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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The last 2 years have seen momentous changes both globally and nationally. Time never stops. In ISB, as you will read in this Report, we have had some major activities and also important decisions to make.

Our members in the branches are the unsung heroes and heroines who week in and week out run activities for

others, sacrificing their effort for their Hereafter by helping others. There are brilliant ISB local projects in operation around the country: projects to feed the homeless in Leicester, Birmingham and Manchester; Glasgow's excellent regular YM programmes and the Summer School as well as its Radio Ramadan; round the clock community radio stations in Luton and Birmingham; scouts activities in West London and Luton; weekend courses in Bradford and Birmingham; visits to Spain and Germany from Halifax. During this term we have also restructured some of the branches and some have been re-designated as 'circles'.

And what about nationally...?

As you read this, the organisation is gearing itself for Living Islam 2011, after an absence (rest!) of 3 years. This immense project is being led by Jeffery Beere, with incredible support from his persevering wife and family.

Islam Awareness Week, under the leadership of Mubashir Khan, has evolved and developed over the last 2 years. This year saw the exciting launch of an outstanding website called PlainIslam. Due to excellent analysis of IAW activities over the years and their appraisal the date for the week has been

changed from November to March.

KnowledgeSeekers ran successful programmes in the two years. In 2009 under Husman Khan and then in 2010 under Maroof Shafi. We are really grateful for the extreme hard work put in by Husman, his wife Jeanette and daughter Najda, the whole family rolling up their sleeves and ensuring a smooth programme. Our gratitude also has to extend to Maroof Shaffi for stepping in at very short notice. The 2010 programme was also the first one in 15 years not to make a loss. Special mention has to be made of Sibti Ali who has been the cement in the team over the last 2 years. The team with a new head, Tawqeer Rashid, then went on to run a successful 2010 Winter programme for the first time.

Weekend for Women is probably one of the longest running and most successful ISB projects and the one in May 2010 was run smoothly by Samaira Finn-Caille, with the May 2011 Weekend for Women being a unique joint venture with Bradford Woman's Muslim Council held in Bradford and led by Nuzhat Ali.

There were 2 Coreworker programmes in October 2009 and March 2010. And a further 2 Coreworkers and Members Weekend programmes in October 2010 and March 2011 that were well-organised and innovative events.

Young Muslims have also had an eventful 2 years. Young Muslims Sisters (YMS) has been led by the 'Maryamayn' or the '2 Maryams': namely the first year by Mariam Azmi and the second year by Maryam Duale. May Allah bless both their incredible efforts. YMS saw some very successful residential programmes for girls: The Big Question in October 2009 and The Race is On in March 2010 with 2 extraordinary Winter programmes Northern Lights in December 2009 and Winter Nights in December 2010. Young Muslims Brothers (YMB), led by Zeshan Rasul, then by Shahid Madni (temporarily) and Irfan Rashid, also ran residential programmes: local ones in 2009 and then one in Halton Gill in Summer 2010.

In addition YM Talent Search 2009, led by Nafe Anam, was

a unique innovative programme that looked at giving youth confidence in their talents. There were a series of regional heats around the country culminating in a Grand Finale in London.

We have to make special mention here of the tremendous efforts made in 2008 by Zahoor Qurashi in obtaining crucial funding for both YM Talent Search and for IAW websites, without which these would not have been possible.

These 2 years also saw the appointment of ISB's first ever female General Secretary, Somia Shafiq, and the exciting new post of ISB Executive Director taken up by Julie Siddiqi. Both these ladies have been instrumental in driving forward the projects in ISB.

As we also begin to take stock financially, my thanks extends to Layla Begum at the office for having stuck it out on her own, and successfully managed the various moves of the office, out and back again, and the immense stock clearance.

It has been a challenging 2 years, at a time when there are immense pressures for most people in regard to work, financial and family commitments, and some of our workers have moved on to other projects outside of the organisation (we wish them well). It is truly a Blessing from our Lord that we with our meagre resources and staffing have still been able to consistently run our well established national projects: IAW has continued its 16 year run; KnowledgeSeekers; Weekend for Women; Coreworker and Members residential programmes; YMS and YMB residential programmes; and Living Islam evolving from our big camps beginning in 1988 in Wolverhampton.

But at the same time there have been missed opportunities. I wish we could have celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Young Muslims UK. I would have loved to visit more of our branches and more often and to help our branches become stronger. Our web presence has been difficult to get to a high standard. We need further thinking on retention of youth within ISB. Our campus work has struggled to get off the ground and it is an area that needs rethinking. I wish I had been able to provide more support to our various projects in their difficulty.

This organisation, with all its activities and achievements, is nothing without its members. They are its treasure. There are so many key individuals who are the drivers of projects and motivators to whom gratitude is due. Their reward is with

God, the all-Knowing and all-Seeing.

But none of this is possible without the support of the spouses: the husbands and wives and family. May Allah reward their support and perseverance. For me it has been my wife and children, who have persevered in what has been a difficult 2 years. My wife is and has been my inspiration, always, and I am incredibly lucky to have someone who constantly pushes me to do more!

Over these 2 years many of us have bid farewell to relatives and friends from our older generations as one by one they are taken by His Decree. To all the loved ones who have passed away, may Allah shower them all with His Mercy and Light.

We have to ask ourselves what is it that we will leave behind us, when our time comes? What legacy is there for our children? Our children need to be imbued with the spirit of being doers in a world of spectators; of giving rather than taking.

The torch began with Adam (as) at the beginning of mankind and passed on to the other Prophets and their disciples and then onto our generation. We have to try to keep it burning during our lifetimes before we pass it on to our children.

This is our Big Society, and it started at the beginning with the onset of Islam. It is to promote the good and discourage the bad. It is to be involved. It is an intrinsic part of being Muslim.

I am grateful and thankful to God who has provided me with the company of beautiful people around me and for the opportunities He has provided me to hopefully gain blessings by His Leave.

*"Deeds are determined by intentions alone. Man will only get that which he really intends." (Bukhari)*

I ask forgiveness from you if I have inadvertently hurt anyone by word or action. And forgive me for not doing more. I ask Allah to accept our efforts, overlook our shortcomings and cover us all with His Mercy both in this World and in the Hereafter. Ameen.

AHTSHAM ALI

## INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - JULIE SIDDIQI



Julie Siddiqi was appointed to the position of Executive Director in October 2010. Our General Secretary, Somia Shafiq, wanted to find out more about what inspired Julie to apply for the role and what her experiences have been so far.

**Somia:** “What inspired you to apply for the role?”

**Julie:** “I thought about it for a long time and decided I would apply. Having been involved in the organisation for some time of course gave me a good start into the process. I’ve been a member of the Shura and on the Executive for around 6 years now. I’ve been involved in a number of projects including the Weekend for Women and Islam Awareness Week. But believe me, that made the people doing the interview even tougher on me! I was really pleased and honoured to be offered the post but knew straight away it was a big responsibility.”

I feel I am surrounded by some of the best people involved in this kind of work and I have had some great teachers and mentors over the years. And of course it is a lot about relationships.

**Somia:** “How important is it for ISB to have full time workers?”

**Julie:** “For a number of years we have realised that to do this work justice and to really follow up on the great ideas and talent we have amongst our members, we need full time staff.

We need people who can dedicate working hours to the projects and the work. At the end of last year we discussed this again and decided, yes, we would allocate some funds and actually create an Executive Director post. “

**Somia:** “Describe an average day in your new role”

**Julie:** “I joked recently with someone that being in this role is like a mix between the Yellow Pages, marriage guidance, the Samaritans and the Muslim Directory!”

It’s really varied and involves many different things from networking and meeting other organisations to looking at funding opportunities to meeting members and ensuring both our internal and external communication is good.

Working full time with four young children is always a challenge. I won’t pretend it isn’t. When I started I discussed working from home and have been supported and encouraged in that. It means I have some flexibility around school meetings etc. But, anyone working from home will tell you the challenge is in switching on and off into work mode and balancing home life with work life. My husband, is very supportive of me and I am of him - we are a great team and yes, things go crazy sometimes but I feel we are working towards the same goals and enjoy the same kinds of conversations.”

**Somia:** “How do you think we can improve ISB to make it more attractive to new members and give it more credibility / recognition in the outside world.”

**Julie:** “I think we need to continue to move towards employing people to support what is an amazing voluntary spirit. Our online presence needs to be managed well and truly reflect our work and message. We need to find new

and improved ways to articulate what we are about. We do fantastic work but many people don’t know about it! When we present the work well, people join! When people hear our voices they like what they hear. We need to train and support our members locally and nationally to carry the message of ISB in everything they do. We need to listen and take note of our current members when they suggest changes and improvements and we need to harness peoples’ amazing talents and make use of them more.

**Somia:** “What are the challenges and opportunities you see with ISB both currently and going forward?”

**Julie:** “Do we have challenges? Of course we do! We need to continue to work at communicating with our own members so they feel connected and part of the organisation. We need to share our message and vision with others. The online world now is so vast and we have only scratched the surface in what can be done there. People need to hear our message. Muslims are crying out to hear sensible, well-articulated messages to help them understand their role and place in society in 2011. People who aren’t Muslim are waiting to hear from us when they are made to feel angry and confused by the constant negative outbursts that have become so synonymous with Muslims. We have to reclaim that sensible middle ground. We have to be the voices that people hear. Our projects, our branches, our members, our online presence will all be part of that. There is no doubt in my mind that the ISB still has a very important place in the UK in 2011. We started in 1990 at a time when the world was a different place. So much has happened, so many organisations have sprung up, so much choice. Well I can honestly tell you that in all the

work I have been involved with in the last couple of years, I still have not come across anything that matches ISB for me in terms of outlook, approach to the work, our vision for British Muslim life, our relationship with others, our outlook on men and women working together, and so the list goes on.

I am so excited about the near future and what it holds and am so happy to be a part of that work as it moves onwards and upwards.”





## ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK (IAW)

### IAW 2009

The last two years has seen much change for Islam Awareness Week and a lot of internal reflection.

In 2009 the theme for IAW was ‘Walk the Talk’ and it conveyed the idea of encouraging everyone to get out and about and get to know people of other faiths. This may have been people who you may not otherwise have had a chance to meet or it may have been just your neighbours and colleagues wherever you live.

The theme was chosen to mark the occasion of the first ever Inter Faith Week in England, which was taking place at exactly the same time. IAW had a prominent position at the launch of Interfaith Week at the QEII conference centre in London and many events across the country were organised under both banners.

A new ISB booklet and poster set was produced specially for the week entitled, *Living in a Multi Faith Society*. It was produced in consultation with a range of Muslim scholars in the UK.

A wide range of activities took place across the UK such as:

- A family fun day
- Feeding the homeless
- IAW dinner – bring a friend
- Dine@Mine
- Exhibitions
- Talks at schools & colleges
- Mosque visits/open days
- Question Time style panel discussion
- Music & poetry recitals
- Scouts Faith badge activity
- Diversity and interfaith workshops
- Interfaith sports event

- UK tour of Dawud Wharnsby which also helped promote his new book
- Conversations at a coffee house with people of other faiths

### IAW 2010

By 2010, IAW had been running for over 15 years and it was felt by many that the time was right to re-examine its overall effectiveness; the climate in the country has changed in many ways since the mid-1990s. So a consultation exercise took place that year to determine whether an event like IAW was still needed and, if so, then what could be done to make it better?

