamic Forum of Europe (IFE), helping to counter rising tensions through dialogue and public solidarity. His collaborative efforts have helped ensure Muslim voices were central in wider anti-war and anti-racism movements.

Chris has consistently worked alongside organisations such as the Muslim Association of Britain, Friends of Al-Aqsa, and the Palestine Forum in Britain - supporting campaigns around Islamophobia, foreign policy, and international human rights. His advocacy has always centred on grassroots engagement, civil liberties, and social justice.

By bridging movements and standing firmly with marginalised voices, Chris Nineham continues to contribute meaningfully to a more just and inclusive society.



Runner-up | **Chris Doyle**

Chris Doyle is Director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), where for over 30 years he has played a key role in strengthening ties between the UK and Arab communities. Under his leadership, CAABU promotes advocacy, education, and diplomacy to foster a nuanced and deeper understanding of Middle Eastern issues within Britain.

A widely recognised expert on the Middle East, Chris supports British Muslim and Arab communities through public commentary, detailed parliamentary briefings, and coordination of humanitarian efforts. His advocacy work includes aiding detainee families, promoting rights-based foreign policy, and facilitating meaningful dialogue between Members of Parliament and Arab civil society groups.

Chris has significantly shaped public understanding of complex Middle East challenges, consistently promoting justice, inclusivity, and balanced perspectives. His enduring commitment to cross-cultural dialogue continues to drive CAABU's work as an essential bridge fostering mutual respect and cooperation amid division.



Shared faith to shared humanity

The life of the Prophet ﷺ is not just an ideal for all his followers, but a template to follow and an example to emulate. Whilst we rightly focus on the immense sacrifices of his followers, the golden generation of his companions, there are those that are slightly out of the limelight who played their own pivotal role in his Prophetic mission even though they did not ostensibly believe in him as a Messenger of God.

Notable examples include his uncle, Abu Talib, who did not just act as a surrogate parental figure for the Prophet ﷺ, but also was willing to suffer exile and boycott to maintain his support for his orphaned nephew.

Another example was Mut'im bin 'Adi. Returning from Taif, no one would offer the Prophet ﷺ protection in Makkah now that his uncle was gone. Mut'im decided, for no other reason than to support someone in a difficult situation, to provide that protection - much to the consternation of his fellow Quraish.

These examples are just 2 out of many. As the story of Islam unfolds, we have more and more examples of those of other faiths and none, who have played a pivotal role in the advancement of Islam and Muslims and vice versa. Salahuddin had the Jewish Maimonides as one of his ministers, the English King George I had Muhammad the Turk as his most loyal servant.

The history of Islam is not just the history of Muslims, but that of heroic and noble others too - and this is not surprising. After all, once our Prophet ﷺ was sat with his companions when a funeral bier was passing by. The Prophet ﷺ stood up out of respect, but his companions indicated for him to sit down. "It is the funeral of a Jewish person." The Prophet ﷺ turned to them and said, "Was he not a human being?"

...the golden generation of his companions, there are those that are slightly out of the limelight who played their own pivotal role in his Prophetic mission even though they did not ostensibly believe in him...





Muslimaat^{UK} Women empowered through

Founded in 1988, Muslimaat UK (MMT UK) began as a small collective of young Muslim women driven by the desire to create faith-based spaces that empower and uplift. What started as a grassroots initiative has grown over three decades into a pioneering British Muslim women's organisation—one that challenges stereotypes and impacts thousands.

MMT UK has been at the forefront of advocating for the needs of Muslim women in Britain. Through conferences, seminars, wellbeing sessions to Islamic reflections, youth programmes, media training, and collaborative partnerships, MMT UK has carved a space for meaningful dialogue, growth, and representation.

Among its key initiatives is the Islam Awareness Project (IAP)—MMT UK's interfaith wing. Established in response to a growing need for education and support, IAP offers reliable information about Islam alongside a befriending service for individuals new to the faith.

Every Saturday, women are welcomed into a warm, non-judgmental space where they can explore Islam at their own pace. In addition to these gatherings, IAP provides one-to-one mentoring, online discussions, listening services, and hosts regular community events including bi-monthly socials, Ramadan iftars, Eid support initiatives, celebration gatherings, residential retreats, picnics, excursions, and annual conferences.

A flagship of IAP's outreach is its Open Day events—designed to share the message of Islam with clarity and compassion. These events invite the wider public to engage in open conversation, explore informative exhibitions, and connect with volunteers in a relaxed and welcoming environment—often over tea and cake.

In the past year alone, more than 1,000 women have stepped into IAP's inclusive space—each on her own unique journey. With faith at its heart and a committed team of volunteers, MMT UK remains true to its founding mission: to support, educate, and empower women as they grow in confidence, community, and connection to Islam.

Connect with us:

Instagram: @muslimaat_uk | @islamawarenessproject

Muslimaat UK, Womens' Wing MCA





Islamic Relief UK is proud to sponsor the Muslim Community Service Awards 2025, and congratulates nominees and winners.

Founded in Birmingham in 1984, today we are - reaching 17 million people in 34 countries, and saving and transforming lives across the globe.

Islamic Relief UK — a Muslim charity guided by Islamic values

[ISLAMIC-RELIEF.ORG.UK](https://islamic-relief.org.uk)



PARTNERSHIP CARE LONDON

Committed to providing excellent quality services for adults with learning disabilities and autism



WHO IS IT FOR?

Individuals with a learning disability, Autism and/or a physical disability.

PARTNERSHIP CARE DAY OPPORTUNITIES

Partnership Day Opportunities is for people with profound multiple learning disabilities, positive behaviour and complex needs. Individuals who attend are able to participate in activities including Independent Travel training, Independent living skills, Dance fit, Bike work, ICT, Literacy and Numeracy, Yoga Session, Foot spa, Makaton, Music, gym, Swimming, accessing the local community and days out.

DOMICILIARY / HOME CARE SERVICE

Home care is designed to support you with day-to-day personal and domestic tasks so that you can live as independently as possible in your own home. The services we provide are as follows:

- Personal Care • Social Care • Nutritional Care

OUTREACH SERVICES

Partnership Care London outreach services are usually for people who live in their own homes and need support to remain independent.

36-40 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR 0203 490 3637 07979 910 436 / 07595 659 937
info@partnershipcare.co.uk www.partnershipcare.co.uk

MCB

MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

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.



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.



Celebrating Strengths

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



Advocating For Equality

We make a real difference in the lives of Muslims in Britain and beyond—challenging bias, opposing human rights abuses, and promoting fairness at home and abroad.



Creating A Bright Future

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

Our loyal and proud sponsors of the Muslim Community Service Awards



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