

THE LONDON FAITH & BELIEF COMMUNITY AWARDS 2023

**Celebrating the unsung heroes of
London's faith and belief communities**

With the support of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant
of Greater London's Council on Faith

**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**



Headline Sponsor



WELCOME

Last year's awards made special reference to the role of faith in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The values that underpin different faiths and beliefs and which drive the amazing community work in the capital were centre stage when it came to supporting those impacted by the pandemic.

This year I would like to draw attention to awards in the interfaith category. Our communities have recently been put under severe pressure due to the horrendous violence that erupted in Israel and Gaza. The devastating physical and emotional impacts of violence are clear to see. We have all been challenged and have struggled to deal with the impacts here in London. Many of us know family and friends who have been directly affected. We have come together around what aligns us. Disagreement has divided us. We have witnessed unsettling increases in Antisemitic and Islamophobic hate on our streets.

In this context, interfaith work has been critical. The importance of encouraging empathy towards those we see as different to ourselves; holding events that enable contact between those who may not ordinarily meet each other; and standing together to uphold human rights and dignity for all. These are some of the ways faith-based organisations in London are working for social cohesion and peace. And at the centre of their work is the power of dialogue.

Our award winners this evening celebrate a wide range of amazing work across different categories of social action including environmental sustainability, health and well-being, and the cost of living. Our ability to make progress on these issues depends on our ability to work together. When we are challenged to understand the fears and needs of those different to ourselves, our efforts to bring about change in other areas are also pressurised. In this sense, interfaith work

that provides the glue of empathy and understanding is critical to everything. So, a big shout-out to those in this category.

I would also like to mark this occasion, the seventh annual Faith & Belief Community Awards, by thanking our long-term partner the Lord Lieutenant's Council on Faith, chaired so well by David Dangoor CBE DL. Over the past seven years, this partnership has cemented these awards as a key date in London's calendar of events that celebrate our diverse communities. As David steps down from his role as chair of the Council at the end of 2023, we extend a huge thank you to him for his support and guidance to date. I know he will want to keep involved as we continue what he started.

Finally, many congratulations to all those who have been awarded and recognised this year. The quality and diversity of community work being delivered by faith-based organisations

is truly amazing. Thank you also to our sponsors and to everyone who has come to put their hands together to applaud those who continue to apply the values and principles of their different faiths and beliefs to supporting Londoners in need.

Phil Champaign

Director of the Faith & Belief Forum



WELCOME

I wish to warmly welcome you to the seventh London Faith & Belief Community Awards. As the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, I am His Majesty The King's personal representative in Greater London, charged with upholding the dignity of the Crown in our capital. I am supported by over 100 Deputy Lieutenants (identifiable by their postnominal "DL") who, like me, are unpaid volunteers. 32 of that number are appointed as Representative Deputy Lieutenants, one for each London Borough, providing a vital link with local communities across the capital. The Lieutenancy acts as a bridge-builder, connecting individuals, organisations and social networks, to enhance Londoners' sense of belonging and thereby increasing social inclusion within the capital.

Through its rich heritage and diverse population, London is home to many faith groups from every religion. As His Majesty reflected in a meeting with faith leaders, we must "respect those who follow other spiritual paths, as well as those who seek to live their lives in accordance with secular ideals".

We recognise and celebrate the work of Londoners from all faiths and beliefs who work positively to create a sense of belonging and inclusion in our great city. This is especially important in these difficult times, where crises abroad have the potential to sow division on our own shores.

In a recent speech King Charles III reminded us of His commitment to bring people together "One of my first acts as Sovereign, a little over a year ago, was to open the doors of Buckingham Palace to the leaders of the major Faiths represented across these islands; to welcome them, with respect and indeed love, and to re-dedicate my life to protecting the space for Faith itself within our shores."

Thank you to you all.

Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant
of Greater London



MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

This year's London Faith & Belief Community Awards will be my final one as Chair of the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith as I retire as an active Deputy Lieutenant next month.

I would like to begin my message by thanking the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Kenneth Olisa, for giving me the opportunity to chair the Council for its first eight years. The Council of Faith was formed by Sir Kenneth as part of his inspiring 2015 strategy "Building Bridges for a Fairer London". One of the first activities that members of the Council set up in conjunction with the Faith & Belief Forum were these annual awards at the Royal Society of Medicine (and at Westminster Abbey last year). Huge thanks must go to F&BF and its Director Phil Champain for their professionalism and enthusiasm in helping make these events such a success.

In terms of diversity of background and culture, London is one of the richest cities in the world. It boasts many sizable communities coming from every corner of the globe. For many of these communities, their faith or belief is their cultural fountain and a source of their identity – representing universal core principles that are shared across all faith and belief systems.

The Council on Faith works to harness the energy and commitment of diverse groups throughout London and help build a network of like-minded people. We support the London Faith & Belief Community Awards because it gives us a chance to bring together and engage those who work to promote wellbeing and foster a

crucial sense of inclusion and belonging in the Capital. Each year, Council on Faith members hear directly about the work faith and belief groups are doing to support the post-pandemic recovery and help their communities through rises in the cost of living. We know that everyone here works selflessly and tirelessly to help those around them, particularly those less fortunate and marginalised in society.

This awards ceremony therefore gives us the chance to celebrate all that work. This is about recognising the hard work and dedication of some incredible unsung heroes and highlighting the power of community groups.

For the groups attending this evening, I hope that you can draw inspiration from each other and continue to connect. I believe that working together will bring about the best change possible. There is also a chance to further the work you are doing through these awards, whether that's receiving a grant, learning from other groups, or making useful introductions to one another. I look forward to being part of some of those conversations with you.

Now in its seventh year, I am always amazed by the outstanding groups and individuals that we recognise, and I'm delighted to celebrate all of you. On behalf of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith, I want to welcome and congratulate all of you.

