

THE LONDON DANGOOR AWARDS 2025

**Celebrating London's
Faith & Belief Communities**

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



**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**



Headline Sponsor



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WELCOME

Welcome to the London Dangoor Awards 2025!

Tonight, we are here to celebrate London. And by London, we don't mean our infrastructure, our earning power, our landmarks. We mean over 9 million people, from all different faith and belief backgrounds, representing an amazing diversity of cultures and worldviews.

You are who makes London what it is: called by your faith, your beliefs, and your values to care for your communities and others, to meet people's human and spiritual needs, build relationships within and between communities, and build a better, more hopeful society.

Alongside religious diversity, there are more than 300 languages spoken in the capital and countless organisations of faith, belief and secular backgrounds working side by side. It is this richness of identity, belief and community connection that we honour tonight.

In your work, you build healing and renewal. The Awards highlight so many incredible projects, whether it's Gurseva Green Spaces, planting trees, providing spaces for quietness and meditation, education and inspiration; or Voice of Islam Radio, bringing together guests from multiple different faiths and beliefs, in a much-needed example of togetherness and respectful dialogue; or Strength and Stem, inspired by their Christian faith and the power of nature, to use floristry to support women survivors of modern slavery.

When our service is inspired by our values, our faith, our compassion, so often this is accompanied by modesty. We do not look for public recognition, as the impact of our work and our calling is what drives us. However, we hope this is your night to have the tireless (and often hidden) work that you do, be celebrated. And for us all to realise and celebrate the creative and healing power in all our traditions which similarly motivates us to repair the world.

Tonight would not be possible without David Dangoor CBE's support and driving vision: to create an annual celebration of the immense public contribution of faith and belief communities to the fabric of London. Our heartfelt thanks go to David, our sponsors, and the Council on Faith, for inspiring and supporting this, the 9th year of our esteemed awards.

We hope you enjoy a night of celebration and connection and that we at the Faith & Belief Forum can continue engaging with you as a key part of our London interfaith community for years to come.

Carrie Alderton
CEO, the Faith & Belief Forum



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to everyone on the occasion of the ninth annual celebration of faith and belief communities in London.

As the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, I have the honour of serving as His Majesty The King's personal representative in our capital. In this role, I am entrusted with the important duty of upholding the dignity of the Crown. Alongside me are over 100 dedicated Deputy Lieutenants recognisable by the letters 'DL' after their names.

All of us serve in a voluntary capacity seeking out opportunities to build bridges for a fairer London. Simply put, we foster connections between individuals, communities, and organisations with the goal of helping to enhance Londoners' sense of belonging, and promoting greater social inclusion across our great city.

London's vibrant, multicultural landscape is enriched by its many faith and belief communities, each contributing to the city's rich tapestry of traditions and values. People of faith work endlessly, and very often without recognition, to create more cohesive, compassionate communities.

I am delighted that the Awards continue under the Dangoor name, chosen after my good friend, David. Having acted as both a Deputy Lieutenant and Chair of my Council on Faith, David now continues to play a pivotal role in the promotion of interfaith relationships in Greater London.

The Dangoor London Awards shine a well-deserved light on the impactful work of these dedicated individuals and organisations. Through these awards, we aim to celebrate the achievements of those whose work often goes unseen but whose contributions are indispensable to our city.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all who are here today, as well as to those working behind the scenes.

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



I am deeply honoured to be sponsoring the London Dangoor Awards, now in their ninth year. It is humbling to reflect on the journey so far—nearly 1,000 organisations and individuals recognised for their extraordinary contributions to London's civic life. Each one a testament to the compassion, courage, and creativity that define our city.

Greater London is home to over 25,000 voluntary organisations—more than 15% of the UK's entire sector. This speaks not only to the capital's rich diversity, but to the vibrancy and resilience of its communities. Of these, approximately 7,000 are faith-based—rooted in local neighbourhoods, driven by values of care, service, and belonging. These organisations are growing at over 2% annually, responding to need with agility and persistence.

The London Dangoor Awards have already reached nearly 15% of London's faith-based organisations—a remarkable footprint. But more than numbers, these awards shine a light on the people and projects that quietly transform lives. Tonight is about celebrating those who go the extra

mile: who stand beside those in need, who tackle injustice, who remind us—through action—of our shared humanity.

To all those recognised this evening, I extend my heartfelt admiration. To the Faith & Belief Forum, thank you for curating this annual celebration with such grace and vision. To my fellow sponsors, thank you for your steadfast support. And to Sir Kenneth Olisa and the Greater London Lieutenancy, my sincere appreciation for your enduring partnership.

To our guests and speakers: thank you for being here. I know that new friendships will be formed, new ideas sparked, and new alliances forged. This, too, is the purpose of our gathering—because the work we honour tonight is not finished. Life remains challenging for many. By coming together, we renew our commitment to hope, to action, and to each other.

It is a privilege to continue sponsoring these awards. May they keep inspiring us all.

Dr David Dangoor CBE



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

It has been an honour to chair the judging panel for the London Dangoor Awards 2025. This year, we received more than 80 nominations from across London, representing a wide range of our city's faith and belief communities. Each one told a story of compassion, inclusion, and service: from small grassroots initiatives to well-established organisations making a tangible difference in people's lives.

Over the past weeks, our panel of judges carefully reviewed every project against shared criteria of need, impact, and exceptionalism. The process was rigorous but deeply uplifting, reminding us of the resilience, creativity, and generosity that continue to flourish within our communities. Each project was assessed not only for its impact, but also for its innovation, sustainability, and the spirit of collaboration that defines London's community life.

The judging process reaffirmed that faith and belief communities remain at the heart of London's resilience. Whether supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis, empowering women and young people, improving mental wellbeing, or tackling loneliness and inequality, the stories we heard this year were profoundly moving.

Although this is my first time chairing the judging panel for the London Dangoor Awards, the work feels very close to my heart. During the pandemic, I helped

to organise the first Borough Faith & Belief Awards in Barking & Dagenham with the Faith & Belief Forum, and I continue to lead the annual Rotary Community Awards, both designed to celebrate local people and partnerships that strengthen our shared social fabric. Bringing that experience to this city-wide celebration has been deeply rewarding.

I am grateful to my fellow judges for their thoughtful deliberations and to the Faith & Belief Forum team for their tireless work in making these awards possible. To all the nominees, thank you for the difference you make every day. Your dedication to faith, service, and humanity makes London a kinder, more connected, and more hopeful city.

Congratulations to all our award winners and those recognised this year. You represent the best of what it means to serve others and to live out shared values of humanity, compassion, and hope.

