



THE LONDON FAITH & BELIEF COMMUNITY AWARDS 2022

**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

This is proving to be a tough year. When reading through the many great nominations for awards I was struck by how many were about food insecurity. This is perhaps indicative of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on London's richly diverse communities. 128,000 people used foodbanks a decade ago. The figure for 2021/22 is 2.73m according to the Trussell Trust. More Londoners are struggling to make ends meet. Inequality remains an issue of growing concern. The impacts of the pandemic and war in Ukraine fall most heavily on the poorest.

Last year's awards illustrated how faith communities stepped up during the pandemic, providing comfort and compassion as well as food, vaccinations, and more to the vulnerable and most affected. The community resourcefulness in response to Covid-19 category this year pays tribute to the work that continues to be done in the face of the long-term impacts of Covid-19.

But the role of faith extends beyond this. It is essential, for example, that we work towards a more balanced and sustainable way to live with nature. I am heartened that many faith traditions share this notion and applaud those awarded in the environmental sustainability category. In the wake of COP 27, held earlier this month in Egypt, the work of faith communities is more important than ever.

Other categories at this year's awards are just as important, demonstrating the rich variety of charitable work being driven by faith-based values. In addition to helping us get through the pandemic and work towards a more environmentally sustainable way of life, award winners are supporting women, inspiring youth, and addressing the health and wellbeing of others. This work is improving the lives of Londoners in many ways.

None of it can be done, however, without collaboration, and it is testament to the work of organisations such as the Faith & Belief Forum that events like this are happening, bringing people from diverse faith & belief backgrounds together to connect and better understand each other. It is not always easy to reach out to those who are not in our own group. But we must work hard to do so - to benefit from the rich learning that comes from interfaith work, something celebrated through tonight's event.

Given the venue of this year's ceremony, it seems appropriate to pay tribute to the late HRH Queen Elizabeth II. It is significant that when preparing for her coronation in Westminster Abbey in 1952, she asked the people of Britain, in a Christmas broadcast, to remember her and 'whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on the day.' Her own faith provided a scaffolding for her life. And she was curious about other faiths. 'Every religion has something to say about tolerance and respecting others' she said in one of her many Christmas messages.

As we celebrate the amazing work of those organisations awarded this evening, we celebrate the role played by our faiths and beliefs in shaping the ways we support those in need, and our capacity to empathise with those different to ourselves. I commend everyone awarded and recognised this year. May you continue to bring hope and joy to the many lives of those you engage with, whatever their faith or belief.

Phil Champain

Director of The Faith & Belief Forum



I wish to extend a warm welcome to all to the sixth London Faith & Belief Community Awards. As the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, I am His Majesty The King'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 King Charles III reflected in a recent 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 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

The message of this year's London Faith & Belief Community Awards is particularly poignant following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her faith was important to her, as was her role as Defender of the Faith. She spoke out openly about her own Christian faith, explaining how it provided the framework for her life. She was witness, over many years, to the growing religious diversity of her subjects and embraced this also. It is with great pride that the Council on Faith, which I Chair, has backed up the monarch in these principles and we will continue to work to keep this passion alive.

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 likeminded 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 sixth 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

Chair of His 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 five members of the Council on Faith: Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, Dr Mustafa Abu-Lisan DL, Babulal Sethia DL, Tariq Abbasi DL and me, joined by Phil Champain and Carrie Alderton from F&BF.

The judging panel received 107 nominations by the deadline of the 7th August. The panel then had the privilege of scrutinising the applications based on our judging matrix. We assessed each of the applications along three criteria, based on increasing sense of belonging, building bridges and impact.

The judging panel met on the 7th September, and we had an opportunity to discuss each nomination in turn. This was a wonderful experience, being inspired by the fantastic work that every single group conducts throughout London. The projects were diverse, from across most London boroughs and helping different groups.

There was great uniformity amongst the judges. We are delighted to have been able to agree the 38 projects to be awarded £500 and the 56 projects to be presented with certificates of recognition for their good work. We have also identified 3 individuals, who we want to recognise 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 groups 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 Carrie Alderton, Head of Programmes and Impact at The Faith & Belief Forum and Ruma Parvin, Outreach Adviser and volunteer at The Faith & Belief Forum.



Performance

Haringey Young Musicians

Keynote Address

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

Presentation of awards

Mrs Bushra Nasir CBE DL,
Chair of the Judging Panel

Performance

Write Back

Presentation of awards

Closing Remarks

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

**Networking and refreshments
in the Nave**



COMMUNITY RESOURCEFULNESS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The global pandemic of Covid-19 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 who were affected, or who continue to be affected.



Amazing Grace Parish Community Project

Southwark

Prior to the pandemic, CCC Amazing Grace Parish provided support for members and friends at a very small scale but during the pandemic they opened their doors to all in the community and catered to hundreds of people each week. The pandemic increased demand by 500%, which they met with the help of 22 volunteers. They packed food and essential items, ran home deliveries and gathered products from warehouses. They ensured people got three meals for two days per week with a minimum of five portions of fruit and veg. They supported Southwark's vulnerable people regardless of faith and belief with their dietary requirements.

In addition, they provided well-being webinars for service users creating a space to talk about concerns with Covid-19 and share public health messaging. They also promoted healthy eating among children and their family at youth club.

CCCAMAZINGGRACEPARISH.ORG

Chinese Information and Advice Centre

Redbridge

When the Covid vaccine rolled out nationwide in the beginning of 2021, CIAC had concerns regarding how marginalised people could get equal access the vaccine. They flagged this matter urgently with the Westminster City Council and they had teamed up with the NHS to run a series of pop-up vaccination clinics. CIAC spread out the good news of this opportunity using their network and very quickly people from all walks of life approached for help. Throughout the project they made sure these individuals had equal access to the vaccine - all 3 doses and some 4th jabs. They gave interpreting support, raised awareness of the sensitivity of the matter to medical staff, and raised awareness among the community.

CIAC has helped over 7000 people, especially those without regular immigration status or fixed addresses. Everyone who wanted got their vaccines.

