

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 - DECEMBER 2020



Empowering Muslim communities towards achieving a just, cohesive and successful British society.

# CONTENTS:

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|                                          |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|
| What We Do: At a Glance                  | 1     |
| Message from the Secretary General       | 2-3   |
| A Strong Voice:                          |       |
| a. MCB in the Media                      | 4     |
| b. Press Releases and Statements         | 5     |
| c. Consulation Responses and Submissions | 6     |
| Major Projects:                          |       |
| - COVID-19 Response                      | 7-9   |
| - Centre for Media Monitoring            | 10-11 |
| - Proudly Muslim & Black                 | 12    |
| - Islamophobia in Society                | 13    |
| - Elderly & End-of-Life Care             | 14    |
| - In the Pipeline                        | 14    |
| Supporting Our Mosques:                  |       |
| - Our Mosques Our Future Conferences     | 15    |
| - #VisitMyMosque                         | 15    |
| - Women in Mosques Development Programme | 16    |
| Strengthening Internal Foundations       | 17    |
| Timeline of Events and Reports           | 18-19 |
| Get Involved                             | 20    |
| Membership Committee                     | 21    |
| Legal Affairs Committee                  | 22    |
| Media and Public Relations               | 23    |
| Education Affairs Committee              | 24    |
| Appendix                                 | 25-26 |

# WHAT WE DO:

## AT A GLANCE

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The Muslim Council of Britain is an independent, cross-sectarian and democratic membership-based body serving over 500 organisations across the UK, including mosques, schools, charities and professional networks.

Delegates representing their member organisations (affiliates) elect a Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and National Council to lead the organisation in:

- Representing the views of affiliates at all levels of government, the media and wider civil society
- Speaking out against Islamophobia in all its forms and campaigning for stronger protections
- Advocating on issues that matter to affiliates through campaigns and research
- Co-ordinating our activities with Muslim community experts and partner organisations in times of need such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- Building capacity across Muslim civil society to strengthen and empower our communities

This report provides a summary of the MCB's outputs between July 2019 and December 2020.







# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah

As my full tenure as Secretary General draws to a close, it fills me with thankfulness to our Creator who has showered us with his Baraka (blessings) in ensuring that the provenance of this organisation continues to flourish. Alhamdulillah hi rabbil A'lamin (all praises are to Allah the Lord of the Worlds).

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic since March 2020 has dominated our engagement with communities extensively and it seems difficult to recall that only in October 2019, we had gathered over 400 mosque leaders and volunteers for our third successful Our Mosque Our Future conference in the city of Leicester. As had become the norm the MCB team were busy planning all the major events for 2020 early in the year but as we all know very well now that was not to be the case.

In December 2019 I attended a dinner with our member organisations and friends in Blackburn, kindly hosted by the Lancashire Council of Mosques, where I received a very warm welcome as I have on many occasions at numerous events across cities and towns in the UK over the past four years. The love, respect and hospitality shown to MCB representatives by our affiliates across the country distinguishes us a firmly established umbrella body, here to serve our communities by amplifying their voices in unity.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult to grasp the severity of what was to come and the numerous discussions on suspending congregational prayers at mosques, something no Muslim had ever experienced in this lifetime, were challenging and difficult to absorb. Looking back now I am satisfied that we made the right decision collectively, putting our trust in our Lord, and agreeing to suspend congregational prayers, prior to the government enforced lockdown, to ensure the safety of all our communities and institutions. Even more so knowing that minority ethnic communities being the highest at risk from the virus and ensuring that the preservation of life was at the forefront of our minds.



# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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We then embarked onto an era of unknown territory of working to ensure that our communities remained safe but also trying to preserve our deen in a new online, virtual world. The MCB working with some of our key affiliates and partners worked closely together to set up several virtual COVID-19 Response Groups (CRG) delivering advice and guidance with support from a range of experts. The #RamadanAtHome and #EidAtHome campaigns reached far and wide and provided communities with a semblance of continuity whilst we persevered in the battle against the right-wing narratives in sections of the mainstream and social media that Muslims were spreading the virus. Our media spokespeople and the Centre for Media Monitoring continued to challenge and educate throughout the pandemic.

Many of us either know or have lost a loved one during this pandemic and my thoughts and prayers are with them all. I pray for the salvation of the lives lost and for the good health of those still recovering. It goes without saying that the National Health Service in our country have no doubt been phenomenal in their response to the pandemic alongside all the public services and thousands of volunteers who played their part. I pay tribute to all of them and thank them for their service to humanity and our country.

The position of Secretary General is an immense responsibility and one person alone cannot deliver the extensive outputs you will see in this report. I owe immense gratitude to all my colleagues in the Executive Committee and Advisors for their support, expertise and selfless commitment. I give thanks to the professional staff we employ who themselves are dedicated and committed in serving our communities in the same way as we are as volunteers. The 31 new affiliated organisations that have joined us this term stand testament to this commitment and I welcome them to the MCB. May Allah reward everyone in full. Ameen.

As I step down from this role, I remain confident with my trust in Allah that he will continue to guide and safeguard this organisation if those in office remain sincere in their intentions in serving our communities only for His pleasure.