Dr David Dangoor

CBE DL DUniv (Open)

Chair of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

It has been a pleasure for me to once again be Chair of the Judging Panel of this year's London Faith & Belief Community Awards. The panel comprised of four members of the Council on Faith: Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Bibi Khan MBE DL, Colleen Harris MVO DL, and me, joined by Phil Champain and Carrie Alderton from the Faith & Belief Forum.

The judging panel received 59 nominations by the August deadline. The panel had the privilege of scrutinising the nominations based on our judging matrix. We individually assessed each of the nominations along three criteria, based on the projects' need, impact and exceptionality. The nominations were also assessed against our eight categories, chosen in partnership with Deputy Lieutenants of Greater London to reflect the challenges faced by some Londoners and marginalised groups.

The judging panel met on the 24 October, and had an opportunity to discuss each nomination in turn. This was a wonderful experience, being inspired by the fantastic work that every single group or individual does throughout London. The projects

were diverse, from across most London boroughs, representing a diversity of faith and beliefs, and helping different groups.

There was great uniformity amongst the judges. We are delighted to have been able to agree on 32 projects to be awarded £500 and on 24 projects to be recognised for their good work. We have also identified 6 individuals, whom we want to recognise as outstanding individuals for their exceptional work.

I would like to thank my fellow judges for their hard work and support. I also want to congratulate all the projects and individuals who are represented here tonight – you provide so much support and kindness to those who have come to rely on you. Projects and individuals like the ones we are honouring tonight are pillars of their community, they mean so much to the people whose lives they touch, and everyone here should be so proud of the work they are doing.

Mrs Bushra Nasir CBE DL
Chair of the Judging Panel





PROGRAMME

Tonight's hosts are Rachel Cohen, Senior Programmes Coordinator at the Faith & Belief Forum and Rev. Nims Obunge MBE DL, CEO of The Peace Alliance.



Performance

London Male Jewish Choir

Welcome

Rachel Cohen and Rev. Nims
Obunge MBE DL

Video Message

Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, His Majesty's
Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London

Keynote Address

Dr David Dangoor CBE DL DUniv (Open),
Chair of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of
Greater London's Council on Faith

Remarks on Judging

Mrs Bushra Nasir CBE DL,
Chair of the Judging Panel

Awards Presentation

Environmental Sustainability

Health & Wellbeing

Inspiring Youth

Success Story

Ramadan Tent Project

Awards Presentation

Interfaith Relations

Promoting Inclusion

Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Performance

Farhana Ali

Awards Presentation

Schools & Educational Establishments

Supporting Women

Outstanding Individuals

Closing Remarks

Phil Champain, Director of the
Faith & Belief Forum

Networking and Refreshments in the Atrium



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Inspired by The Queen's Green Canopy initiative's mission to encourage environmental sustainability. This category seeks to celebrate projects that address one of the most urgent challenges facing humanity by inspiring behavioural change in their communities through education, local campaigns, safeguarding green spaces and taking practical action to tackle climate change.





Gurseva

Greener Spaces Project, Gurseva

Hounslow

Gurseva is a community-focused charity founded in 1998, based in Hounslow, West London. Since 2017, local volunteers have organised five tree plantings and successfully planted over 100 trees across London. Most of these tree plantings have taken place in local parks, including Hanworth Park, Hounslow Heath and Crane Park.

The project aims to create greener spaces for the community, as well as to encourage physical activity for groups that may not normally access these spaces. The improved habitats created by volunteers also attract more wildlife numbers and biodiversity to the areas, something that all the community can benefit from.

GURSEVA.ORG.UK/

Love North Chingford Gardening Group

Waltham Forest

The Love North Chingford Gardening Group was established in March 2019, to help make North Chingford a more attractive place to live, work and visit by maintaining the gardens and planters in the local area. The group meets regularly to keep North Chingford looking beautiful, focusing on planting plants for pollinators and plants that are drought tolerant, as well as using Peat Free Compost.

This project has not only improved the local area environment but also inspired the local community to realise the importance of voluntary work to help sustain the green spaces of their local surroundings.

LOVENORTHCHINGFORD.CO.UK/



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Projects in this category create specialised services for the health and wellbeing of Londoners. They reduce social isolation and improve the quality of life of Londoners by supporting vulnerable people from different backgrounds.

Educate, Not Mutilate

Waltham Forest

Educate, Not Mutilate promotes, preserves and protects the physical and mental health of women and girls primarily by tackling the gender-based violence and health inequality that is rooted in female genital mutilation, breast ironing and other forms of gender-based violence. They deliver educational workshops and advance education and awareness of the issues among school students, teachers, health professionals and the wider public. Since 2022, they have delivered over 120 workshops and educated over 8,400 people.

LINKTR.EE/EDUCATENOTMUTILATE/

Martsang Kagyu UK Buddhist Centre

Camden

Martsang Kagyu UK Buddhist Centre (MKUKBC) was established in 2019 by His Holiness Gangri Karma Rinpoche, who is the lineage holder of the Martsang Kagyu tradition and a Buddhist scholar. The Centre follows the Martsang Kagyu of Tibetan Buddhism, founded 856 years ago. The Centre spreads joyful Dharma for the benefit of the public through lectures, seminars, public talking and meditation to promote mental health and wellbeing. MKUKBC seeks to benefit all people in the community without prejudice or judgement.

The three-year Diploma course called the 'Martsang LamRim' supports students to transform their minds and open their hearts, based on ancient teachings that originated in India and Tibet that provide antidotes to the stress and isolation of modern urban life.