CIAC.CO.UK





Go Dharmic Welfare UK

Go Dharmic Welfare UK

Westminster

Inspired by the idea of Dharma, Go Dharmic Welfare UK aim to create a world where individuals can come together to create positive change in their lives and their communities. They unite communities, strengthen bonds and enable collaborative support between corporates, small businesses, and other community groups to help the underprivileged. In London, they support the elderly, particularly of the Indian diaspora, who are tackling isolation and distributing free meals to the homeless and vulnerable through street distributions and re-distribute tonnes of food products that would've otherwise gone to waste.

During Covid, Go Dharmic distributed over 6 million meals throughout the UK as one of 15 social action objectives in line with the UN sustainable development goals. Within London they have distributions set up in Queensbury, Wembley, and Westminster.

Further, their Barnet School Project helped serve 11,000 school meals to children and supported over 3000 more students there.

GODHARMIC.COM

Gurdwara SGSS Hounslow – Covid Response

Hounslow

The Gurdwara team worked with the local council and other supporting services to create a network of 100 volunteers who could shop and deliver food and medicine and provide telephone support to residents from any background.

With lockdown ongoing, the Gurdwara was the first in the country to provide grieving families at crematories with recorded prayers as priests too were constrained by lockdown. The Gurdwara was also made available to NHS staff to pick up washbags and scrubs for clinical staff. They also raised a total of £4000 for local NHS staff. The Gurdwara then became a vaccination centre, providing medicine to over 1000 people per day at peak and ensured people received help irrespective of documentation – helping the most vulnerable.

SGSS.ORG

Gurseva – Closer to Home

Ealing

Gurseva formed in the 1990's in response to the Bosnian refugee crisis and is now has a wide range of programmes that includes crisis & disaster emergency responses. They apply the philosophy of "Sarbat da Bhala", meaning Prosperity for All.

Pre-Covid, Gurseva had main sites to drop off food prepared by their volunteers, but they had to close in line with government guidance. Therefore, they started operating individual deliveries and ran a mobile food bank in Ealing. Beneficiaries of the food often also have other issues, such as language and translation, or domestic abuse issues which intensified in lockdown. Gurseva has been able to assist on both fronts with their organisational skills and experience. Overall, they are currently supporting 33 families with an entirely voluntarily led team and run a soup kitchen which helps over 200 homeless people each week.

GURSEVA.ORG.UK



Jewish Care

Jewish Care

Redbridge

Jewish Care's vital services support older people in the community, helping to combat social isolation and provide a place to connect, socialise, and enjoy kosher food at community centres, at home, in care homes and in their retirement living apartments. Stimulating and meaningful activities provided, help to improve wellbeing in a culturally appropriate environment with staff and volunteers who understand Jewish faith and culture.

During the pandemic, when all in-person services had to close, Jewish Care adapted by tripling the supply of Meals on Wheels for older, isolated people at home and expanding the befriending and virtual JC Presents events programme. Transforming in-person services enabled older people to connect, emotionally, spiritually, and culturally; a lifeline for many when we couldn't physically be together. Jewish Care continue running vibrant virtual support services alongside in-person services, ensuring older people can socialise and connect with the community.

[JEWISHCARE.ORG.UK](https://www.jewishcare.org.uk)

Jain Vishwa Bharati London – Covid Help Project

Harrow

JVB London created a team of volunteer doctors to signpost and suggest the best treatment. In many cases residents had their parents visiting them in the UK and got stuck due to cancellation of flights and travel restrictions. They needed urgent treatment and medicines. Unfortunately, most GPs were unable to register new and non-UK resident patients. JVB linked up with a GP, registered the patients and instantly offered free prescriptions and medicine.

Jain Nuns organized several dozen consultations to resolve the domestic violence, internal conflicts within family and amicably resolve issues. They organized online programs including meditation camps, prayers and spiritual discourses. JVB organised world-renowned speakers to give online talks which helped people rethink life and remain in positive vibrations.

Moreover, free food distribution was organised across several councils, door to door, irrespective of language, caste, religion, ethnicity etc. to hundreds of families.

JVBLONDON.ORG

London Islamic Cultural Society – Community Covid Support

Haringey

LICS works with families, young people and women, to provide leisure and educational services. They bring together people of all faiths and none by collectively engaging in a wide range of community work. They provide hampers of personal items, warm clothing, and stationery for those less fortunate, including asylum seekers.

During Covid, LICS were instrumental in promoting Outreach Covid Vaccine Days when the centre was used to deliver vaccines to many in the community. They provided food, medicine, clothing and wellbeing support. They distributed over 40,000 food containers to the NHS, elderly and homeless. They had volunteers check in with the lonely and made referrals if necessary. They provided online health forums with doctors and the council to inform the community and promote NHS medical guidance.

LICS.INFO

The Paperweight Trust

Barnet

Paperweight is the Jewish Community's cross-communal advice centre providing free practical support to anyone in crisis. Such crises may result from bereavement, separation and divorce, physical or mental abuse, chronic illness, as well as the daily trials faced by the elderly and infirm. Its services are delivered by an extraordinary team of volunteer caseworkers whose professional knowledge and experience helps to provide guidance on financial, legal, banking, debt, bureaucracy, welfare and benefits, among others. This year alone, close to 1000 clients and their families have been helped. Each client may approach Paperweight with multiple complex issues, sometimes necessitating a multi-disciplinary approach with a team of caseworkers.

During Covid lockdown when meeting clients was impossible, one caseworker actually attended the funeral of his client's parent, as this was the only opportunity they would possibly have to meet directly. This exemplifies the tenacity and humanity of their caseworkers.

PAPERWEIGHT.ORG.UK

Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Kingsbury

Barnet

The Mandir was the first in the UK to open a Covid-19 vaccination centre. Between January-May 2021, the centre run by local GP practices administered over 40,000 vaccinations in one of London's most vulnerable boroughs. Up to 3,200 vaccines a day were delivered – often a leading rate in London.

As part of the Mandir's charity and community work and in following Acharya Swamishree Maharaj's tenet of 'Society Before Self', the Mandir donated use of Purushottam Mahal for this vital project. Over 200 members of the community volunteered to provide support including logistics and stewarding of people. This project helped foster trust in the BAME community around the Covid-19 vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, the Mandir collected donations for local food banks, delivered essentials to those in need, and continued to hold blood donation sessions. Volunteers also distributed over 5,000 hot meals to front-line NHS workers.