In the meantime, some localities were keen to go ahead with another IAW in 2010 anyway. The dates were adjusted slightly to the beginning



Birmingham Branch IAW, images courtesy of S Romel Photography



Islamic Society of Britain



## PLAIN ISLAM

(WWW.PLAINISLAM.COM)

**PLAIN** *i*slam  
clear • simple • accessible

of November in order to avoid a clash with Eid al Adha and also because Interfaith Week 2010 was also taking place towards the end of November. The theme reflected some of the lessons of the Hajj and was about “Our Common Humanity”.

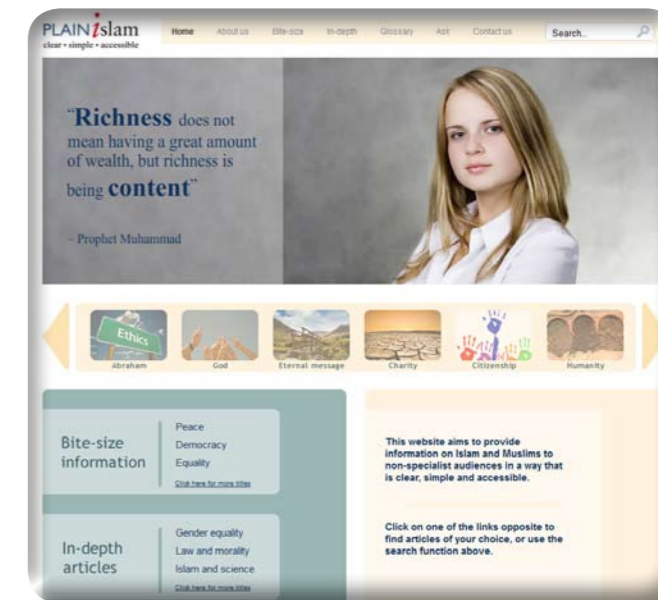
Only some branches were able to do their full range of activities, most notably in Birmingham, but it was very interesting to see IAW going international that year. An exhibition about Islam, using some of the IAW posters was held in the grand mosque in Kuwait and was timed to be officially opened by the British Ambassador there during the week.

At the end of the consultation process the decision was made by the ISB Executive that IAW was still very much needed. There was to be no change of name and the themes and range of activities would continue to be broad and inclusive, covering social events as well as more charitable work but there should also be a renewed effort at improving its online presence.

The most significant change, however, was that the timing should change to March – there will be some natural flexibility in the exact dates in order to avoid the moveable dates of Easter. This was partly to allow our branches to continue to support the growth of Inter Faith Week which was beginning to establish itself in November and it was also partly to re-align ourselves with many university Islamic societies that already hold their internal IAW events around that time. Not to mention the better weather!

MUBASHIR KHAN

“PlainIslam” is a ground-breaking new website set up by ISB dedicated to providing information about Islam and Muslims to non-specialist audiences in a way that is clear, simple and accessible. Although the internet is flooded with websites concerned with the ‘Islamic’, there remains a dearth of clear, user friendly sites that actually do the job of explaining the teachings of Islam well.



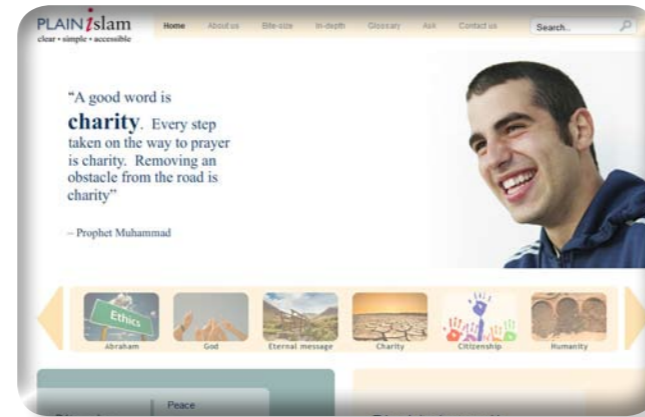
PlainIslam.com is...

Plain, but exciting  
Clear, but colourful  
Simple, but sophisticated  
Accessible, but intelligent

To make the contents of the site simple, but not simplistic, and jargon free, Arabic words have been kept to a minimum and where necessary for usage have been explained in a Glossary. In order to tap into the talent of ISB members were invited to contribute bite-size articles covering a diverse range of topics such as citizenship, jihad, Jesus, and the Quran. For the longer, in-depth articles, leading academics and experts were invited to write. The site aims to given prominence to the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad in order to present his teachings and wisdom in an accessible form.

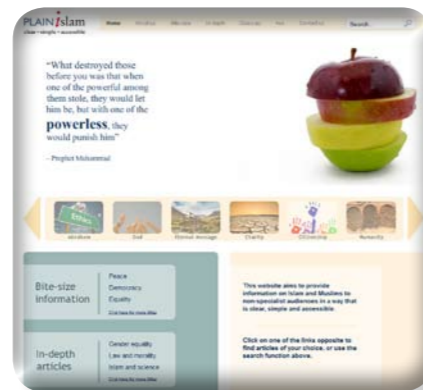
The layout of the site's design is uncluttered to allow ease of navigation. The site's topics can be easily navigated and aim to reflect what the Quran teaches more faithfully, more clearly. The result is an information site addressing many topics that impact and shape the daily lives of all people; topics that are all too often - and wrongly - not closely associated with core Islamic teachings. Each topic in the bite size section has a concise explanation, roughly of equal size, outlining the pertinent teachings in the Islamic sources, being the Quran and the Prophetic Sunnah or Path. The 31 topics in this section are:

- Abraham
- Freedom
- Peace
- Allah is God, God is Allah
- God's Mercy
- Prophet Muhammad
- An eternal message
- Good character
- Prophets
- Charity
- Human nature is good
- Quran
- Citizenship
- Human rights
- Responsibility
- Common humanity
- Integration
- Sectarian differences
- Democracy
- Islam in modern life
- Sharia
- Eco-Islam
- Jesus
- The scientific legacy of Islam
- Entertainment
- Jihad
- Worship
- Equality
- Living with difference
- What do Muslims believe?
- Forgotten heroes



The target audience was identified as a range of users, teachers, civil servants, journalists etc., who required a practical resource in their professional or semi professional capacity, and individuals who were looking for clear and objective information. The site attempts to convey the essence of Islam to its users, helping them to better understand Muslim practice. To ensure that the material on the site is pitched correctly for the audience, two reviewers from the audience profile were consulted: a diversity officer in a local council and a teacher who works on RE resources (with a specialism in Islam) and is a SACRE Adviser.

Although the website was completed in 2010, it was decided that the Islam Awareness Week in early 2011 would be used to promote the site as part of a wave of publicity campaigns for the site. As part of IAW, a new feature was added to the site to invite questions from the public, so the future content can be user-led. There is good potential to expand the site and opportunities to consider would include expanding on the number of articles, particularly from female experts. Other ideas for the future include sponsorships to aid development and dynamic content. We feel confident this stripped down and reliable resource will be warmly received by a great many users as we look to build on the work to date.



## SCHOOLS WEBSITE

(WWW.ISLAMINSCHOOLS.CO.UK)

### What gaps does this website been fill?

'Islam in schools' (www.islaminschools.co.uk) was started about 2 years ago, as a result of feedback from a number of teachers and parents that there was inadequate reliable information on Islam on the Internet for children in mainstream schools.

It was felt that it would be really useful to produce a website that would not only give clear information about Islam and Muslim culture, but that would also feed into and be in keeping with the school curriculum, making it relevant for primary and secondary school children, and also a resource that teachers can easily use for lesson plans and delivery.

### What makes this website different to other "Islamic / Muslim" websites?

'Islam in schools' is an unique interactive experience of Islam for both Muslims and non-Muslims. The website aims to make it easier for pupils and teachers to find out more about the subjects of Islam and Muslim culture in a safe and reliable way. It is presented in an easy to read manner, to enable children as young as 5 to explore the subject, as well as teachers to access information that can be used in the classroom.

We have further developed a fun and interactive online section, with key stage classification, that includes our own unique movies, games, stories and 'make and dos' (craft activities), as well as recommended links to other useful websites that can help you find information in the form of photos, songs, games and much more!

Last year we produced our very own 'Mosque mix and match' game, which teaches children to learn about the different sections of a traditional mosque and objects that might be found within, it includes an information section explaining



a little more about mosques and prayer for Muslims.

We have also added a new and exciting animation called 'Sarah's Eid', children can learn about what a typical Eid day is like for Sarah, as well as understand the deeper concepts of giving and caring about others, which are essential aspects of Islam. The cartoon is accompanied by a special piece of music commissioned from Dawud Wharmsby and Idris Philips.

### How will this website keep up with the 21st century pace of change?

As well as providing free material that can help teachers with planning assemblies. We have also put together some lesson plans that teachers can buy and download instantly for use in the classroom, as well as access to all ISB leaflets and posters for use in schools. There is a new teenage section, which will be added shortly called 'Meet a Muslim'. This is a series of short film clips of students explaining different aspects of Islam as they view it.

### What further changes to the website (if any) do you expect to see?

This is a long-term project, which will need continued support and effort from volunteers to add to and update regularly to be effective. We have focussed mainly on Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 ages so far, with some aspects of Key stages 3 and 4, however these areas will need much more work to enable it to be a more useful tool for secondary school students. This is a project that will continue to grow and evolve, but it has yet to be promoted and advertised to attain as wide an audience as possible, but if done well has the potential to bring in sponsorship through advertising. We also need significant web skills / resources to develop this further.

RABIHA HANNAN



## YOUNG MUSLIMS UK (SISTERS)

### The future of YMS

It has been quite slow recently on the local level with regards to members and activities but by the grace of Allah it is now picking up. We have 4 successful circles running in Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford and Glasgow, these circles have now been running for months with attendance growing steadily. However, I would like the organisation to move out of just working with the Muslim community to working with people of other faiths and backgrounds – I want to see YMS as a vehicle for cohesion and unity.

### Inspirational Individuals within YMS

Mariam Azmi: she was the previous president of the Young Muslim Sisters, what inspired me most about her was her positive thinking and energy. During even the most stressful periods you would always find Mariam with a smile. And no matter how small or large each problem was Mariam saw it as an opportunity to learn from. I've worked with Mariam for the past 5 years and I have seen her grow and develop as a person and I can say it is truly an honour to work with her.

### Talent Search

Young Muslims provided a glimpse into the future of British Muslim music and art in 2010 when four up-and-coming acts from across the UK triumphed at The Young Muslims UK (YMUK) national talent competition. Hamza Fletcher, Asia Ali, Rabi Niam and Safina Qamar performed their poetry, comedy, music and art alongside the leading Islamic Nasheed group Native Deen, before a packed audience in central London.

Naeem Muhammad from Native Deen commented: "It was an amazing night. All the entrants should be proud of what they have achieved. Each one is standing up and getting involved. We were proud to perform alongside so many amazing artists".

Asia Ali, one of the winners said: "I'm so excited. It means the world to me. The Young Muslims UK Talent Search has given me confidence to go out there and achieve my goals."

### Coreworkers

The YMS coreworker retreats are part of the national training plan. The retreats occur twice a year and are an opportunity for coreworkers to enhance their knowledge and broaden their understanding of Islam. 30 girls who were actively involved in their localities came to the retreats and took part in a mixture of talks, workshops and activities.