“And will provide for him from where he does not expect. And whoever places his trust in Allah, Sufficient is He for him, for Allah will surely accomplish His Purpose: For verily, Allah has appointed for all things a due proportion.” (Al-Quran 65:3)



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Harun Rashid Khan  
Secretary General

# MCB IN THE MEDIA

MCB spokespersons and quotes have appeared on a range of mainstream media outlets, highlighting the concerns and experiences of British Muslims on a range of key issue over the last 18 months. These include, but are not limited to: BBC News, BBC's Victoria Derbyshire, BBC local radio, BBC's Politics Live, BBC's Sunday Morning Live, BBC Radio 4, Sky News, Channel 4 News, ITV News, The Daily Mail, The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, The Mirror, The Independent, Washington Post, CNN, Time, New Statesman, The Sun and many others.



THE TIMES THE SUN THE BBC CHANNEL 4 AL JAZEERA

DAILY MAIL CNN ITV NEWS THE GUARDIAN

# PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

A key function of the MCB is acting as a voice for our affiliates to wider society, as well as leading public discourse on issues that matter to affiliates.

Between July 2019 and December 2020, almost 100 statements and press releases were issued on a range of topics from COVID-19 and A-Level results to the annexation of the West Bank and global Islamophobia. A snapshot of these include:

- Suspension of congregational activities to safeguard Muslim communities amidst COVID-19 pandemic outbreak
- Equality and Human Rights Commission failing to investigate Islamophobia in the Conservative Party
- Registering to vote in the 2019 general election
- Autism hour in mosques
- Situation in Kashmir
- Annexation of the West Bank
- Ramadan 2020 in lockdown
- Forced cremations of Muslim COVID-19 victims in Sri Lanka
- Conservative MP suggesting Muslims cannot be English
- Black Lives Matter protests across the world
- Changes to Hajj 2020
- British Churches and Mosques twinning for Inter Faith Week
- Lockdown restrictions on places of worship
- UK Government U-turn on A Level and GCSE results
- Living Wage Week
- Changes to Organ Donor Law in England
- Mosques offering virtual tours as part of Visit My Mosque
- Public Health England's report into BAME COVID-19 deaths
- Legal challenge against flawed review of Prevent strategy
- French Government's scapegoating of Muslim communities
- Lockdown restrictions ahead of Eid Al-Adha
- Sanctions against China for the persecution of Uighur Muslims
- Black History Month
- Sentencing of Islamophobic New Zealand terrorist attacker

A full history of MCB press releases and statements is online at [www.mcb.org.uk](http://www.mcb.org.uk)



# CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND SUBMISSIONS

The MCB regularly submits responses to public consultations, inquiries and calls for evidence. Alongside this, MCB affiliates are also often supported to produce their own responses and submissions to consultations and inquiries to encourage a wider-range of Muslim views being heard by policy makers.

Between July 2019 and December 2020, the MCB produced the following submissions:

- **Two-Child Benefit Limit** - House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee
- **Islamophobia in the Conservative Party** - Equality and Human Rights Commission
- **Protecting Places of Worship** - Home Office
- **Regulating Independent Educational Institutions** - Department for Education
- **Impact of Ethnicity on COVID-19** - Public Health England
- **Impact of COVID-19 on People with Protected Characteristics** - House of Commons Women and Equalities Select Committee
- **Lessons into Coronavirus** - House of Lords Public Services Select Committee
- **Impact of COVID-19 on BAME people** - House of Commons Women and Equalities Select Committee
- **2021 Minimum Wage Rates** - Low Pay Commission
- **Editors Code Review** - Independent Press Standards Organisation
- **The Future of Journalism** - House of Lords Communications and Digital Select Committee
- **Religious Literacy** - All-Party Parliamentary Group on Religion in the Media
- **Media Reporting of British Muslim Response to COVID-19** - APPG on British Muslims
- **Faith Engagement Review** - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- **Uighur Muslims and Xinjiang Detention Camps** - Foreign Affairs Select Committee
- **Hate Crime Consultation** - Law Commission



Harun Khan gave oral evidence to the Department for Work and Pensions Select Committee on the issue of the two-child policy and how it affects Muslim families.

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

On 12 March 2020, Harun Khan, MCB Secretary General, wrote to all affiliates urging them to plan for the likely need to suspend all congregational activity imminently. On 16 March, this was followed up by an unprecedented public call by the MCB for the temporary suspension of all congregational activity in mosques and Islamic centres across the UK to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

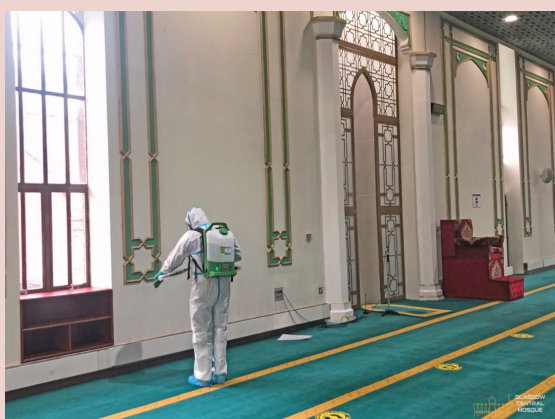
This call was supported by the British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) and a wide range of Muslim scholars and jurists and was followed by the announcement of a full national lockdown by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson a week later.

Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has gripped our lives. By April 2020, nearly a dozen COVID Response Groups (CRGs) were convened by the MCB, bringing together specialists in the field of medicine, education, economic impact, mental health, burials and aid charities, among others.

In collaboration with over 35 experts and specialist organisations across Muslim communities, over 20 webinars, community briefings and training sessions were hosted by the MCB during 2020 providing up-to-date and factual information from trusted sources and professionals to the community.