Himanshu Jain DL
Chair of Judging Panel



It is my honour and privilege to be the Chair of the Council on Faith of the Greater London Lieutenancy. I was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Ken Olisa, and have been able to build on the great work of the previous Chair, David Dangoor CBE. Having been a Council on Faith member and Chair of the Judging Panel for the last eight years made the transition to the Chair of the Council on Faith more seamless. It is great to have the support and encouragement from my fellow Council on Faith members, the Deputy Lieutenants, the Lord Lieutenant and the Faith & Belief Forum, and David Dangoor himself.

The vision of the Council on Faith is to use the Faith of Londoners to build bridges across our great city for the benefit of all. As Chair of the Council on Faith, I lead four Council on Faith meetings a year. Some of these meetings are organised in places of worship and others are online. The Council on Faith is supported by the superb work of the Faith & Belief Forum. Our work is to oversee the London Dangoor Awards (previously the London Faith & Belief Community Awards), the Interfaith Wellbeing Festival (previously the London Interfaith Fun Run), Borough Faith Award events (there have been seven) and other initiatives that promote respect and interfaith work in London.

We would like other cities to see how diverse faith communities can work together and build a culture of respect and understanding for Londoners. We are striving to be a beacon of excellence at a turbulent time when division and the rise in Islamophobia and Antisemitism is at an all time high.

This evening is an opportunity to celebrate Londoners and the selfless work that their different groups are doing to build bridges with fellow Londoners. I am always humbled when reading about the different groups and individuals and how tirelessly they work to help others in their community. This evening is an opportunity to learn more about great projects that are happening and say thank you to Award Winners, Recognised Projects and Outstanding Individuals for their selfless, passionate work that is changing the lives of Londoners.

Bushra Nasir CBE DL
Chair of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith



PROGRAMME

Tonight's hosts are Rev. Nims Obunge MBE DL, CEO, The Peace Alliance and Tahreem Noor, Award Winning Humanitarian, TV Presenter & a 2024 Outstanding Individual at the London Dangoor Awards.

Performance

The London Collective Choir

Welcome

Rev. Nims Obunge MBE DL
and Tahreem Noor

Opening Remarks

Bushra Nasir CBE DL

Awards Presentation

Environmental Sustainability
Health & Wellbeing
Inspiring Youth
Interfaith Relations
Promoting Inclusion

Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Success Story

The ImpACT Youth Kitchen

Awards Presentation

Schools & Educational Establishments
Supporting Women
Outstanding Individuals

Recognised Projects

Closing Remarks

Carrie Alderton

Keynote Speech

Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard

**Networking and Refreshments
in the Atrium**



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This category celebrates exceptional projects committed to one of humanity's most urgent challenges—climate change. Projects in this category create a positive and lasting impact on our planet through education, advocacy, and local campaigns that inspire sustainable behaviour and action.

Faith in Environment

The Faith in Environment project was launched by the East London Mosque in April 2024. The project is rooted in the Islamic principle of stewardship; the responsibility that humanity bears to care for God's creation. It includes workshops, sermons, and community-led initiatives which seek to raise awareness of the urgent need to tackle climate change – all while encouraging sustainable practices inspired by faith. This vital work draws in young people, families, women's groups and beyond. The Faith in Environment Project empowers thousands to make meaningful and sustainable lifestyle changes, reaching over seven thousand worshippers weekly, with a global audience due to online broadcasts. A climate ambassador training course empowered 12 Muslims to create climate action videos, while community actions promoted sustainability through reduced plastic use, water conservation, and recycling. Educational programmes like beekeeping, clean-up drives, and mosque open days further inspire wider engagement and encourage individuals to take personal responsibility for the planet.

Tower Hamlets

[www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/
news/climate-action-and-recycling-
at-faith-in-environment-summit](http://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/news/climate-action-and-recycling-at-faith-in-environment-summit)



Faith in Environment

Gurseva Greener Spaces for All

Gurseva has created “green therapy” areas around West London, offering residents a peaceful environment for wellbeing and reflection. The project invites local schools, encouraging young people to see environmental care as a crucial shared responsibility. By working in partnership with Hounslow and Ealing Councils, Gurseva piloted a “cluster approach” to community engagement, bringing groups together for four major events which increased access to high-quality green spaces and strengthened social cohesion. Gurseva's Greener Spaces for All is an inclusive initiative, bringing diverse groups together and providing opportunities for interfaith collaboration. By utilising online webinars and local outreach, individuals from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate and understand that caring for the environment transcends identity markers. The project has planted 120 trees, which will absorb around 120 tons of CO₂ over their lifetimes. The trees planted also lower noise and air pollution. These green spaces transform communities by providing spaces for physical activity and mindfulness. Through the project, at least sixty people have gained skills and experience in tree planting.

Hounslow

<http://gurseva.org.uk>

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Projects in this category provide specialised services to enhance the health and wellbeing of Londoners. These initiatives play a vital role in reducing social isolation and improving the quality of life for vulnerable individuals across diverse backgrounds. Through compassionate care and support, they help build stronger, more inclusive communities where everyone can thrive.



BAPS wellNESS Project

BAPS wellNESS Project

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Neasden Temple, serves the local community by providing health programmes that address the concerns of the Hindu and South Asian communities. The BAPS wellNESS project promotes healthy lifestyle habits through a holistic framework, incorporating Nutrition, Exercise, Sleep, and Stress Management (NESS). Education on these topics was delivered through cooking demonstrations showcasing nutritious adaptations of everyday dishes, bespoke exercises for different ages, guidance on recognising and managing stress, and the promotion of good sleep hygiene. By distributing a vegan and vegetarian healthy recipe book, hosting

monthly webinars on NESS topics, and running a bespoke 12-week intervention programme, beneficiaries are encouraged to prioritise their wellbeing. The project is volunteer-led, with volunteers who are trained healthcare professionals or young people in healthcare-related degrees or training, giving up their time to give back to the community. This initiative demonstrates that while people have places to go when they are unwell, trusted faith-based settings can also nurture wellbeing - spiritually, physically, and mentally.

Brent

<https://instagram.com/neasdentemple>



Caritas St Joseph's

Caritas St Joseph's

As part of a wider programme, Caritas St Joseph's (CSJ) runs a lifelong learning centre for adults with learning disabilities in Barnet, North London. The centre supports 200 adults annually, providing fifty life-enhancing courses, and has been operating for forty-eight years. CSJ also supports the physical health needs of their students with a range of activities including health and fitness classes, sports, and music and movement. CSJ is committed to providing opportunities that enable those who can do so to be work-ready, progressing into paid work or volunteering roles. In 2020, Barnet Council identified 7,276 adults with learning

disabilities in the borough. CSJ's centre in Hendon is equipped with adapted learning spaces, sensory-friendly rooms, assistive technology and accessible tools. Their programmes are designed for long-term engagement, ensuring that students receive consistent and structured support from CSJ's trained tutors. CSJ involves their students in the shaping of their services, placing students at the heart of their work. Through their involvement, courses become as relevant as possible, directly addressing the students' needs.

