

5 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

# THE LONDON FAITH & BELIEF COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021

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

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

**The  
Faith  
& Belief  
Forum**



Formerly 3FF (Three Faiths Forum)

Headline Sponsor



# WELCOME

London's diverse and vibrant population powers 24,000 voluntary organisations. That is 1 for every 360 Londoners. Many of these initiatives are working through values shared by people of different faiths and non-religious beliefs. This is worthy of celebration in itself, since it demonstrates how much we have in common. It underlines the notion that our diversity is not the problem we face.

The work of those highlighted in this brochure demonstrates the deep, generous pool of diverse creativity that Londoners can draw on to tackle a wide range of societal issues. And herein lies the second cause for celebration. The projects on show tackle issues that have the potential to exclude and divide. If we are to truly extend the benefits of our city to all, then we need to ensure that all Londoners get fair access to services, we need to alleviate deprivation, reduce social tension and promote inclusion. The importance of this has been clear during the fight against Covid-19. Local engagement to address both chronic and emerging issues has become more and more important, with faith and belief groups playing a leading role. The fact that grassroots faith and belief groups have been front and centre of the response to Covid-19 and shown great innovation, leadership and collaboration during these challenging times gives hope and inspiration.

The pain of the pandemic has been eased by the remarkable work of Londoners and charities. London's resilience has been largely due to the work of grassroots communities already in place to support those in need. This year we received close to 100 nominations which captured stories of inspirational work and social action, from vaccination centres set up in Places of Worship, to the innovative allocation of food between local groups, and online support groups which allowed Londoners to meet and in some cases meditate, in others to offer educational services.

We are honoured to host the fifth London Faith & Belief Community Awards this year, with the continued support of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith, to shine a light on those who do not receive sufficient recognition for the important work they do at the margins of our great city. We are proud that now over 500 projects and individuals have been recognised to date for their selfless work. May the examples of these inspiring projects motivate and challenge us.

## **Phil Champain**

Director of the Faith & Belief Forum



# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all to the London Faith & Belief Community Awards. As the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, I am Her Majesty The Queen's representative in Greater London, charged with upholding the dignity of the Crown. I have over 100 Deputy Lieutenants, who, like me, are volunteers. I have 32 Representative Deputy Lieutenants, one for each London Borough, providing a vital link with local communities across the capital. In addition, we are 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 The Queen said in her 50th Christmas broadcast in 2001: 'we all have something to learn from each other, whatever our faith', because living life according to a strong set of positive values is an antidote to exclusion.

Overcoming differences and misunderstandings, reducing prejudice, ignorance and fear, and learning the ethical lessons of the widest range of faiths and beliefs are objectives enshrined in our strategy Building Bridges for a fairer London. In that spirit, we recognise and celebrate the work of Londoners from all faiths and beliefs who create a sense of belonging and inclusion in our great city. Thank you to you all.

## **Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE**

The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London



# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

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.

Our aspiration at the Council on Faith is to harness these values and reach out to all of those who have made London their home. By supporting the London Faith & Belief Community Awards, we gain the opportunity to meet and engage with those who have made it their mission to increase wellbeing within their local community, help individuals build a sense of belonging within London and build bridges across communities of all faiths and beliefs. We have also had the privilege of discovering the work of many communities who led our city's response to the pandemic, selflessly working to provide vital services to those at risk of further marginalisation.

The London Faith & Belief Community Awards is a wonderful demonstration of what people motivated by their faith or belief can achieve for this city. By shining a light on their work, this event promotes and connects the unsung heroes of London's faith and belief communities.

This event also gives them access to further support which may enhance their work and inspire others to take action. For the last five years, we have been continuously impressed by the number of inspirational dedicated selfless people we came across who are doing the most amazing and innovative things. It was an honour to meet those behind London's inspirational community projects and learn from their work. I look forward to continuing the conversation this year.

The London Faith & Belief Community Awards is primarily about celebration and recognition, and I am honoured that tonight we have the opportunity to celebrate close a hundred projects and individuals. On behalf of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith, I look forward to supporting this event further and to meeting many more of London's unsung heroes as the initiative grows.

## **Dr David Dangoor CBE**

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

It has been a pleasure for me to be Chair of the Judging Panel. The panel comprised of 6 members of the Council on Faith: Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Dr Mustafa Abu-Lisan DL, Babulal Sethia DL, Colleen Harris DL and Rosi Prescott DL and me, joined by Nick McDonald and Josephine Davidoff from F&BF.

The judging panel received 98 completed nominations by the deadline of 9 August. We had a month to scrutinise the nomination forms and complete a judging grid. The grid assessed each submission on three criteria based on increasing sense of belonging, building bridges and impact.

The judging panel met on 23 September and discussed each submission against the criteria. It was a humbling and enlightening experience to read and discuss the nomination forms. The projects were diverse, from across most London boroughs and helping different groups.

There was great uniformity amongst the judges. We were able to agree the 35 projects to be awarded £500 and the 52 projects to be awarded a certificate of recognition for their good work. The nominations this year also identified 7 individuals, who will be recognised as Inspiring Individuals.

I would like to thank my fellow judges for their hard work and support. Congratulations to all who are celebrated and recognised at tonight's event.

## **Mrs Bushra Nasir CBE DL**

Chair of the Judging Panel



# PROGRAMME

Tonight's hosts are Siobhán Anderson Programmes Coordinator, Workplace & Community at The Faith & Belief Forum and Rev Nims Obunge MBE, Pastor of Freedom's Ark Church, Tottenham.

