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BRITISH MUSLIMS IN NUMBERS

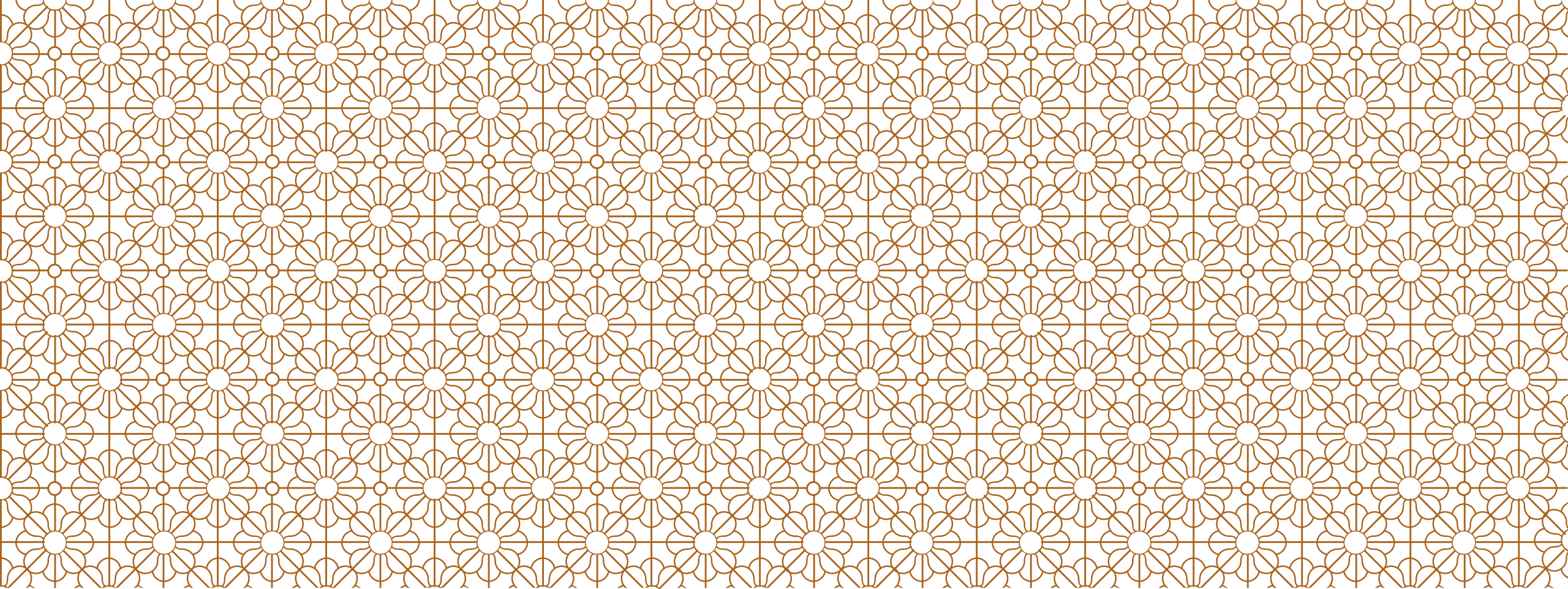
Highlights from the MCB Report
covering 2001, 2011 and 2021
census data for the UK

WHAT IS THE CENSUS

- The census collects data on everyone in England and Wales every 10 years
- There has been a religion question in the census since 2001 (94% response rate)
- This allows us to compare the Muslim population with the wider population and map key trends
- The MCB research and documentation committee have used this data to explore the trajectory of the Muslim community over the last 20 years

WHAT DOES THIS REPORT COVER

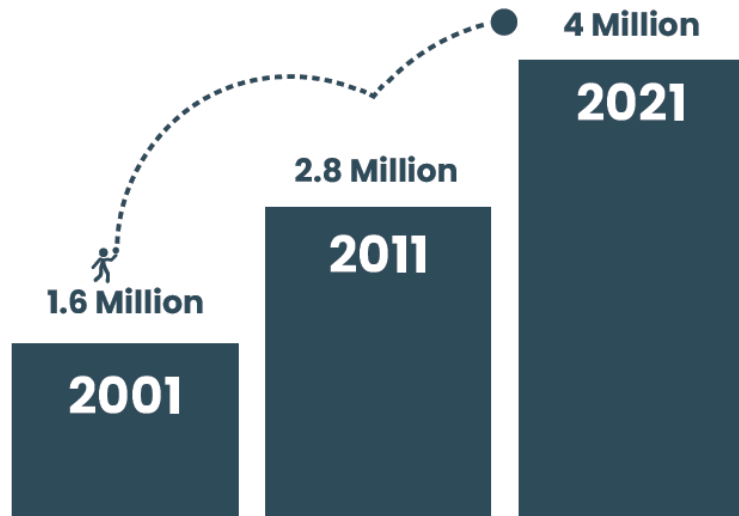
- It is split over 2 volumes and provides 400 pages of detailed analysis
- Compares the Muslim population over time (2001, 2011 & 2021), across countries and local authorities, with other religious groups, split by age group and gender
- Examines health, education, employment, housing, identity, demographic and family structure



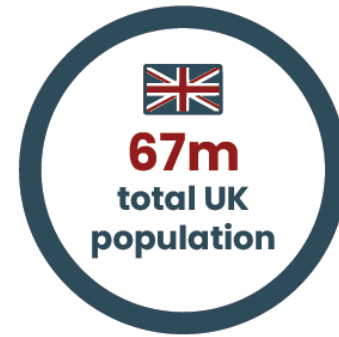
OVERVIEW

What does the Muslim
population look like?