### Winter Camps (Winter Nights and Northern Lights)

These national camps are usually set in remote areas to let young people get away from the hussle bustle of life. The camps which last 3 days saw girls from Glasgow to London travelling to attend these sold-out events. The girls were able to get artistic with art & design workshops, challenge their mind with debates, explore their creative side with drama sessions, pump their muscles with sports activities and roast marshmallows on an open camp fire.

### YM360

YM360 was the first YM magazine since 'Trends'. It was a lifestyle magazine for young people, by young people. The team responsible for producing YM360 were all between the ages of 11 and 22 quite a feat considering the professional finish on the magazine. The magazine provided an outlet for young people to express themselves as photographers, reviewers, columnist, etc.

### YM Careers

YM careers included 'The young Muslims UK university guide' which was tailored to the different courses offered at university. The booklets included sample personal statements and general advice including what to expect from an interview day, to how current students were enjoying their chosen course. As part of YM Careers UCAS workshops were held at different localities. Those that attended were able to get help from students that are already at university and doing different courses, so there was something for everyone.

MARYAM DUALE





## YOUNG MUSLIMS UK (BROTHERS)

The past year has been full of changes. Currently we have branches in Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Luton and Bradford. Over the past year I have seen a wonderful resurgence on a local grassroots level in the local branch. I have witnessed branches improving and bringing in new people, who can then run projects.

Last summer we had a series of local summer camps, which were a fantastic way to bring some energy into the branches, and allowed them to flourish. The local branch leaders have done an amazing job and without them none of this would have happened. We now have circles in every branch with another weekly activity also occurring. This was one of the aims we had when the year started, because it would ensure a continued process where new people are brought into the branch and trained up which we will eventually use for national work.

It has been a slow process and the focus on localities has deterred our national work, which has been almost non-existent. A decision was taken to concentrate on local work and build up branches before we can begin with national projects.

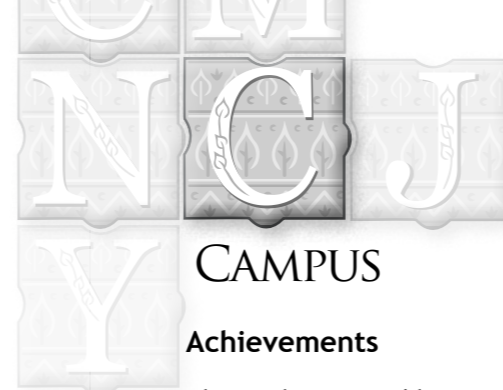
Sadly, the London branches have become inactive, and this is naturally a concern for us and we need help in reviving these branches. I feel it is vital that we have a presence within the capital.

We are also in the process of setting up branches in Leeds and Cardiff and are always looking for opportunities to expand. Birmingham have started 5 new open circles entitled iCircle which has been a massive success and something we would like to replicate amongst other branches around the country. Glasgow has a wonderful summer school program, which we would like



to emulate amongst other branches. Living Islam will be a fantastic opportunity for us to raise our profile and recruit good, hard working people into the organisation and further boost the branches, inshallah. Despite the slow progress on the national front I do believe on a local grassroots level we are attracting young people to the organisation and, inshallah, national work will reap the benefit of these efforts in years to come.

IRFAN RASHID



## CAMPUS

### Achievements

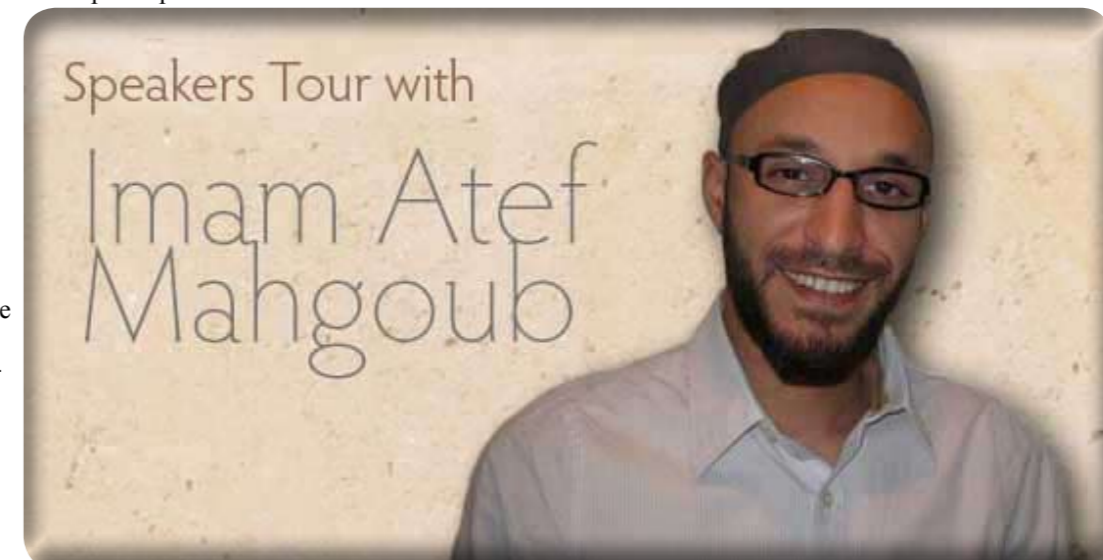
The speakers tour with Imam Atef was the main activity that took place this academic year. Imam Atef Mahgoub is the principal imam at the Islamic Centre of Pittsburgh. A variety of universities and localities were visited during the week-long tour in the north and Midlands region which was completed with a programme for the respective YMB/YMS coreworkers. The tour also visited localities with a high ISB/YM presence in order to inspire local members to be involved with the organisation.

### Challenges

- Limited awareness of ISB on Campus;
- Raising scholarly profile of ISB members; and
- Poor response from members to participate with Campus activities.

I believe it will take more time for the ISB brand to be recognised amongst university students as our main communication with ISOCs revealed that projects like Living Islam and IAW hold a higher profile. This can be achieved as long as we sustain the effort to publicise our speakers and ensure buy-in from members who are progressing to university.

YASEEN AKHTAR





## LIVING ISLAM

“Living Islam 2011” is in mid-preparation - it has been a busy few months for us at LI headquarters. The core team of volunteers (about 35 department heads) met at the Lincolnshire showground site recently to review the upcoming plans.

### What is it to live Islam?

*“Surely my prayer and my sacrifice, my living and my dying, are for the sake of God - Lord of all the worlds.” (6:162)*

### What is ‘Living Islam’?

The Living Islam Festival aims to embody the holistic nature of what it means to live Islam in Britain:

Living Islam is a unique and inspiring festival of faith, entertainment and spirituality, held every 2-3 years, which aims to create an environment that assists positive change within people and their families. It is...

...a family holiday to remember  
...the largest residential Muslim family event in the UK  
3,200 participants in 2003  
4,300 participants in 2005  
4,000 participants in 2008  
in 2011?

...a four day experience held in the beautiful 100-acre landscaped grounds of Lincolnshire Showground

...a diverse mix of people from all backgrounds, ages, cities in the UK and beyond

...a city of large marquees, tents and caravans

...inspiring speakers, specialist seminars, Q&A session with scholars, amazing entertainment featuring nasheed artists from across the globe, fireworks display, huge variety of stalls, array of organised sports, prayers in the open area, traditional café, bouncy castle and slides, separate programme for each age group (toddlers, scouts, teenagers, campus students and adults), beautician, archery, horse riding and much more...

There are many reasons why people attend ‘Living Islam’... here are our top 5:

**1. For the next generation:** A dedicated ‘0-5 yrs PlayZone’ will keep your little ones entertained. The parallel Scouts (6-12yrs) programme will excite and inspire your other ones, while a special programme for ‘Young Muslims’ (13-16yrs) ensures no one is left out. A new ‘Student Village’ allows campus students to get up close and personal with some of the key speakers and performers. Finally, a new ‘Marriage’ programme caters for those already married, as well as those looking to get married.

**2. Learning:** You can listen to some of the leading minds in traditional learning and contemporary thought. With 10 major talks in our Big Top, over 30 specialist seminars and thought provoking workshops.

**3. Tranquillity:** Held in the 100+ acre grounds of Lincolnshire Showground, the surroundings of ‘Living Islam’ are serene, tranquil and green...much needed calm in a busy world.

**4. Worship:** Be part of this collective remembrance of God. Friday prayers offered in the clean fresh air and under the blue country sky with over 5,000 Muslims. ‘Living Islam’ will, Insha’Allah, strengthen your faith, your hope, your confidence and your will...with Ramadan in August, there is no better way to get yourself spiritually prepared for the glorious month ahead.

**5. Something Different:** There will be Arts & Crafts workshops by expert artists, many Sports activities organised for all ages (men and women), an Aircraft Aerobatic Display, Fireworks, Bouncy Castles, Horse Riding, Paintballing, Abseiling and Archery to name a few. In the evenings you can relax to our light entertainment with nasheed artists, comedians and acts from around the world.

This year, we are delighted to have the renowned American scholar Imam Zaid Shakir (co-founder with Hamza Yusuf of Zaytuna Institute/college) leading the speaker guest list. We are also pleased to welcome back Dr Jamal Badawi, whose sessions are a firm favourite. Other speakers include Sarah Joseph, Dr Munir Ahmed, Ahtsham Ali and Heba Ezzat. We have a long list of other well-known and respected scholars, but are awaiting final confirmations.

Living Islam is also filled with over thirty workshops and seminar sessions. Among this year’s seminar speakers we have Professor Abdel Haleem on his recent translation of the Qur’an, Professor Ron Geaves on Islam in Victorian times, Dr Fareed al Shayal on Islamic history, Batool Toma on Islamic burial and Hajj, Imam Usama Hassan on Astronomy and the Barefoot Institute on all things to do with marriage (including for the first time, a marriage introduction event). Many more sessions are being finalised over the coming weeks.

Our resident artist Nargis Imran is working very hard to design the arts and crafts workshops for a variety of skill levels and interests; the amazing scouts team led by Sajid Quayum are hard at work organising the scouts programme including Islamic workshops themed around Ramadan, laser tag and Scouts patrol games. The sports team and free time activities will include Olympics-style activities (hurdles,

javelin, shop put and speed bounce) in addition to the infamous football tournament.

This year should see an aerobatic display performed by six aircraft from AeroStars and a fireworks display like one not seen at LI before. We are also welcoming Zain Bhikha and friends from South Africa, Maher Zain from Sweden and Irfan Makki from Canada for some soul searching nasheeds, and we welcome back Dawud Wharnsby Ali. Again, we are working on shoring up some more entertainment including performance poetry, freestyle football and many more creative ideas.

Leisure time at Living Islam will continue to have a wide variety of food stalls to suit varied budgets. We are also hoping to increase the size of the ever-popular cafe, run by the efficient Somia. The bazaar arena is also intended to house an increased variety of stalls, especially in books, clothing and Islamic fashion. Our ladies beauticians’ parlour is back at the behest of previous participants, with an array of attractive options.

We have a new ‘Student Village’ which has been designed to encourage campus students to join us at Living Islam. With specialist workshops, intimate Q&A sessions with scholars and opportunities to network, the student village is a welcome newcomer to Living Islam, and one we hope will last.

At the Living Islam office we do get a regular number of callers who enquire, having never heard of Living Islam before. Living Islam costs about £300,000 to put on, and every ticket sold contributes towards this cost. We really do our utmost to advertise this event, but the strongest form of advertising is word of mouth, so please don’t let your family, colleagues and friends miss out on this amazing event, by keeping it to yourself. We have sold just over 1,300 tickets so far and are expecting 4,500-5,000 people to attend this year, Insha’Allah. We look forward to welcoming you to the event in the very near future.