## Keynote address

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

## Presentation of awards

Health and Wellbeing

Inspiring Youth

Promoting Inclusion

*Presented by Bushra Nasir DL,  
Chair of the Judging Panel*

## Performance

London International Gospel Choir



## Presentation of awards

Supporting Women

Community Resourcefulness  
in Response to Covid-19

Inspiration Individuals

*Presented by Bushra Nasir DL,  
Chair of the Judging Panel*

## Closing remarks

Dr David Dangoor DL, Chair of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Faith Council

## Networking and refreshments in the Atrium



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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



Healthy Living Platform

## **BAME Domestic Abuse Recovery Counselling Programme**

### **Lewisham**

The project, from Therapy 4 Healing, is aimed at BAME/POC women living in Lewisham, who are more likely to experience negative mental health outcomes and more likely than their peers to experience violence against women.

The organisations provided emotional and psychological support for victims of domestic, sexual, and associated abuse via a range of therapies, both online and in-person. The programme offers therapeutic services with a person-centred approach, which is trauma informed and strength-based practice and supports women to make choices for themselves. Beneficiaries receive therapy weekly to fully explore their experiences and support their mental health recovery.

[T4H.ORG.UK](http://T4H.ORG.UK)

## **Healthy Living Platform**

### **Lambeth**

Healthy Living Platform develops community programmes and activities that empower local people and encourage healthy and sustainable lifestyles. In response to the pandemic, they were commissioned by Lambeth Council to help set up the emergency food hub inside Brixton Rec which arranges for surplus food to be distributed to local community hubs and charities. Thanks to the tireless commitment of Community Hubs Manager - Mala Naicker, the network distributed food parcels reaching 1500 to 2000, people in need via community organisations, representing the full range of cultures and faiths in Lambeth.

[HEALTHYLIVINGPLATFORM.ORG](http://HEALTHYLIVINGPLATFORM.ORG)



Sunday Assembly

## Sunday Assembly

### Camden

Sunday Assembly is a secular community that celebrates life, tackling loneliness and social isolation by creating a space to live out its values: Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More. Activities centre around two monthly events at which people come together on a Sunday morning to sing songs, listen to inspiring speakers, and connect with others. In addition, members of our community host various social and special interest gatherings throughout the year, including our choir and band who perform at our assemblies, Board Games club, Article Club, Running Club, Walking Group, Tea and TED, and picnics in the summer. These events draw people of all ages, welcoming all who welcome all. As a community designed to be 'like church' but without being affiliated with any religion, Sunday Assembly attracts people who crave a sense of belonging and wish to live by shared values, who believe that it is possible to do so regardless of religious conviction.

[SUNDAYASSEMBLY.COM](http://SUNDAYASSEMBLY.COM)

## Vanik Council UK (Formerly National Council of Vanik Associations UK)

### North and NW London

Vanik Council is an umbrella organisation and provides voluntary services that benefits the community. They provide services to the bereaved in the community as the Jain faith does not have a priest who could conduct funeral rites. To support grieving families, Vanik Council has setup a volunteer group to help families during the loss of a family member. The service involves visiting the bereaved family at home or guide them over the phone in terms of the traditional ceremonies that should be followed. Vanik Council also run health seminars on issues such as diabetes, blood pressure, cancer, kidney disease etc. It also runs seminars to promote, within the community, organ donation and the new law for the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) that has come into effect from 20 May 2020 so that the community can be better informed and allow them to look after their health and wellbeing.

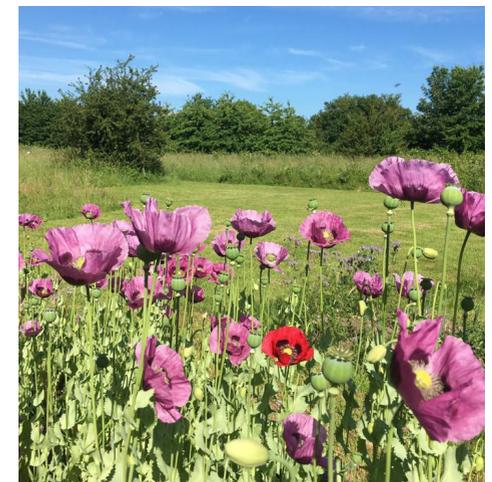
[NCVA.CO.UK](http://NCVA.CO.UK)

## Wolf Fields Community Nature Reserve, a project of A Rocha UK

### Ealing

Wolf Fields is a three-acre site in Southall, West London it was a neglected wasteland used only for rubbish dumping, drug taking and substance abuse. A Rocha UK took over the lease for the site with a view to creating a green space that would benefit both people and nature. The site was cleared of 54 tonnes of rubbish. It is now well established with an apiary, storytelling area, orchard, organic allotments, ponds, meadow, bird feeding area, art installation, and sensory garden. These additions have already had a noticeable impact on the site's species biodiversity. The reserve hosts 60 yearly events and welcome all members of the community encouraging them to look back to their faith traditions to face environmental issues as a community, through learning and practical action.

[AROCCHA.ORG.UK](http://AROCCHA.ORG.UK)



Wolf Fields Community Nature Reserve, a project of A Rocha UK



# 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 and participation in their community and connect them with opportunities beyond their neighbourhoods.

## Alvina's Food Bank

### Newham

As soon as lockdown was announced, 11-year-old Alvina, decided to help others. She would go out at the weekend looking for homeless people in Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Newham, to provide them with food packs, including on Christmas Eve. She would distribute between 30-40 packs of food every weekend. During COVID, she raised a significant amount of money to help all those who were struggling. She raised over £3,000 with help of her families and friends.

“Alvina's Food Bank” was established with Alvina as the founder. They have helped over 500 families and 600 individuals including international students with no recourse to public fund, in the following boroughs, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Redbridge and other boroughs. More recently they have given out 250 packets of food from there base in Romford Road, Newham. They are the only food bank to provide halal food and no tinned food.