MUSLIMS IN THE UK



6%
OF OVERALL
POPULATION



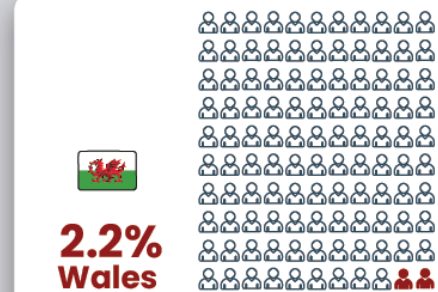
120,000



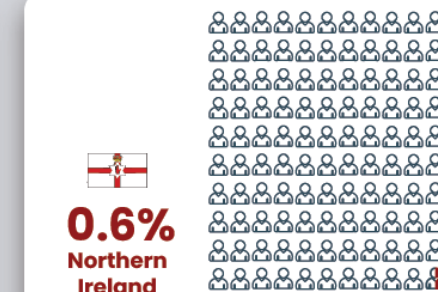
3.8 million



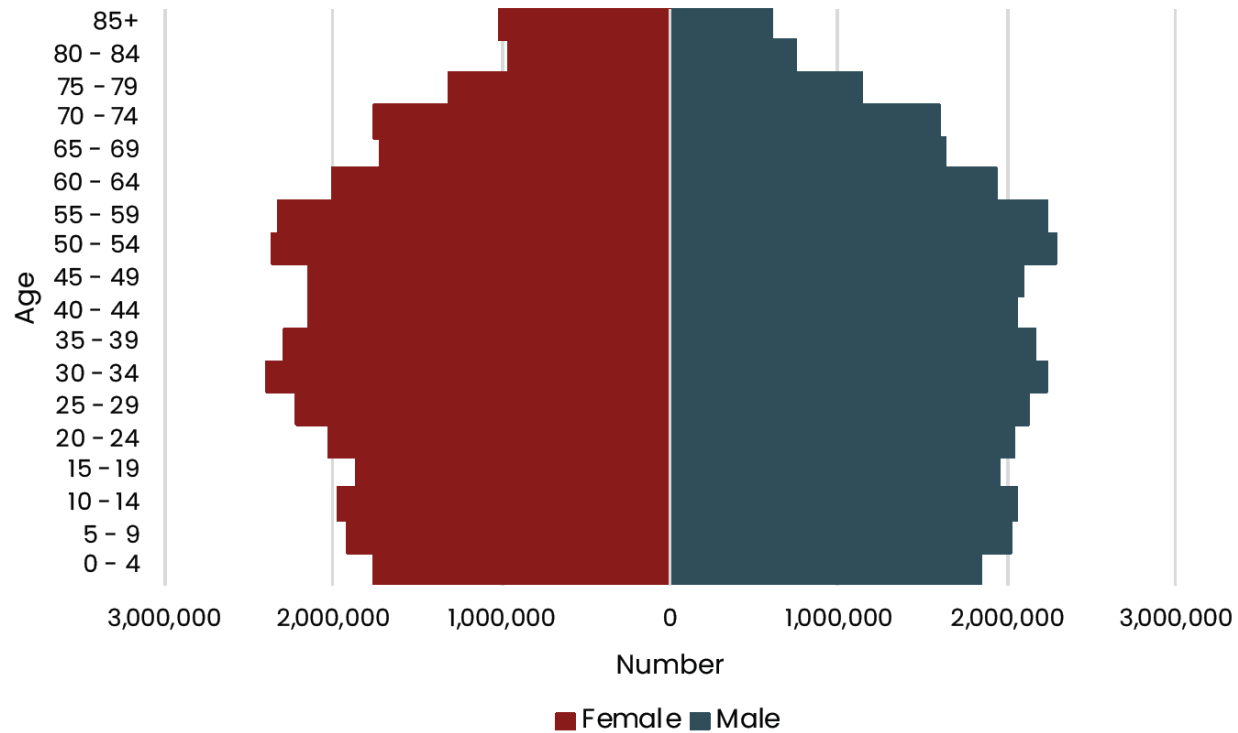
67,000



11,000



S3.F6: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – UK



Median age overall UK: 44 years

School age (5-15): 13%

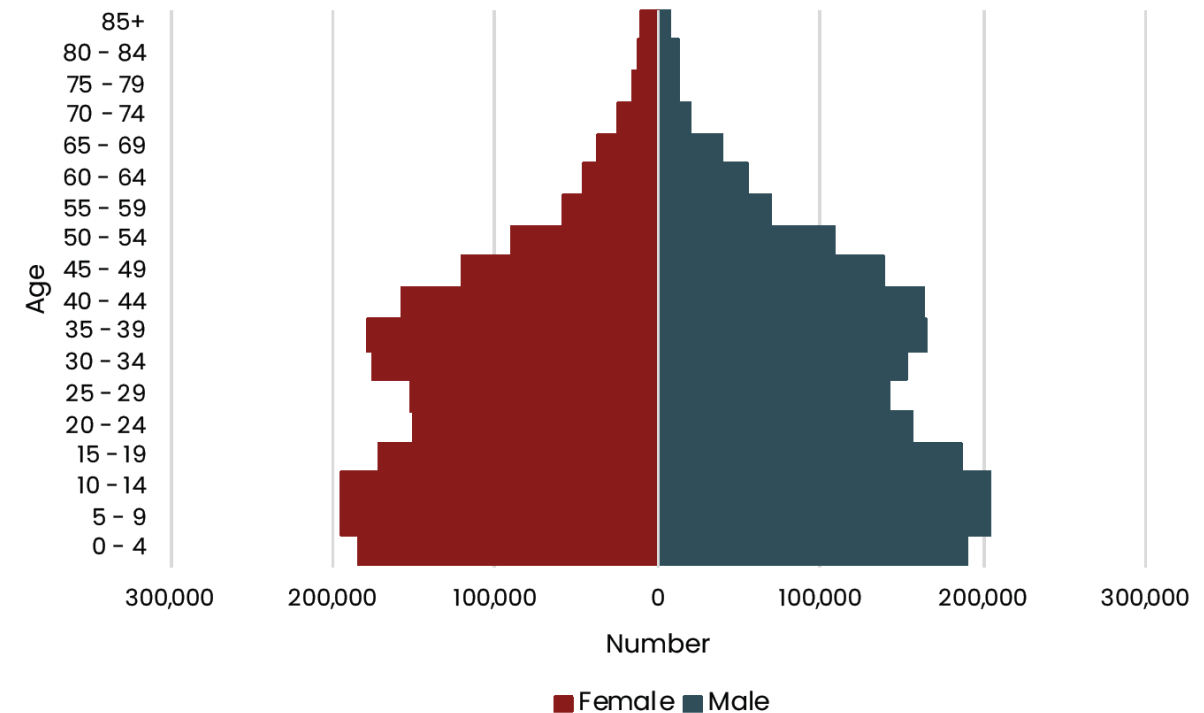
Old age (65+): 19%

Median age Muslims UK: 29 years

School age (5-15): 22%

Old age (65+): 5%

S3.F7: Age-Sex population pyramid – Muslim – UK



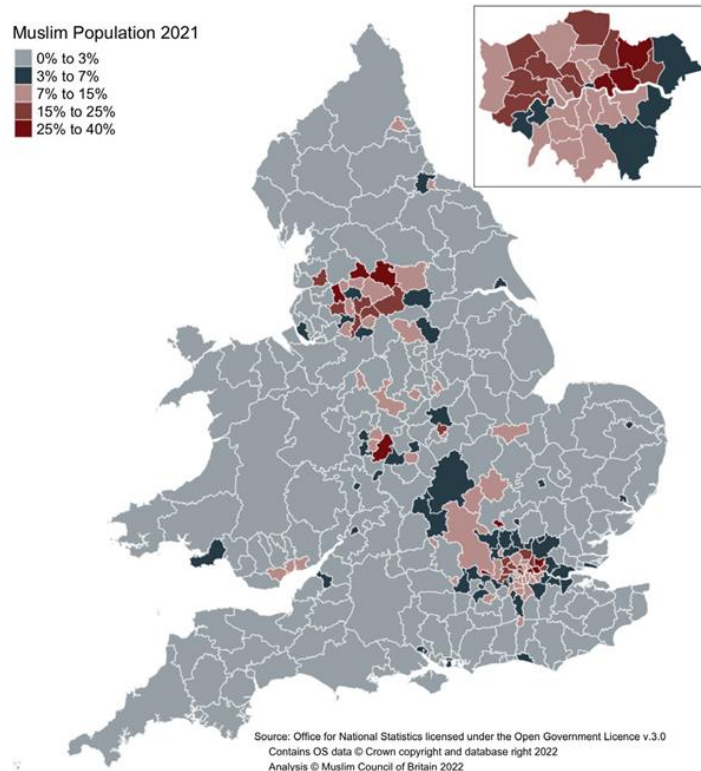
MUSLIMS IN THE UK ARE YOUNG

- Just over a fifth of Muslims are of school age (5-15 years)
- 1 in 10 of all school age children in the UK are Muslim
- Only 1 in 20 Muslims are over 65 as compared to a fifth of the population

overall

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Muslim Population 2021



Muslims are **concentrated in the big cities** (99% live in urban areas as compared to 82% of the population overall)

- London 1.3 million (15%) **approx. a third of all UK Muslims**
- Birmingham 342,000 (30%)
- Bradford 169,000 (31%)
- Manchester 123,000 (22%)
- Cardiff 34,000 (9%)
- Glasgow 49,000 (8%)
- Belfast 5,000 (2%)

MUSLIMS IN THE UK ARE ETHNICALLY DIVERSE

Ethnic group	Ethnic group proportion of Muslim population (%)	Muslim population proportion of ethnic group (%)
Pakistani	38%	93%
Bangladeshi	15%	92%
African	10%	25%
Arab	7%	84%
Other	7%	28%
Indian	6%	13%
Other Asian	6%	24%
White	6%	0.5%