MARTSANGKAGYU.CO.UK/



Martsang Kagyu UK Buddhist Centre

Ready, Steady, Art project, The Pennu Charity

Barking and Dagenham

The Pennu Charity, established in 2016, is committed to promoting good health and well-being of the elderly so that they enjoy a happy and fulfilled life. The 'Ready, Steady, Art' project aims to combat social isolation and improve the well-being of the elderly through a variety of activities. Befriending sessions allow the elderly to share their life experiences, fostering connections and validation within the community. 'Technology awareness' sessions help to bridge the digital divide, with younger volunteers teaching the elderly about devices like tablets and smartphones. Arts and crafts activities provide therapeutic outlets to combat poor mental health among seniors. Physical and health-related activities promote good health and well-being. The project benefits the community through involvement from external volunteers, organizations and local businesses, fostering unity, empathy, and shared responsibility, strengthening community bonds.

PENNU.ORG/

Safe in Faith, Caritas Westminster

Westminster

Safe in Faith is a new project of Caritas Westminster, which aims to foster faith-informed support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and gender-based violence (GBV). The project provides

training for clergy, religious sisters and pastoral workers to understand domestic abuse in the context of religious faith; how faith can be a support but also at times a barrier to safety. The training equips faith leaders to provide trauma-informed and knowledgeable support and signposting to help victims/survivors access the support they need.

Safe in Faith also has an interfaith network of counsellors and psychotherapists working at the intersection of domestic abuse, gender-based violence and faith. The project provides free and low-cost training for practitioners in working with abuse and trauma in the context of faith and spirituality.

SAFEINFAITH.ORG.UK/

Non-Religious Pastoral Carers at Wormwood Scrubs Prison

Hammersmith and Fulham

The Non-Religious Pastoral Carers at Wormwood Scrubs Prison are a team of volunteers have been working as part of the chaplaincy team there since 2017, providing not only existential and non-religious spiritual care for prisoners with non-religious beliefs, but also providing care and support to all prisoners no matter their beliefs. Working alongside paid and voluntary colleagues of many religions and beliefs, Harry Barrat, Jim Coakes, Ruth Nolan and Robert Ross are found walking the wings, checking in on prisoners, and playing an active role in supporting prisoners who are suicidal or in mental health distress. Providing a listening ear, a friendly face, and someone with whom



Non-Religious Pastoral Carers at Wormwood Scrubs Prison

to discuss ‘the big questions’, they are all highly trained and experienced, and their work makes a significant difference for everyone they support.

NRPSN.ORG.UK/

Faith to Faithless Asylum Support Project

Islington

Faith to Faithless is a programme of Humanists UK that works to support individuals who leave high-control religious groups and raise awareness of the issues they face. Leaving a high-control religion

often means rejection from family and community, and apostates may become homeless, isolated, and at risk of abuse. Faith to Faithless provides peer support groups and social groups, a helpline, and training for professionals.

Since 2018, Faith to Faithless has supported 96 asylum seekers, assessing the genuineness and validity of their claims, providing letters of support, and appearing at tribunals, and has trained 200 asylum assessors in dealing with non-religious asylum claims. This small service makes an immeasurable difference, providing unique and highly specialist support.

FAITHTOFAITHLESS.COM/



Growing Hope King's Cross

Growing Hope King's Cross

Islington

Growing Hope King's Cross is a Christian charity that works in partnership with King's Cross Church to provide free therapy for children and young people with additional needs, who are living in Camden and Islington. As an organisation, they are motivated by their Christian faith and aim to support children and young people with additional needs, along with their families, in order that they experience hope. The service is open to all families, regardless of their faith or beliefs.

Growing Hope provides support for physical, cognitive, mental health, learning and undiagnosed needs, which impact participation in everyday activities. They offer occupational therapy, physiotherapy, music therapy, children's counselling and speech and language therapy. Each therapy session aims to equip children and their families with strategies to develop skills and to support ongoing needs. The service also supports siblings, parents and carers through running groups and courses.

[GROWINGHOPE.ORG.UK/](https://growinghope.org.uk/)

Vedicca

Harrow

Vedicca was founded in November 2012 by a handful of individuals with a shared vision of giving the elderly and the retired a platform to enjoy the fruits of their hard work in their golden years. Vedicca's goal is to work on bringing the elderly community of Harrow together through a variety of activities and meetings. These include health and wellbeing workshops that teach and educate members about the most prominent conditions of their age and ethnicity, activity sessions to keep the community fit and active and social trips visiting a range of places including local parks, cinemas and restaurants. The activities are intended to help the elderly members of the local community improve their physical and mental health.

VEDICCALONDON.COM/

The Well Homeless Project, Croydon Salvation Army

Croydon

The Well is an integral part of The Salvation Army in Croydon and functions every week. It seeks to support people who have been living on the street or who are in precarious accommodation and do not have access to the basics of human care. It provides immediate access to a full catering service that includes snacks, hot drinks and hot meals, as well as clothing, sleeping bags and postal services. Beyond the food, the Well offers the opportunity to enjoy a time of social interaction.

Many of the clients require more long-term support to help them move on from

their vulnerable and unstable situations. The Well also offers on-site support for issues such as physical and mental health, accommodation, employment, access to public funds and benefits, delivered by local community partners. The Well is a safety net for those who are not able to use or access other already scarce services and resources.

[FACEBOOK @ CROYDON CITADEL SALVATION ARMY](https://www.facebook.com/CroydonCitadelSalvationArmy)

Nanak Naam

Hillingdon

Nanak Naam's vision is to create a world where everyone can improve their mental, emotional and spiritual well-being through Guru Nanak's wisdom of Oneness, regardless of their background. Living with Wisdom is a 10-part online course that teaches students how to understand emotions to find inner peace. The course includes topics on how to calm the mind, deal with negative thoughts and improve our relationships. So far, the course has been taken by thousands of people online. Nanak Naam believes in connecting people from all walks of life and spreading the wisdom of Oneness through online media and in-person groups.