## I AM IN ME CIC

### Lambeth

I AM IN ME supports disadvantaged young people aged 14-25 including ex-offenders and those at risk of offending. The organisation aims are to impact communities where every young person has access to robust personal development and to enable them to build purposeful and sustainable futures. Since 2017, they have provided intensive 1:1 continued personal development, employability and business development support to young people and have supported several others with employability, and business start-up support through information, advice, and guidance. They have worked in HMP Wandsworth, HMP Belmarsh, Lambeth college, The Norwood School and Brixton New Testament Church of God.

[IAMINME.CO.UK](http://IAMINME.CO.UK)



National Parents and Youth Open Forum

## JCORE's JUMP Befriending Project

### Barnet

JUMP is a befriending project, training and matching adult volunteer befrienders with young refugees and asylum seekers who have come to the UK without family. JUMP adopts a non-directive, tailor-made approach, and makes a difference both on an emotional and practical level.

Emotionally, JUMP's one-to-one, trusting and consistent friendships enable young people to feel safe, less alone, and gives them someone to turn to. Additionally, by taking part in joint activities with their befrienders, the young person's self-esteem and confidence are boosted. On a practical level, in addition to gaining new skills, JUMP gives them access to support for when times get tough. When challenges arise, often in moments of urgency, befrienders offer vital support, be it regarding immigration status, housing, well-being, or education.

[JCORE.ORG.UK](http://JCORE.ORG.UK)

## National Parents and Youth Open Forum

### Hackney

The National Parents and Youth Open Forum was created to educate the community in Hackney and reduce the death rate of young people in Hackney due to knife crime and gang culture. Noticing that the local council and parents could not combat these issues on their own, the organisation's passionate team began running forums that aim to educate the local community on youth culture, gang family, safeguarding, and knife crime.

The organisation aims to educate parents about signs to look out for and how to protect and safeguard their children by highlighting issues that our young people are facing in the City of London today.

[NPAYOF.CO.UK](http://NPAYOF.CO.UK)

## Outbreak – The Pimlico Foundation

### Westminster

The project was started by a group of people from different churches who had the same vision. This happened in 2015 after a young boy was stabbed on the Churchill Garden Estate in Pimlico. They wanted the church to have a response, and this was to provide an outlet, inspiration, education, fun, and a community for young people to embrace. The Pimlico Foundation hired 2 youth workers with degrees in youth work, and in 2016 they started to develop projects to reach young people in the area offering an Outbreak of hope and Love to the area.

[OUTBREAK.ORG.UK](http://OUTBREAK.ORG.UK)



Outbreak – The Pimlico Foundation

## The Family Mediation Centre

### Hammersmith and Fulham

Noticing that Black families are disproportionately represented in child protection matters, the Customised African-Caribbean Parenting Skills Course was established to address this issue and bridge the gap. The focus of the organisation is to empower black parents who are going through Local Authorities Safeguarding and Child protection issues, as well as those whose children are made subjects of care. The course aims to enhance black families parenting skills and reduce the number of black children taken into care.

The organisation also provides programmes for young people, to help them gain confidence and learn new skills. This includes workshops on mental health challenges, the dangers of drug trafficking and money management.

[UNIVERSITYOFHARMONY.COM](http://UNIVERSITYOFHARMONY.COM)



# 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.



## **Bell Farm Christian Centre**

### **Hillingdon**

The Bell Farm Christian Centre (BFCC) was built in 1956 as a church and a community centre for the Bell Farm Estate – which is located within one of the most deprived areas of Hillingdon. Bell Farm represents the best Christianity in that it goes where other groups do not. Its activities demonstrate that it supports all people of all faiths and cultures and life experiences running programmes from advice centres, family groups, food banks and supporting Asylum Seekers.

[BFCC.ORG.UK](http://BFCC.ORG.UK)

## **Becontree Heath Islamic Society (Dagenham Central Masjid) Ltd**

### **Barking and Dagenham**

Since June 2009 Becontree Heath Islamic Society (Dagenham Central Masjid) Ltd has been providing services for local community in an area that is very disadvantaged and in the face of anti-Muslim demonstrations led by the EDL against the Masjid's projects. The Masjid runs a variety of projects such as congregational prayers, training and education, information and advice for the benefit of the Muslim and Non-Muslim community.

The primary objectives are to promote and enable worship, religious, cultural activities, education, and community development and support poor and needy by providing the free food inside the Masjid centre. Evening after school club activities keeps local young people (without this project hanging outside unnecessary) out of street by providing the facilities in the Masjid.

[DCMASJID.ORG](http://DCMASJID.ORG)





Hidayah LGBTQI+

## Hidayah LGBTQI+

Hidayah was founded in hopes of providing support and welfare for LGBTQI+ Muslims and encouraging social justice and education about the LGBTQI+ and Muslim communities, to counter discrimination, prejudice, and injustice. The organisation works to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and religion.

Hidayah aim to make a difference through a collection of different programmes and services. This includes monthly meet ups and safe spaces, volunteering opportunities, educational workshops, emotional and wellbeing support and the “Walk with Me” Mentoring Programme, which provides invaluable advice and guidance to members that require it.

[HIDAYAHLGBT.COM](http://HIDAYAHLGBT.COM)

## Inclusive Tamil Arts

### Haringey

Inclusive Tamil Arts (ITA) is a grassroots, Tamil-centred and Tamil-led community organisation for young people of all sexualities and genders. They create and deliver tailored, creative, and informative workshops to tackle some of social injustices felt within Tamil communities.