JEFFERY FAUZI BEERE





# KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

## Why does ISB put on this course?

ISB believe it is important to offer programmes to both its members and non-members to develop and improve themselves. KnowledgeSeekers achieves this through learning and reflection.

Our key objectives are to:

Foster a deep, sincere relationship with our Creator;

Gain enough knowledge of Islam to practise our faith in our daily lives, and

Building an Islamic character that lights up hearts, mends rifts and spreads good.

The programme encourages us to put our learning into practice. That practice must include individual and collective efforts towards a just and caring society for all - irrespective of faith, colour, creed, social class or any other difference. This is what is reflected in ISB's motto of 'bringing together British Muslims for the benefit of all'.

## Summary of the courses 2009-2011

The KnowledgeSeekers residential courses were traditionally run in the summer but in 2010, we also held a very successful winter course at the end of December 2010.

### KS Summer Course 2009

A range of course were held. There was the basic Islamic Studies Foundation Course, a more advanced Dawah Training course. Furthermore there were a range of levels of Quranic Arabic.



### KS Summer Course 2010

During the course we had 75 people on site, combination of teachers, student, children and committee. The course was well received and the project came in on budget thanks to prudent leadership.

### KS Winter Course 2010-11

Alhamdulillah, the course was a great success despite the very severe weather a couple of weeks before the course and the fact that immediately before the course four out of the original five teachers were not able to join. The course feedback was exceptional. We had 45 participants and a profit for the course.

KnowledgeSeekers also offered short courses over the last two years. These included a 1-day Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic (December 2010), Qur'an Connection (July 2010), Emotionally Intelligent Parenting (June 2010), Leadership and Organising (May 2010), Power of Prayer (March 2010), a double weekend Seerah Course (December 2009), Islamic Family Law (October 2009), Fiqh of Wudu and Salah and Da'wah Training; almost all of these courses were held in Birmingham.

## Plans for this year

Inshallah, in 2011 KnowledgeSeekers will allow participants to enrich their spiritual wellbeing by holding a choice of two courses at a **Ramadan retreat** in the last 10 days of Ramadan.

1. The Foundation course strikes a balance between the traditional subjects of Fiqh, Tafsir and Seerah; with a look at contemporary issues of Islam and Modernity and Islam in the UK.
2. The Quran Comprehensive course will provide basic Qur'anic Arabic instruction based on the Access to Qur'anic Arabic text book.

## What feedback do you get from the course from participants?

We get excellent feedback: the last winter course achieved a very high satisfaction rating from our participants with 100% of them confirming they would recommend the course to others.

Over 90% of them felt the course met their expectations. This expectation was strongly born out of the course content, teachers and the company.

On Preparation, Knowledge, Communication & Helpfulness both our teachers and organisers scored an average of 5 out of a maximum 6.

The positive and very high satisfaction results are not unique to this winters course, we have had this positive feedback year on year, highlighting the great work and effort put in by all involved.

## What will be the future of KnowledgeSeekers?

Much work has gone into the KnowledgeSeekers programme over the last few years. It had been loss-making in the past but the last two courses have been run at break-even or better. Some debts still need to be paid but equally important to highlight is that since summer 2010 over £2,500 of debt has been cleared.

We have a website ([www.ks-courses.com](http://www.ks-courses.com)) to publicise our programmes and to handle the applications. The project finances were also made much more transparent by having standard templates for budgeting, for profit and loss and a project balance sheet – using standard accounting rules. All of this was put in place to put the project on a firm footing for the future.

Going forward the project hopes to consistently deliver a residential course both in summer and winter. Eventually the plan is to further support these residential courses with weekend courses at both national and local levels. This plan can only come to fruition by raising the profile of the project and its website can play a key role in that. The site currently lacks information for the general public or even past students. More importantly, the enrolment and marketing of courses often are seriously undermined because the website is sometimes not ready in good time. Steps are being taken to make more timely information available on the site to raise the profile. As the website is updated, made more relevant and informative, the plan would be to further expand by offering online seminars through the website.

TAWQEER RASHID



## WEEKEND FOR WOMEN

### What makes ISB's weekend for women different to other women's retreats?

ISB provides a unique event which no one else does. Weekend for women is a combination of spirituality, learning, enjoyment and physical activities. It is aimed particularly toward those Muslim women who do not prioritise their own importance and would benefit from an opportunity of "Me Time" - and of course all women are welcome not just Muslim women. It compels these women to plan some time for themselves, without their children and husband so that they can learn something new, remind themselves of what they know already, catch up with friends they may not normally see and most of all ENJOY themselves.

In fact, for some women it is an event they save up for in order to attend and makes the year-long wait all worth it.

### 2009 and 2010

The previous two Weekend for Women in 2009 and 2010 were successfully run by SAMAIRA FINN-CAILE

The 2009 theme was "Agent for change" and in 2010 it was "For the Love of Allah" - to remind us that whatever we do is for the sake of Allah (swt). In both years there was positive feedback on the talks, workshops and the fun activities. The weekend provides a balance of spiritual reflection, learning and arts and crafts together with an opportunity for the women to pamper themselves with hair and beauty sessions, massages. Usually the Saturday evening meal and entertainment is strictly restricted to women only and allows them to let their hair down, literally and take advantage of the photography sessions to capture the moment. In addition to those activities there are a variety of stalls selling clothes, headscarves, books, natural aromatherapy and of course there is always the coffee shop and cakes! in 2010 we also introduced the

ladies to Hijama therapy.

In both years we continued the "Weekend for Women achievement awards" (originally started by Seema Ahmad in 2008). It was an opportunity for people to nominate individuals who had inspired them. There were 3 lucky winners selected each year.

### 2011

In 2011, NUZHAT ALI took charge and made a bold step to change the location and format of the event. Alhamdulillah, in conjunction with the Bradford Muslim Women's Council (BMWC), Nuzhat organised the most successful weekend for women at the Ramada Jarvis hotel in Bingley. The change in setting, funded by the BMWC, allowed us to provide luxurious accommodation and refreshments bringing much joy to 300+ women. BMWC chair, Bana Gora, chaired the event which consisted of inspiring talks from Sarah Joseph, Dr Riffat Hassan, Ahtsham Ali and Dr Usama Hasan. Participants viewed a production by the Arakan Creative team; took part in a variety of workshops; and helped produced the "I wish" video and "Peace Tree" messages. The highlight of the entertainment was Hiba Al Kawas, a world-class Lebanese opera singer.



Islamic Society of Britain



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We all recognise that training can occur at a variety of levels and in a variety of settings. The larger part of training occurs 'on the job' with our involvement in teams and projects.

One area the training department has a close involvement with is courses, which we offer under the brand of KnowledgeSeekers. The summer course is a permanent fixture in the calendar, but particularly in Birmingham, we have offered our members expert-level training through one-day KnowledgeSeekers courses. We are eager for branches to take this opportunity up, and the training department will gladly help with further support and advice.

In addition, there are two new developments that we would like to mention:

Firstly, a new syllabus is under development for the Young Muslims. This is probably the most challenging age to provide a solid, well-rounded education for, because youth are on the brink of adulthood and need to be introduced to the complexities of the real world. We would also like our youth to have a broad sweep of foundational knowledge so that they can be confident in their faith, begin adult life with a secure moral grounding and also eventually contribute to higher-level religious discussions, such as the challenges of contextualisation.

If successful, a youth training programme will develop individuals with a strong iman, sense of direction, understanding of themselves, their faith and society. The hope is that young people with this kind of training could go on to be real change-makers and an asset to their community and society. We are currently in the process of designing the first of three syllabuses: Foundation level (geared at ages 11-13), Intermediate (14-16) and Advanced (16-18).

We know that intelligence can be measured and developed in more areas than just academic intelligence. We are beginning

to realise the importance of emotional intelligence and moral intelligence. The Prophet (s) also spoke about the importance of spiritual intelligence. So we are structuring the syllabus around nurturing a broad spread of intelligences in the youth:

1. Spiritual intelligence
2. Ideas (philosophical) intelligence
3. Moral intelligence
4. Emotional intelligence
5. Social intelligence
6. Community intelligence
7. Societal intelligence
8. Bodily intelligence
9. Academic intelligence

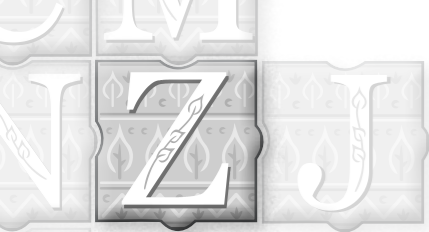
Implementation of syllabuses has always been a challenge in the past. This time, we hope to be able to meet the challenge by not only detailing what is required for each topic but also preparing work sheets, workshops, PowerPoints and scripts for each presentation. This work is taking place in Birmingham branch, in order to support the new 'iCircle' network.

The second development on the horizon Insha'Allah, is a series of articles. At the ISB level, it is not easy to prescribe a strict syllabus as people are at different levels of knowledge and differ in what they feel is a priority for them to learn. Lately, we have not provided any guidance at all, even though it is important for all members to at least have a good idea about the vision and values of ISB and perhaps an awareness of some important issues, e.g. how rules are formulated and why differences emerge, to impact of culture and context on fiqh, etc.

We are therefore preparing detailed articles for publishing on the ISB website. These will help visitors to understand ISB's perspective a bit better and could be used for private reading. Most importantly, these articles could provide the content and discussion material for study circles.

Exciting developments are afoot, Insha'Allah, and we are hopeful that they will go on to have a real impact on the training of our members, both young and old.

RIZWAN SYED



## ZAKAT AND SADAQAH TRUST

### Project Dynamics

Often charities focus their efforts to provide relief aid to devastated countries abroad and overlook the need to support local needs and initiatives. The Zakat and Sadaqah Trust aims to tap into the growing body of opinion of those keen to fund UK-based activities.

The trust is a registered charity incorporated as a company. The Directors of the company and Trustees of the charity are

Ajmal Masroor  
Munir Ahmed  
Ahtesham Ali  
Tawqeer Rashid is the company secretary.

### Aims and Objectives

To attract money from individuals and organisations, which can then be distributed to fund the following UK-based Islamic activities and initiatives:

Islam awareness (da'wah) initiatives;

- Education, training and development (tarbiyyah) programmes;
- Sponsoring UK people for studies to become scholars;
- Production of resource materials;
- Establishment of Islamic institutions; and
- Inter-faith activities

### Achievements

We have made significant progress over the last two years. The last completed accounts for 2008 and 2009 show we received grants of £40,000 and donations of £15,188. We paid out £52,000 in grants to various projects, for example, the YM Talent Search and the IAW Website. We were also able to give grants of up to £3,000 for several different projects like IAW, KS, LI: with money in place to approve more. We

shortly envisage further funds becoming available once we have reclaimed tax.

### Plan of action

#### Stage 1: Administrative set-up.

This has largely been achieved, though is under review at the moment.

#### Stage 2: ISB stage

Receiving Zakat & Sadaqah from members & especially Coreworkers. This has not been as successful as first envisaged. We hope this year with a track record of supporting good projects we will rectify this.

#### Stage 3: Open stage

Advertise to the general public. We envisage this will coincide with LI2011 now we have a track record.