NANAKNAAM.ORG/



Nanak Naam



INSPIRING YOUTH

Young people from minority backgrounds are often overlooked and may be excluded from civic life. Projects within this category work with young people to encourage leadership, participation or volunteering in their local community, and connect them with opportunities beyond their neighbourhoods.

Salaam Peace

Waltham Forest

Salaam Peace is a community engagement programme that uses sports and social education to bring people together from diverse backgrounds, founded in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombings due to the negative media attention surrounding British Muslims. Operating in Waltham Forest, Hackney, Haringey and Newham, Salaam Peace focuses on promoting physical and mental well-being, social belonging, educational attainment and employability skills and opportunities for local people. They adopt a youth leadership and lived experience model in their work to ensure that their work continues to focus on current and local issues. Salaam Peace has a team of 19 staff and volunteers, all of whom are current or ex-participants.

SALAAMPEACE.ORG/



Salaam Peace



INTERFAITH RELATIONS

London's neighbourhoods are multi-faith spaces where people with different faiths and beliefs share the same public spaces and services. Projects within this category build bridges across communities and create hubs that are open to all.

Ukrainian Orthodox community, Christchurch Bexleyheath

Bexley

After the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Olesya Demyan identified an urgent need for local people to unify and support Ukrainians in the UK, who were having difficulties with communication and integration. With a team of volunteers, Olesya supported local Ukrainians by providing mental health support and by raising funds. In July 2022, the volunteer group partnered with Christchurch Bexleyheath and Rev'd Trevor Wyatt to establish a Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox parish and a hub for Ukrainians in South London. The hub supports Ukrainians in the UK and abroad through humanitarian aid, wellbeing support, language classes, and arts and crafts classes. The group has also organised charitable concerts, fayres, and auctions.

CHRISTCHURCHBEXLEYHEATH.ORG.UK/



Ukrainian Orthodox community



Forest Women's Interfaith Network

Forest Women's Interfaith Network

Waltham Forest

Forest Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) affiliated to the national Women's Interfaith Network, was set up 14 years ago to promote unity through diversity in our multifaith/ multicultural borough and surrounding areas. With a membership reflecting the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities, the annual programme includes a faith pilgrimage, interfaith fayre, events during national interfaith week and festivals, devotionals, meetings and social action projects.

Forest WIN's work continues to build friendships, trust and respect across all faiths and none through activities enabling community cohesion, inclusivity, understanding and development.

[FACEBOOK @ FOREST WOMEN'S INTERFAITH NETWORK](#)

Ramadan Lights, Aziz Foundation

Westminster

Bringing Ramadan Lights to Coventry Street was a project undertaken in collaboration with the Aziz Foundation, the Heart of London Business Alliance and Aisha Desai, building upon Aisha's original Ramadan Lights structure in Henley's Corner in 2021. Supported by the community, the project aimed to ensure the representation of Muslims in London, who constitute 15% of the population, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. The project had a significant positive impact on the local economy throughout the month, drawing Muslims and non-Muslims from across the UK to London and contributing to a shift in perceptions of British Muslims.

AZIZFOUNDATION.ORG.UK/



Aziz Foundation



PROMOTING INCLUSION

Londoners may face misunderstanding, isolation or exclusion because of their faith or belief. They may be further excluded, due to other aspects of their identities (e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, age and ability) – and this discrimination may take place within faith groups or wider society. Projects within this category work at the intersection between faith/belief and other aspects of identity – creating inclusive spaces.



Onside Soccer

Sutton

Onside Soccer is a Christian football ministry based in Carshalton in South London that uses the power of football as a force for good, working both locally and internationally. Our work in South London centres on inclusion, with a particular focus on supporting newly arrived immigrants from Hong Kong to assimilate into life in the U.K. Utilising the universal passion for football, training sessions for adults and tournaments for children and young people help local people to come together, make friends and settle into the local area. Onside Soccer also runs several international projects, including a long-term project in Uganda that helps with the rehabilitation of former child soldiers, and a project in India that works with girls rescued from trafficking rings.

ONSIDEMINISTRIES.COM/



Onside Soccer

Marks Gate Relief Project

Barking and Dagenham

MGRP is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company that engages in innovative voluntary services to boost community engagement within Marks Gate and surrounding areas. MGRP strives to boost socio-economic welfare, cultural and linguistic diversity, well-being and interfaith harmony in the local community. MGRP runs several community projects, including a community kitchen, study support for students and interfaith events and activities. Through their 'Kindness Diaries' and 'Random Acts of Kindness' projects, MGRP has educated and actively promoted kindness and compassion as a language that is indifferent to socio-economic and linguistic barriers.

MGRP.ORG.UK/

Made In Hackney

Hackney

Made In Hackney believe in the interconnectedness of thriving communities, healthy people and a healthy planet. They work to ensure everyone has access to enough nutritious food of their preference. The community cookery school started in response to global and local crises, including health inequalities, loss of community spaces and climate change. These interconnected issues drive their mission to bring about positive change in the areas of community, health and environment, with delicious, culturally varied, nutritious plant-based food at the centre of all they do. In the last 18 months, they have reduced isolation and helped the community connect during the cost-of-living crisis, by implementing new classes on Type 2 Diabetes (including a West African course), gut health and menopause, along with 1-1 support and welfare calls.

MADEINHACKNEY.ORG/



Made in Hackney

MNPC (Mindfulness Network for People of Colour)

Wandsworth

MNPC is a Community Interest Company that shares and promotes practices related to preventative medicine and healing from transgenerational trauma and racism. The organization consists of trained and qualified practitioners within respected modalities, who endorse alternative indigenous methodologies. MNPC offers various services, including grief spaces, resources, live retreats, and online courses, all of which serve to bridge the gap in statutory services and address structural inequalities. By integrating a range of modalities and traditions, including Vipassana, prayers, dance, song, and collective efforts, MNPC is dedicated to giving voice to the most vulnerable and, in doing so, restoring a sense of dignity and hope to their lives. They advocate for the power of the collective voice to achieve freedom and liberation from oppression, while embracing their own cultural richness.