Barnet

<https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/st-josephs>

Community Food Distribution

The Women's Association of Networking and Development (WAND UK) has launched a transformative food bank initiative that not only addresses the urgent issue of food waste but also provides a lifeline to women and their families grappling with food poverty. Born out of the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living emergency, this initiative is a beacon of hope not only for refugees and asylum seekers and Women who have no recourse to public funds, but for those who have experienced domestic violence, modern slavery, and gang-related trauma. Each week, WAND UK serves over 100 individuals. Volunteers collect and distribute food and provide compassionate support. Food bank users who are unable to collect food in person due to illness or delivery can have their food delivered, ensuring that everyone is reached. WAND UK also provides health and wellbeing workshops and coffee mornings. This project offers a warm, dignified and respectful environment which tackles food poverty.

Kensington and Chelsea

www.wanduk.org



Community Food Distribution

Faiths Women Community UK

Faiths Women Community UK (FWCUK) was conceived as a response to real barriers faced by women in Southwark and other boroughs, including stigma and isolation. FWCUK includes a Mental Health Workshop, which encouraged participants to recognise indications of stress, anxiety and emotional distress and respond using the ALGEE model (Assess, Listen, Give Support, Encourage help, Encourage self-care). It sought to break down taboos surrounding mental health issues and left women feeling heard, empowered and understood. By drawing on the MHF Aider England framework, a safe and trauma-informed approach was ensured. FWCUK's Sewing Academy promotes psychological wellbeing through creative activity. To address health literacy deficits, FWCUK launched a Navigating the NHS App Workshop to empower women to book GP appointments, order medication, and access results. The Ghusal Workshop connects spiritual and physical health into one programme, strengthening identity and wellbeing.

Southwark

www.instagram.com/fwc_women

GC Boxing Academy

GC Boxing Academy (Gladiators Community Boxing Academy) is a fully inclusive community project using boxing to build confidence and discipline among people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Founded over six years ago, it engages more than 700 participants annually, from children as young as four to older adults. Beyond sport, the academy tackles social isolation, poor health, and vulnerability to negative influences by encouraging resilience and

positive mental wellbeing. Its impact is seen in powerful personal transformations and lasting friendships across diverse communities and faiths. GC Boxing offers mentoring, school partnerships, and inclusive sessions for people with learning difficulties, ensuring every member can thrive physically, emotionally, and socially.

Redbridge

<https://www.instagram.com/gcboxing/>



GC Boxing Academy

ILAYS Community Centre: Mental Health and Healthy Eating

ILAYS Community Centre: Mental Health and Healthy Eating was created in response to a growing health crisis within London's minority ethnic and disadvantaged communities, where long term health conditions are increasingly common. The aim of the Healthy Eating Project is to empower families with the knowledge and tools to make healthier food choices and promote long-term wellbeing. The project provided educational leaflet in both Somali and English to community centres, mosques, schools, and local gatherings, ensuring that no one was excluded from learning. The project's main activities include workshops, drop-in advice sessions, and community outreach. They create safe spaces where people can ask questions without judgement. Families are supported to make sustainable and realistic changes to their food choices. Since its launch three years ago, ILAYS Community Centre's Mental Health and Healthy Eating Project has directly supported over 4000 families, catering to diverse groups of people.

Hounslow

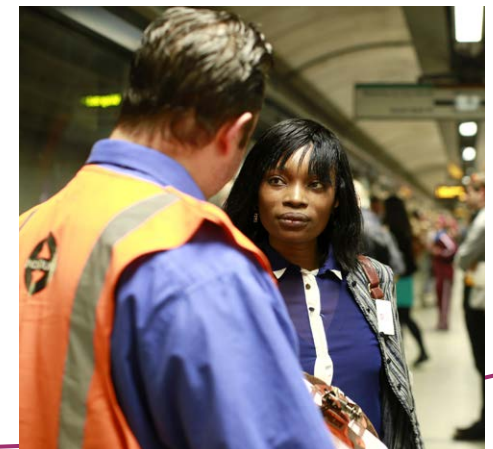
<https://ilays.org.uk>

Railway Mission

Railway Mission is a dedicated charity providing impartial mental health and pastoral support for everyone across the railway network England, Scotland and Wales. For 144 years, its chaplains have offered confidential and impartial care to around 10,000 people annually. Railway Mission supports staff through things such as loneliness, stress, trauma, bereavement, illness, and workplace challenges. In 2024 alone, chaplains recorded 9,814 support interactions, with 31% linked to work-related trauma. Research from the Rail Safety and Standards Board shows every £1 invested generates £3.13 in social value through improved wellbeing, resilience, and reduced stress. Railway Mission is rooted in Christian values but is open to all. It serves every single staff member in the rail network, one of the largest staff networks in the UK. While the history of Railway Mission runs deep, they acknowledge the unique challenges of modern life and railways, providing much needed support.

Camden

<https://railwaymission.org>



Railway Mission



The Holistic Healthy Lifestyle Drop-in Service

The Holistic Healthy Lifestyle Drop-in Service – The Mosaic Community Trust

The Holistic Healthy Lifestyle Drop-in Service, funded by Westminster City Council and delivered by Mosaic Community Trust, is a community-led initiative supporting over 300 women annually in North Westminster. It provides a safe, inclusive space for women from diverse cultural and faith backgrounds to improve physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing. Through weekly drop-in sessions, women are invited to share experiences, build friendships, and learn about one another in a welcoming and open space. The sessions offer a mixture of activities, informal conversation,

peer support, and access to information about local services. Collaboration with NHS providers has improved health-seeking behaviour and reduced inequalities through increased vaccination uptake, screening, and engagement with services. Over 85% of women report feeling more connected, with many progressing to wider Mosaic programmes and community leadership. The project empowers women as active contributors, building on their strengths and experiences.

Westminster
<https://mosaiccommunitytrust.org.uk>

Volunteering Matters – Hounslow Allies Project

Hounslow Allies, delivered by Volunteering Matters with the London Borough of Hounslow, is a project that reduces social isolation and improves quality of life for young people in care by matching them with trained volunteer “Allies”. Each volunteer provides consistent, trusted companionship outside the professional care system, giving young people stability, encouragement, and access to new experiences that build confidence and resilience. Now in its fifteenth year, the project supports around 48 people annually, improving wellbeing for

both young people and volunteers through meaningful relationships, community connection, and personal growth. At a time when many boroughs have reduced similar services, Hounslow Allies stands out as a vital, compassionate model of Independent Visitor provision which invests directly in the health and future of Hounslow’s most vulnerable residents.

Hounslow
<https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/project/hounslow-allies>



Volunteering Matters



INSPIRING YOUTH

Projects in this category foster leadership, community participation, and volunteering, helping young people to engage meaningfully in their local areas while connecting them with opportunities that extend beyond their immediate surroundings. By inspiring the next generation, these projects pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future.