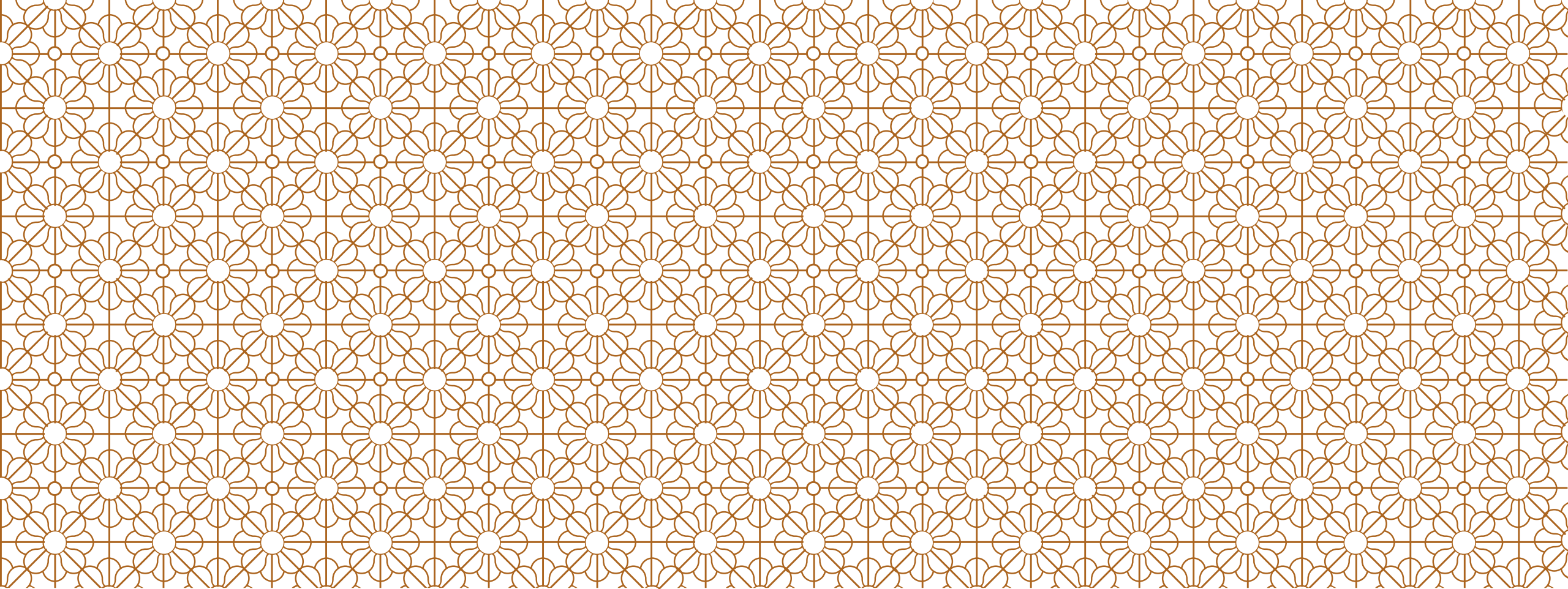
The Muslim population is **ethnically diverse** – some ethnic groups such as Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Arabs are predominantly Muslim – population has become less Asian and more African over time

IDENTITY

- **Born in the UK:** 51% of Muslims compared to 84% of total population
- **Identified as of only UK national identities:** 94% of the UK born Muslim population and 55% of the non-UK born Muslim population as compared to 98% and 42% of the total population respectively
- **Speak English very well or well:** 91% of Muslims as compared to 98% of total population
 - Those who cannot speak English well are typically older Muslims, particularly 65+ Muslim women

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- **Married with dependent children:** 36% of Muslims compared to 14% of total population
- **Lone parent family with dependent children:** 10% of Muslims as compared to 7% of the total population
- **One person household:** 16% of Muslims as compared to 30% of total population



OUTCOMES

How is the lot of the Muslim
population changing over time

INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

Supplementary index -
Income Deprivation Affecting
Children Index (IDACI)

7 domains of deprivation included in the Index:



Income
22.5%



Employment
22.5%



Education
13.5%



Health
13.5%



Crime
9.3%



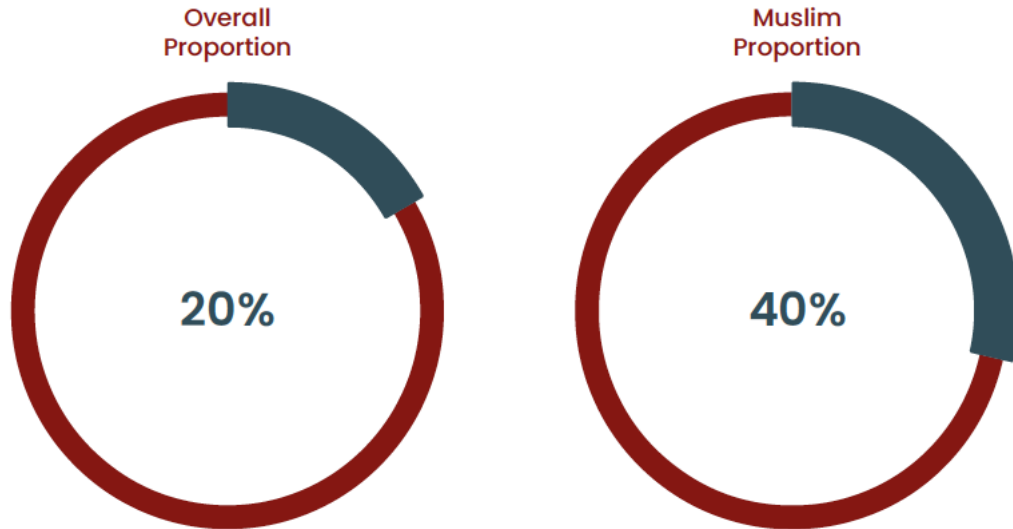
Barriers
to
housing &
services
9.3%



Living
environment
9.3%

Supplementary index -
Income Deprivation Affecting
Older People Index (IDAOPI)