SWAMINARAYANGADI.COM/LONDON



Romanian Foodbank – RCCT

Romanian Foodbank – RCCT

Barnet

RCCT's work helps Romanian immigrants. The pandemic created myriad challenges in the community: lack of paperwork, being isolated and vulnerable, and not knowing how to get help, leaving people homeless without access to the basic essentials.

The foodbank started in March 2020. Many people worked in the suspended hospitality industry and found themselves unemployed. Without English as a first language, getting access to help was even harder. RCCT made sure food parcels were provided, including running deliveries for those who needed to isolate and ensuring government rules were made clear in the community. They distributed covid tests and gave explanations for how to use them. At the food bank, people could get information about access to employment, benefits, settlement status, census, immigration support, vaccination centres, testing, track and trace, and travel restrictions. Some of its initial users are now employed and volunteer for the project.

RCCT.UK



Supporting Humanity

Supporting Humanity

Redbridge

In 2020 Supporting Humanity mobilised a community of volunteers, bringing together local communities and businesses to aid, support, and tackle day to day issues, assisting with mental health, wellbeing, loneliness, bereavement and more. Supporting Humanity's aims are to work towards taking away the stress and worry of loneliness, with the people at the heart of it all. The work is delivered by approximately 70 volunteers.

Supporting Humanity runs three main projects. Emotional Support, which helps individuals and communities with emotional wellbeing through a support line with a trained volunteer to help give useful wellbeing advice and support. Burial Bereavement Support is a free service to run the administration surrounding burials for the bereaved and has saved families £1.8 million to date. Finally, Community Trips allow the lonely, vulnerable and over 65s to tackle loneliness and isolation to get out, try new activities and make friends.

Sustaining the Secluded – Hot Line Meals Service

Hackney

Sustaining the Secluded provide hot meals to elderly people who cannot shop or cook for themselves. These meals are prepared, cooked, packed and delivered to their homes by the team of 175 devoted, trained and experienced volunteers. Covid-19 meant their usual beneficiaries, specifically the elderly, are now unable to shop or cook themselves, attend work or social activities and are experiencing chronic loneliness. Their project Magnanimous Meals solves the problem by organising their willing band of 175 volunteers to prepare, cook, pack and deliver individual meals to the frail and elderly. As well as the meal, the human contact provided by the delivery volunteers is an important social and welfare benefit, making sure all is well, and that users are able to unpack and access the meals, thus safeguarding their health, wellbeing and independence at home for as long as possible.

HOTLINEMEALS.ORG.UK

Together in Barnet

Barnet

Together in Barnet is a night shelter that has been successfully supporting people experiencing homelessness for over 17 years. The night shelter opened in 2003, offering Barnet's only emergency night shelter provision. They rely on two employees and a coalition of over 300 interfaith volunteers from 32 multi-faith communities. They provide emergency accommodation and food for people experiencing homelessness.

During the pandemic, in partnership with Homeless Action in Barnet, they provided essential care packages twice a week to 100+ clients who had been placed into Temporary Accommodation across eight London boroughs. Together in Barnet ran a Covid-secure hotel project to work with guests to find permanent housing. Pre-pandemic, the previous hotel had a 95% success rate for moving people into accommodation.

TOGETHERINBARNET.ORG



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Inspired by The Queen's Green Canopy initiative's mission to encourage environmental sustainability. This category celebrates projects that address one of the most urgent challenges facing humanity by inspiring behavioural change in their communities.



Keeping it Wild

Keeping it Wild

Redbridge

Keeping it Wild helps engage young people from traditionally underrepresented groups to take part in nature conservation projects in their local communities with paid traineeships and a youth forum, with the aim of making nature accessible and relevant to young people in London. They focus on young people who are typically under-represented in the environmental sector by engaging people from areas of socio-economic deprivation, Black Asian and minoritised ethnic heritage and disabled young people.

Keeping it Wild has helped change how the heritage sector connects with youth, focussing on media and film, ensuring that wildlife is more relevant and accessible to a broader audience. Young people have also created a wide range of communications content including blogs, films, photographs, surveys, social media campaigns and exhibitions.

WILDLONDON.ORG.UK/KEEPING-IT-WILD



Vine Goes Green



Young Christian Climate Network

Vine Goes Green – Vine URC Church Ilford

Redbridge

‘Vine Goes Green’ came from the Church’s desire to become more sustainable based on their responsibility as people of faith, to respond to the biodiversity and climate crises. In 2016 they formed an eco-action group to work towards the Eco Church Bronze Award. In 2017 they ran a community eco action day where over 70 people fitted lagging on pipes and draught excluders to make the building more sustainable. Then, in 2018 they moved to a green energy supplier and in 2020 installed LED lights to reduce energy use further.

Subsequently, Vine URC Church have commissioned an energy audit of all buildings and conducted a solar feasibility study. They’re actively fundraising to implement all recommendations. They’re also making Church gardens more pollinator friendly, linking to the local Green Corridor. They’ve run sustainability-focussed summer clubs, created climate videos, met MPs, led a climate-focussed interfaith walk and planted 50 trees on-site.