ITA works online and in-person, where Queer Tamil artists, mental health and sexual health workers facilitate workshops, centring the Tamil, diasporic experience. It includes reading and creating poetry, short-fiction, collages, and zines to learn about health and belonging. Participants each month focus on themes such as ‘identity,’ ‘body image’ and ‘genderqueerness,’ creating a sense of belonging and chosen family. Tamils of diverse genders, sexualities and mental health see themselves as both artist and subject in a space tailored for them.

[INSTAGRAM.COM/INCLUSIVETAMILARTS](https://www.instagram.com/inclusivetamilarts)

## The Mosaic Community Trust

### Westminster

The Mosaic Community Trust has united communities for over 12 years by addressing issues of religious intolerance and by challenging negative attitudes and practices at the root of prejudice, hatred, and fear.

Whilst celebrating diverse cultures within a community, they also acknowledge the importance of challenging isolation. The Mosaic Community Trust encourages and supports isolated communities to integrate into mainstream society, empowering women as active and engaged citizens and leaders in their community.

They have built community cohesion and resilience to break down health and social inequality barriers. Their established partnerships with local health and wellbeing service providers support work with local professionals and policy makers to make services more accessible to marginalised BAME communities.

[MOSAICCOMMUNITYTRUST.ORG.UK](https://www.mosaiccommunitytrust.org.uk)



# 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.

## Faiths Against Domestic Abuse

### Camden

Women's Interfaith Network and Faiths Forum for London founded the Faiths Against Domestic Abuse (FADA) campaign during the March 2020 lockdown, in response to the dramatic increase in calls to domestic abuse support services at that time. This campaign calls upon faith communities to acknowledge and combat domestic abuse with the understanding that no community is free from domestic abuse. Campaign activities include running webinars that bring together domestic abuse specialists, faith leaders and community leaders to share their expertise around the issue and creating a support pack listing faith and culturally specific support services for victims. The campaign also launched the first ever Faiths Against Domestic Abuse Awareness Week last year, this will be running again this year from the 22nd to the 26th of November 2021.

[WOMINET.ORG.UK](http://WOMINET.ORG.UK)

[FAITHSFORUM.COM](http://FAITHSFORUM.COM)

## Goldstar Skills Programme, Goldstar Creative Marketing

### Hackney

The Goldstar Skills Programme has been developed to meet the specific needs of Charedi (Haredi Orthodox Judaism) young women. Noticing that no such culturally appropriate and targeted provision existed, the organisation started the programme with the goal in mind to bridge this gap in provision. Their curriculum provides young women with support and training to transition from education to the workplace, with an extensive tool kit of soft skills. Through this training, Goldstar aim to provide these women with the ability and skills to make conscious choices, and to seek better paying jobs, with opportunities for advancement and leadership.

Goldstar empowers the women with the skills and confidence needed to succeed. It's far more than a soft skills curriculum and is poised to have a rebounding effect on the community in the form of a stronger and more able workforce.

[GOLDSTARCREATIVE.ORG](http://GOLDSTARCREATIVE.ORG)

## Harrow Care Plus

### Harrow

Harrow Care Plus supports isolated and lonely elderly, and vulnerable families in crisis (living in short term and sheltered accommodation) in Harrow and surrounding areas. They use their volunteers' expertise to get the resources to the needy by providing food/comfort packs to elders and families and connect them to more stable services for long term sustained support. Harrow Care Plus is a 100% volunteer lead group who pride themselves in achieving a lot of outcomes for local causes. Their team of volunteers together with supporters, family and friends have been able to run an Essential Food distribution service in and around Harrow and neighbouring areas.

In response to the pandemic they started running a Nurture with Nature group to boost the morale of isolated women recently bereaved by bringing them together to visit faith places and places of nature.

[HARROWCAREPLUS.ORG](http://HARROWCAREPLUS.ORG)



Harrow Care Plus

## Peninim

### Hackney

Based in Hackney, and operating within Orthodox Jewish communities, Peninim supports adult women with physical disabilities and long-term medical conditions. Through the provision of social/leisure time provisions, the organisation is designed to improve the lives of, and promote social integration, of the women they work with.

As Peninim operates within Orthodox Jewish communities, their work is catered to those who cannot access certain services due to cultural and religious requirements and who may face daily oppression and exclusion. Their work includes workshops, events, and group retreats, that are user-, women- and faith-led, aiming to create positive experiences and changes at a grassroots level.



Peninim



Sisters in Business

## Sisters in Business

### Tower Hamlets

Jennifer Ogunyemi saw the need to create a platform where Muslim women business owners, could feel like they belonged, their voices were heard, and their businesses seen as real businesses. Therefore, she created Sisters in Business, to support Muslim women entrepreneurs, who are most excluded and under served, to overcome the barriers to starting or developing their own businesses.

The organisation provides a space for women, and Muslim women, where they feel heard and included, allowing them to build skills and knowledge for a thriving business, and a network of mutual support, creating meaningful relationships, mentorships, partnerships, and collaborations.

[SISTERSINBUSINESS.CO.UK](http://SISTERSINBUSINESS.CO.UK)

## WAND - Women's Association for Networking and Development

### Kensington and Chelsea

WAND is a charity that addresses the problems facing women in isolated and excluded communities, through drop-in sessions, outreach services and networking events. WAND was set up to work with female asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in 2005 but have since extended to all corners of the community.

The organisation supports women across sexual health, computer literacy, mental health, wellbeing, domestic violence and much more through a selection of programmes and services. These include volunteering opportunities', education, and training for women, particularly those from BAME backgrounds.

[WANDUK.ORG](http://WANDUK.ORG)



WAND



# COMMUNITY RESOURCEFULNESS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The global pandemic of Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of Londoners. Projects within this category quickly adapted their services and/or through swift innovation created new projects with a focus on the common goal of assisting those affected by the pandemic.