Distribution of Population in Most Deprived LADs



Proportion of population living in least
deprived 5th of local authorities:

Muslim 1/20

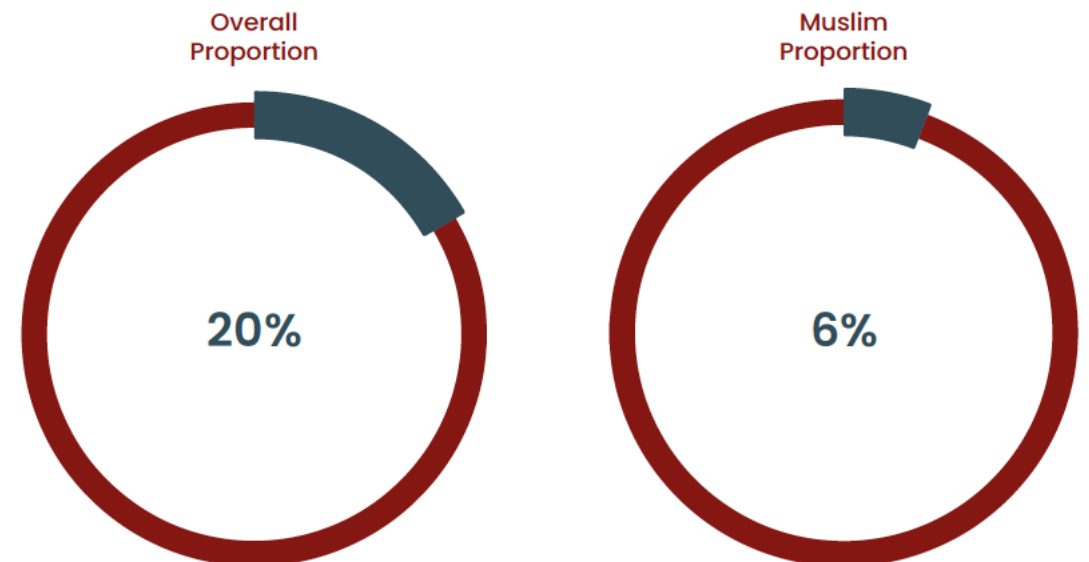
Total population 4/20

Proportion of population living in most
deprived 5th of local authorities:

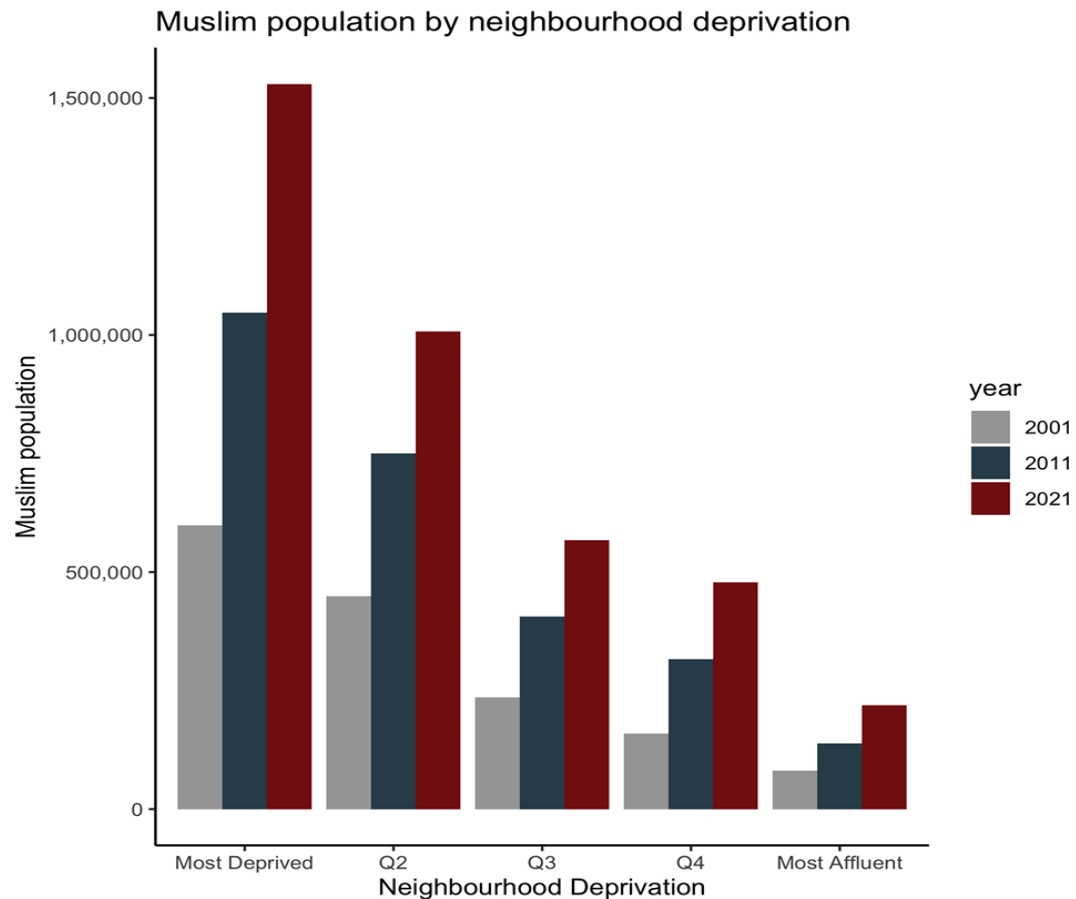
Muslim 2/5

Total population 1/5

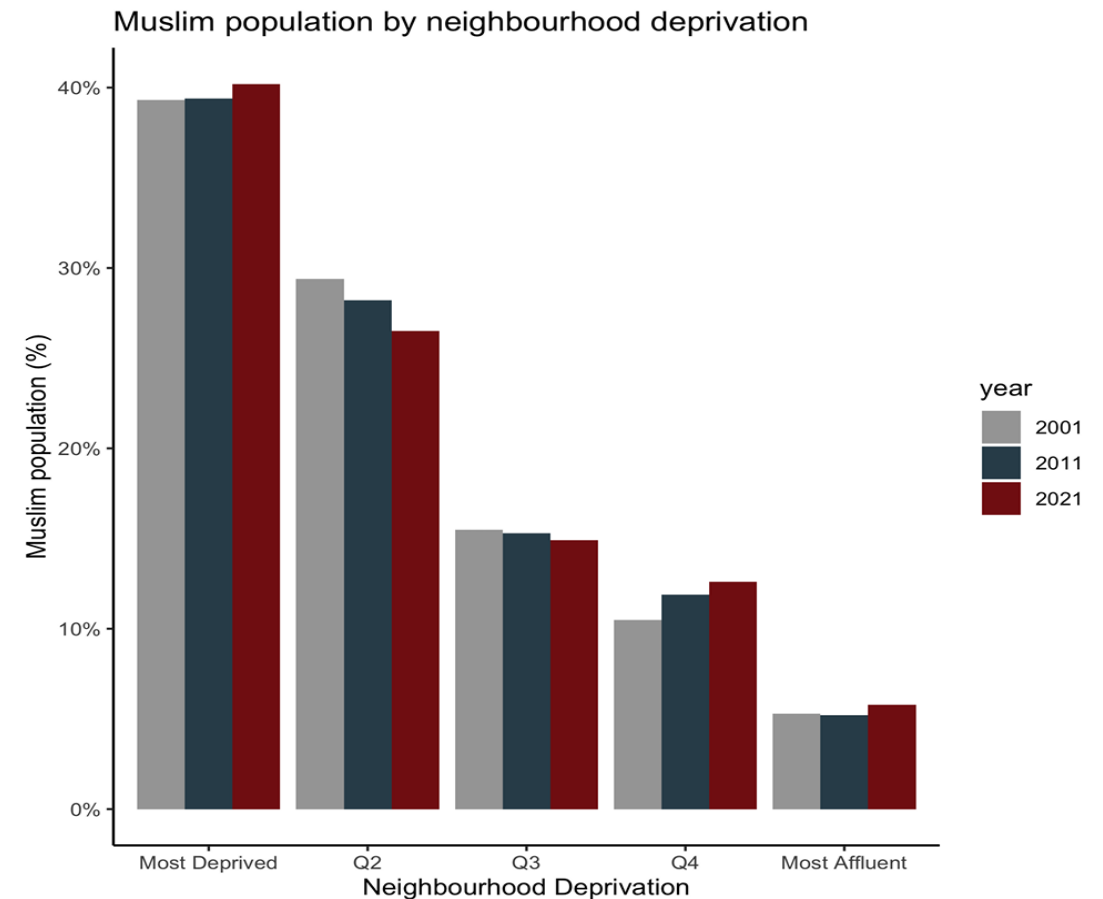
Distribution of Population in Most Affluent LADs



SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE



Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0
Analysis © Muslim Council of Britain 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0
Analysis © Muslim Council of Britain 2022

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- 40% of the Muslim population lived in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country in 2001, 2011 & 2021 - no change over time in relative terms
- 6% of the Muslim population lived in the most affluent neighbourhoods in the country in 2001, 2011 & 2021 – no change over time in relative terms
- In absolute numbers there are now approximately 1 million more Muslims living in the most deprived parts of the country than in 2001
- Healthy life expectancy is 20 years lower in the most deprived parts of the country than in the least deprived parts of the country and this gap is widening over time – structural violence leading to social murder

HOW HAS BEING AT THE BOTTOM OF SOCIETY CHANGED OVER TIME?

- Whilst the position of Muslims has not changed over time – i.e. they have disproportionately remained at the bottom of society, **what it means to be at the bottom has changed over time**
- In 2001 **things were looking positive** - we were coming to the end of the first term of the New Labour government with massive public sector investment in NHS, schools, social services
- 2001 – 2010 we have had 9/11, 7/7, counter-terror, financial crisis, austerity
- 2011 – 2021 we have had more austerity, Brexit
- Public services and the social fabric of the country have severely frayed – **tax cuts for the rich and service cuts for those who need them most** have been the story of the day