[MNPC.CO.UK/](https://mnpc.co.uk/)

Refugees Helping Hands

Croydon

Refugee Helping Hands was set up in May 2021, to help new asylum seekers arriving in the UK. The service supports asylum seekers with the essentials such as clothes, shoes, hygiene packs and food items so that they can start a happy and dignified life. Refugee Helping Hands is here to help welcome new visitors in the area by guiding them to services available locally, as well as by being a friend that they can contact if they need additional support. Their work is shaped by the insights of people seeking asylum and refugees, with the core belief that a well-established bond plays an important role when helping to facilitate building effective relationships.

[FACEBOOK @ REFUGEES HELPING HANDS](https://www.facebook.com/refugeeshelpinghands)



Mindfulness Network for People of Colour



Refugees Helping Hands



RESPONSE TO THE COST-OF- LIVING CRISIS

The cost-of-living crisis is impacting the lives of all Londoners. Projects within this category have provided goods, services or support which has helped those who are struggling financially by providing some relief from the crisis.

St Dunstan's Food Bank

Tower Hamlets

St Dunstan's Food Bank is a Christian food-based project supported by local suppliers and communities, which has been in operation for four years. Relying on donations from local residents and businesses, the service offers food and products to feed and support local people who require help to get their families through the week. The service helped build relationships in the local community that feed the soul as well as the body.

STDUNSTANSTEPNEY.COM/FOOD-BANK.HTML/



St Dunstan's Food Bank

St Joan of Arc, St Vincent de Paul Group

Islington

St Joan of Arc SVP is a branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society operating out of St Joan of Arc Church in Highbury. The SVP is a lay organisation dedicated to fighting poverty and providing practical assistance to anyone in need, following the example of St Vincent de Paul. St Joan of Arc SVP has 17 volunteers who try to identify people in need in the community and offer practical and emotional support. During the cost-of-living crisis, the group has been fundraising, writing grants, running a food bank and visiting and helping an increasing number of people who need support. Last year alone the group made around 1,000 visits and phone calls to individuals and families in need of support, gave out over 750 food parcels, nearly 300 food vouchers, over 60 fuel grants, as well as providing furniture, Christmas hampers, and grants for holiday days out.

SVP.ORG.UK/



St Joan of Arc

Islamic Hands

Waltham Forest

Islamic Hands is the charitable arm of Faizan-e-Islam Educational & Cultural Trust, working towards alleviating poverty and suffering among vulnerable communities. In Waltham Forest, the main purpose is to support those in need and to promote social welfare through various initiatives and programs, including a social interaction programme, free funeral service and health and wellbeing events. The main values of Islamic Hands include compassion, justice, dignity, accountability, and transparency. They strive to provide humanitarian aid to people regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity, and aim to empower communities through sustainable projects that promote self-sufficiency and economic independence.

FAIZANEISLAM.COM/

Community Food Share, Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo, Harrow Green

Waltham Forest

The Community Food Share at Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo Harrow Green has been running for nearly 5 years and initially began as a food waste initiative to rescue good quality food from landfill and distribute it to those in need. The Community Food Share now offers both non-perishable long-life essentials and perishable rescued food every week to between 60-80 households, including fruit and veg, meat, dairy, nappies and baby supplies and toiletries.

The Community Food Share is more than just food, it isn't a transaction, it's a relationship that aims to support neighbours and community in a holistic way.

E11HOLY.ORG.UK/FOOD-SHARE/



Community Food Share



Central Mosque of Brent

Health and Medical Education Facility, Central Mosque of Brent

Brent

The newly inaugurated Health and Medical Education Facility at the Central Mosque of Brent has been designed and placed to improve access and availability for the entire community, working with the local community to improve access to health services and facilitate health education, focusing on diabetes, cancer awareness and general health. In response to the cost-of-living crisis and the energy crisis, the Health and Medical Education Facility runs a twice-weekly Surplus Food Market, supported by London Community Kitchen and local businesses to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and other food to members of the community in need, whilst addressing food waste and reducing landfill.

CENTRALMOSQUEOFBRENT.COM/

Love North Southwark CIC

Southwark

Love North Southwark CIC is a community-based organization that emerged in response to the hardship created by the coronavirus pandemic. Their mission is to bring food security to those in need in Southwark. The group started in April 2020 by providing meals and food parcels to the elderly and shielding individuals, and soon extended their support to anyone who was struggling to get by, including young families, victims of domestic violence, individuals with mental health issues, and those living in sheltered accommodation. More recently, they have set up a local Food Pantry and Baby Bank.

Love North Southwark not only helps individuals with food security but also assists them in reintegrating into the community, particularly after long lockdown periods or when they have recently moved into the area. Since its opening, they have served nearly 1,000 people in the local community.

OVENORTHSOUTHWARK.CO.UK/





Love North Southwark CIC



SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Developing young people's leadership and character at school is vital for a healthy society. Projects in this category promote interfaith understanding and inclusive practices.

These projects run at schools or Alternative Provision Units and work with young people to develop leadership, tolerance or education regarding faith, belief, or inclusion.