## Aishah Help

### Greater London

Aishah Help is a UK based female led charity that works with vulnerable individuals and families. Aishah Help has seen an increased demand for their services and adapted their services for those affected by the pandemic. They supported those suffering from the greatest health inequalities, the elderly and those in crisis.

Aishah Help provided a range of innovative and practical ways to address challenges around food poverty, digital exclusion, mental wellbeing and loneliness. They continue to provide emergency food parcels, digital devices and deliver advice and support services through the telephone helpline.

They produced a COVID-19 video for non-English speakers which was promoted nationally and also took part in the BBC report: Covid 'vaccine hesitancy' in minority communities.

[AISHAHHELP.COM](http://AISHAHHELP.COM)

## Brent Chinese Association

### Brent

Brent Chinese Association (BCA) is committed to developing, providing and maintaining services and activities to improve the quality of life of Chinese communities in the Borough of Brent and surrounding areas.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, BCA has worked to ensure that Chinese communities are treated fairly with access to services they require, in the face of growing hate crimes, social isolation and vulnerability. BCA has worked, alongside the NHS, to ensure that individuals are signed up to GPs and able to access the medical help they needed. BCA in partnership with NHS and local councils, has provided free Covid vaccinations to the undocumented communities at culturally sensitive vaccination sites. Working with the local Department of Work and Pension, it has helped with translation & interpretation. With ease of Covid lockdown, it has been offering food parcels, free advisory and health check clinics at local churches and organised celebratory festive events.

[BRENTCHINESEASSOCIATION.CO.UK](http://BRENTCHINESEASSOCIATION.CO.UK)



## Caritas Westminster (of the Diocese of Westminster)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caritas Westminster team have introduced “The Road to Resilience”. This holistic programme is for all who are working for social justice within parishes, schools, and community groups. Its aim is to support those who are reaching out to vulnerable people in their communities, to create truly transformational social action projects. The team offers networking, expert training and resources; a chance to reflect, learn from best practice examples, collaborate and develop. It is for all those who want to listen to and accompany those people experiencing difficult times, and to transform local communities.

[CARITASWESTMINSTER.ORG.UK/  
ROAD-TO-RESILIENCE](http://CARITASWESTMINSTER.ORG.UK/ROAD-TO-RESILIENCE)



Caritas Westminster

## Centre of Help and Hope

### Brent

The Centre of Help and Hope, incorporating STEPS UP education and empowerment, is situated within the Willesden Seventh-day Adventist Church. Due to the impact that Covid-19 had and, continues to have on local communities, a special ‘iCare so iShare’ Covid-19-related rehabilitation project, through the Centre of Help and Hope was launched.

Between the 5th May and 18th August 2020, people attended, weekly, in droves, from all walks of life, within the Brent Community. They were provided with large bags containing every imaginable requirement that a single person or family would need. These were made possible from the generous financial contributions received from our members and goods from our local supermarkets. Additionally, the Centre distributed over 150 hot meals daily for 6 months to elderly and vulnerable people in the local community. CHH and STEPS UP continue to help individuals regain their economic independence lost as a result of Covid-19.

[CENTREOFHELPANDHOPE.COM](http://CENTREOFHELPANDHOPE.COM)



Community Senior Letters

## Community Senior Letters

### Wandsworth

Community Senior Letters is a non-profit project that matches primary schools with care homes, enabling young students to write letters to elderly care home residents. The project was set up during the first lockdown in April 2020 to try and reduce loneliness brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. By providing the residents with some form of human connection through letters, it can ease the feelings of isolation, helping lift spirits and cheer up the residents. Connections are therefore formed between people of different generations and walks of life, bringing society closer together and building a sense of community.

[COMMUNITYSENIORLETTERS.COM](http://COMMUNITYSENIORLETTERS.COM)



Council of Gurdwaras South East

## Council of Gurdwaras South East

**Redbridge, Baking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Bexley, Newham**

Council of Gurdwara South East operates across South and East London It is the only such body in Greater London. The direct beneficiaries are Sikhs residents and Gurdwara committees. On areas of common interest, the Council acts as a common platform. The challenge for the Gurdwara Committees during the pandemic was how to provide support during the lockdown with restriction on serving food, holding classes, providing day centres and mutual support facilities. Many vulnerable people became housebound and negative daily news raised anxiety levels. Whereas people in time of difficulties resort to individual and congressional prayers they were unable to do so in a Gurdwara.

Funerals created significant hardship as goodbyes became difficult and grieving families could not be supported in the normal and traditional ways. Thus, the Gurdwara Committees had to innovate and quickly adapt. Without the Gurdwaras support to the community during this period the level of hardship and mental suffering would have been significant.

[SIKHCGSE.COM](http://SIKHCGSE.COM)

## COVID-19 Vaccination Pop Up Clinic - Ramgarhia Sikh Gurdwara East London

**Newham**

With the aim of encouraging black and ethnicity minority individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Ramgarhia Sikh Gurdwara East London set up this pop-up clinic. The clinic is run by inclusive bilingual volunteers, who support patients in a variety of languages, and ensure that cultural sensitivities are met during the vaccine process. The pop-up clinic also provides transportation to the venue, for those with accessibility requirements, and has helped to vaccinate over 1500 people from BAME backgrounds.

[GURDWARA.LONDON](http://GURDWARA.LONDON)

## Muslim Welfare House

**Islington**

Muslim Welfare House (MWH) have played a critical role in Islington's community response to Covid providing support to thousands of people in London including those most at risk. At the outset of the Covid Pandemic, MWH acted swiftly to close the mosque and community centre ahead of the Government requirement, undoubtedly saving lives. MWH led outreach work, with Arabic speaking members of the community including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants congregating outside local shops to reinforce social distancing guidance. MWH also supported residents facing financial hardships and victims of domestic violence.