Elevated Minds CIC

Elevated Minds CIC works specifically with young people at risk of becoming excluded or suspended from mainstream school and becoming involved in crime. Vulnerable children and young people are supported in a group or 1:1 setting, with programmes specifically designed for parents and teaching staff also available. Their IDENTITY Project takes young people on a life-changing journey which increases motivation and aspirations through coaching and personal development workshops, developing emotional intelligence. Elevated Minds partners with corporate and community organisations, educational institutions, and the police. 2663 students across 44 schools have received support from Elevated Minds, changing their lives for the better and transforming their relationship to the education system. Their approach is holistic, working not only with the young people themselves but directly with schools and parents, ensuring that the students are supported on all fronts.

Southwark

www.elevatedmindscoaching.com/about

Yog Foundation

Yog Foundation's programme to inspire youth was created to address the unique needs of Hindu youth in Bromley, Bexley and wider Kent, many of whom feel disconnected from their cultural heritage and underrepresented in mainstream spaces. With 51% of Hindu pupils reporting experiencing anti-Hindu hate at school, Yog Foundation seeks to combine culture, leadership and service-based activities to nurture identity and empower young people to lead change. Yog Foundation's activities include weekly moral and spiritual values classes, youth mentorship schemes, and careers fairs. The flagship Varchasva Youth Leadership Programme, delivered with Faith in Leadership and the University of Oxford, has trained over one hundred young leaders. Young people are also involved in community service, including food banks, distributing meals to the homeless, and planning cultural festivals.

Bromley

www.yog.foundation

INTERFAITH RELATIONS

This category honours projects that foster understanding and unity in London's richly diverse neighbourhoods, where people of different faiths and beliefs share common spaces and services. These initiatives build bridges across communities, promoting dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation to strengthen social harmony.

Food and Friendship (Women's Interfaith Network)

Food and Friendship is a women-led Interfaith Shared Meal Project that brings together communities from diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds. Developed in 2023 by the Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) in response to the asylum seeking backlog, the project was conceived to address the isolation faced by families placed in temporary hotel accommodation for long periods, often without safe spaces to eat, socialise or build community. By organising shared meals, Food and Friendship creates opportunities for people to connect, share dishes from their own cultures, and celebrate heritage in a welcoming environment. The project combines interfaith engagement with grassroots support for asylum seekers, placing equal value on the voices of those involved and using the universal act of sharing a meal to create dignity and community.

Westminster
www.wominet.org.uk



Food and Friendship

Voice of Islam Radio

Voice of Islam Radio UK is a national community radio station based in Merton. Since 2016 it has broadcast around the clock on DAB across major UK cities and online worldwide. Run largely by volunteers, the station was created to share knowledge, promote understanding between faiths, and give a platform to voices often missing from mainstream media. Programmes tackle faith, culture, social issues and current affairs, through an inclusive lens. Listeners hear discussions on mental health, women's empowerment, climate change, education and spirituality. Guests include Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Humanists and secular thinkers, sitting alongside Muslim hosts to exchange ideas openly and respectfully. Tens of thousands of listeners benefit weekly, from faith communities seeking dialogue to young people in search of positive role models, and members of the wider public who want balanced perspectives on important topics.

Merton
<https://voiceofislam.co.uk/>



Voice of Islam Radio



PROMOTING INCLUSION

This category celebrates projects that address the complex challenges of exclusion and discrimination faced by Londoners due to their faith or belief, as well as other aspects of their identity. These initiatives work at the intersection of faith, belief, and identity to create inclusive, welcoming spaces where everyone feels valued.



Action West London

Action West London

Action West London's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) initiative embodies its aims to reduce poverty through employment, education and enterprise, while championing a London that is fair, welcoming and inclusive. The ESOL programme has supported 448 refugees and asylum seekers in the past year and nine months. The programme goes beyond just teaching English. It is a safe space for those arriving in the UK with hopes, fears, and often trauma, allowing them to connect, learn, and begin to feel at home. ESOL learners come from all over the world, and are given tools to navigate everyday life, through things such as job applications and accessing local services. Many learners have moved onto work, volunteering or further education, showing the importance of this life-changing work.

Hillingdon

<https://actionwestlondon.org.uk>

Citizens of the World Choir for Refugees & Allies

Citizens of the World Choir is a musical family for refugees and allies with around 60 members representing over 30 nations. They provide quality musical and creative development, valuable social connection opportunities and practical support for marginalised and vulnerable refugee communities. Their music brings communities together, increases cultural understanding and improves physical and mental wellbeing. Their mission is to advocate for understanding, dignity, and kindness for people seeking asylum through the shared experience of music and song. Members of the Citizens of the World Choir benefit from the warm community it brings, tackling discrimination and sharing in diversity. The Choir's performances educate the wider public and create a positive and uplifting story around those seeking sanctuary.

Greenwich

www.citizensoftheworldchoir.org

Faith Connect, The Truth That Sets Free Ministry

Faith Connect serves the Afro-Portuguese community in Barking and Dagenham by creating an inclusive and welcoming space where faith, culture and identity come together. The project was established to respond to the challenges faced by the Afro-Portuguese community, including language difficulties, cultural isolation, and underrepresentation in mainstream services. Faith Connect's core focus is to nurture a sense of belonging and spiritual growth in a way which honours the cultural heritage and lived experiences of its members. Through its regular gatherings, inclusive worship services, and culturally sensitive mentoring, Faith Connect creates an environment where participants can grow spiritually and personally. Faith Connect also offers translation support to help community members overcome language barriers when accessing essential services or engaging with wider society. Faith Connect not only promotes inclusion but also empowers individuals to navigate life in the UK with greater confidence and independence.

Barking and Dagenham

www.instagram.com/thetruththatsetsfreeministry



Faith Connect

Inclusive Mosque Initiative

The Inclusive Mosque Initiative is an intersectional feminist mosque and registered charity creating inclusive, safer spaces for marginalised Muslims. Open to all faiths or none, it focuses on Raise Your Gaze, Mosque Events, Mosque Services, and Consultancy. Raise Your Gaze tackles intersecting oppressions such as Islamophobia, racism, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia through workshops addressing root causes of injustice across the mental health, domestic violence, and LGBT+ sectors. Mosque Events offer feminist spaces for worship, learning, and community, all different types of people. Through Mosque Services, IMI conducts interfaith Muslim marriage ceremonies without pressure to convert, upholding freedom of belief. Its Consultancy delivers bespoke training on Islam, feminism, and anti-racism. Holding over 80 events in accessible venues across the UK, IMI centres inclusion, and belonging for all Muslims.