Znaniye Foundation

Ealing Mentoring Scheme, Znaniye Foundation

Ealing

At the heart of the Ealing Mentoring Scheme is the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. Through the mentorship programme, the scheme empowers children to unlock their full potential and build a brighter future, creating a safe and nurturing environment for them to learn, develop, and grow. Dedicated mentors who are expertly matched to each mentee provide invaluable guidance and support to children at risk of exclusion, working with them to foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Funded by BBC Children In Need, the scheme began with 1-2-1 mentoring, and has now grown to offer conferences, allowing students to meet young professionals from a wide variety of industries and to learn about the working world and how to succeed in it. The programme also now offers Art Psychotherapy, Sports Mentoring as well as English, Maths and Science revision.

ZNANIYEFUNDATION.CO.UK/



Eden Girls Waltham Forest

Eden Girls Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest

At Eden Girls Waltham Forest, staff and students are involved in a range of interfaith, charity and civic community projects. The school works very closely with the Faith and Belief Forum and takes part in the annual school interfaith linking project. In addition, staff and students organise an annual Interfaith Breakfast, attended by more than 60 guests representing a variety of faith traditions. The school has hosted special visits for the Archbishop of York, the Chief Rabbi of the UK and the Mayor of Waltham Forest.

EDENGIRLSWALTHAMFOREST.COM/



SUPPORTING WOMEN

Women, from all walks of life, make extraordinary contributions to their communities and the city we live in, but they're not always recognised.

This category will recognise the work of projects which support women to make change in their community through providing education, advocacy, friendship and a wider array of services.

Annual International Women's Day Celebrations, Neasden Temple

Brent

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Neasden Temple) has been celebrating International Women's Day events annually since 2010, as recognized by the United Nations. The BAPS Women's Forum is driven by the Hindu ethos of 'Seva', the spirit of selfless service to others and is actively involved in a several community outreach programmes. The events seek to raise awareness of societal issues affecting women in a faith-based trusted environment, focusing specifically on topics that women from a South Asian/Hindu background consider to be sensitive and not openly discussed.

Each year the event discusses a topic in depth, explains the importance of the topic and its relevance to women, then provide practical guidance and signposting to expert advice and information. The key objective of these events is to celebrate achievement, inspire change, raise awareness of issues and empower women to make a positive change in their lives, their family and the wider community.

NEASDENTEMPLE.ORG/



Neasden Temple

Kiran Support Services

Waltham Forest

Kiran Support Services provides intersectional, culturally sensitive support for South Asian women and children fleeing domestic abuse and harmful practices, including forced marriage and so-called honour-based violence. Established in 1990, Kiran supports 400 women in Waltham Forest annually, through the provision of refuge accommodation, specialist counselling including play therapy for children, immigration advice and casework support.

Kiran provides activities on demand and is a service user-led organisation: It is run by and for Asian women to meet the needs of the local community.

KIRANSS.ORG.UK/

Illuminate Soho, Third Space Ministries

Westminster

Illuminate Solo is a pioneering initiative offering a confidential listening ear and well-being advocacy for the several thousand women who work in Soho strip clubs. At the invitation of staff and club management, small teams spend time each week in Soho strip clubs, offering a free and confidential listening service. The team also advocates for the women's wellbeing to club management.

Illuminate Soho has developed a bespoke training course consolidated from 10 years of experience, which is now being delivered to other groups across the UK who are hoping to set up similar local initiatives. In response to recommendations of our work by several club managers, the VAWG and safeguarding team in the local council have invited Illuminate Soho to be the wellbeing point of contact for all the strip clubs across Soho.

THIRDSPACEMINISTRIES.CO.UK/



Kiran Support Services

RECOGNISED PROJECTS

For services to and for faith and belief communities

Inconvenient Store

Waltham Forest

Instagram

@inconveniencestore.uk

Togetherness Café

Waltham Forest

[blossom.place/the-](https://blossom.place/the-togetherness-cafe-where-everyone-belongs/)

[togetherness-cafe-where-](https://blossom.place/the-togetherness-cafe-where-everyone-belongs/)
[everyone-belongs/](https://blossom.place/the-togetherness-cafe-where-everyone-belongs/)

Genesis Education Trust

Waltham Forest

genesistrust.net/

About Me, and My Community

Hammersmith and Fulham

[photojournalismhub.](https://photojournalismhub.org/2022/05/12/about-me-and-my-community/)

[org/2022/05/12/about-me-and-](https://photojournalismhub.org/2022/05/12/about-me-and-my-community/)
[my-community/](https://photojournalismhub.org/2022/05/12/about-me-and-my-community/)

Avengers Cricket Club

Waltham Forest

[aca.london/avengers-cricket-](https://aca.london/avengers-cricket-club/)
[club/](https://aca.london/avengers-cricket-club/)

Serving Humanity Foundation

Redbridge

[servinghumanityfoundation.](https://servinghumanityfoundation.org.uk/)
[org.uk/](https://servinghumanityfoundation.org.uk/)

Foodcycle Marylebone

Westminster

foodcycle.org.uk/location/

[foodcycle-marylebone/](https://foodcycle.org.uk/location/)

Sparkle, St Michael's

Wandsworth Common

Wandsworth

stmichaelssouthfields.org/

[sparkle-together/](https://stmichaelssouthfields.org/)

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

London Wide

standingtogether.org.uk/

Forest Churches

Emergency Night Shelter

Waltham Forest

forestnightshelter.org.uk/

National Hindu Students' Forum (UK)


London Wide

nhsf.org.uk/

The Big Iftar, Middlesex University Inter Faith Network

Barnet

[mdx.ac.uk/news/2023/04/](https://mdx.ac.uk/news/2023/04/the-big-iftar/)
[the-big-iftar/](https://mdx.ac.uk/news/2023/04/the-big-iftar/)



St Barnabas and St James the Greater Welcomes All
Waltham Forest
saintbarnabaswalthamstow.com/

Soul Food Community Meal
Waltham Forest
Facebook @ St Andrew's,
Upper Leytonstone

St Thomas Community Food Pantry
Havering
stthomasjsoc london.org/

Betty's Baby Bank
Southwark
bettysbabybank.co.uk/

Barking & Dagenham Faith Leaders Network
Barking and Dagenham
bdfln.faithaction.net/

Cornerstone Baby Bank
Waltham Forest
thecornerstone.org.uk/
babybank/

Women in Business & Tech Parliamentary Series
Westminster
citysikhs.com/

Faiths Women Community UK
faithswomencommunityuk.org/

Step Up Together Women's Walking Group
Southwark

Hammed Kayode Alabi
Hammersmith and Fulham

Deacon Anthony Clark
Barnet

Nighat Khan
Lambeth





OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

London is full of inspirational individuals, people who make a lasting contribution to the life of our city. While not an award category itself, the judges wanted a chance to shine an extra spotlight on some individuals who they feel have gone above and beyond.