[MWHT.ORG.UK](http://MWHT.ORG.UK)

## Neighbours in Poplar

**Tower Hamlets**

Neighbours in Poplar's vision is to enable vulnerable people, especially those living alone and often undocumented, to live fulfilling and meaningful lives. They aim to add quality, wellbeing, a sense of independence and meaning to the days of their lives, helping to reduce isolation and loneliness through practical care and support. Inclusion has always been one of their priorities, bringing together Muslim and Christian families in order to build an inclusive community. Despite local tensions, the Mosques and Churches work happily together in harmony for the good of all.

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sister Christine called a small band of volunteers together to plan a response to the needs of the community in the area. This grew into an operation of over 100 volunteers preparing, cooking, and delivering 20,000 hot meals to people of all faith and none, across the Borough of Tower Hamlets.

[NEIGHBOURSINPOPLAR.COM](http://NEIGHBOURSINPOPLAR.COM)

## Rainham Foodbank

### Havering

Rainham Foodbank was born out of a sincere passion to see practical needs met within the community. The primary aim is to restore dignity, revive hope and transform lives. Rainham Foodbank was seeded by a branch of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, King of Kings Community Centre-Rainham to demonstrate the practical love of God in the Community. Rainham Foodbank swiftly recognised the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and quickly re-strategized to a 'delivery only' service to ensure that its services remained available to families during the crisis. The 'More than food' services were made available online to all users; volunteers remotely engaged with users who were isolating and lonely throughout the nation.

[RAINHAM.FOODBANK.ORG.UK](http://RAINHAM.FOODBANK.ORG.UK)

## Samafal Families Association

### Enfield

Samafal Families Association delivers bespoke services for BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) women in Enfield and Haringey. The organisation was established to support Somali women and their families to overcome barriers and integrate comfortably into the wider community. Samafal identified the needs of disadvantage communities, and now comes together under one umbrella, sharing experiences and allowing access to lifelong skills training services to improve their quality of life.

These services focus on advice and guidance, employment, volunteering, mental health support and adult education, among many others.

[SAMAFAL.ORG.UK](http://SAMAFAL.ORG.UK)

## St Barnabas Church

### Waltham Forest

Situated in Waltham Forest, St Barnabas' Church has an outreach that focuses on children, elderly, and friends without status.

In an effort to prevent social isolation amongst the elderly, and to encourage and inspire the youth, the church created two programmes: Memory Café, for elderly people - this later became known as Chocolate and Chat, a street cafe in front of church, and Walthamstow Voices Community Choir, providing high quality music training to children, many from BAME backgrounds.

During the pandemic, St Barnabas' worked tirelessly to ensure their outreach and aim of social cohesion and a strong community persisted. This included the 'pairing' of elderly and young church members, ensuring children had devices and internet access for schooling and other activities, and the redistribution of food packages to vulnerable people and keyworker families.

[SAINTBARNABASWALTHAMSTOW.COM](http://SAINTBARNABASWALTHAMSTOW.COM)



Transform Bromley

## Transform Bromley Borough

### Bromley

Transform Bromley Borough is a network of churches based within the London Borough of Bromley who come from a variety of backgrounds and traditions but who have chosen to work together on a relational basis. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Transform Bromley Borough created the TBB Food Partnership by bringing together several new and existing food banks and other similar initiatives, such as Community Fridges. By working together, we aimed to tackle the root of food insecurity, reduce the need for food aid and promote healthy and sustainable eating in the borough. We also hoped that in responding collectively to the need around us we would be able to make better use of our shared resources, reduce waste and, ultimately, serve our clients more effectively.

[TRANSFORMBROMLEYBOROUGH.ORG/FOOD-PARTNERSHIP](http://TRANSFORMBROMLEYBOROUGH.ORG/FOOD-PARTNERSHIP)

# INSPIRATIONAL INDIVIDUALS

London is full of inspirational individuals, people who make a lasting contribution to the life of our city. Individuals recognised in this category inspire others by their acts of public service which are matched by their attitude and value, exemplifying London as a welcoming place for people of all faiths and beliefs.



## Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar FRSA took on the challenge of educating the 500,000 strong British Bangladeshi community with medical advice at regular intervals in simple Bengali. Cultivating her unique blend of medical and international media expertise, (through a series of televised interactive video presentations and her deeply analytical newspaper columns), Dr Anwar tirelessly continues to provide medical advice to the British Bangladeshi diaspora - educating them on the importance of adhering to essential public health measures. With much generous backing from numerous international organisations and Islamic scholars, she fought fiercely against infodemics by actively working to dispel Covid-19 myths pertaining to the nexus of medical science and religion.



## Chris Kettle

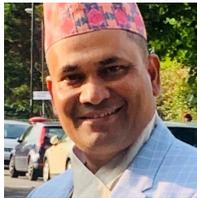
Chris Kettle leads the youth work in the parish of Hounslow West - St Pauls and the Good Shepherd. Chris has an amazing team of volunteers who help in the youth work. Under his leadership we have taken on the youth work on the Meadows Estate when the council could no longer fund youth work - this started at the Hub and now meets at the Good Shepherd. Chris started weekly youth nights at St Pauls as well as Sunday morning groups. He started a Football academy which has grown from 14 young people to 40 young people on the books over the last year. Chris goes into schools regularly and runs after school cafe for year 6's about to transition to secondary schools. Teachers, council, community, and church members speak incredible highly of Chris' commitment and care of young people in our community - he works so hard and gives above and beyond. He currently sees about 100 young people each week at the various activities. His work has transformed young people's lives and has been a gift to schools and the church too.