London-wide

<https://inclusivemosque.org>

Jewish Volunteering Network

The Jewish Volunteering Network (JVN) connects volunteers with meaningful opportunities across the Jewish and wider community. For over 18 years, they've been at the heart of community action – helping people of all ages and backgrounds find rewarding ways to give their time, skills, and energy to make a difference. Alongside matching volunteers with roles, JVN also supports charities by providing guidance, training, and resources to help them recruit, retain, and manage volunteers effectively – from trustees and team leaders to one-off helpers. Through their events, forums, and online platform, JVN builds stronger connections between individuals and organisations, ensuring volunteering continues to thrive. Whether you want to get involved, grow your charity's volunteer base, or strengthen your impact, JVN is here to help make it happen – connecting volunteers, supporting charities, and promoting volunteering across the community.

Brent

www.jvn.org.uk



Jewish Volunteering Network

Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion

Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion does research, events and advocacy by and for the Sikh LGBT+ community, to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met. Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion has, for the first time, brought together Gurdwara trustees, volunteers, Sikh parents, LGBT+ Sikhs, and Sikh allies into the same room to discuss sexuality, gender and inclusion within a Sikh context. The pilot phase of the project engaged around 80 Sikh community leaders and volunteers, leading to new relationships and ongoing dialogue between groups that have historically been isolated from one another. Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion is currently collaborating with a national Sikh organisation to co-develop tailored training for their volunteering network, grounded in the principles of equity and community leadership. This marks a significant step towards safer, more welcoming environments for all in the Sikh community.

London-wide

www.instagram.com/sikh_lgbt_inclusion/?hl=en



Sikh LGBT+ Inclusion

RESPONSE TO THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

This category recognises projects that have stepped up in response to the cost-of-living crisis affecting all Londoners. These initiatives have provided essential goods, services, or support to those facing financial hardship, offering much-needed relief and helping communities navigate these challenging times with dignity and resilience.



Bow Foodbank

Founded in 2014, Bow Foodbank was created by uniting many faith and community groups to provide a support system for those in crisis or waiting to access benefits. They offer non-referral, judgement free assistance to all. Bow Foodbank maintains an open-door policy, providing not just food but other essentials, as well as advice and support to those who need it. They aim to provide free advice that connects clients to an appropriate advisor on the day wherever possible, providing further support to the community of Tower Hamlets. The foodbank has built a model of dignity, openness and sustainability in one of the most deprived areas of London by understanding the barriers to accessing food support, dispelling stigma and ensuring that everyone can access emergency food supplies if they need them.

Tower Hamlets

www.bowfoodbank.org/about

Clapton Commons

Clapton Commons, founded in 2013 by local neighbours, strengthens community connections to improve the common good for all residents. Its Warm Welcome programme offers weekly creative activities, shared meals, and zero-waste workshops that provide warmth, friendship, and support to residents facing isolation or financial pressure. The Tenants Club empowers neighbours to organise collectively and advocate for fairer housing conditions, amplifying the voices of those often marginalised by the housing system. What began as one neighbour's search for support has evolved into a registered charity that transforms everyday challenges into opportunities for connection and change. Clapton Commons has built a resilient, inclusive community where people feel seen, valued, and able to shape the future of their neighbourhood.

Hackney

www.claptoncommons.org



Bow Foodbank



Food For Homeless Project

Food For Homeless Project

The Food for Homeless Project is a grassroots, volunteer-led initiative based in Camden, providing hot meals, essential supplies, emotional care, and mental-health informed support to homeless individuals, asylum seekers, refugees, and low-income residents. Since its launch in 2023, the project has become a vital lifeline for some of the borough's most marginalised communities. Operating every Friday from 12-4pm at King's Cross Methodist Church, the project supports

50-60 people weekly. It offers not just food but clothing, toiletries, free SIM cards, handsets, and other life essentials. Founded and run single-handedly for over two years by Malihe Sadeghipour, the project began with no funding or team. Now, dedicated volunteers come from all walks of life, reflecting Camden's diversity and encouraging real community solidarity.

Camden

www.foodforhomeless.co.uk

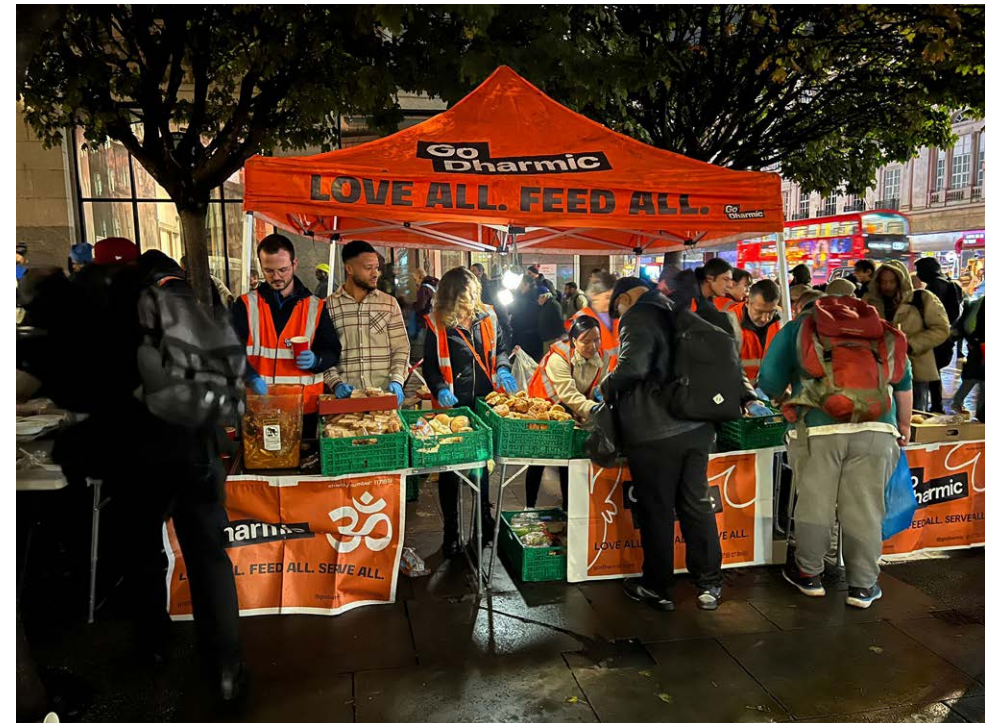
Go Dharmic's Feed Everyone London – Reducing Food Poverty Across Vulnerable Communities

Go Dharmic's "Feed Everyone London – Reducing Food Poverty Across Vulnerable Communities" project has been operating since 2017, providing immediate food relief through delivery of hot meals and food parcels. It aims to alleviate severe food poverty, improve public health outcomes, and strengthen community well-being for individuals struggling to meet their needs due to economic hardship. Meals are designed to meet the dietary needs of its beneficiaries, including vulnerable children, elderly individuals, people with disabilities,

and low-income families. They reduce surplus from supermarkets, restaurants, and suppliers, combatting food waste and supporting environmental sustainability by preventing significant greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative serves over 1,3000 individuals monthly. Its 450 dedicated volunteers ensure a warm and culturally sensitive service which addresses the cost-of-living crisis with dignity.