The individuals recognised here inspire others through their acts of public service, which are matched by their attitudes and values, exemplifying London as a welcome place for people of all faiths and beliefs.

Hibo Wardere

Hibo Wardere is an educator and campaigner against female genital mutilation (FGM). She experienced FGM in Somalia as a six-year-old girl and understood from a young age that what had happened to her was deeply wrong. Hibo later made her way to the UK as a refugee and embarked on a journey to educate herself, and ultimately others, about FGM – the reason it happens and its impact on women and wider society. Her mission is to liberate the women and girls who have been harmed and are at risk of this practice by bringing an end to FGM. Hibo is the Educational Lead at Educate, Not Mutilate.

Archbishop Dr. A. C. C. Evangelou MBE

Archbishop Evangelou MBE has been serving people and his community for over 35 years. He is the International President of Ixthus Church Council and the overseeing minister of the Apostolic Christian Church (Sheepfold) a thriving, multi-cultural church in North London. He supports other church and faith leaders to build bridges between people of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures, both in the UK and abroad. He is also the President of Community Heart (London), a registered charity with a diverse range of projects, including sports clubs, a youth club, a food bank, and a soup kitchen.

In the 2019 Queen's New Year's honour's list, Archbishop Evangelou received an MBE for his service to the young people of North London. He has been described as dedicating his life to the selfless service of others and making a huge difference to his local community.

Revd Christine Harding

Revd Christine is a self-supporting minister, based at St Chad's Church, Chadwell Heath. In 2006, she felt a calling to work with the older generation in the local community, so launched the Mature Companions Club with a team of volunteers. Beginning as a holiday club for over 55's, the group now regularly meets to share lunch and grow in companionship. As well as a tasty lunch, there are games, craft sessions, entertainment and trips out.

Christine is not a paid member of staff, yet is dedicated to the residents she helps and serves. Despite facing some challenges over the pandemic, Christine has worked hard to gain trust again and support those who needed help but were hesitant to return to 'normal' after the pandemic. Christine has been described as never looking for thanks or acknowledgement, but very worthy of it.

Bibi Zeenat Maudarbocus

Bibi Zeenat Maudarbocus was born in Mauritius and came to the UK in 1994. She is a mother to two sons, aged 23 years and 19 years old. Having personally struggled with settling into life in a new country, and particularly with accessing support services and finding employment, Zeenat works to support local asylum seekers, aside from her day job as a Primary Assistant Teacher. In 2021, she set up Refugees Helping Hands, to help new asylum seekers arriving in the UK. Zeenat has been described as being the critical link and lifeline to many people, and truly supporting anyone, regardless of their religious or non-religious background.

Tracey and Peter Rodgers

Tracey and Peter Rodgers set up Highams Park Food Aid in April 2000 to provide food to people in Highams Park and Chingford who needed support in obtaining food supplies during the Covid pandemic. The service then evolved to support people who are experiencing financial difficulties, becoming a food bank based out of All Saints Church Highams Park. Since opening, Highams Park Food Aid has supported hundreds of families with nearly 100 families on their books at any one time. Tracey and Peter have cultivated an outstanding group of more than 80 volunteers who deliver the service on a weekly basis. The success of this organisation has been described as a testament to Tracey and Peter's dedication and service.

SUCCESS STORY: RAMADAN TENT PROJECT

Ramadan Tent Project (RTP) is an award-winning charity established in 2013. Its work is rooted in bringing communities together to better understand each other, and spreading the spirit of Islam and Ramadan through its various activities.

RTP is the proud producer of the world's largest, annual Ramadan Festival. This year's 2-month festival exhibited the diverse arts, culture and heritage of Islam with people of all faith backgrounds and none. From RTP's flagship Open Iftar events to its inaugural Ramadan Pavilion, not only did the festival provide spiritual sustenance but also enriched cultural exchange and strengthened social cohesion, showcasing the enduring power of Ramadan's spirit.

Ramadan Festival 2023 marked RTP's 10-year anniversary. Over the past decade, the charity has recruited and trained over 5,000 volunteers, hosted over 300 guest speakers and connected and convened over one million people locally and globally.

Receiving the London Faith & Belief Award in 2019 not only platformed and celebrated the work and impact of Ramadan Tent Project, but also paved the way to building new partnerships, receiving more invitations to roundtable discussions of faith and belonging, and showcased our work to an audience, some of which were recruited as part of Team Teal, our fantastic team of volunteers. Our relationship with Faith & Belief Forum has also developed, with members of the network speaking at and attending our events, co-curating spaces of belonging with different communities.

With a mission to turn strangers into friends, RTP continues its work towards creating a world where everyone coexists in harmony; softening hearts and minds and bringing about good relations between people.

RAMADANTENTPROJECT.COM/



Open Iftar 2023 at Royal Albert Hall



Open Iftar 2023 at Trafalgar Square

NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS

Thank you for joining us at the seventh London Faith & Belief Community Awards. We hope you have enjoyed the night and been inspired by the wonderful projects and individuals being celebrated.