VINECHURCHILFORD.CO.UK

Young Christian Climate Network

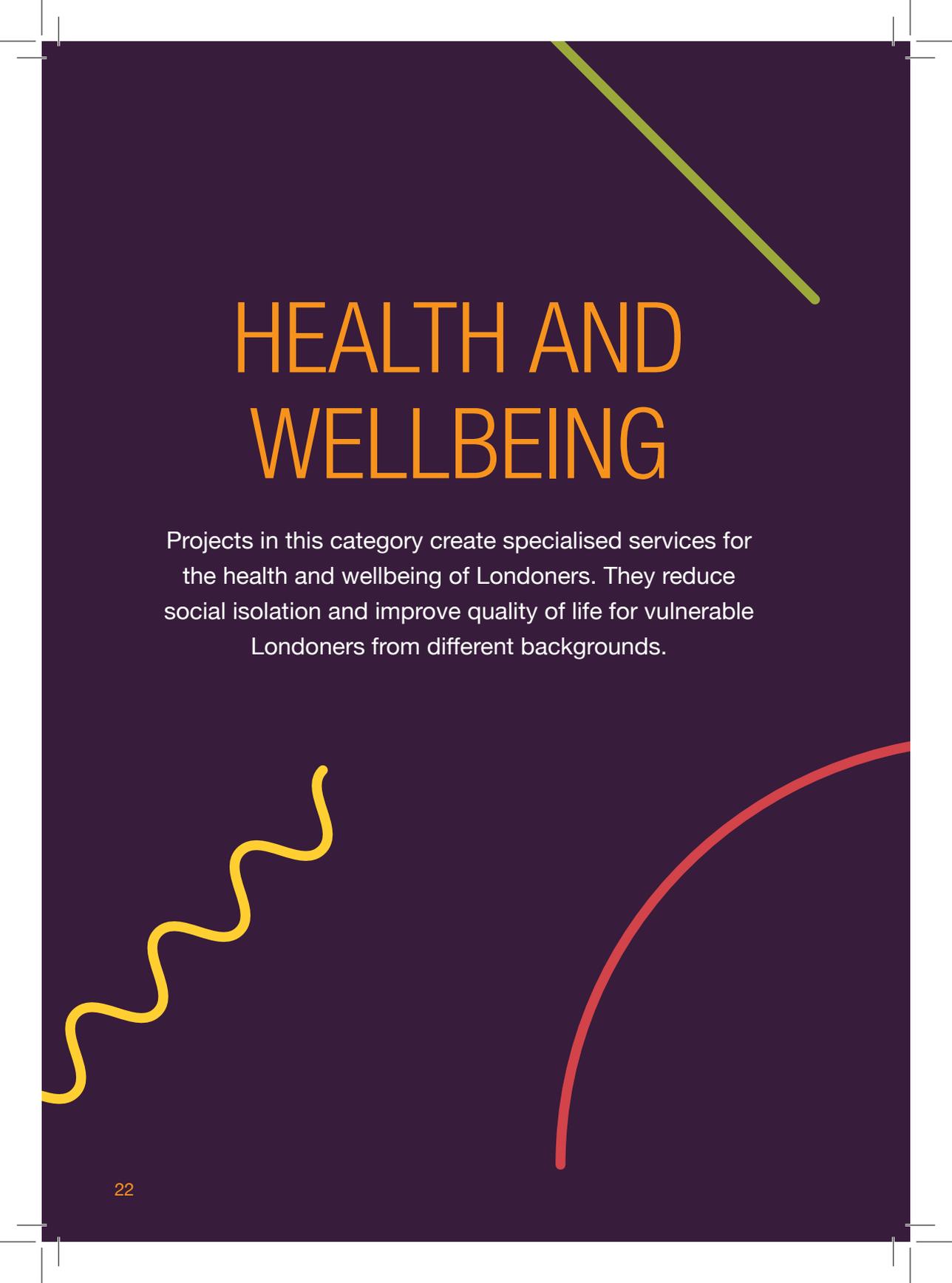
London Wide

In 2021, YCCN launched a campaign calling on the UK Government and other world leaders to Rise to the Moment at COP26, the UN Climate Negotiations that happened in November 2021 in Glasgow. They walked in pilgrimage as an act of faith, hope and love, calling for justice and for fair climate finance.

They began in Cornwall and, in Relay-style, they walked to COP26 in Glasgow over 108 days. They relied on volunteers to help with route planning, cooking, accommodation, on-call support, mailing MPs and spreading the word.

During the Relay, YCCN visited 10 ‘residency hub’ cities including London. There, they partnered with local churches to spread the word about climate justice – sharing worship, panel discussions, film screenings, theatre performances, meals and picnics, children’s events and creative workshops. Their Relay inspired over 200 to write to their MPs, raised media awareness for the cause and engaged 2500 people overall.

YCCN.UK



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.

Brent Indian Community Centre

Brent

BICC was founded in 1978, to help integrate Asian elders from Africa and India into the UK, make friends and learn the language. The Centre has provided many activities for elders and children to learn languages, Maths and English. They have also run health and wellbeing activities for the elderly.

During the pandemic, BICC ran yoga and singing activities for the elderly on Zoom. BICC currently has over 150 members, mostly over 60s of BAME origin, two groups identified as high risk from Covid. Since reopening in September 2021, BICC have continued with the singing, dancing and yoga with help of professionals to encourage healthy body and mind. BICC also provides three course meals, phone/tablet classes for seniors to help them navigate a digital world, and day trips across South England. All activities are free, relying on donations from members.

Brent Multi Faith Forum

Brent

Faith centres often serve as the first, if not only, port of call for someone of faith experiencing mental health challenges. However, Faith Leaders can often be ill-prepared for the difficulties posed by struggles with complex mental health. Similarly, health services sometimes have a limited exposure to the issues faith communities are experiencing and their respective needs, rendering it difficult to offer high quality support.

As such, BMFF has fostered deeper and more active relationships between these two sectors through several projects, improving the resilience of Brent's communities in the face of mental health struggles. These projects include the provision of mental health first aid training to 15 places of worship, the delivery of a multi-faith chaplaincy project to a local hospital, the delivery of faith literacy seminars to health professionals and the beginning of a mental health toolkit co-produced by health professionals and faith communities.

BRENTMULTIFAITHFORUM.ORG.UK

Central Mosque of Brent Community Health Project

Brent

The Central Mosque of Brent runs a community wide Health Programme which is working to improve health access, delivery of vaccinations, Community Diabetic Days, monthly seminars with Asthma and Lung UK, as well as Children's Educational Support Classes for all the community. Over 200 community members have received a one-stop complete health and diabetic screen in one day.

The programme has given talks, interactive classes and demonstrations. They have started a free community gym and Community Surplus Food Market providing over 300 free bags of fruit, vegetables and other foods to all members of the community irrespective of race, religion and beliefs.

They have vaccinated over 11,000 people as part of the London Borough of Brent's NHS Rapid Covid 19 Testing and vaccination Facility. The vaccination programme, run entirely by local volunteers, constituted a multi-ethnic, multi-religious campaign for the whole community.