For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic for Muslim Communities, please visit: [mcb.org.uk/coronavirus](https://mcb.org.uk/coronavirus)





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# COVID-19 RESPONSE

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As COVID-19 lockdown rules regularly changed, the production of a range of guidance material, resources and toolkits to keep communities informed also continued.

This included guidance on #RamadanAtHome, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, safe re-opening of mosques and madrasas, dealing with positive COVID-19 cases in your venue, and conducting burials safely and much more.

In total, over 20 bespoke guidance resources were produced, often translated into multiple community languages, including Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Somali, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu and Yoruba to maximise outreach and impact, and made available at [www.mcb.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.mcb.org.uk/coronavirus)

In particular, ahead of places of worship being permitted to re-open from July 2020, the MCB consulted hundreds of mosques, Council of Mosques, national and regional Muslim associations, medical and legal professionals to issue the '9-Step Guide to Re-opening Mosques Safely' on 10 June. This was complemented by a number of training sessions targeted at mosque leaders, safety marshals and lay community members.

In November 2020, a report entitled **Together in Tribulation: British Muslims and the COVID-19 Pandemic** was launched. The report outlines how British Muslim communities have responded to the impact of the pandemic to date, and showcases a mere handful of the incredible, innovative and impactful initiatives set up by Muslims to support their local communities and beyond.

The impact of the third wave continues to be felt across the country in early 2021. Therefore, the MCB's COVID-19 response work in collaboration with existing and new partner organisations must continue to adapt in order to better support British Muslim communities overcome the challenges we will be facing in the coming months and years.

# CENTRE FOR MEDIA MONITORING

The Centre for Media Monitoring (CfMM) aims to promote fair and responsible reporting of Muslims and Islam. It achieves this through constructively engaging with the media and empowering communities through evidence, insight, engagement and capacity building.

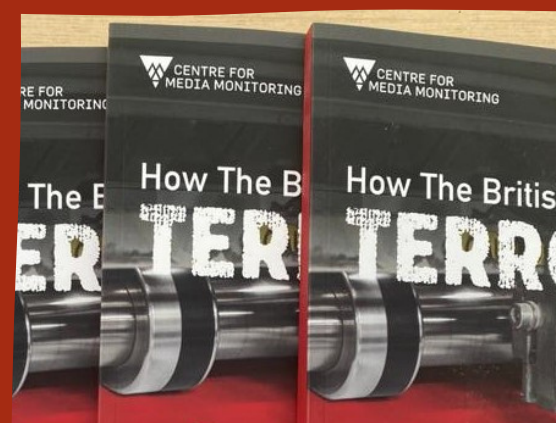
In recent years, proactive and constructive relationships have been built with decision makers across broadcast, print and online media, as well as with regulators, parliamentary committees, universities and NGOs.

These proactive engagements have been supported by the ongoing monitoring and evidence base work highlighting issues that matter to British Muslim communities. A snapshot of recent work is summarised below.

## A. Monitoring

Bespoke search engines are used to monitor and analyse how the British print and broadcast media report on Islam and Muslims. The methodology used was developed and approved by academics and experts in the field of corpus linguistics and media monitoring. Since July 2019:

- Analysed 290,000 articles and broadcast clips.
- Secured over 300 corrections in print and broadcast media following complaints about inaccurate or misleading articles and headlines.
- Won more complaints at the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) than any other organisation.
- Published two ground-breaking reports: State of the Media Reporting on Islam and Muslims and How The British Media Reports Terrorism.



# CENTRE FOR MEDIA MONITORING

## **B. Advocacy:**

Over 1,500 stakeholders have been engaged including senior media executives, editors, journalists, regulators, politicians, academics and campaign groups. This has culminated in:

- Roundtable discussions held with media executives, managing editors, editors, correspondents, reporters and producers.
- Presentations delivered to newsrooms on reporting of Islam and Muslims
- Lectures delivered to journalism students on reporting of Islam and Muslims.
- Supporting the work of several advisory boards
- Panelist at the Edinburgh TV Festival, Byline Times Festival, Media and Democracy Festival, IMPRESS Trust in Journalism Conference.
- Media coverage in national and international print and broadcast outlets
- Evidence submitted to Lords Select Committee Inquiry into the Future of Journalism, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Religion in the Media's Inquiry into Religious Literacy, APPG on British Muslims report on Media Coverage of Muslims During COVID-19, BBC Editorial Guidelines Consultation, Ofcom's Thematic Review of Representation and Portrayal on the BBC, IPSO Editors' Code review, and IPSO Guidelines on Reporting on Islam and Muslims.

## **C. Community Empowerment:**

Through training workshops and public events, Muslim and Muslim-led organisations are being encouraged to proactively engage with the media and help change the narrative. This has included:

- Training over 1,000 individuals and organisations in media engagement skills Delivered almost 70 media training workshops on media monitoring, submitting complaints, writing press releases, conducting media interviews and media crisis management.
- Held "Meet the Media" events between media executives and community members to build networks, pitch stories and foster relationships and trust.
- Established a community volunteer base to highlight problematic articles, make complaints and respond to action alerts.
- Given advice to individuals and organisations who have been misreported on or impacted by media coverage.
- Hosted "Muslims in the Media" events to encourage more Muslims to access careers in media and journalism.



# PROUDLY MUSLIM & BLACK

Black Muslim communities constitute about 10% of British Muslims according to the 2011 census, and they face a combination of racism and Islamophobia, both within Muslim communities and in wider society.