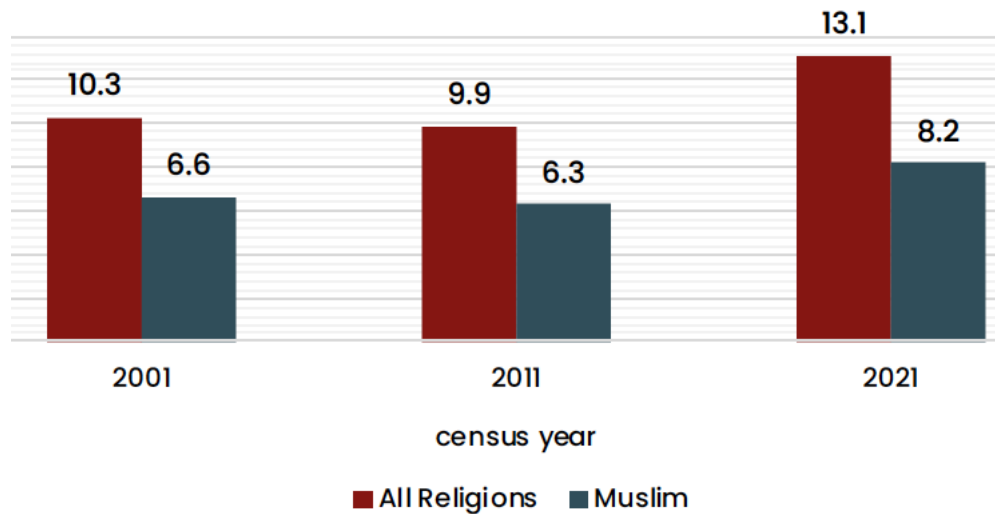
EDUCATION

- **Level 4 (undergraduate degree level or above) qualification age 16+:** 33% of Muslims as compared to 34% of total population
- **Level 4 age 16-24 England and Wales:** 21% for Muslims as compared to 19% total population improved from 11% and 12% in 2001
- **Level 4 age 25-49 England and Wales:** 40% for Muslims as compared to 46% total population improved from 26% and 26% in 2001
- **No qualification all age England and Wales:** 25% for Muslims as compared to 18% total population improved from 39% and 29% in 2001

EDUCATION INTERPRETATION

- Education amongst young Muslims rapidly **improving in line with overall population trend**
- No detail in census of what subjects people are studying, which universities they attend, the degree outcomes they attain or other **measures of quality of education** received
- Muslims still **more likely to have no qualifications** – driven largely by differences in older age groups

OCCUPATION



Muslims are underrepresented in better (higher managerial and professional) jobs – this has shown very little improvement over time in this

- **Employed male:** 40% Muslims as compared to 47% total population
- **Sole trader male:** 13% Muslims as compared to 11% total population
- **Employed female:** 31% Muslims as compared to 45% total population
- **Looking after home and family female:** 27% Muslims as compared to 8% total population (age dependent)
- **Retired:** 6% Muslims as compared to 22% total population (age dependent)

WHY IS BETTER EDUCATION NOT TRANSLATING TO BETTER LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES?

- **Time lag** – it takes time to become a senior manager even if you have a good education
- **Quality differences** – Muslims may be choosing degrees with less favourable labour market outcomes, may be going to worse universities or be achieving worse educational outcomes at university
- There could be labour market **discrimination** against Muslims
- Census cannot tell us these details but evidence for **all of the above** in other studies

HOUSING

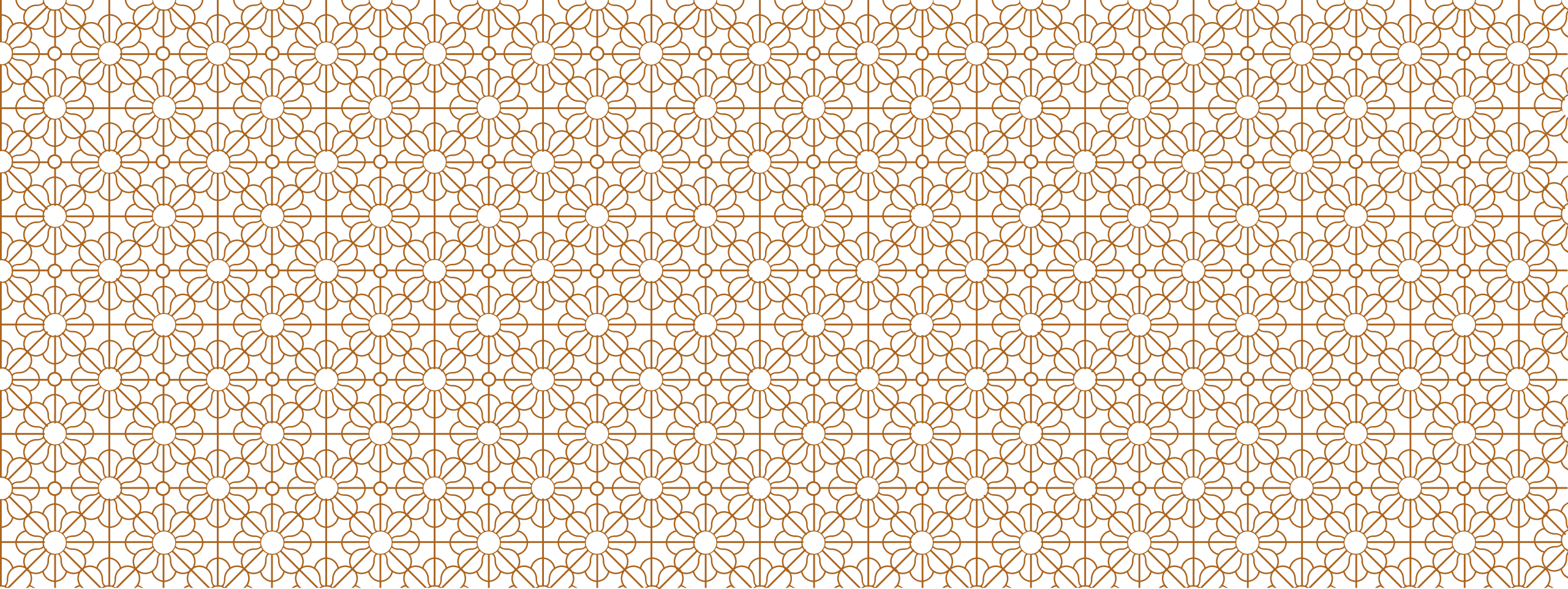
- **Home ownership:** 46% Muslim households as compared to 63% total population households
- **Social housing:** 27% Muslim households as compared to 17% total population households
- **Privately rented:** 31% Muslim households as compared to 20% total population households
- **Overcrowded housing:** 25% Muslim households as compared to 6% total population households improved from 38% and 9% in 2001