## Ruth Jampel

Ruth Jampel has done incredible work in the field of faith and interfaith across and beyond London schools over the last 7 years through her organisation Judaism for Schools. She visits schools for one or two days a year, to either launch their Judaism Week or InterFaith Week, or as a standalone day. Usually, she teaches every child in the primary school in one day. These sessions educate students and teachers alike, helping to make everyone realise how alike we all are as human beings. She always makes explicit links with other faiths, making a point of showing our commonalities and what we share. The very many links between the Abrahamic faiths are referred to, and it is so important to educate people in their formative years so they can learn the values of understanding, tolerance and kindness. With older students, Judaism for Schools has sessions that look at child refugees and the life of Jewish children who fled Nazi Germany for safety in the UK. This session, "Journey to Safety" weaves in Jewish religious artefacts as well as objects and documents linked to the Nazi era. It helps the students make links between objects and identity, and also weaves in important ideas about not being a bystander and the importance of standing up to intolerance and hate.

[JUDAISMFORSCHOOLS.CO.UK](http://JUDAISMFORSCHOOLS.CO.UK)



## Sujan Katuwal

During the early stages of the COVID pandemic, Sujan Katuwal founded Panas Helping Hands. Using the resources of a local Nepalese restaurant they helped feed NHS and other key workers on the front line tackling the pandemic. This included delivering 100,000 meals to these individuals, with the 100,000th meal delivered to the NHS by their patron Joanna Lumley OBE at Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich - a truly unifying event for SE London! Having started from here, Sujan's work has since expanded to help support the most vulnerable in SE London: this has included the homeless and ex-Gurkha Veterans to name but a few. Regardless of class, religion, ethnicity or background, Sujan and the Panas Helping Hands team have endeavoured to help anyone they can within SE London who needs their support. They have also expanded their work out to Nepal, supporting a country that is continuing to suffer during the pandemic with financial aid to help them as best as they can.



## Emdad Rahman

Emdad is the driving force behind #bookbikelondon, an innovative community project supplying books free of charge to elderly residential homes, hostels, hospital wards and local organisations in East London (Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Southwark, Newham, Barking, Redbridge, Dagenham) by cycling on Santander Bikes. This is a green, free of charge service which connects people through reading. Not everybody has a smartphone or internet available and through #bookbikelondon, Emdad has been able to reach out to many locals during the Coronavirus lockdown to whom a book has been a lifeline and a way to maintain their sanity and mental health. He also adapted operations to deliver food parcels, essentials and medicine.



## Dr Amjid Riaz

Dr Amjid Riaz who is the Covid 19 Programme Lead, Treasurer and Trustee at the Central Mosque of Brent initially at the start of the pandemic set up a healthcare information and advice service which was required because of language and cultural barriers and reduced availability of medical facilities in the local area of Willesden Green and Brent. He used social media where he posted Covid-19 related advice, updates, and important safety notices but it soon became apparent that more help was required. He expanded this to a 1:1 telephone medical helpline initially a once weekly 2hr session but increased demand meant that it increased to thrice weekly. It was a huge success with thousands of people benefitting from the service. Amjid a NHS Consultant Surgeon and with his background medical knowledge and hard work he entered negotiations with the London Borough of Brent and launched in December 2020 the Mosque site as one of the London Borough of Brent eight Lateral Flow Test Centre testing facilities. This was a huge success with thousands of members of the public being tested daily.



## Tina Sood

Tina is an exceptional Yoga instructor, she started to teach Yoga to the Faith Friendship Group based at the Shri Nath Ji Sanatan Temple in Waltham Forest for mostly elderly members of the community. Since March 2020, due to Covid 19, she took the sessions online and at the very height of lockdown had over 150 participants. She has continued this free service to the local community since then and at present intends to carry on until the pandemic situation is totally under control.

These Yoga sessions have had great impact on mostly elderly people, who use the service, to improve their mental physical and emotional health. Community has felt reassured and Tina's approach is very personal, compassionate and caring. She has been running three sessions per week and her focus has been to empower the members to help themselves to look after their health.



## Reverend G Nagase

The London Peace Pagoda, which Reverend Nagase, helped to construct in 1985 in the heart of London, beside the Thames in Battersea Park, has provided a focus for community and interfaith activities for decades, particularly related to working for peace and the resolution of conflict through dialogue and peaceful means. The Pagoda is open to the public throughout the year and offers a place of peace and tranquility to everyone regardless of their background or religion. Over the years, literally thousands of people from near and far, including many young children and those on school visits, have visited the Pagoda. Reverend Nagase has also over the years maintained close links with other faith communities, being a leading supporter in the annual Westminster Interfaith group and Faiths Together in London. He has also taken part in many rallies and supported groups such as the Gandhi Foundation, Pax Christi, Children against War and many others. Reverend is a familiar figure amongst many community groups and organizes an annual celebration of the Peace Pagoda, and a Floating Lantern ceremony on Nagasaki Day, commemorating all victims of war. His strong witness for peace and justice have inspired and given support to many.