The Proudly Muslim and Black campaign was started in February 2019 with an inaugural symposium event celebrating the contributions, history and heritage of Black African and Afro-Caribbean Muslims in Britain today

Since then, the campaign has sought to create a space for addressing the problem of anti-Black racism within Muslim communities. It has continued to engage with and listen to a wide range of stakeholders on this issue through numerous meetings, working groups and public events.

A session at the Houses of Parliament was organised entitled “Being Black, British and Muslim Today” in October 2019. In 2020 saw the horrific killing of George Floyd in the United States and the global #BlackLivesMatter movement which made the work of the campaign even more pertinent.

In October 2020, a two-part “Islam and Racial Justice” online conference was organised addressing the issues in greater depth and exploring solutions. The second part of the conference focused on youth, with participants as young as 10 years old sharing their lived experiences and aspirations for change. The online conference was delivered in partnership with the Black Muslim Forum, Everyday Muslim, Civil Service Muslim Network, Black Lives Matter Redbridge, Trust Building Forum and other partners.

These events and listening exercises are planned to culminate in the publication of a report in 2021. The report will bring together contributions from nearly 40 experts and community leaders on the lived experience of British Muslims of African and Afro-Caribbean heritage. A series of E-Learning modules for the community on Islam and racial justice are also planned for 2021.



“Being Black, British and Muslim Today” at the Houses of Parliament

OCTOBER 2019

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# ISLAMOPHOBIA IN SOCIETY

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Raising awareness on the pervasiveness of Islamophobia, improving our collective understanding of what Islamophobia is and challenging it when it occurs in public life has been a key piece of work for the MCB.

As well as submitting formal complaints when politicians are embroiled in Islamophobia, the MCB also submitted a new dossier of evidence detailing Islamophobia in the Conservative Party to the Equality and Human Rights Commission. This dossier cited evidence against over 300 members of the party, including MPs, advisers and councillors, and has proved pivotal in keeping the issue of Islamophobia in political parties on the agenda, and holding the Conservative Party responsible over its failure to tackle this.

The Islamophobia workstream has also included extensive work on improving the understanding of and embedding the APPG on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, which is widely endorsed across the UK. This work has included the authoring of a comprehensive report and associated resources, to be launched in 2021, and the delivery of a series of events and workshops centred around the exploration and application of the definition, including:

- **Islamophobia Defined:** A fringe event was held at the Green Party conference in 2020. Party members and leadership learned about how Islamophobia has been defined, the many ways in which it manifests and how to can organise at a grassroots level to challenge Islamophobia both within the Green movement, and wider political discourse.
- **Understanding Islamophobia:** A webinar was held during Islamophobia Awareness Month in November 2020 entitled 'Racialisation and Muslimness', in which leading academics explained key conceptual components of the definition.
- **Understanding Islamophobia:** A series of workshops were held on the exploration and application of the APPG Definition of Islamophobia to identify practical means of operationalising the definition, for participants to challenge Islamophobia within their respective fields of work and study.

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# ELDERLY & END OF LIFE CARE

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August 2019 saw the launch of the landmark report **“Elderly and End of Life Care for Muslims in the UK”**. The report sheds light on the growing demands of elderly care in British Muslim communities, identifies significant health inequalities and makes recommendations on ensuring adequate and appropriate care is not only accessible, but is then accessed, by those who need it.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, this report’s findings on health inequalities and the care home crisis were prescient. It has motivated the efforts of the MCB Research & Documentation Committee (ReDoc) in three areas:

1. mainstreaming Muslim elderly care needs by engagement with leading service providers in the sector;
2. facilitating discussions that can lead to a model Muslim elderly care home, by bringing together mosques with developable land, care home experts and philanthropists;
3. investigating the financial savings needed to pay for elderly care in the future.

Partnership work is being developed with Age UK to collect data on the impact of COVID-19 on elderly Muslims. Development work is also ongoing with Marie Curie Cancer Care’s research team to ensure Muslim perspectives and priorities can feature in social policy discussions and service delivery decision-making.

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## In the Pipeline...

Working collaboratively with affiliates and other partner organisations, several new initiatives to support British Muslim communities are in the pipeline for 2021.

These include:

- Getting Young Muslims into Work
- Kickstart Employment Scheme
- North England Network
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Legal Affairs surgery

Get in touch to find out more or watch this space!



# SUPPORTING OUR MOSQUES

## OUR MOSQUES OUR FUTURES CONFERENCE

#OurMosquesOurFuture is an annual conference for mosque leaders and volunteers across the UK. It is designed to be a forum for sharing the best practice and good work of their mosques across Britain but to also address the difficult questions on what is holding us back.

Ticketed conferences events in London, Manchester and Leicester since January 2018 have been attended by over 1,200 mosque leaders and volunteers. In 2020 the conference was held online between 27-29 November with over 300 attendees joining 10 online panel discussions and workshops on the theme #BeyondCOVID.

Presentation slides and recordings from recent conferences can be downloaded for free online at: [ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk](https://ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk)

We also developed an online portal to showcase best practice and provide templates to strengthen mosques and Muslim community organisations. Given financial needs, a tailored funding portal was developed for mosques and embedded within this to signpost to potential funding opportunities: [www.mcb.org.uk/mosque](https://www.mcb.org.uk/mosque)

## #VISITMYMOSQUE DAY

Despite the COVID-19 lockdown, 2020 saw #VisitMyMosque taking place virtually for the first time ever, with over a dozen live virtual mosque tours between 19-21 June. This also coincided with The Great Get Together weekend inspired by the late Jo Cox MP.