Westminster

<https://godharmic.com>



Go Dharmic's Feed Everyone London

Heston Farm Estate Gurseva Food bank

Gurseva's Heston Farm Estate Food Bank was created to provide healthy and nutritious food to those living in food poverty in Heston Farm Estate, West London. It serves 55 families and others, taking place every Tuesday and providing weekly provisions. All are welcome to attend and no referral is required, making the food bank an inclusive and accessible space. The initiative has redistributed approximately 7,000 meals worth of food over the last year – saving edible surplus from landfill while proving food for those in need, targeting both hunger and food waste simultaneously.

Hounslow

<http://gurseva.org.uk>



Heston farm Estate Gurseva Food bank

Parents & Youth Face to Face, The Truth That Sets Free Ministry

Parents and Youth Face to Face is a community-led initiative by The Truth That Sets Free Ministry, bridging generational gaps and promoting open conversations about mental health. Running for three years, it supports around 120 people annually, providing free, safe spaces for young people aged 13–25 and their parents to share experiences and build understanding. Through guided discussions, group activities, and workshops, families strengthen communication and learn practical tools to support one another. The project has hosted over 10 sessions with 40–60 participants each, with 88% feeling more confident discussing mental health and 92% of parents reporting improved communication. Families have since accessed counselling and peer networks, reducing stigma and encouraging early intervention. Its volunteer-driven model continues to grow, offering vital emotional support during the cost-of-living crisis and bringing about lasting empathy, resilience, and intergenerational healing within the community.

Barking and Dagenham

www.instagram.com/thetruththatsetsfreeministry/



Parents & Youth Face to Face, The Truth That Sets Free Ministry



Rainham Foodbank

Rainham Foodbank

Rainham Foodbank exists to relieve hardship in Rainham and the boroughs of Havering and Barking & Dagenham. Their mission is to provide emergency food parcels to people in crisis, ensuring that families have access to balanced and nutritious meals. Parcels are distributed directly, offering immediate relief. Recognising that hunger is linked to wider challenges, Rainham Foodbank delivers “More than Food” initiatives to address root causes and build resilience. These include counselling services for adults and children to support mental wellbeing; financial inclusion advice through partnerships with Citizens Advice

Havering and debt specialists; and upskilling projects like the Sewing Sanctuary and Art Club, which build confidence and community connection. English lessons for refugees help newcomers overcome language barriers and integrate locally, while the Befriending Service matches volunteers with isolated individuals to reduce loneliness and strengthen wellbeing. Together, these programmes provide practical help, emotional support, and pathways toward stability and inclusion for vulnerable people and families.

Havering

<https://rainham.foodbank.org.uk>



Waltham Forest Community Hub

Waltham Forest Community Hub

Waltham Forest Community Hub is a long-standing charity, operating since 2005 to provide support to over 2,000 residents. Its work spans Youth Clubs and activities, services for the elderly, health and wellbeing initiatives, and venue hire for local groups. The Hub is known for its intergenerational, intercultural work, which brings together people from diverse backgrounds and strengthens community bonds. The Hub adapts to the needs of the community, displayed by both their deliverance of emergency food parcels during the pandemic and their multilingual wellbeing programmes, co-designed with residents. Its weekly Seniors Social Club and wellbeing sessions reduce loneliness, and regular multicultural and interfaith events promote cohesion and respect within the community. The Hub's Housing Advice Service has helped to reduce homelessness and aided families in difficult housing conditions. The Hub reflects the diverse needs of the community, meeting them with compassion and adaptability.

Waltham Forest
www.wfchub.org

Wimbledon Synagogue Foodbank

The Wimbledon Synagogue Food Bank, operating since 2011 in partnership with Elim Pentecostal Church and the Trussell Trust network, provides emergency food parcels and wraparound crisis support to local people in need across Merton. Open six days a week, it offers at least three days' worth of food to individuals and families facing hardship, while trained volunteers provide emotional support, signposting and advocacy to address the root causes of food insecurity. Referrals come from professionals such as doctors, social workers and Citizens Advice to ensure dignity and genuine need. Beyond food provision, this interfaith partnership promotes inclusion, community cohesion and cultural sensitivity, serving people of all backgrounds with compassion. The project stands as a sustainable, collaborative model of practical faith in action which unites communities to tackle hunger.

Merton
www.wimshul.org/community/wider-community/food-bank

The FoodCycle Project

The FoodCycle Project, established in 2013, is an interfaith partnership between West London Synagogue and St. Paul's Church Marylebone, serving free three-course meals every Wednesday to over 70 people from the Lisson Green Estate, one of Westminster's most deprived areas. Using surplus food collected from local supermarkets and City Harvest, more than 600 volunteers from Jewish, Christian, and wider London communities prepare

and serve meals, prioritising inclusion and connection. Operating for 12 years, the project provides over 3,600 meals annually, creating a welcoming dining experience that combats isolation and supports people facing homelessness and financial hardship. The project exemplifies practical interfaith cooperation and sustainable community action in an inspirational way.

Westminster
www.wls.org.uk/faqs/foodcycle

SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Developing young people's leadership and character at school is vital for a healthy society. Projects in this category promote interfaith understanding and inclusive practices. These projects run at schools, colleges or Alternative Provision Units and work with young people (5-18) to develop leadership, tolerance or education regarding faith, belief, or inclusion.

Barnet Ann Taves Writing Team

The Barnet Ann Taves Writing Project, led by Barnet SACRE and the Local Authority and funded by Culham St Gabriel's, is an innovative and collaborative initiative to produce a modern, inclusive Religious Education curriculum for Barnet's 132 schools and 63,000 pupils. Using the academic work of Professor Ann Taves and supported directly by Dr David Robertson, Professor Ann Taves and national religious education advisers from AREIAC, the project team of teachers, faith representatives, and education specialists have developed a sequential and diverse Agreed Syllabus for ages four to nineteen. Through an action research approach, they have translated high-level academic theory on religion and worldviews into accessible classroom frameworks, and templates. The process has been collaborative and consultative, ensuring the syllabus meets the needs of Barnet's diverse communities. They have produced a bold and inclusive curriculum that respects a wide range of beliefs, promotes rich dialogue, and inspires teachers and pupils.