### Challenges

The Zakat and Sadaqah trust benefits from the support and recognition of ISB and its members. It also has the added benefit of being run by knowledgeable team members with a wealth of experience from various professional and scholarly backgrounds who are chosen for their competence and ability to manage the trust responsibly.

However, the charity is faced with the challenge of limited awareness from both ISB members and non-members, which is not helped by the lack of a long-term proven track record. Currently the team includes people who have very good experience in setting up and delivering a project but they have not had an opportunity to explore any marketing expertise. The main problem is keeping together a dedicated team for the long-term. Marketing is an area that we are keen to focus on to attract donor support for the trust and its grant recipients.

TAWQEER RASHID



## COMMUNICATIONS

The communications department, previously called Public Relations Department (PRD), has maintained its role within the organisation in advising and supporting members, projects and departments, and encouraging good practice, in public relations and communications.

With the arrival of the new Executive Director we have worked closely to promote the message of the organisation, reach out to new constituencies - for example by sending out Christmas cards to contacts for the first time - and have also continued to handle and direct incoming requests and calls from national and local media. Over 50 interviews were given to various outlets including: BBC1, Sky News, Channel 4, Aljazeera, BBC World Service, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, BBC Asian Network, BBC Radio Leicester and The Times.

While we deliberately do not send out many press statements, we did issue three over the last year when we felt they were needed. Members of the team also deal with a steady trickle of questions and queries about Islam that come to the office from the general public.

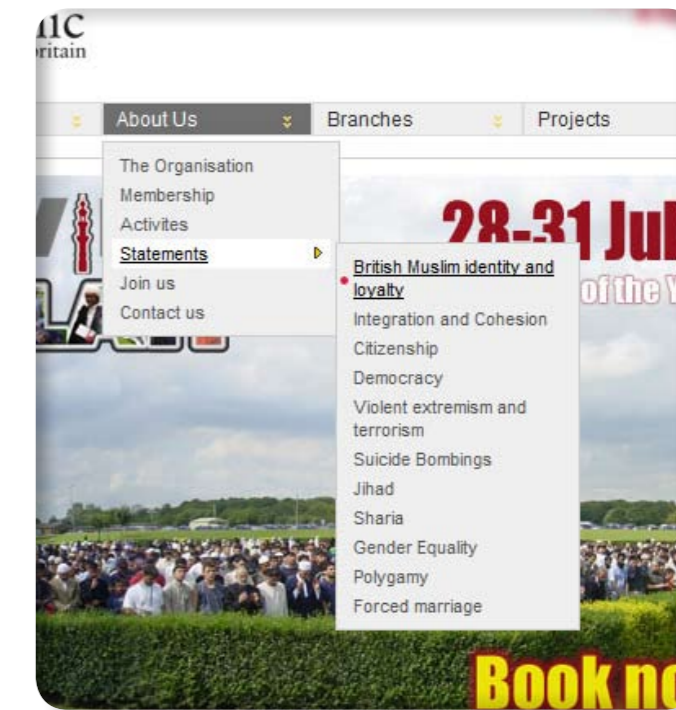
As social media and Internet based communication are now so important, we have started to play an active role in moderating and supporting the members' e-group and facilitating discussions on it. We have also revamped the text of our website (though the design remains to be updated) and have put up a number of statements on topical issues, expressing our view on subjects such as: forced marriage, gender equality, identity, citizenship, terrorism, etc. We have activated an ISB Facebook page and have started tweeting (@BritIslam). We are also in the process of creating short video clips and presentations to publicise the work of the organisation, though this has taken much longer than anticipated. The members newsletter, Connect, has been introduced with two issues already produced and sent in the post and made available on our website.

Just as it has helped with Islam Awareness Week, the communications department will play a role in trying to get

messages from Living Islam into the media and manage interviews during the event. It will also assist with an event to introduce the work of ISB to invited guests during LI11.

Despite the hard work, and the above achievements, there is still much room for improvement. The website desperately needs a facelift and a better content management system, we could do much more using Facebook, Twitter and also to improve our internal organisational communications. We could also facilitate media training to improve the capacity of the organisation and the number of spokespersons. We hope that with your prayers, and with the support of more volunteers, we can continue to improve.

KHALID ANIS





## NETWORKING AND OUTREACH

An important part of our work in branches and nationally is working with other organisations, building links, sharing ideas and time.

In our branches there are some excellent examples of our members getting themselves involved in local activities. In Birmingham they have made a lot of effort to link with the City Council and other partners. As a result their activities in Islam Awareness Week, for example, are funded and supported by people they have built strong relationships with.

Of course, wherever we work our message comes across as one of an inclusive nature where we are comfortable working with people from all backgrounds and are willing to discuss all issues in an open and honest way.

Some of the organisations that we are now working with or have met and are in discussions with include:

Exploring Islam Foundation (inc. supporting statement on the Missing Pages website, [www.missingpages.co.uk](http://www.missingpages.co.uk))

### Muslim Youth Helpline

- James Caan Foundation
- Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)
- Three Faiths Forum
- Gazelle Media
- Brent Council – Interfaith Week event (ED spoke at event)
- Interfaith Network UK
- Cambridge University – Contextualising Islam in Britain
- Islamic Unity Society – Blood donation initiative by a Shia group
- Leeds Makkah Masjid – spoke at Interfaith Conference
- Abeer Almudaris / Al Azhar speakers, exploring options
- 70 Christmas cards to our contact list including government, interfaith and other organisations
- National Alliance of Women’s Organisations – Faith Sisters event (ED spoke at event)
- Islamic Help / Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust

- M.A.D for Peace (Gill Hicks, 7/7 survivor)
- Holocaust Memorial Day – London Mayor official event – attended
- Co-existence Trust / Campus Ambassadors programme
- West London Impact – spoke at youth Question Time event

### JULIE SIDDIQI

Here Julie Siddiqi, our current Executive Director, shares some thoughts on some of the events she has attended and spoken at.

### Enabling Faith Communities to make a big impact on the Big Society

“On 27<sup>th</sup> November I spoke at an event organised by MINAB during Interfaith Week. Held in Leeds Makkah Masjid the event was attended by Imams and mosque members from across the region as well as others from the Leeds area, some coming to a Mosque for the first time.

Other speakers included Harriet Crabtree, Director of the Interfaith Network UK, the Imam from the mosque and Jamie Bartlett from DEMOS who launched a toolkit about working with young people in Mosques.

It was a great experience, the mosque is a brilliant example of how mosques should be. It has a nice atmosphere, good facilities, excellent website and as a woman I was able to go and speak there in the main prayer hall! Of course there is still a lot of work to do in this and other mosques to bring them up to suitable standards. MINAB are doing a lot to move things forward.

I was most touched by a lady who came to me at the end and said that my short speech had changed her perception of Muslims and especially women. Those kinds of interactions make us remember why we do what we do.”



### Faith Sisters. My Faith, My Rights

“On 17<sup>th</sup> January I joined speakers from a variety of faiths for an event organised by NAWO (National Alliance of

Women’s Organisations). An organisation that has been around for many years focusing on feminism and it’s role in today’s society..

The speakers were from Jewish, Hindu, Christian and other backgrounds and all spoke about their faith, what issues there are in textual reasoning regarding women, how things have been misinterpreted over the years, the impact that has had on the daily lives of women and families.

It was a fascinating and very moving experience. As I sat listening to the other speakers before I spoke I was struck by the honesty and connection they had with their own faith but what moved me the most was the realisation that the kinds of struggles I feel we have as Muslims, and especially women, are by no means unique and are shared with our sisters (and brothers) of all faiths.

It was once again a reminder to me that we can learn and work with people from all backgrounds and develop our knowledge and understanding through that interaction. It also means that we can learn from their mistakes and move our community forward quicker and with less damage done.”

### Muslim Youth Helpline Dinner - introducing MYH to Bradford

“The Muslim Youth Helpline ([www.myh.org.uk](http://www.myh.org.uk)) is an excellent example of a project that was born out of passion and need felt by a few young people ten years ago. They put

the project together and through hard work and dedication they have now taken over 30,000 calls and the numbers are rising.

At the dinner they asked me to highlight something that more and more people are discussing, the issue of how much money Muslims donate in the UK that either directly or through the Muslims charities, goes out of the country. I commented that although the charities do amazing work in many countries - and this shouldn’t of course stop, they also need to take responsibility for things here in the UK and projects like MYH are a good example of ways that money from Muslims here can be channelled to good and effective use.

The current CEO is Akeela Ahmed, a young woman. It is great to see women in genuine leadership positions more and more amongst Muslim organisations. Still a very long way to go though – the culture and mind-set is far from perfect (especially amongst the men) in our communities”



## CENTRAL OFFICE

### What does the central office do?

The ISB Office is located in London, with the financial centre to one side, the prestigious Docklands on the other and immediately surrounded by some of the most renowned Indian restaurants in East London.

From dealing with general enquiries from the public to processing membership applications, the ISB office provides a central point of contact for the organisation. The office has benefited from having an Office manager serving a full time presence within the office, providing a valuable service to both our members individually and supporting various projects across ISB.

The office recently underwent renovation both in terms of its physical location as well as the services it offers. The premises have been recently refurbished to make it a more pleasant place to work and to facilitate meetings. We aim to host more meetings at the office, not just amongst members of the ISB Executive or Shura but to facilitate meetings with external stakeholders.

### What can the central office do for individual members and regional branches?

The office also provides assistance where required to the regional branches and the other projects set up by ISB. We aim to enhance the service we provide to our members and

stakeholders. For example, the office has worked with our new Executive Director to send out our new newsletter, *Connect*, to all our members.

A key function of the work of the central office is the maintenance of the members database. We have recently reviewed the system we have in place and are scheduled

to set up a new database which not only provides a store of records of our individual members but can be used to help us maintain contact details to enable us to communicate better with members.

In order to help us improve this service we would like to encourage everyone to contact us to update any changes to your contact details. Please contact the office on 020 7247 8088 or [info@isb.org.uk](mailto:info@isb.org.uk).

SOMIA SHAFIQ



## TREASURERS REPORT

The Financial Statements presented are for 3 years from January 2008 to 31 December 2010.

This report covers the central account used to run the Society at the National Level. The accounts show an overall deficit every year. In fact the Society has made a deficit every year for the last five consecutive years.

As the Pie Chart demonstrates in 2010 over 77% of the Society's income was generated from members' subscriptions.

In 2010 Office Costs account for 48% of the Society's expenditure. The Society currently employs two people on a full time basis; the Executive Director started part way through the Financial Year. The Office Operation costs include payments to these colleagues. 11% of the Society's income is currently diverted to repay past loans.

A significant amount of the Society's income is invested in Projects (7%), Events (12%) and Branches (11%). The amount that ISB National invests in Projects has reduced because these Projects have been successful in securing funding from the Zakat Trust.

2010 was a financially challenging year for the Society. Overall the Society made a small deficit for the Financial Year. The Society had sufficient reserves to absorb the deficit. However, things are likely to get trickier in the future.

Over the last few years the Society's Income from

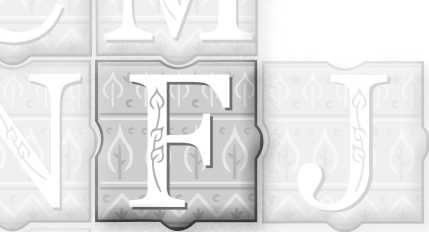
Subscriptions has seen a consistent reduction. In 2005 the Society generated over £68,515 from Subscriptions; by 2010 this reduced to £55,465. In monetary terms this is a reduction of 19% however when taking into account inflation over the last five years this is a significant reduction. Unless the Society attracts and retains new members this reduction in subscriptions is likely to continue.