Over a thousand viewers tuned in via Zoom or Facebook Live for guided tours of mosques across the UK and for the opportunity to ask Imams and mosque leaders questions.

Tours ranged from Greenwich Islamic Centre and the ongoing construction of their building extension in south London to the small and thriving community of Inverness Masjid in northern Scotland.

Cambridge Central Mosque gave a sweeping walk-through Europe's first Eco-Mosque, whilst other masjids shared their unique experiences of responding to the pandemic including running local community support initiatives. Recordings of the tours can be watched online at [visitmymosque.org](https://visitmymosque.org).



# SUPPORTING OUR MOSQUES

## WOMEN IN MOSQUES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Between July and December 2019, 20 upcoming and talented Muslim women took part in the second year of the Women in Mosques Development Programme (WIMDP). The programme is designed to accelerate the development of female leaders to play more prominent roles in mosques as trustees, committee members and centre managers.

Participants went through a recruitment process and joined from across the UK, including Manchester, Yorkshire, London, Reading, Cardiff, Gloucester, Derby, Sheffield and Belfast.

Two residential events covered a range of leadership development areas. Shaykh Mohammad Akram Nadwi also delivered a session debunking common myths around women's access to the mosque. Programme participants were paired with a mentor who is an existing mosque committee member and trustee to support their development. The programme is planned to run again in 2021.



# STRENGTHENING INTERNAL FOUNDATIONS

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Behind the scenes, committee volunteers have been hard at work delivering on several medium and long-term improvement plans to strengthen internal foundations.

Work on these and other improvement areas is planned to continue through 2021 and anybody who would like to contribute or make suggestions is welcome to get in touch.

**Human Resources:** Several new policies and procedures have been introduced around safeguarding, volunteering, speaker selection and more. The MCB also became an accredited Living Wage employer in November 2019, and a new employee handbook and induction processes were introduced. Employee wellbeing was also reviewed in light of working from home arrangements during the pandemic and structured employee training plans are planned to be introduced in 2021.

**Digital Fundraising:** In similarity to many other organisations adapting to the new reality introduced by the pandemic, enhancing digital fundraising capability has been a focus area since 2020. A streamlining of the way social media, website and other communication channels are utilised continues to progress. This includes not only for fundraising, but also to reach new audiences and increase awareness and visibility of projects and campaigns across British Muslim communities and beyond.

**Governance Review:** The MCB's Constitution was last updated in 2013. A review of the the MCB's overall governance structure has been progressing during 2020 with regular updates and discussion at quarterly National Council meetings. This review is expected to conclude in 2021 with a consultation on proposed amendments to the Constitution and tabling of amendments for affiliates to vote on at an upcoming General Meeting.

**Online Elections:** In lieu of the pandemic, the planned 2020 election AGM was delayed until January 2021. This has allowed the opportunity to develop a bespoke online system for delegate registration, candidate nominations and casting of votes which replaces the previous paper-based system. This system will have the potential to be used to streamline the organising of future AGMs.

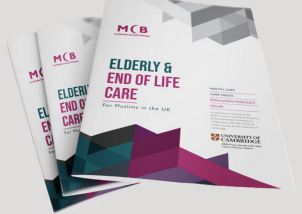




# TIMELINE OF EVENTS AND REPORTS:

## EVENTS

## REPORTS

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                             |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JULY 2019  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual General Meeting (Birmingham)</li> <li>• Centre for Media Monitoring Launch</li> <li>• Public Consultation on New Prime Minister, Boris Johnson</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Media Reporting on Islam and Muslims</li> </ul>                           |
| AUG 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly and End of Life Care for Muslims in the UK Report Launch</li> </ul>                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly and End of Life Care for Muslims in the UK</li> </ul>                      |
| SEPT 2019  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                             |
| OCT 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #OurYouthOurFuture Conference, Leicester FC</li> <li>• Being Black, British and Muslim Today- Parliamentary Reception</li> <li>• Autism Hour in Mosques</li> </ul>        |                                         |
| NOV 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women in Mosques Development Programme Residential</li> <li>• Voter Registration Drives at UK Mosques</li> </ul>                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Muslim Perspectives at the 2019 General Election</li> </ul>                |
| DEC 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the Media Seminar</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                             |
| JAN 2020   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-Mosques Seminar</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             |
| FEB 2020   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using Socio-economic Data to Improve Local Representation - Workshop for Local Councillors</li> </ul>                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly and End of Life Care for Muslims in the UK - Arabic Translation</li> </ul> |
| MARCH 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Coronavirus Community Briefings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                             |
| APRIL 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Coronavirus Community Briefings</li> <li>• Weekly Virtual Eco-Iftars</li> <li>• COVID-19 Mortality Rates and BAME Communities Local Councillors Seminar</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                             |
| MAY 2020   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Coronavirus Community Briefings</li> <li>• Weekly Virtual Eco-Iftars</li> <li>• Preparing for Safe Re-Opening of Mosques</li> </ul>                                |                                                                                                                             |



# TIMELINE OF EVENTS AND REPORTS:

## EVENTS

## REPORTS

JUNE 2020

- Virtual #VisitMyMosque
- COVID Mosque Safe Re-opening Training for Mosque Leaders
- COVID Mosque Safe Re-opening Training for Community Members
- Mosque Re-opening: Regional Feedback Webinars
- Roundtable with London's Deputy Mayor and Muslim Organisations
- Weekly Coronavirus Community Briefings



JULY 2020

- Roundtable on the Conflict in Kashmir with the Labour Party
- Weekly CfMM Training Sessions