Barnet Ann Taves Writing Team

Barnet

www.reonline.org.uk/research/research-of-the-month/designing-a-sequential-curriculum

Barnet SACRE Interfaith Choir

Barnet SACRE Interfaith Choir brings together young people from different faith groups and backgrounds under the leadership and guidance of Dr Alan Shaw. The Choir currently includes students from three schools – Yavneh Jewish Primary in Hertfordshire, St Joseph’s Catholic Primary in Barnet and Krishna Avanti Hindu Primary in Harrow. The Choir aims to show members that they can be proud of and loyal to their own cherished traditions while being respectful to others, working together,

and contributing to wider society. Barnet SACRE Interfaith Choir practises in weekly rehearsals for each school, with a total of 110 students across the schools. They have had many successful performances since their inception in June 2022, including the Mayor’s Interfaith Event at Middlesex University, an Interfaith Peace Vigil, and the 2024 London Dangoor Awards Ceremony.

Barnet



Barnet SACRE Interfaith Choir

The Hillingdon Faith School Roadshow, Hillingdon Interfaith Community.

The Hillingdon Faith Roadshow is an inspiring educational experience, designed to introduce students and school communities to the rich tapestries of faith traditions that form the heart of the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Faith Roadshow is led by the Hillingdon Interfaith Community and supported by dedicated volunteers from various faith backgrounds. It offers schools a hands-on exhibition of objects used in various religious practices, informative banners that highlight central beliefs and values, friendly conversations with representatives from multiple faith communities, and a chance to learn about local religious traditions in an interactive and respectful way. Faith Roadshows intend to bring together individuals from all walks of life to explore beliefs, practices and values of major world religions, showcased through curated displays, meaningful dialogue, and inclusive environments. Through open dialogue and interactive displays, The Faith Roadshow offers the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of beliefs and promote greater understanding, respect and unity between young people.

Hillingdon

www.hillingdoninterfaithcommunity.com/event-details/the-hillingdon-faith-roadshow

School Linking, Iqra VA Primary School & St Andrews CE Primary School

This project is a partnership between a Muslim faith school and a Church of England faith school, both based in Lambeth. The partnership is part of the national School Linking Programme run by The Linking Network. The two schools have been linking for seven years, with approximately 420 students participating. The relationship has continued to grow and evolve in meaningful ways. At the beginning of the programme, many children were apprehensive about visiting a school of another faith. However, the positive experiences and feedback given by past participants have changed this. Now, younger children look forward to reaching Year 4 so that they can take part in the linking Programme, while those in Years 5 and 6 express a wish to reunite with their linking partners. The project allows space and time for interaction, fun, and helping children to form genuine connections through a sense of unity and friendship.

“When they told us their religion, it was really fun to know...and when we told them about our religion, it was really fun telling them.”

Lambeth

www.standrewsprimaryschoolstockwell.org
www.iqra.lambeth.sch.uk

SUPPORTING WOMEN

This category celebrates the extraordinary contributions of women from all walks of life to their communities and the city at large, often without the recognition they deserve. These initiatives empower women to effect change in their communities by providing education, advocacy, friendship, and a diverse range of support services.



Faith to Faithless Women's Group

Faith to Faithless Women's Group

The Faith to Faithless Women's Group, founded in early 2024, is part of Humanists UK's support for people leaving high-control religious groups. Created in response to the specific needs of women who have faced extreme control, coercion, and abuse, the group offers a safe, informal space for around 30 regular users to connect, share experiences, and rebuild confidence. Participants include women who have experienced forced marriage, domestic abuse, loss

of community, and family estrangement. Meeting both online and in person, the group provides peer connection, understanding, and healing through open conversation and shared experience. Its trauma-informed, co-produced model is guided by lived experience, with facilitation that encourages mutual support rather than hierarchy.

Islington

www.faihtofaithless.com

Flashy Wings Ministry

Flashy Wings Ministry is a UK women's charity based in South-East London that has supported women in the Southwark estate for 11 years, helping them navigate social, economic, and personal challenges. With 99% of beneficiaries and trustees from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds, the organisation brings deep cultural understanding to issues surrounding domestic violence and mental health. Its work includes trauma-informed projects, therapy and counselling, mentoring, digital skills training, creative healing classes, and community initiatives such as the Golden Age Lunch Club and Love Meal for asylum seekers and refugees. Flashy Wings has rescued women from abuse, supported refugees, and empowered survivors to rebuild their lives through therapy, education, and employment.

Southwark

www.flashywingsministry.com



The International Christian Church's Women's Ministry

Maryam Support Line

Maryam Support Line is a national helpline offering free, confidential emotional and spiritual support to women, especially but not exclusively Muslim women. Established in Southwark in June 2024, it provides a culturally sensitive space for women to discuss loneliness, anxiety, depression, trauma, relationships, and faith without fear of judgement. Operated by over 40 trained volunteers who speak more than 12 languages, the service ensures women can access help in the language that feels safest and most familiar. In its first 13 months, Maryam Support Line has taken more than 2,200 calls, providing compassionate, faith-informed care. Feedback shows a satisfaction score of 9.3 out of 10, with callers reporting greater confidence, peace, and emotional resilience. Maryam Support Line offers a vital support network for women across the UK, helping them regain hope and stability.

Southwark

www.maryamsupportline.org.uk



Strength & Stem

Strength & Stem

Strength & Stem is a charity and social enterprise using floristry to support women survivors of modern slavery. Established in 2019, its core programme is Flowers for the Future, an eight-month training course in London providing floristry and pre-vocational skills, mentoring, and work placements for 15 women each year. Alongside, there is a growing alumni network supporting 45 graduates. Working in partnership with referral agencies, the project helps survivors rebuild confidence, develop practical and creative skills, and prepare for safe, sustainable futures. Grounded in trauma-informed practice, its work focuses on four key outcomes: restoring wellbeing, nurturing relationships, strengthening agency, and securing futures. Evidence indicates positive impact in life satisfaction, belonging, and self-management. Floristry can be a catalyst for a survivor's journey to empowerment and through the healing power of flowers, Strength & Stem offers women a pathway from trauma towards resilience.

Camden

<https://strengthandstem.co.uk>

The International Christian Church's Women's Ministry

The International Christian Church's Women's Ministry is a grassroots project with 14 years of operation across London. Their mission is to empower women to live with purpose, healing and hope. They have supported over 3,000 women since their inception and currently reach over 300 women annually from teen girls to mothers, to professionals, to survivors of trauma. They respond to real and urgent needs among women, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds. Through the work of the International Christian Church's Women's Ministry, women receive tailored mentoring, CV and career coaching, mental health and trauma support, parenting guidance, marriage and family counselling, and spiritual encouragement. Their FITT (Faith, Inspiration, Transformation & Training) group addresses holistic wellbeing with workshops on physical health, emotional resilience, and spiritual care. Their annual Women's Day Conference, now in its 14th year, brings together hundreds of women for days filled with worship, workshops, storytelling, and transformation.