CENTRALMOSQUEOFBRENT.COM

Companions Café and Donation Hub

Westminster

The Companions of the Order of Malta (CoM) is a key volunteer force for delivering the charitable work of the Order of Malta in Great Britain – a Catholic religious order and charity. The London Companions run three evening cafés, and two breakfast clubs weekly and ran a donation hub for the homeless during the pandemic.

Over 100 volunteers attend the projects, aged 16 to 85. The cafés and breakfast clubs are a safe space for the homeless to receive nutritious food and chat with volunteers as well as get essential clothes and toiletries. Over 160 guests visit the cafés each week. Annually the Companions deliver 800 Christmas parcels (13,000 items) to the homeless throughout the UK.

In 2020/21 the Companions ran a donation hub during the pandemic. In total, 65,000 items of clothing, toiletries and books were delivered to the 800 homeless rehoused in hotels and hostels in Westminster.

ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.UK/COMPANIONS



Soda Club

Club Soda

Croydon

Club Soda is a charity based in Croydon that provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to access and enjoy music and the arts. They are led by a vibrant and dedicated pool of artists, creatives and campaigners, who break boundaries and stereotypes to create a society where people with learning disabilities are happy, social, creative and valued.

Their Gig Buddies project matches adults with learning disabilities to volunteers who have similar interests, to go to events together that they both love. The project empowers people, builds friendships, and gives people choice in how they want to live their lives.

Their Leisure Link Newsletter and Podcast provide extensive information about leisure, arts and sport related opportunities in Croydon and beyond. It gives people the essential opportunities to be fully included in the Croydon community, doing things they really enjoy and that help their health and well-being.

CLUBSODA.ORG.UK

Croydon Nightwatch

Croydon

Nightwatch is a charity entirely staffed by volunteers who run a meeting point every night of the year where they give food and other basic help to the homeless and otherwise vulnerable population of Croydon. Nightwatch helps people who are street homeless, in squats and other inadequate accommodation, in hostels, in bed and breakfast, and those who are housed but still need support to help prevent them from squalor and from again becoming homeless.

They also help to resettle former homeless people into new accommodation with recycled furniture and give practical assistance such as specialist clothing to facilitate re-entering education and work.

Nightwatch volunteers worked all through the Covid crisis when indoor organisations had to shut down. Nightwatch is a secular organisation but has active multi-faith support from the Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim communities in Croydon.

CROYDONNIGHTWATCH.ORG.UK

Havering Asian Social and Welfare Association

Havering

HASWA is an Asian community-led charity which provides a wide range of activities to all, regardless of age, gender, religion or background. HASWA was founded in 1998 and secured a centre in 2001 in Elm Park with the purpose of helping the isolated, disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised Asian and wider communities.

The project works to ensure that disadvantaged, isolated and marginalised Asian and wider communities receive support and information, leading to increased mental and physical wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem. HASWA understands and acknowledges cultural diversity and has expanded its work and now works to reduce social disadvantage, promote independence and encourage healthier lifestyles among people from all backgrounds by helping them to engage in, and benefit from, the community in which they live. Through their work, they aim for the provision of equal access to information, advice, guidance and services as well as support and representation to all.

HASWA.ORG.UK

Jeevan Organ & Blood Donation

London Wide

Jeevan was set up in response to the fact that too many lives were being lost in the BAME communities because there is a tremendous shortage of Blood & Organ donors. This is often caused by religious and cultural beliefs being held. Jeevan was founded to give education, awareness and understanding of blood and organ donation, to avoid unnecessary loss of life in BAME communities.

By holding stands at community events, Jeevan volunteers are providing the younger generation with NHS pamphlets, posters and badges to equip and empower them as ambassadors for subsequent generations. The aim is to address the health inequality across different ethnic communities in the UK.

Recently, for the first time ever, Jeevan have bid for and secured NHSBT funding to run a Blood Donor Awareness campaign to attract university students at the University of Bedfordshire.

Mandhata Youth and Community Association – The Day Centre

Brent

MYCA Wembley was founded in 1972, by members of the Koli community originating from Gujarat, India, as a means of keeping their social ties with other Koli Gujaratis living in London. MYCA have run a day centre for the elderly which tackles loneliness and social isolation for the past 40 years.

During Covid, the day centre members were regularly contacted by volunteers to offer help and support with things like food and medicine deliveries. However, MYCA found the social side of things was the most important and to maintain wellbeing for the community. They convened online sessions to keep members talking to each other while isolating and handled logistics to allow people to return in-person once it was legal to do so again. 8-10 volunteers prepare up to 100 meals for the day centre members. The programme includes reading, singing, discussions and socialising with people who share common heritage.

WEMBLEYMANDHATA.UK



Peckham Pantry, PECAN

Peckham Pantry, PECAN

Southwark

Pecan was established as a response by local churches to social and emotional issues experienced by people in Peckham. For many years Pecan have been providing support in the community through mentoring women who are leaving prison and/or have been victims of abuse. They also provide employment support, food and community programmes

Pecan opened Peckham Pantry at St Lukes Church in 2019. The aim of the Peckham Pantry is to offer residents an opportunity to reduce their shopping bills by supplementing their regular shops with items from the Pantry. Members of Peckham Pantry pay £4.50 per shop, which gives access to fresh fruit and veg and store cupboard favourites – to the value of at least £15. Over 250 families in Southwark have signed up as members, all of whom have had experience of struggling to pay rent, household bills, and covering the expense of a healthy weekly shop.

[PECAN.ORG.UK/PECKHAM-PANTRY](https://pecan.org.uk/peckham-pantry)

The Redeemed Assemblies Trust

Southwark

The Redeemed Assemblies Trust is a registered charity. They run a food bank that is open seven days a week to everyone in the community regardless of faith, belief or background. The foodbank is supported by about fifty volunteers and an average of about 125 families attend the food bank daily. The food bank is predominantly patronised by the BAME community but people from all backgrounds use the facility every day. The food bank also gives out essentials such as toothpaste, soap, cream, washing liquid, toiletries and clothing, to promote personal hygiene.