AUG 2020

- Introduction to Media Monitoring Panel Discussion

- How the British Media Reports Terrorism

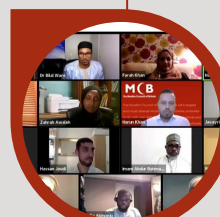
SEPT 2020

- How the British Media Reports Terrorism Panel Discussion
- Faith Buildings During Lockdown: Dynamic or Dormant? Panel Discussion



OCT 2020

- Islam and Racial Justice Conference
- Meet the Media
- Preparing for Winter and the Second COVID-19 Wave: Community Briefing



NOV 2020

- Our Mosques Our Future #BeyondCOVID Conference
- Together in Tribulation: British Muslims and the COVID-19 Pandemic Report Launch
- Understanding Islamophobia: Racialisation and Muslimness
- Muslims in Media
- Tackling Islamophobia in the Media

- Together in Tribulation: British Muslims and the COVID-19 Pandemic



DEC 2020

- UK Government Review of Faith Engagement Community Webinar

# GET INVOLVED



## Become an affiliate

Get your mosque or association to be part of the democratic process at the MCB.



## Careers at MCB

Be part of an exciting team working hard to make a real difference.



## Join our mailing list

Join our mailing list to stay up to date with all our events and activities.



## Volunteer at MCB

Take part in our wide range of events by volunteering some time.



## Make a donation

Make a real difference by supporting the MCB's projects and campaigns.

**DONATE TODAY!**

[mcb.org.uk/donate](https://mcb.org.uk/donate)

**To find out more about who we are and the different ways you can get involved visit:**

[www.mcb.org.uk](https://www.mcb.org.uk)



@muslimcouncil



@muslimcouncil.uk



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Chaired by: Adrees Sharif

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome below an incredible 31 new Affiliates who joined MCB during this period:

**Abu Hanifah Foundation**, Blackburn  
**Ahlulistiqamah Trust UK**, Barking  
**Al-Emaan Centre**, Kent  
**Ana Huna**, London  
**Ashaadibi Educational & Cultural Centre**, London  
**Canterbury Muslim Cultural Centre**, Canterbury  
**CBHUK (The Council Of British Hajjis)**, Bolton  
**ConsortiuM of Muslim Professional Networks**, London  
**Council of Somali Organisations**, London  
**Dar-ul-Isra Muslim Educational & Welfare Centre**, Cardiff  
**Darus Salam Mosque and Islamic Centre**, Manchester  
**Dewsbury Sharia Office**, Dewsbury  
**Dr Deen Youth Solutions**, London  
**Emerald Network**, London  
**Essex Jamme Masjid Trust**, Essex  
**Faith Inspire**, London  
**Global Aid Trust**, London  
**Haaya Foundation / Hounslow Muslim Centre**, London  
**Lebanese Youth Forum**, London  
**Leicester City Retreat**, Leicester  
**Liverpool Region Mosque Network**, Liverpool  
**Malayalee Muslim Cultural & Welfare Association**, Hendon  
**Masjid Al Farouq**, Walsall  
**Masjid Al Hikmah & Community Centre**, London  
**National Huffadh Association**, London  
**Ramadan Tent Project**, London  
**Roobitatul Aimmah Wal Ulaamah**, London  
**Shamsiya Trust**, Coventry  
**Strive UK**, London  
**Suleymaniye Humanitarian Trust**, London  
**Welwyn Islamic Society**, W G City

This bears testimony to the fantastic engagement work of the MCB especially via our collaborative webinars, infographics and guidance delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic period. If we include the 11 additional Affiliate applications received at the end of 2020, which are currently being processed, this represents an increase of over 8% to our Affiliate base.

“I look forward to both our new and existing affiliates working together to contribute and to help improve the lives of British Muslims and Non-Muslims.”- Brother Adrees Sharif

# LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Chaired by: Ifath Nawaz

The Legal Affairs Committee has grown significantly in the breadth of its response and the workload demanded by the community during this period. Its work has covered several key areas:

- Family Law issues
- Hate crimes
- Islamophobia
- Covid response
- Support to the Education Affairs Committee
- Support to International Affairs work including: Kashmir, India, Uighurs and Sri Lanka
- Exploring adequate resourcing of support to MCB affiliates

During the 2019 / 2020 period the Committee has achieved the following to mention just a few highlights of its work:

- Formal complaint lodged with Equalities Human Rights Commission for failure to investigate Islamophobia in the Conservative Party
- Formal response to Law Commission Consultation on Marriage Law Reforms
- Webinar in December 2020 with affiliates on Marriage Law Reforms
- Legal Advice in a series of Webinars on Coronavirus for affiliates and the community throughout 2020
- Representation on the Legal Strategic Partnership of the CPS on Hate Crimes
- Reporting and follow up action with the Met for failure to prosecute perpetrators of hate mail
- Complaint to Keir Starmer on his stance on India and participation in the roundtable with leading Labour figures and lawyers on action taken by the Indian government
- Continued work on further action in regard to human rights violations in Kashmir and India and establishing an India Tribunal
- Leading on a legal action against the Sri Lankan Government for forced cremations, to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission
- Formal response to Law Commission on review of Hate Crimes legislation
- Mediation service offered to affiliates in internal disputes
- Supporting MCB work in regard to response to inquiry into Xinjanj Detention Centre
- Supporting Education Committee in its work on RSE
- Establishing Pro Bono Legal Clinic to be rolled out in 2021
- Exploring further legal avenues in regard to human rights violations against Muslims internationally and building coalition of international lawyers

# MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Chaired by: Harun Rashid Khan

Public Affairs has transformed into a fully-fledged department at the Muslim Council of Britain with 3 full-time staff. Its remit covers 3 main areas:

1. **Public communications:** proactive and reactive comms with committees and the media (including press releases and statements), and on social media;
2. **Engaging** with decision makers and influencers through meetings, letters and roundtable discussions; and
3. **Running campaigns:** General Election, Islamophobia in the Conservative Party, Islamophobia Definition, National Listening Exercise on Terrorism

Whilst the annual report already covers much of this work in other sections including "A Strong Voice", and the "Covid-19 Response", "Islamophobia in Society" and "Counter Terrorism Policies", this section will showcase some of the work not covered elsewhere.