HEALTH

- **Good or very good health (under 50 years):** at younger ages both Muslims and the total population have **very similar proportions of people reporting that they are healthy** with the proportion gradually decreasing from 97% for those under 15 to just over 80% for those over 35.
- **Good or very good health (50-64 male):** 68% Muslim as compared to 76% total population
- **Good or very good health (50-64 female):** 59% Muslim as compared to 75% total population
- **Good or very good health (65+ male):** 45% Muslim as compared to 59% total population
- **Good or very good health (65+ female):** 30% Muslim as compared to 57% total population

HEALTH INTERPRETATION

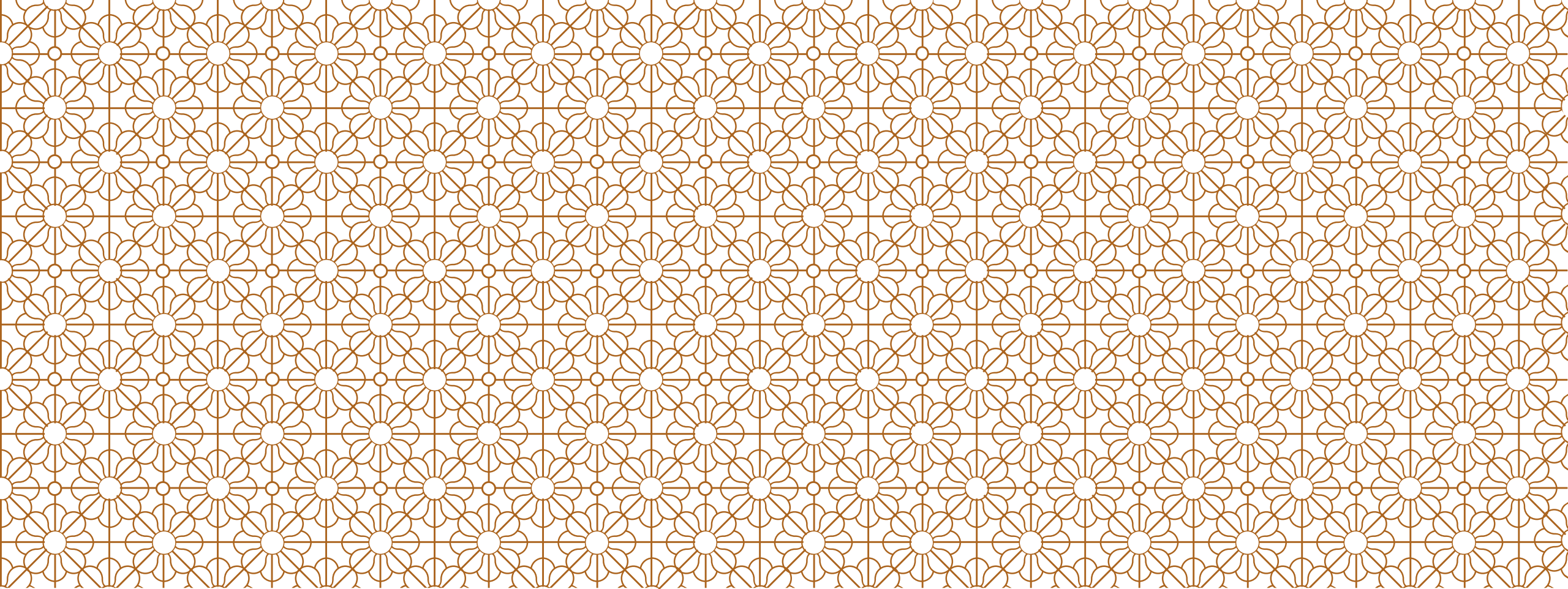
- As people get older a gap rapidly develops between the health of Muslims and the total population with Muslims seeming to age 10-15 years faster than the overall population
- This is even more stark for women than for men
- Fits with the 20-year gap found in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas
- These older age Muslims are also those less likely to have education qualifications and be fluent in English language, more likely to have been born outside the UK and have experienced traumatic migration pathways
- Culmination of structural violence and resulting in social murder



IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES

- Cracking social mobility and cashing in on the demographic dividend including rapidly growing number of highly educated young women
- Political opportunity with voting age drop to 16
- Climate change vs housing deprivation
- Artificial intelligence vs gig economy jobs
- The rise of the far-right vs political apathy



SUMMARY

KEY POINTS

- The Muslim population is young and well educated
- They identify as British and speak English
- They live in the big cities across the country
- They are ethnically diverse
- Despite this they are stuck living in the most deprived neighbourhoods, in poor housing, have poor self-reported health and are under-represented in good jobs