2011 will be another challenging year. The Society does not have the Reserves to absorb the budgeted deficit for 2011. The Society is required to increase its income substantially to meet its liabilities for 2011.

The Management are putting into place measures to generate additional income for 2011 and beyond. It is vital that all members play an active role in recruiting new members and accessing other sources of finance which is crucial to the Society's financial viability in the longer term.

I would like to thank my predecessor Sakib Shaikh who performed the role with extreme commitment and passion for over five years. He set the bar very high and did an excellent job. He continues to be an invaluable source of knowledge, support and advice to me. I pray that Allah grants him and his family the best in this life and the next.

SHABIR HUSSAIN



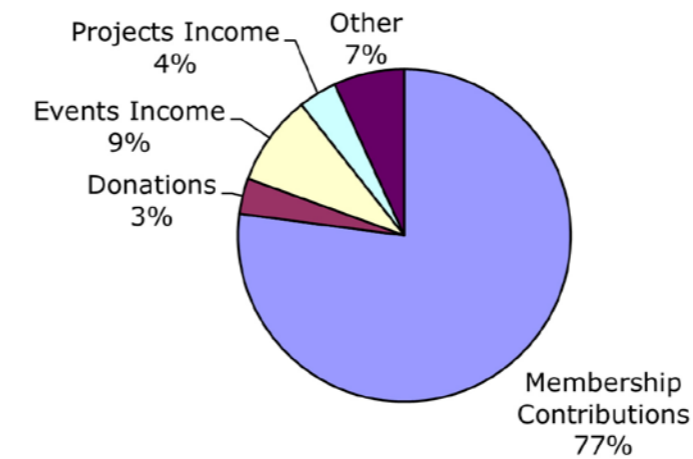
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ISB National - Balance Status At 1st January 2011

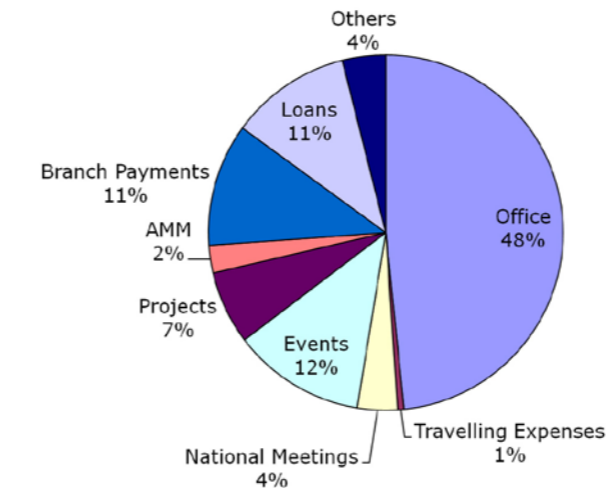
Assets			
Bank Balance	£13,676.00		
Money Owed to ISB	£5,000.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,676.00</b>		
Liabilities			
Money Owed by ISB	£12,720.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,720.00</b>		
Money Owed to ISB			
KnowledgeSeekers (Loan)	£2,000.00		
IAW (Management Fee)	£3,000.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,000.00</b>		
Money Owed by ISB			
Birmingham	£7,500.00		
Individuals for YM Talent Search	£5,220.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,720.00</b>		
Notes			
	2010	2008&09	2006&07
1 Events - Income			
CW Camps	£1,270	£6,381	£9,824
W4W	£5,133	£6,232	£7,448
Living Islam	£-	£-	£64,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,403</b>	<b>£12,613</b>	<b>£82,012</b>
2 Projects - Income			
IAW	£2,705	£2,893	£27,378
Fasting2Remember	£-	£-	£2,000
Sirah Talkset	£-	£7,794	£-
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,705</b>	<b>£10,687</b>	<b>£29,378</b>
3 Other - Income			
Overpayment (General Refund)	-£60	£469	£-
Prayer Bear	£-	£-	£1,537
Leaflet Printing	£2,000	£580	£216
Exhibitions	£564	£1,422	£3,687
National Management Fee	£-	£3,000	£-
Other	£2,470	£150	£-
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,974</b>	<b>£5,621</b>	<b>£5,440</b>
4 Office & Administration Costs			
Office administration	£2,000	£3,411	£2,798
Office Personnel	£24,066	£38,486	£41,777
Office Equipment	£-	£1,203	£1,281
Office Rent	£8,129	£9,674	£8,698
Office Rates	£269	£1,067	-£178

Office Overheads/Misc	£457	£633	£1,378		
Printing & Stationery	£-	£947	£2,571		
Photocopying	£771	£1,565	£1,131		
Telecommunication	£1,458	£3,466	£2,769		
Postage	£113	£1,390	£5,628		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,263</b>	<b>£61,842</b>	<b>£67,853</b>		
5 National Meetings					
Executive Meetings	£1,443	£2,495	£2,412		
Shura Meetings	£1,373	£4,347	£9,375		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,816</b>	<b>£6,842</b>	<b>£11,787</b>		
6 Events					
W4W Camp	£6,184	£5,594	£7,581		
CW Camp	£3,131	£13,921	£13,754		
Living Islam	£-	£-	£69,222		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,315</b>	<b>£19,515</b>	<b>£90,557</b>		
7 Projects					
Newsletter	£488	£2,176	£1,385		
Sirah Talkset	£-	£15,838	£-		
IAW Expenses	£3,149	£2,614	£5,000		
Campus	£1,500	£-	£-		
Fast2Remember	£-	£-	£2,500		
KnowledgeSeekers	£-	£4,100	£1,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,137</b>	<b>£24,728</b>	<b>£9,885</b>		
8 AMM					
AMM Costs	£1,930	£7,544	£4,497		
AMM Report	£-	£4,400	£4,190		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,930</b>	<b>£11,944</b>	<b>£8,687</b>		
9 Others					
Subscription/Affiliation Fees	£1,535	£1,070	£2,170		
Professional Fees	£1,505	£1,276	£-		
Bank Charges	£-	£265	£45		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,040</b>	<b>£2,611</b>	<b>£2,215</b>		
10 Loan Account	2009 B/F	2010 Movement	2010 C/F	2008&09	2006&07
Loan - ISB Branch	-£10,000	£2,500	-£7,500	-£10,000	-£8,250
Loan - IAW	£-	£-	£-	£-	£6,000
YM Talent Research	£-	-£5,220	-£5,220	£-	£-
Sirah Talkset Loan	-£6,000	£6,000	£-	-£6,000	£-
	<b>-£16,000</b>	<b>£3,280</b>	<b>-£12,720</b>	<b>-£16,000</b>	<b>-£2,250</b>

## Receipts



## Expenditure



## 2008-2009 Report

RECEIPTS	£2,010	2008&09	2006 & 07
Membership Contributions	£55,774	£133,997	£146,002
Donations	£2,500	£745	£2,238
Events Income	£6,403	£12,613	£82,012
Projects Income	£2,705	£10,686	£29,378
Meem Consulting	£0	£29,266	£65,555
Others	£4,974	£5,621	£5,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>£72,356</b>	<b>£192,928</b>	<b>£302,940</b>
EXPENDITURE			
Office	£37,263	£61,842	£67,853
Leaflets & Exhibitions	£0	£0	£20,854
Web Services	£94	£889	£172
Travelling Expenses	£440	£3,124	£3,710
National Meetings	£2,816	£6,842	£11,787
Events	£9,315	£19,515	£90,557
Projects	£5,137	£24,728	£9,885
MEF Grants	£0	£1,850	£4,195
Meem Consulting	£0	£43,357	£70,578
AMM	£1,930	£11,944	£8,687
Sponsorships /Grants	£0	£1,000	£2,500
Public Relations / Promotional	£130	£577	£8,218
Others	£3,040	£2,611	£2,215
YMUK	£0	£5,500	£-
Branch Payments	£8,607	£24,246	£20,409
Loans	£8,500	£10,654	£10,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,272</b>	<b>£218,679</b>	<b>£331,720</b>
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-£4,916</b>	<b>-£25,751</b>	<b>-£28,780</b>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Barclays Bank (ISB No. 1 Account)	£10,952	£27,705	£14,115
Barclays Bank (ISB No. 2 Account)	£0	£7,835	£11,157
Yorkshire Bank Account	£2,724	£2,336	£5,167
Loan Account	-£12,720	-£27,000	-£2,250
Accrued Expenses	£0	-£1,763	£0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<b>£956</b>	<b>£9,113</b>	<b>£28,189</b>

## BRANCH REPORT

### BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham branch has once again had a busy year. We have continued to offer a number of regular activities, particularly study circles.

Our really big projects are Unity FM and Islam Awareness Week.

#### Unity FM

Unity FM, Britain's first full-time radio station specifically for the Muslim community, is undeniably an enormous undertaking. It has required immense dedication and sacrifice from some key members, who have set the station up and have been running it now for 5 years, "24/7 'till twenty-eleven!" Although our original license expires this year, Alhamdulillah, we have just been granted a license to continue operating for a further five years. Over the years, the station has brought together talent from across the community, training over 200 volunteers.

#### IAW

Birmingham IAW is run by a dedicated team. Their emphasis over the years has been to build partnerships with a broad spectrum of organisations, including the council, emergency services, arts organisations, colleges, museums, charities, religious groups and campaign groups. This has resulted in diverse events and a growing recognition of IAW as a regular fixture in the city's calendar. Each year, we also support a local charity, raising awareness of their work as well as some much-needed donations, of course. In 2010 we supported the Lisieux Trust and this year we are supporting the Lench's Trust, for which some members are braving a 20km sponsored walk.

There were over 30 IAW events in 2010. Apart from talks on a variety of Islamic topics and schools workshops (this year with nasheed group, Fursan), IAW brought together a mural tour and lunch with award-winning graffiti artist, Mohammed

Ali, events organised by Jubilee debt campaign and Friends of the Earth, family fun-days, a leadership seminar, an Islamic Astronomy presentation at the Birmingham Planetarium and much more. The climax of the week was the packed-out Youth Leadership celebration dinner/ concert, marking the achievements of Muslim and non-Muslim youth from across the city. Despite a gap of just four months between the two IAWs, masha'Allah the team have still managed to pull together an array of activities for IAW 2011 (see [www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk)).

#### Family Circle

We have continued our longstanding tradition of the monthly Family Circle, recently inviting Masroor to offer an insightful and thoroughly entertaining talk on marriage and Mufti Abu Layth who offered a truly enlightening explanation of important questions around the topic of fiqh of taharah.

#### KnowledgeSeekers

Towards the end of 2009, we started offering local one-day KnowledgeSeekers courses which have provided a regular staple of high-level education. Courses have included a double-bill of Seerah, with Dr. Munir Ahmed; in 2010 Unlocking the Power of Prayer, Leadership and Organising, Connecting with the Qur'an, Da'wah Training; and in 2011, The Fiqh of Prayer with Mufti Abu Layth Al Maliki.

#### Community events

In Birmingham, the ISB holds together a community of balanced, active Muslims, through projects like Unity FM, IAW, KnowledgeSeekers and the Family Circle, even though a large part of this community are not formally members. We hold this community together with regular updates on activities, through an e-group, "Living Islam Birmingham". We offer our e-group weekly reminders and negotiate special offers for them with other organisations, e.g. with Exquisitus training.