The MCB has raised issues of importance for Muslim communities at every opportunity, and specifically with senior decision makers across society:

- **Public bodies:** the MCB has met with senior leads in the NHS, the Metropolitan Police and the NPCC, Historic England, London Bereavement Process, London's Faith and Belief Advisory Panel and NHS England's faith workforce, amongst many others.
- **Government / Civil Servants:** the MCB has had meetings with senior civil servants in MHCLG, the Home Office and the Department of Health, although formal engagement appears to have been abruptly suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic without explanation. Engagement with City Hall (London) and the Mayor of the West Midlands continues.
- **Conservative Party:** whilst engagement with senior Ministers has not taken place formally, with many letters astonishingly unanswered (in what appears to be a response to the highlighting of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party), the MCB has met with many Conservative MPs.
- **Labour Party:** the MCB met with the Labour leader Keir Starmer, the Shadow Foreign Affairs team including Lisa Nandy, the Shadow Home Secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds and many others in the shadow ministerial team.
- **Other parties:** the MCB has met with senior politicians across all parties, including direct engagement with the leader of the Liberal Democrats Ed Davey (and previously Jo Swinson) and the leader of the SNP in Westminster Ian Blackford.

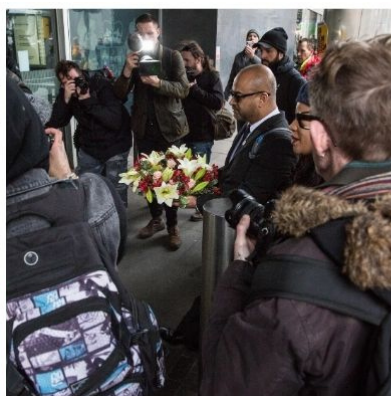
Other achievements include:

- **General Election:**
  - Facilitated first National Muslim Voter Registration Day nationwide
  - Videos with all the main party leaders (with the exception of the Conservative Party) encouraging Muslims to vote
  - Secured commitments in Labour, SNP, Lib Dem and Plaid Cymru manifestos to combat Islamophobia
  - All Labour leadership contenders and most deputy leadership contenders signed up to MCB's ten key pledges to support Muslim communities, followed up with letters to establish a relationship
- **Islamophobia Definition:** Directly or indirectly secured commitments for the adoption of the Islamophobia definition by the leading academics in the field, many of the biggest Muslim groups in the UK, most political parties and a number of councils
- **Other high-profile endorsements for our work:** Our work was shared by NHS England, the UK Health Minister (Lords), councils; SAGE report into public messaging and communications specifically highlighted the work of the MCB as being more trusted than the Govt in some Muslim communities.

# EDUCATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chaired by: Maswood Ahmed

- The chair of the education affairs committee gave evidence to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- Following a 'Rule 9 request' MCB EAC submitted evidence to the "Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings following consultation with selected affiliates, highlighting the need for effective safeguarding arrangements in religious institutions e.g. Mosques, madrasas, supplementary schools, etc.
- EAC submitted a response to the consultation on 'Regulating independent educational institutions', which has far reaching implications for organisations in the voluntary sector such as madrasas, supplementary schools, after school activities and youth work provisions.
- Represented MCB and spoke at Stand Up to Racism demonstration and event (16th March 2019) following New Zealand Massacre, in tribute to the 49 people killed and 48 injured during a terror attack the day before on two mosques in New Zealand by a far-right extremist. Speaking to the over 25,000 strong demonstrators, Maswood Ahmed, said: "Although much progress has been made, the crippling poison of Racism, Fascism and Islamophobia still persists, and it is on the rise. The struggle must continue until these elements are defeated. The Muslim Council of Britain is committed to joining all organised efforts for achieving fairness, justice and equality. This national demonstration is an excellent example of solidarity for achieving the common good."
- Speaking regularly at public events including at St Albans Cathedral Sixth Form Debate (Find Your Voice and Speak Your Mind), and at Department for Education's interfaith events e.g. "Building Bridges", and "My Faith, Lockdown and Me", Maswood Ahmed spoke alongside Rabbi Daniel Epstein, Mr Bob Banks, Mrs Trupti Patel and Dr Tim Leunig.
- Meetings with Religious Education Council of England and Wales. By working in partnership MCB EAC representatives regularly contribute to events and activities to influence religious education policy and curriculum.
- RSE/RSHE Curriculum - MCB Education Affairs Committee (EAC) continued to listen to community concerns and maintained liaison with interested parties on the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) related campaigns including liaising with Department for Education (DFE) highlighting concerns on behalf of the Muslim community. Members of the Education Affairs Committee met with a leading RSE provider in mainstream schools to review and discuss scope for collaboration in producing RSHE material that is fit for purpose for Muslim children in mainstream schools. The discussions are on-going as MCB works with stakeholders for a better outcome for children in both Islamic as well as state schools.
- Following reports that a growing number of parents are taking their children out of religious education lessons in protest at the teaching of Islam, MCB Education Affairs Committee responded in the media and called for greater understanding of each other's faith and cultures.