The project has seriously cushioned the effect of food and hygiene poverty in the community and even outside the community. People travel from very far to come and get food because they are open daily and operate an open door policy.

THEREDEEMEDASSEMBLIESUK.COM

World Shirdi Sai Baba Organisation (UK) – Food Seva Project

Newham

WSSBO have been distributing hot food for the past 10 years. They aim to provide food to the community, especially homeless and unemployed people. They serve roughly 2500 food packets weekly but increased the quantity during Covid, when they also began running home deliveries. Food seva helps people from all ethnic groups. They have also partnered with Newham Muslim Safety Forum to regularly distribute groceries to food banks in Newham and help by volunteering at food banks too.

They run 365 days per year with the idea that getting food during the pandemic brings a betterment to health and mental wellbeing. They also run many events in their temple and give opportunities to young people, students and senior citizens to get involved by volunteering within the organisation. This helps combat loneliness, depression and fosters a community spirit.

WORLDSHIRDISAIBABA.ORG



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.



Growing Hope Brockley

Come out of Hiding The Lighthouse Network CIC

Lewisham

COOH are a community of leaders who have decided to be the change they want to see. They are on a mission to encourage, equip, empower and elevate 16 - 30-year-olds worldwide to be world changers. Consequently, these leaders will serve their communities and go out into the different spheres of influence and positively change the trajectory of society.

They execute their mission by committing themselves to walk alongside these leaders to offer them a bespoke, one-stop service that makes provision for their holistic individual needs through: Faith Building Nights; Mental Health and Wellbeing Sessions; Retreats and Residentials; Multiservice Sessions (Health, Nutrition, Legal, Housing, Finances, Employability etc); Career Leadership Workshops and Fayres; Bespoke Mentorship and Placement Programme; Social Nights; Community Outreach (Leaders opportunity to serve the community).

COOH.CO.UK

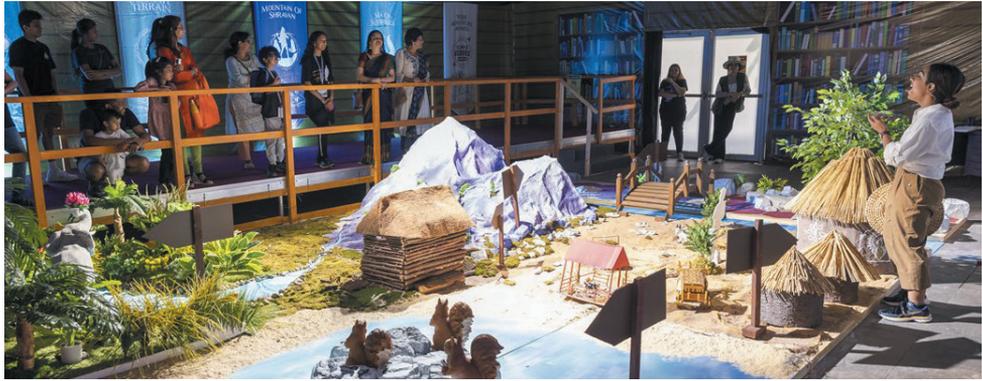
Growing Hope Brockley

Southwark

Growing Hope Brockley is a charity that provides free therapy for children and young people with additional needs in Lewisham and Southwark. This service is run in partnership with St Peters Brockley where the clinic is based.

Growing Hope aims to grow hope for children, hope for families and hope in Jesus. They provide free therapy such as occupational therapy, integrative therapy, and music therapy to help children and young people reach their potential. They give parents and siblings the opportunity to share their experiences and gain support from each other. They offer support for families to attend church and offer prayer if this is something families would like and are open to everyone regardless of their background or beliefs. Growing Hope offers a range of services including a block of 6 sessions for 1:1 therapy, siblings' groups, parents/carers training sessions and training for school staff in the local area.

GROWINGHOPE.ORG.UK



Neasden Temple – Island of Heroes

James Ross Hunter Youth Support CIC

Lewisham

JRHYS was founded in July 2014 after the death of James Ross Hunter who died saving another from a violent gang attack in his community. His bravery has inspired the organisation to develop projects that bring awareness to public health safety and mindfulness. They have been working with Lewisham Council and Police Youth Engagement team to deliver workshops for the local community.

They create visual awareness to knife crime and youth violence, run workshops in schools and the local community sensitising and revisiting the consequences of carrying knives while fostering emotional wellbeing. Workshops run for people aged 10-25. During Covid, they continued the work online, running programmes which connected with hundreds of students.

[JAMESROSSHUNTERYOUTHSUPPORT.ORG](https://www.jamesrosshunteryouthsupport.org)

Neasden Temple – Island of Heroes

Brent

The 'Island of Heroes' was a children's Adventureland that was created for the 'Festival of Inspiration' at Neasden Temple in July 2022. It provided a fun, immersive experience for children and families to learn through musical productions, UV light shows, a 4D experience, an escape room, obstacle course, a giant colouring cave and other interactive activities.

Children were invited to journey through four 'terrains' and be inspired by heroes of the past and present, emboldening them to become the heroes of the future. In each terrain, children and families learnt a new value, like respect, hard work, teamwork, faith and kindness. Over 1200 children were involved in designing, creating and delivering the project, while over 40,000 children and families benefitted from the project. Most lead volunteers on Island of Heroes were under 30 which gave them a chance to develop leadership skills while creating innovative content for the community too.

[NEASDENTEMPLE.ORG](https://www.neasdentemple.org)



Project ImpACT

Project ImpACT

Barnet

Project ImpACT inspires and empowers teens to volunteer & make an impact in the community and beyond. Teens interactively learn social responsibility, while supporting numerous charities, shaping the next generation of active young leaders.

ImpACT programmes provide accessible and meaningful volunteering opportunities for young people encouraging them to give their free time to charitable activities. Through volunteering, teens gain a sense of purpose, responsibility and transferable life skills. It also improves their emotional wellbeing, resilience, and cultivates a community-focused approach.