We try to treat our community to free social events from time to time, bringing people together to strengthen brotherhood, with a very positive response. In Ramadan we arranged an iftar extravaganza, raising money for Al Hijra mosque, and were full to capacity in the end. We made a particular point of inviting new Muslims, with a good response. Amir Sulaiman, the spoken word poet from America astounded us with his lyrics, and Hamza Fletcher, with his beat-boxing talent. An Eid party towards the end of 2010 was equally well-received and buzzed with activity and joy, Alhamdulillah.

A nice reminder of how much of a community we are was when, in January 2011, we partnered with the IMAX and MAB scouts to offer a colourful arts event at the IMAX, including a presentation by Sarah Joseph (editor of EMEL), a play by MAB scouts and a showing of Ibn Battuta's, 'Journey to Mecca'. With the help of our publicity, the theatre was completely full, when previous showings of the film had attracted only a handful of viewers (for more details and photos, see [www.isb.org.uk](http://www.isb.org.uk) – Birmingham page).

#### Young Muslims

YM has witnessed a surge of interest and enthusiasm lately, associated with the launch of the 'iCircle'. The iCircle is a network of circles across the city (currently 5 and soon expanding to 7 circles), supported by a carefully organized system to ensure that YM youth receive a quality programme of teaching with structured presentations and interactive workshops. The plan is to invite inspirational speakers on a regular basis and to link each circle with either a charity or project (e.g. IAW, Islamic Relief, Unity FM, Birmingham Citizens).

#### Around the corner...

We are in the process of re-launching our charity, Community Concern, which will

specifically focus on enhancing the Muslim community's engagement and service to society, e.g. by regularly feeding the homeless, supporting efforts such as IAW, and getting Muslim youth to appreciate the British countryside.

We are also planning a structured programme for children, an area which has been neglected for far too long. Finally, we are hoping to establish a two-weekly gathering that will provide regular contact between our members and Islamic scholars, to help deepen our understanding of the faith, Insha'Allah.

RIZWAN SYED





## BRANCH REPORT EAST LONDON

### Branch status

During 2009 and early 2010 we maintained regular circles for our membership as well as organising events as detailed below. However, activities across the three East London branches (Tower Hamlets, Newham & Redbridge) had unfortunately wound down over the past year and a half.

YM attendance dropped as the current cohort moved onto further education. ISB membership attendance at circles and planning meetings also reduced dramatically as the membership continued to question the work, its purpose and the direction of the organisation. This mood music was affecting all three branches across East London, so much so that all activities ceased.

Following a meeting with the ISB national President in February 2011, those present agreed to amalgamate the three former branches into one, namely ISB East London Branch. An interim branch in charge has been put in place to reinvigorate branch work. To date regular meetings have been taking place and two events have been organised in this short period. Although questions remain about the direction of the organisation and have yet to be addressed we hope these local changes will help reinvigorate the membership and help kick-start branch work insha-Allah.

### Gaza One Night Stand with comedian Jeff Mirza

East London Branch organised a night of entertainment and fundraising in aid of Gaza. We had a very successful event, raising over £1000 for Families Relief's Gaza appeal.

### Gaza 100 world record run

Local members from across East London took part in the Gaza 100 World Record Run.

### Community iftar & Chand Raat

The branch continued to organise its annual "Bring-a-Dish"



Community Iftar. It's an opportunity for the local muslim community to share the breaking of the fast of Ramadan with neighbours and friends. On the eve of the Eid festival, Chand Raat was again organised. It's now becoming a firm fixture on the branch's calendar.

### Pakistan Flood appeal

As news unfolded of the humanitarian disaster taking place in Pakistan local members organised an event to raise funds for the appeal.

### It's Good to Talk Seminar

In partnership with a local mosque a seminar was organised for parents and teenagers dealing with the difficult issue of communication.

### Election leaflet

We produced a detailed rebuttal in response to a leaflet advising people not to vote in the 2010 local elections.

### Effective Marriage & Parenting seminar

The branch organised a seminar on effective marriage & parenting. The seminar concentrated on issues facing couples, parents and teenagers.

### Annual BBQ

The branch continued to organise its annual BBQ. It affords members and their families to meet, relax and unwind in each other's company and to catch up with each other and share news and developments over the past year.

### Orphan sponsorship

The branch has sponsored four palestinian orphans over the past 9 years. Since 2009 we have been sponsoring 8 year old Wa'd Rabah Zaqqout. She lives in the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza with her three siblings.



## BRANCH REPORT GLASGOW

Based on your branch experience what advice would you give another branch?

*Branches need to now think about what unique services we can offer our community. The reality is that we are unlikely to get large groups of dedicated volunteers flocking to our cause, therefore we need to think about projects and services that can be offered with minimal manpower.*

If there was only one event you could do what would it be and why?

*Run a dedicated children's club with an on-line tie in. We would do regular events at the family circle and the time in-between we would do simple on-line activities.*

### Family Circle

Alhamdulillah the main development over the last 2 years was to initiate the family circle here in Glasgow. Although we had a large gap for around 6 months we re-initiated it at the beginning of the year and hope it will continue to go from strength to strength. We have it alongside our very strong YM circle in a local school and this combined with a good crèche facility means that we truly do cater for all the family a unique service in the community..

### Radio Ramadan

Although we haven't achieved the full time status of Birmingham and Luton, the Radio station continues to be the longest running station in the country run by the same team, of which ISB is an integral part. The most notable features of our station is the continuing success of the charity appeal which has set up an ongoing mosque refurbishment fund.

### iiScotland

Islam Information Scotland is Scotland's only training and resource provider on Islam and Muslims. Whilst we have not been able to do any major events for IAW for the past

few years we have supported many organisations with materials and information. In addition with our part time worker we have continued to provide training to the public sector and are currently trying to initiate a programme in Scotland's schools.

### Glasgow Islamic Education Trust

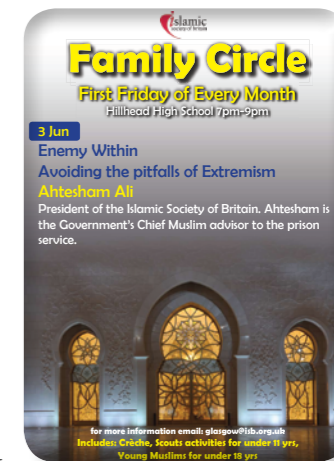
GIET has been at the forefront of providing focused Islamic Education for the Muslim community in and around Glasgow, with ISB playing a leading role. Over the past 2 years we have reorganised the Trust to focus solely on helping to fund individuals in the pursuit of studies to further the cause of Islam. We are currently supporting students doing local courses such as the popular I-Syllabus run by prominent local scholars. We are also continuing to support individuals to achieve higher Islamic education abroad.

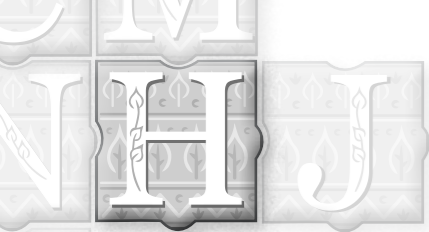
### Young Muslims

Due to the continuous hard efforts the Young Muslims Sisters and Brothers the work of YM in Glasgow is one of the strongest branches in the country. They now have 6 open circles running in every part of the city with numerous study circles. They have continued to innovate with their very successful summer school, "Activate" & very recently the sisters ran a successful 'prom' night for the young girls.

However it is not all positive news, on the whole ISB in Glasgow has not been functioning as smoothly as it has in the past, the lack of strong leadership has meant that the central local team has not met at all for the duration of this term. Manpower still remains an issues meaning that the potential for projects like Knowledge Seekers, local residential programmes and a children's club, have remained as ideas on paper. Inshallah with the coming elections we will have new blood to take the work forward.

SAJID QUAYUM





## BRANCH REPORT

# HALIFAX

Based on your branch experience what advice would you give another branch?

*Although you're the representatives of the Branch – just be yourself. You should set your priorities based on the needs and capacity of the branch. You will have many setbacks and you would not be human should you not be affected by them. Just do your best.*

Tell us about a successful project or event and the reasons why it was successful?

*We raised just over £1,500 for the Haiti disaster. The Muslims of Halifax showed great maturity and compassion. It was the females members of the branch who took the lead in organising the Charity Bazaar within a week of the disaster.*

What didn't go too well, tell us the factors that made it unsuccessful?

*I can't honestly say anything was unsuccessful. On one occasion only two people attended a Study Group sessions. Numbers are not everything but it was one of the most meaningful sessions I ever attended.*

If there was only one event you could do what would it be and why?

*It would have to be a regular session like the weekly study group as it would ensure continuity and really you can make anything out of it.*

What has been the best event the branch ever did?

*A Family residential event in Markfield. It included activities such as Dragons Den, team building exercises, debates, games, sports and a parallel children program including designing T-shirts.*

What resources can the central office provide that would benefit the branch?

*A sympathetic ear, giving solutions and options, assistance and encouragement particularly where branches may be experiencing problems.*

### Projects carried out last 2 years:

#### Communications

We have set up communication through the following channels, which informs the public of our events and activities and also allows closed discussions between coreworkers:

1. Website [www.isbhalifax.org.uk](http://www.isbhalifax.org.uk). In a space of 16 months this site has had over 6000 hits.
2. Group text messages (100 contacts). This acts as an effective reminder or changes to a program at the last minute.
3. Emails groups. 'ISB community' (over 150 contacts) is moderated, this is used only to advertise special events. The 'ISB coreworkers' group allows for closed discussion.

#### A mentoring event in cooperation with non-faith Partners

A special event was organised with two non-faith Partners:

1. 'Better Futures together' - a charitable organisation specialising in training and development.
2. 'Nashayman' – a local Housing Association in Halifax.

16 Learner Mentees (young people ranging between the ages of 14 – 17 years) were recruited to the programme, which was oversubscribed (with a total of 33 applications received).

Sessions covered assertiveness training, effective communication, CV preparation, interview skills, as well as

career counselling. The learner mentees also had high quality work experience placements organised for them.

A professional DVD capturing the experiences and feedback from the learner mentees and the mentors was produced.

The programme was a tremendous success and some of the feedback from the mentees included:

*"I have never had a class that was as useful as the CV preparation workshop. The workshop was well worth the time as I got help to produce a proper CV with feedback so I could use it to successfully apply for places at university."*

*"I liked the presentation skills and interview skills best. I think it really helped me in my interview though my interview for a college place at Greenhead College – one of the top colleges in the country and which is so difficult to get a place at."*

*"My mentor was very knowledgeable and very approachable. Last year I did not get one offer from the universities I applied for. This year I have got 5 offers and it is all down to the programme."*

#### A seminar for parents and children

Seminar on "Aim Higher – Achieve More" delivered by one of the UK's leading motivational speakers – Richard McCann.

#### Residential events

Residential events have been organised in Markfield and Runcorn.

#### Trips abroad

Trips to Germany and Spain were organised.

#### Charity Bazaar

Money raised for the two separate events for the Haiti and Pakistan flood disaster raised in excess of £2 500.

#### Perfect Presentation Skills Through Practice

A personal development programme for young adults. The

aim of the sessions is to increase the confidence, motivation, communication, listening, thinking, problem solving and presentation skills of young people and thus help them to make a greater and more effective contribution to mainstream civic life.