[LONDONPEACEPAGODA.WORDPRESS.COM](https://LONDONPEACEPAGODA.WORDPRESS.COM)

# RECOGNISED PROJECTS

## For services to and for faith and belief communities

**ACT Sports Network**  
Barnet  
actsportsnetwork.com

**All Saints Church, Child's Hill and the Child's Hill Food Bank**  
Barnet  
childshillfoodbank.org

**Barnet Multicultural Community Centre**  
Barnet  
barnetmcc.org

**Bhajans (Indian religious songs) - Brent Indian Community Centre (BICC)**  
Brent

**Bounds Green Food Bank**  
Haringey  
boundsgreenfoodbank.org

**Brent Multi Faith Forum**  
Brent

**Burst the Bubble UK**  
Harrow  
burstthebubble.org.uk

**Chinese Information and Advice Centre**  
Westminster  
ciac.co.uk

**Come Out of Hiding, the Lighthouse Network CIC**  
Lewisham

**Companions Cafes and Donation Hub**  
Westminster  
orderofmalta.org.uk/  
companions

**Conversation Cafes run by Lakmini Shah**  
Newham

**Decolonising Contraception**  
decolonisingcontraception.com

**Dwayne Simpson Foundation CIC**  
Lambeth  
dsfcic.co.uk/contact

**East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre**  
Tower Hamlets  
eastlondonmosque.org.uk

**Eco Church, an A Rocha UK programme**  
Hounslow  
ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk

**Eden Care UK & Muslim Burial Fund, a 13 Rivers Trust programme**  
Tower Hamlets  
edencareuk.com

**Voice of Salam**  
Camden  
voiceofsalam.com

**Everyday Casteism campaign of the Dalit Solidarity Network UK**  
Lambeth  
dsnuk.org

**Faith and VAWG Coalition**  
Hammersmith and Fulham  
standingtogether.org.uk/  
faith-vawg

**Faiths Women Community UK**  
Southwark

**Family Led playgroup sessions run by Early Years Cocoon in collaboration with Saint Martin's Church (Becontree South)**  
Barking and Dagenham  
earlyyearscoocoon.co.uk

**Maidie Create**  
Barking and Dagenham  
instagram.com/maidie\_create

**Healtogether CIC**  
Newham  
healtogether.org.uk

**Helping Hands - Shree Swaminarayan Temple Willesden London**  
Brent  
sstw.org.uk

**Hindu Forum of Britain (HFB) / The Mandhata Youth and Community Association (MYCA)**  
Brent  
wembleymandhata.uk

**JDS Striving for Excellence**  
Barking and Dagenham  
jdsstrivingforexcellence.com

**JW3 Food Provision**  
Camden  
jw3.org.uk/support-us/  
volunteer

**The Jericho Road Project, a Kings Church London project**  
Lewisham  
kingschurchlondon.org/  
social-action

**Kingsborough Centre**  
Hillingdon  
kingsborough.org.uk

**Safe & Save**  
Lewisham

**Monwara Ali director of Waltham Forest Community Hub for creation of Legacy of Kindness book**  
Waltham Forest  
wfchub.org

**MTO Shahmaghsoudi - #mtocovid19response**  
Haringey  
mtocharity.org

**National Spirituality and Mental Health Forum**  
spiritualitymentalhealth.org.uk

**Pennu**  
Barking and Dagenham  
pennu.org

**Photojournalism Hub**  
Hammersmith and Fulham  
photojournalismhub.org

**Punjab Restaurant Charitable Giving**  
Westminster  
punjab.co.uk

**RCCG New Wine Assembly Covid19 Response**  
Newham

**Roots and Changes - Gujarati Influences**  
Brent  
rootsandchanges  
gujaratiinfluences.com

**Shabbat Walk**  
Barnet  
shabbatwalk.org

**Skipping Sikh**  
Hillingdon  
skipping-sikh.co.uk

**St Thomas Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church London**  
Havering  
stthomasjsocloudon.org

**Steps to Success Academy/ Pas cu Pas for the Project**  
Harrow

**Street Cafe by Love Life Generation and Waltham Forest Women's Interfaith Network**  
Waltham Forest  
lovelifegeneration.org

**Supreme Sikh Council UK**  
Redbridge  
supremesikhcounciluk.com

**The Community Programme run by Migrants Organise Ltd.**  
migrantsorganise.org

**The Movement for Reform Judaism- Bereavement Support Group**  
Barnet  
reformjudaism.org.uk

**The Sephardi Community Wembley**  
Brent  
sephardi.org.uk/wembley

**Together in Barnet**  
Barnet  
togetherinbarnet.org

**Women's Interfaith Group hosted by Redbridge Faith Forum**  
Redbridge  
redbridgefaithforum.org

**World Shirdi Sai Baba Organisation (UK)**  
Newham  
worldshirdisaibaba.org

**Zawiyah**  
Harrow  
zawiyah.co.uk

# CREDITS

The London Faith & Belief Community Awards would not have been possible without the continued support and guidance of Deputy Lieutenants who sit on Her 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. Thanks must also be given to Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Dr Mustafa Abu Lisan DL, Pastor Nims Obunge DL and Babulal Sethia DL who offered their time and expertise as key members of the steering committee.

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Thank you to the Judging Panel: Bushra Nasir DL, Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Dr Mustafa Abu Lisan DL, Babulal Sethia DL, Colleen Harris DL and Rosi Prescott DL, Nick McDonald and Josephine Davidoff.

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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.



# WHO WE ARE

The Faith & Belief Forum has worked for over 20 years to build good relations between people of all faiths and beliefs, and to create a society where difference is celebrated.

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.

Our inclusive approach welcomes everyone – whether you're an Atheist, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, Zoroastrian, or identify with any other belief. The Faith & Belief Forum believes that intolerance has no place in our communities and that diversity adds value to society.

[faithbeliefforum.org](http://faithbeliefforum.org)  
@faithbeliefforum

## How you can support us

At the Faith & Belief Forum we believe that everyone should have the chance to interact positively with people from different backgrounds – one day everyone will feel able to do it, and with your help and our support, that day will come sooner.

To find out more about how you can support us please visit [faithbeliefforum.org/support-us](http://faithbeliefforum.org/support-us)

**The  
Faith  
& Belief  
Forum**

Formerly 3FF (Three Faiths Forum)