Hundreds of teens are engaged every week from across 28 schools, volunteering for charities at weekends and after school. Highlights include the 'Youth Community Kitchen' where teens cook healthy meals for distribution to food banks and homeless shelters and the intergenerational volunteering programme where teens support the elderly in the local community through projects and care home visits. ImpACT's vision is shaped together with youth from the ImpACT leadership programme.

PROJECTIMPACT.ORG.UK

Steps to Success Academy/ Pas cu Pas

Harrow

Steps to Success Academy/ Pas cu Pas has been operational since 2016 serving the needs of the Romanian community. Since the pandemic, they have been working at full capacity on two projects that have helped women and children, supporting 400 families overall.

The first project is the holiday clubs for children 5-16 years old. Run for children of large families, this has allowed them new experiences, skills and memories they wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. This club is an investment in the children, by the community, by giving opportunities for children to learn and thrive.

The second project is Dar din Dar, which supports over 400 families with monthly food portions, without which might have seen them go hungry. Further, they've set up local messaging groups where people can write individual extra needs and the charity will support them individually with accommodation, translation, or help with local authorities.

STEPS-TO-SUCCESS-ACADEMY.UK

Write Back

Barking and Dagenham

Write Back believes every young person has a story to tell and the capacity to tell it. Its mission is to build the confidence and capacity of young people to express themselves creatively through the sharing of their stories. It does this through after school storytelling programmes for marginalised young people which develop their creativity, self-esteem and agency.

Write Back operates in Barking and Dagenham, the 9th most deprived local authority in the country and where 37% of children live in poverty. Despite this, the borough has the joint fewest charities per head in the country. Research conducted by the council revealed that only 37% of young residents felt they had someone to talk to about their problems and almost a third felt optimistic 'rarely' or 'none of the time'. Write Back believes storytelling can help address this by building self-respect and by developing trust and community amongst young people.

WRITE-BACK.ORG



Write Back



Znaniye Foundation

Znaniye Foundation

Ealing

Znaniye Foundation helps young people, particularly from BAME families and marginalised communities living in income and socially-deprived areas of London to break the language, income and social deprivation barriers, foster a sense of inclusion and develop self-confidence to become responsible adults in a diverse society. They offer safe, friendly and stimulating atmospheres, where everyone can engage in various projects and expand their possibilities.

They offer many social services, as well as educational and recreational activities, including social performances and hands-on training, promoting community cohesion, inculcating life skills and self-confidence into young people, and providing social and employment information and parenting support and training.

During Covid, 38 community volunteers joined Znaniye Foundation to run a 6-week Online Summer School to support families by continuing education during school closures, reaching over 2000 students. Their Saturday Club also provided safe and reliable free activities every week like arts, crafts, music, sports and dance.

ZNANIYEFUNDATION.CO.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 recognises the work of a project which supports women through advocacy, friendship, and service.



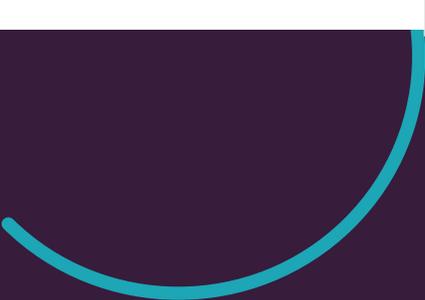
Caritas Bakhita House

Caritas Bakhita House

Westminster

Caritas Bakhita House is a refuge for women escaping the exploitation of trafficking and modern slavery to recover their health, self-confidence and dignity. It serves women of all faiths and none with one guest summing up her experience as: 'It is not a house, it is a good kind family.' The staff and volunteer team create a nurturing, safe environment for women to heal from trauma through a creative, therapeutic approach; each woman has a room of her own and is encouraged to learn key life skills such as maths, English and money management. Guests stay until they feel ready to move on to live successful lives on their own terms. Since being established by the RC Diocese of Westminster in 2015, the House has served 164 guests from 46 countries. It is part of Caritas Westminster and the work is underpinned by the values of Catholic Social Teaching.

CARITASWESTMINSTER.ORG.UK/BAKHITA-HOUSE



RECOGNISED 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.

Ishaan Shah, Stolen Dreams

Barnet

Ishaan Shah is the 19-year-old Co-Founder of Stolen Dreams, a youth-led collective working at all levels with governments, civil society and youth, to combat modern slavery and human trafficking. Ishaan practices Jainism, and his parents and grandparents have ingrained the values of selfless service from a very young age. Since learning about modern slavery in 2017, he has dedicated his work towards promoting and protecting human rights. Recognising that youth facing multiple and intersecting forms of marginalisation and discrimination were not being meaningfully heard in decision-making spaces, Ishaan founded these collectives on the principles of inclusivity, diversity and empathy, ensuring that no young person is left behind.

Ishaan is the former Co-Chair of Barnet Youth Assembly, Barnet Youth Board and a Member of London Youth Assembly. He works closely with the Council on youth-related projects to ensure their voices are centred across all decision-making.

STOLENDREAMS.CO.UK

Imam Salami, Old Kent Road Mosque

Southwark

Imam Salami has been the Chief Imam of the MANUK/Old Kent Road Mosque for over 30 years, ever since the Mosque moved to the Old Kent Road. In his position he has supported many people to be integrated into the local community and assisted many through giving both social and spiritual support. He is a spiritual and pastoral pillar for families and users of the MANUK/Old Kent Road Mosque Charity and is actively involved in the organisation and delivery of Eid events, interfaith meetings and initiatives, and community enlightenment events.

Kunlé Oyedeji, The Empowerment Group

Southwark

Kunlé Oyedeji founded The Empowerment Group (TEG) at the height of the pandemic and at a crucial time of need. TEG initially started as a project through The Cornerstone Church where Kunlé is the Pastor, to support the mental health challenges the Black community were facing during the pandemic. Now a registered charity and entity of itself, The Empowerment Group continues to offer online 1:1 culturally appropriate therapy.

Kunlé has built a team of over 15 BME qualified therapists and raised over 100k to fund the sessions. The project started off supporting 20 people and in two years has grown to support hundreds of people.