# APPENDIX

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## OFFICE BEARERS

Secretary General:

Harun Rashid Khan

Deputy Secretary General: Hassan Joudi

Assistant Secretary Generals: Maswood Ahmed, Rashidat Hassan, Zara Mohammed

Treasurer: Navshir Jaffer

Assistant Treasurer: Lamine Konate

## CHAIRS OF MANDATORY COMMITTEES

Media & Public Relations - Harun Rashid Khan

Finance & General Purpose - Navshir Jaffer

Research & Documentation - Dr Shuja Shafi

Legal Affairs Committee - Ifath Nawaz

Membership Committee - Adrees Sharif

## ADVISORS

Mr Khalid Sofi, Constitutional Advisor and Election Commissioner

Sir Iqbal Sacranie OBE

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE

Prof Iqbal Asaria CBE

Dr Akber Mohammedali

Dr Jamil Sherif

Mrs Talat Ahmed, HR Advisor

## OTHER COMMITTEE LEADS

Education Affairs – Maswood Ahmed

Mosque Affairs – Hassan Joudi

# APPENDIX

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS

### Zonally Elected Members of the NC

Mr Mahomed Siddik Giga, East Midlands (Incl Notts & Derbyshire)  
Dr Mohammad Shahzad Amin, Merseyside, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale  
Mr Fakhrul Islam, North London, Beds. & Cambridge  
Mr Navshir Jaffer, South London & Southern England  
Mr Mohamed Fadil, West & Central London, West & South West  
Mr Abdullah Mohammad Ismail, West Midlands  
Mr Goyas Khan, Yorkshire & North East Preston, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley  
Dr Javed Gill, SCOTLAND  
Mr Mohamed Raisul Islam, WALES  
Naomi Green NORTHERN IRELAND

### Nationally Elected Members of the NC

Mrs Talat Ahmed, World Islamic Association of Mental Health  
Ms Zara Mohammed, The Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS)  
Dr Walaa Ramadan, Muslim Association of Britain  
Ms Afusat Abiodun Idowu, Akerele Council of Nigerian Muslim Organisations  
Ms Nuzhat Ali, Muslim Women of Merton  
Mr Harun Rashid Khan Redbridge, Islamic Centre  
Mr Hassan Joudi, Islamic Unity Society  
Mr Miqdaad Versi, Shia Ithna-Asheri Community of Middx (SICM)  
Dr Abdullah Faliq, Muslim Community Association (MCA)  
Mr Sirajul, Islam East London Mosque Trust Ltd  
Mr Mohammed Kozbar, Finsbury Park Mosque  
Mr Mustafa Al-Dabbagh, Muslim Association of Britain  
Mr Shabbir Ahmad Kawsar, Jamiatul Ummah School for Boys  
Mr Adrees Sharif UK Islamic Mission (South Birmingham)  
Ms Dinah Yaqub, Muslim Association of Britain  
Mr Imran Hamid, UK Islamic Mission (National)

Mr Maswood Ahmed, Da'watul Islam UK & Eire  
Mr Talha Jamil Ahmad, Da'watul Islam UK & Eire  
Mr Musleh Faradhi, Muslim Community Association (MCA)  
Mr Farooq Murad, Islamic Foundation  
Mr Ahmed Abdul Malik, Da'watul Islam UK & Eire  
Mr Ibrahim Mogra, Khazinat Al-'Ilm  
Dr Omer Hasem El-Hamdoon, Muslim Women Society for the future  
Mr Ufuk Secgin, Hasene Humanitarian Aid UK (Hasene Aid UK)  
Mr Bashir Taiwo Zubair, Council of Nigerian Muslim Organisations  
Mr Tahir Alam, Muslim Parents Association  
Mr Jazeel Fazy, Sri Lankan Islamic Forum UK (SLIF UK)  
Mr Hasan Ahmed, UKIM West London Islamic Centre  
Mr Mamoon Al-Hassan, Muslim Youth Network UK  
Ms Mubash-Sharah Khan, Muslimaat Youth  
Dr Emranul Haque, Muslim Community Association (MCA)  
Mr Hasan Mueenuddin, Da'watul Islam UK & Eire  
Mr Toufik Kacimi, Muslim Welfare House (National)  
Mr Usama Razi, UK Islamic Mission (National)  
Ms Firdous Arif, The Muslim Women's Association (UK)  
Mrs Lana Al-Sumaiday, Muslim Women Society for the Future  
Dr Abdul Azim Ahmed, Muslim Council of Wales  
Mr Musharraf Chaudhury, Southwark Muslim Forum  
Br Marwan Mohamed Al-Akari, FOSIS  
Dr. Sharif Kaf Al-Ghazal, British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA)  
Mr Maroof Adeoye, Council of Nigerian Muslim Organisations  
Mr Asim Sheikh, Muslim Council of Scotland

### Co-Opted NC Members

Sr Rashidat Adeyinka Hassan, Assistant Secretary General  
Dr Shuja Shafi Chair, Research & Documentation Committee  
Ms Ifath Nawaz Chair, Legal Affairs Committee  
Sr Koser Shaheen, Association of Muslim Lawyers  
Lamine Konate, Peckham High Street Islamic & Cultural Centre