Please join us in the Atrium after the ceremony for refreshments and an opportunity to network. We encourage you to get to know the many exceptional people here tonight, who are all working towards a better London.

Why not start with the following prompts...

1. Which projects or individuals have you been most inspired by tonight?
2. How do your faith or values motivate your work?
3. What brings you hope for London?

CREDITS

The London Faith & Belief Community Awards would not have been possible without the continued support and guidance of the **Deputy Lieutenants** who sit on His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith.

Particular thanks must be given to **Bushra Nasir CBE DL**, who sat as Chair on the steering committee from the inception of this event and also acted as Chair of the Judging Panel.

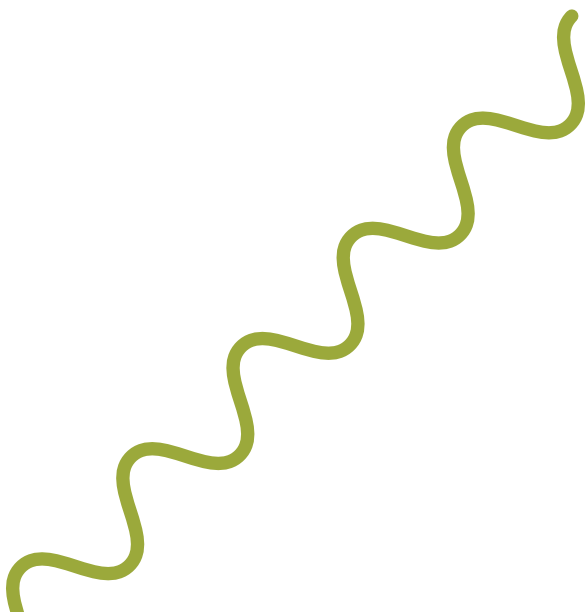
We are grateful for the support of **Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London** and **Dr David Dangoor CBE DL DUniv (Open)**, Chair of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith.

Thank you to the **Judging Panel: Bushra Nasir CBE DL, Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Bibi Khan MBE DL, Colleen Harris MVO DL**, joined by **Phil Champain** and **Carrie Alderton** from the Faith & Belief Forum.

Thank you to **The Greater London Lieutenancy** office for its invaluable support, especially to **Mr Joe Baker Esq** (Clerk) and **Mrs Yvette Atori** (Deputy Clerk).

Thank you to the **London Male Jewish Choir** and **Farhana Ali** for your performances tonight.

Thank you to all who nominated projects for the awards. Without you this event would not have been possible. Thank you to the **F&BF staff and volunteers** for all your support in making the event a success.



SPONSORS

Tonight's event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. F&BF would like to thank the following organisations and foundations for their kind donations supporting the projects awarded at tonight's ceremony.



Dangoor Education

Headline Sponsor for the London Faith & Belief Community Awards.



Direct Line Group

We're one of Britain's leading insurance companies with brands including Direct Line, Churchill, Privilege, NIG and Green Flag. As signatories to The Charter for Faith & Belief Inclusion, our Belief employee network are championing work to help build a greater understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs. That's why we're delighted to support the London Faith & Belief Community Awards – to celebrate the fantastic achievements of individuals and organisations who are making a real difference to inclusion in society.



The Morgan Charitable Foundation

Leslie Morgan OBE DL & family are proud to support this wonderful cause.



Community Union

We're a leading modern trade union and we are here to help you. Community union has spent decades supporting, advising and bringing together people from across the UK. It's our job to protect and support people, so they can focus on the things that matter most. We're striving for a better world of work for everyone, and this is why we are delighted to support The London Faith & Belief Community Awards- to celebrate the fantastic achievements of individuals and organisations who are making a positive change.

We are creating a union that is rooted in communities across the country. Our 'In your community' work is about bringing people together to identify and find solutions to important local issues. We envision a future where you as individuals and organisations shape and organise communities to make positive change. To achieve this, we want you get involved and join hundreds of people who want to make real, lasting change in their communities. Visit our webpage community-tu.org/ to find out more.



SPICE VILLAGE™
RESTAURANTS | CATERING | EVENTS

Spice Village

At Spice Village, we believe every meal has a story. Our journey began over two decades ago, culminating in a Queen's Award, British Curry Awards and AFRA Awards. It's a tale of taste, passion, and excellence, as immigrant brothers Nasir and Suleman journeyed from Pakistan to London. Inspired by their mother's homemade recipes, they opened a 15-seater takeaway in Tooting in 2004. Their award-winning chefs expertly prepare Pakistani comfort food, transporting customers to an era where natural fire and smoke were the basic cooking form. The ancient technique allows direct heat of natural flames to intensify flavours and infuse each dish with a perfect smokiness. Through signature flavourings, Spice Village offers a celebration of good food and opportunity to share intriguing food love stories. Today, Spice Village group has expanded into a multi-award-winning British Pakistani restaurant chain along with the UK's leading events caterer.

"Every meal has a story, let's create yours"

WHO WE ARE

The Faith & Belief Forum has worked for over 25 years to build good relations between people of all faiths and beliefs, and to create a society where difference is celebrated.

Our vision is a connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and lasting relations. We believe the future belongs to people of all beliefs, that intolerance has no place in society and that diversity adds value.

We create spaces in schools, universities, workplaces and the wider community where people can engage with questions of belief and identity and meet people different from themselves.

Follow and tag us on social media, we could love to see your photos! Use #LFBCA23



faithbeliefforum.org/



X (Twitter) – @faithbeliefforum



Instagram – @faithbeliefforum



Facebook – @faithbeliefforum



Linkedin – The Faith & Belief Forum

To find out more about how you can support us, please visit:

faithbeliefforum.org/support-us/

**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**