#### Sports

In order to encourage attendance to our Friday weekly family circle this is followed by volleyball for men at the Halifax leisure centre. On the following day football is arranged. One of the purposes of this project is to introduce ISB Halifax to the community.



#### Skills taster workshops

The following have been carried out:  
Glass painting  
Arabic Calligraphy

Of all our events these have attracted the most people. Glass painting was a women and children only event attended by approximately 60 people and the Arabic Calligraphy was attended by approximately 70 people.

#### What is happening for 2011

Prior to 2011 the core activity was a weekly Study Group which on occasions included high profile speakers (e.g. Mayor of Calderdale). However for 2011 we have considered to feature more high profile public events and fit the Study Group session around these events but on a less frequent basis.

ARSHID ZAMAN

## BRANCH REPORT LEICESTER

Our members from Leicester launched schemes in December 2010 that will have lasting effect and build relationships with new people in their cities.

In Leicester, members have been working hard to make links with charities, individuals and members of the Council. The Lord Mayor and other dignitaries were at the launch of Eat 'n' Meet to show their support. Eat 'n' Meet is a 12 week programme where food and toiletries are collected and distributed to the homeless.

Salma Ravat, co-ordinator, told us: "...we have had a wonderful response from people of all backgrounds. On Wednesday at the launch we were so pleased to see so many people wanting to join with us and support the campaign. These are obviously the most difficult months to be homeless and on the streets. We want to help in whatever way we can to make their lives a bit easier...."



## BRANCH REPORT LUTON

### InspireFM

It has been another busy year in Luton with the launch of our full time radio station – InspireFM. It's taken all the key members of the local team to get this project off the ground with considerable help from new volunteers coming forward to provide this great service to the local community. We kicked off in Ramadan using it as a transition from our regular Radio Ramadan transmission onto Inspire.

No sooner did we start that we became the focal point for the community through the floods in Pakistan where our offices became the central point for food collection boxes headed for PIA flights into the disaster areas. We teamed up with Luton Airport and PIA to co-ordinate deliveries of the parcels to the airline. We became the voice box for the tragedy with much community support and assistance and recognition from local MP's who commended us on our efforts in bringing the community together.

From there we reached out to all the different groups and schools of thought around the town and now have each one represented through programmes and talks on the station. We have big plans for the coming year so stayed tuned for updates.

Special thanks goes out to Faiz Nabi, Rashid Nazar, Zafar Iqbal, Zahid Chohan and Tariq Muhammad for all their efforts on delivering this huge project.

### YMB/YMS

On other fronts we are continuing with great work in our usual offerings. The YM Brothers have recently started a series of Qiyaams on a monthly basis and are now preparing for their fourth in the series usually spanning from Isha to Fajr in the local masjid – attendance to these tends to attract 25-35 youngsters ma'shAllah. We have combined our YMS circle to coincide with the YM circle within the same community centre so that for special sessions with speakers and workshops these can be done together. Most recently we have had careers sessions with Doctors, Lawyers and our resident Inspire Studio Manager

so far which have all gone down well with much interest from those in attendance.

### Open Circle

Faraz Mir is continuing with our Monthly open circle which cover detailed topic areas around Fiqh and how to translate modern day issues back to the core teachings of the Quran. These take place on the same evening in the same venue as our YMB/YMS sessions to maximise attendance.

### Scouts

Scouts has gone from strength to strength with a full quota of Beaver, Cubs and scouts groups operating across three different halls on Thursday evenings. We had the annual spring camp in March which was attended by 35 kids ranging from 6 yrs old up to 14 yrs with separate programmes for each. Here they obtained camping, cooking and art badges to add to their already decorated jumpers and scarves. We have also had most recently speakers from Fair Trade and a set of drama workshops delivered by the Khayaal Theatre company.

### IAW

As part of IAW we were unable to get a full array of events together due to the team being stretched with InspireFM. However special thanks goes out to Ruksana Majeed who put together a team of sisters and planned an event in conjunction with a council initiative called "Luton in Harmony" and with a local Hospice to raise money for them. They hired out the central square in Luton Town centre with a number of stalls, kids attraction, food, and information point along with Khaleel Mohammed providing us with his melodic nasheeds. With great weather on the day this proved to be a success with many non Muslims taking part in the proceedings and seeing a more open friendly side to Muslims than what is often portrayed within the media.

HASAN NASIRI



## BRANCH REPORT MANCHESTER

The Manchester branch has a range of activities with for main areas of focus; Education; Muslim Affairs; Islam Awareness, and Youth.

Education: ISB helps individuals to think about their faith and encourages them to incorporate this to the reality of modern society. Educational programmes are run on a regular basis with a focus on practicing Islam in Britain.

Muslim affairs: The ISB's activities are designed to cater for the whole family, to foster a society in which the life, dignity and rights of every individual, irrespective of gender, race and religion are respected and protected. We encourage social responsibility and help people to organise and act to better their local communities.

Our main event is the Family circle: This is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. Alhamdulillah the circles are usually very well attended with an average of 70-80 people. We have received a lot of positive and encouraging reports from regular attendees all stating how interesting and informative they find the talks and also how much they enjoy the atmosphere of the circles. The subjects of the talks vary widely from marriage, goals for the new year, seera to calligraphy. Not only do we provide entertainment for the adults, the children are also catered for. Each circle has a professional supervised crèche and children's entertainment. The wide eyed amazement on the children's faces when they were shown snakes as part of the exotic animal display was a sight to behold! The evenings are rounded off with the provision of delicious food and tempting cakes where attendees are left to interact and freely browse around the various stalls.

Islam Awareness: In Manchester, ISB aims to promote a positive contribution to their local communities. A number of ongoing initiatives make this possible including setting up marquees in public places during Islam Awareness Week,

hosting dinners for non-Muslims, running local soup kitchens and health awareness days.

### Our current projects are:

*Monthly soup kitchen* - running now for several years - serving samosas to the homeless of Manchester.

*Diet Day* - a relatively new project - encouraging healthy living within the South Asian community. "Banning Jalabis!"

*Fundraising for charity* - E.g. Comic Relief.

*Health Check Days* - although currently on hold.

*Mental Health Awareness Talks*.

*Schools Workshops* - This is a project which started 4 years ago as part of IAW, as a way of bringing an understanding of Islam to primary schools in a fun, interesting and interactive way.

The workshops run throughout the year, in schools in Bury, Stockport, Trafford and Manchester. Children are given an overview of Islam through a presentation. Their knowledge is tested through quizzes, and activities such as building a Masjid with balloons, and performing in a play are also run as part of the programme. Around 100 workshops have run so far for Year 5/6 with positive feedback from the schools. We are always looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children. Full training is given, and you can give as much or as little time as you like, from one morning a year to one morning a week!

### Youth:

Young Muslim Sisters: At present we have the following circles:

Sunday circle at Islah centre – This is attended by 8 girls and it is going very well.

New girls are joining and I suspect we will have at least 12-15 girls coming in a few months time as word gets around.

The girls coming are all very enthusiastic and following on from a suggestion by Maryam Duale, the girls take turns in doing reminders and taking on responsibilities. Ages of girls coming – 12-13 yrs.

Subjects include Purification of the heart / soul; Seerah; calligraphy; drama; encouraging the girls to make every action into an act of worship; arts & crafts; current events; letter writing and quiz.

We are planning a qiyaam and a trip is due for the Sunday circle.

We have been contacted by the Shakespeare centre to start a circle on Sunday they can guarantee an attendance of at least 15 girls.

Friday Circle – The circle has not been held consistently. Only 3 girls are able to attend at present.

I have also organised with Maryam Duale to visit the Islamic High school for girls and met the Islamic coordinator in order to propose some ideas to create a link between YM and the school.

There is a lot of potential but I will need help!

Young Muslims Brothers: a number of circles take place as well as regular qiyaam ul layl programmes.

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- Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, USA (TBC)
- Dr Heba Ezzat, Egypt
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- Dr Jamal Badawi, Canada
- Dr Hany El Banna OBE, UK
- Sarah Joseph OBE, UK
- Shaykh Mohammad Akram Nadwi
- Abu Muntasir Manwar Ali, UK
- Rabiha Hannan, UK
- Mehmet Kaplan MP, Sweden (TBC)
- Dr Usama Hassan, UK
- Professor Muhammad Abdel Haleem OBE, UK
- Ajmal Masroor, UK
- Henrietta Szovati, UK
- Professor Ron Geaves, UK
- Professor Mohammad Farid Elshayyal, UK
- Batool al Toma, UK
- Mahmud Al-Rashid, UK
- Navid Akhtar, UK
- Dilwar Hussain, UK
- Dr Mahbub Ghani, UK
- Erica Timoney, UK

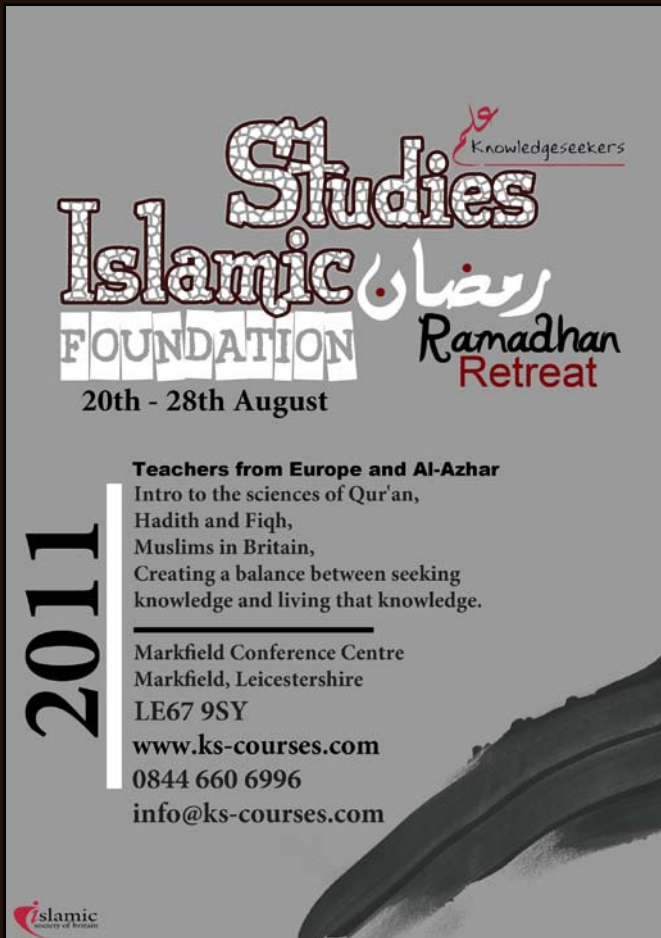
### Artists and Performers


- AeroStars Aerobatic Team, UK
- Fireworks Display and Laser Show
- Zain Bhikha & Friends, South Africa
- Dawud Wharnsby-Ali, Canada
- Maher Zain, Sweden
- Irfan Makki, Canada
- Silk Road, UK
- Safiyya, South Africa
- Idris Phillips, USA
- Hamza Fletcher, UK
- Ruqaya Izzidien, UK
- Nargis Imran, UK
- Samee C, UK
- Lincolnshire Cathedral Choir, UK (TBC)
- Colin Nell, UK

Much more still being confirmed

### Also includes:

"Marriage Introduction - Meet Your Future Spouse" event hosted by Barefoot institute





  
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