THEEMPOWERMENTGROUP.CO.UK

RECOGNISED PROJECTS

For services to and for faith and belief communities

Alyth Refugee Choir

Barnet
alyth.org.uk/alyth-refugee-choir

Baha'i Community of Barnet

Barnet
bahai.org.uk

Barnet Multicultural Community Centre

Barnet
facebook.com/BMCCChendon

Barnet WIN (Women's Interfaith Network)

Barnet
wominet.org.uk

Belarusian Church and Cultural Centre in North Finchley

Barnet
belaruschurch.org.uk

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative – Brahma Kumaris UK

Brent
eco.brahmakumaris.org

Brent Sikh Centre

Brent
brentsikhcentre.org

Caring for the Zoroastrian Community (CZC)

Barnet

Catford & Bromley Synagogue Voluntary Team

Lewisham
catfordsynagogue.org.uk

Central Outreach Church

Southwark
centraloutreach.church

Child's Hill Food Bank

Barnet
allsaintschildshill.com/
childs-hill-food-bank

City Sikhs Mentoring Scheme

Westminster
citysikhs.com/uk/mentoring

Deen4Reel Communications CIC, led by Rashidat Adeyinka Hassan

Southwark
deen4reel.com

Dulwich Islamic Centre Covid-19 vaccine drive

Southwark
dulwichislamiccentre.org.uk

Ealing Kanaga Thurikai Amman Temple charity

Ealing
ammanealing.org/charity

EcoSynagogue

Camden
ecosynagogue.org

Fathers' Football Project at Marion Richardson School

Tower Hamlets
marionrichardson.
towerhamlets.sch.uk/Parents/
Parental-Engagement

Fatima Khasimi, Interfaith Community Chaplain

Waltham Forest

Flwomen and Family Wellness

Barking and Dagenham
facebook.com/
groups/564710124273742

Healtogether CIC

Newham
healtogether.org.uk

Interfaith Project, Old Kent Road Mosque

Southwark
manuk.org

Interfaith Talks and BBQ – New Peckham Mosque

Southwark
newpeckhammosque.org

International Siddhashram Shakti Centre

Harrow
siddhashram.com/
siddhashram-uk

Jds Striving for Excellence

Barking and Dagenham
jds-striving-for-excellence.
ueniweb.com

JIM's Café

Barnet
stjamesnewbarnet.com/
community/jims-cafe/

Judaism For Schools

Barnet
judaismforschools.co.uk

Junior Youth Groups, offered by the Baha'i Community

Southwark
southwarkbahais.org.uk/junior-
youth-groups

Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Chaplaincy Department

Southwark
kch.nhs.uk/patientsvisitors/
help-and-support/chaplaincy

KLS ESOL
extracurricular programme
Wandsworth
klsettlement.org.uk/esol

Kol Bonaich
Hackney
kolbonaich.co.uk

Lewisham Borough Fresh
Expression of The Salvation
Army
Lewisham
salvationarmy.org.uk/lewisham

Love North Southwark
Southwark
opencollective.com/
lovenorthsouthwark

Markaz El Tathgheef El
Eslami (The Centre for
Islamic Enlightenment)
Barnet
iec.org.uk/about-us

Middlesex Inter Faith
Network
Barnet

MTO Sustainability
(MTO Shahmaghsoudi,
School of Islamic Sufism)
Barnet
mtosustainability.org

Network of Buddhist
Organisations
Camden
nbo.org.uk

Nine Elms Art Ministry
Wandsworth
nineelmsartsministry.org

O You Who Believe
Southwark
manuk.org

RCCG Bethel Tabernacle
Southwark
rccgbetheltabernacle.com

RCCG Royal Connections
– Community Outreach
Newham
royalconnections.org.uk

Restoration City Church Life
Centre
Southwark
restorationclc.org

River Roding: Sacred River
Barking and Dagenham
andrewjohnbrown.com/
artefacts

Sikh your Mind
London-wide
sikhyourmind.com

Somali Bravanese
Welfare Association
Barnet
sbwa.org.uk

Southwark Eid
at the Burgess Park
Southwark
southwarkcarers.org.uk/
southwark-eid

Southwark over 40s
Football Club
Southwark

Standing Together Against
Domestic Violence's Faith
and VAWG Coalition
Hammersmith and Fulham
faithandvawg.org

St Clement's Orchard
Southwark
sclementwspeter.co.uk

St Michael's Church Drop-In
Haringey
woodgreenparish.com

St Pauls Church Marylebone
Westminster
stpaulsmarylebone.org/

St Thomas JSO Church
community food pantry
Havering
stthomasjsocloudon.org/
jsocldn

The Brahmin Society North
London
Barnet
bsnl.org.uk

The Burnt Oak Community
Food Bank
Barnet
facebook.com/
burntoakfoodbank

The Grand Iftar
Southwark
livingbankside.org

The Hot Food Project led by
Bexley Interfaith Forum
Bexley
bexleyinterfaithforum.
wordpress.com/food-project

The National Hindu Students'
Forum (UK) Exhibition: The
British Hindu Journey
Westminster
facebook.com/NHSF.UK

The Waste-To-Worth project
by The Kingsborough Centre
Hillingdon
kingsborough.org.uk

Think Tank 720
Barnet
thinktank720.org

Westminster Cathedral
Interfaith Group
Westminster
westminstercathedral.org.uk/
spirituality-groups/interfaith-
group

CREDITS

The London Faith & Belief Community Awards would not have been possible without the continued support and guidance of 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. 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.

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, 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, Dr Mustafa Abu-Lisan DL, Babulal Sethia DL, Tariq Abbasi DL, Phil Champain and Carrie Alderton.

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 Haringey Young Musicians and Write Back 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.

Headline sponsor



We're a leading modern trade union and we are here to help workers. 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'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.



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

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.

**Follow and tag us on social media,
we would love to see your photos!**
Use #LFBCA22

Twitter

[@faithbeliefforum](https://twitter.com/faithbeliefforum)

Instagram

[@faithbeliefforum](https://www.instagram.com/faithbeliefforum)

Facebook

[@faithbeliefforum](https://www.facebook.com/faithbeliefforum)

Linkedin

[The Faith & Belief Forum](https://www.linkedin.com/company/faith-belief-forum)

faithbeliefforum.org

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



**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**