London-wide

<https://londonchurch.org.uk>



The London Asian Ladies Club (LALC)

The London Asian Ladies Club (LALC)

The London Asian Ladies Club (LALC) is a volunteer-led, women-designed community organisation founded in 2007 to support mid-life and older South Asian women facing loneliness, stigma around mental health, and barriers to community participation. Through a culturally anchored, peer-led model, LALC delivers over 25 gatherings each year for more than 120 members, including luncheons, cultural celebrations, wellbeing sessions, and interfaith events. Its co-designed,

accessible activities are offered in homely settings with car-shares and multilingual volunteers. In 2024, participants recorded a 17% rise in wellbeing scores and universal gains in optimism and social connectedness. Women who first attend for companionship often become organisers and mentors, strengthening confidence and community leadership.

Brent

www.facebook.com/p/London-Asian-Ladies-CLUB-100064749606508

Women's Lounge

Women's Lounge is a women-led community project based in South-East London that empowers and inspires women across Bexley, Greenwich, Thamesmead, and surrounding areas through social, educational, and entrepreneurial programmes. Since 2016, it has supported over 250 women annually, particularly those from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds, through regular workshops in cooking, gardening, sewing, health, and education. The project focuses on employment, wellbeing, family values, and community cohesion, offering ESOL, digital skills, and financial literacy classes that lead to qualifications,

jobs, and business start-ups. In the past year, it supported over 150 women and girls, launched 10 micro-enterprises, and saw measurable improvements in health knowledge and community engagement. Rooted in Christian values of love and service, Women's Lounge removes barriers by offering childcare, transport, and co-designed programmes, helping women gain confidence, purpose, and belonging while fostering inclusion and resilience across South-East London's diverse communities.

Bexley

www.womens-lounge.info



Women's Lounge

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

London is home to many inspirational individuals whose lasting contributions enrich the fabric of our city. Although not a formal award category, this recognition provides an opportunity for judges to highlight those who have truly gone above and beyond. The individuals acknowledged here inspire others through their exemplary acts of public service, embodying values of inclusivity and compassion. Their commitment reflects London's spirit as a welcoming place for people of all faiths and beliefs, serving as a beacon of hope and positivity in our communities.



Anjie Chhopia

Anjie Chhopia is the organiser and leader of Serenity, a volunteer-led project in Harrow that empowers South Asian women, many over 65, who experience loneliness, isolation, and difficulty engaging with wider society. Drawing on her own experiences with depression, Anjie created Serenity to help other women in similar situations. Under her leadership, the project runs MUMS (Making Unforgettable Memories Shared), which offers affordable day trips around London in partnership with Harrow Community Transport, giving members the chance to explore new places and connect with others. For those unable to attend in person, Anjie provides online meditation and yoga sessions to encourage companionship and wellbeing. She also supports women to gain confidence using public transport, often taking groups to interfaith celebrations and volunteering opportunities. Attentive to her community's needs, Anjie continues to design creative initiatives, such as her recent 7Fs fruit-sharing project (Focus on Fun Frolic Fusion of Fruity Fresh Fruits). Anjie's ability to relate to the women – including her multilingualism – allows her to tailor her projects for maximum impact.



Sofia Bhatti

Sofia Bhatti is the founder and driving force behind the Over 60's Club, which she started over three years ago to tackle isolation and loneliness among older adults. What began as one weekly session has grown into three gatherings across different venues, welcoming around 90 elders each week. Guided by compassion and her deep respect for the older generation, Sofia has created a space where people can share stories, make friends, and rediscover joy and confidence. Her approach combines social connection and friendship with opportunities for learning and creativity, such as computer literacy and art therapy, which helps members to stay active and engaged. Members come from all different backgrounds and faith groups and are given a space to share stories and gain skills, directly targeting feelings of loneliness and isolation that often afflict the older generations.



Emdad Rahman

Emdad Rahman is a community volunteer whose projects make a real difference across London. He runs Bookbike London, a mobile library that shares free books with children, families, the elderly and rough sleepers in parks, estates, and community spaces, helping more people discover the joy of reading. He also leads The Kind Counter, a street kitchen that provides meals and support for people facing homelessness and food poverty.

Beyond that, Emdad coaches grassroots football for children and young people, volunteers internationally, and runs the Little Litter League, encouraging families to keep their neighbourhoods clean. His work brings together people of all backgrounds through simple, practical acts that improve everyday life for others



Nicholas Roddis

Nicholas Roddis, Chaplain and Spiritual Care Lead at Royal Trinity Hospice, has developed a new approach to spiritual care for people at the end of life. For over three years, he has led a project that supports more than 400 patients and families each year, ensuring care is inclusive of all faiths and beliefs.

The project has made spiritual care a core part of hospice work, integrated into clinical and emotional support. Nicholas has introduced new assessment tools, increased referrals, and trained staff across the hospice to better recognise spiritual needs.

He has also built partnerships with local faith groups, community organisations, and bereavement networks to extend support beyond the hospice. His work has created a lasting model of inclusive, person-centred care that meets the needs of London's diverse communities.

www.royaltrinityhospice.london



Balbir Kalsey and Manjit Kaur

Balbir Kalsey and Manjit Kaur are the heart and soul of the Milap Group Conversation Café in East London, a welcoming space where older women from Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh backgrounds come together every Friday.

Balbir, who started and still runs the café, cooks fresh meals every week and makes sure everyone feels cared for and included. She cooks the food herself every Friday and travels by public transport from her home to the centre to give a hot cooked meal to elderly residents who live on their own. The café also holds meditation classes and chair-based exercise sessions every Friday to help keep people active, calm, and well. Balbir and the volunteers give vitamin D to elderly ladies and help them with their appointments, making sure no one is left without support.

What began as a small gathering has grown into a lifeline for women who live alone, including survivors of domestic violence and those facing isolation. The group celebrates all religious festivals and everyone's birthdays, and in the summer they organise trips to the seaside.

Manjit has been involved since the café's very first day. She was its first volunteer, helping to set up and support activities such as yoga, drumming, dance, and discussion, and continues to play a key role every week. Over 12 years, she has helped Milap grow from a small group into a vibrant community with many women taking part and finding friendship and purpose together. Now, the café has 8 dedicated volunteers in total.

Milap Group Conversation Café isn't a funded project but keeps going through £3 contributions and a lot of care from everyone involved. Balbir and Manjit's dedication is truly outstanding, making their work invaluable to the women within their community.

RECOGNISED PROJECTS

For services to and for faith and belief communities

Leytonstone Community Fridge (a Project of Transition Leytonstone)

Waltham Forest
www.transitionleytonstone.org.uk/community-fridge

CMoB community Cafe

Brent
<https://centralmosqueofbrent.com>

Cycle for (Salaam) Peace

Haringey
www.salaampeace.org

The Annual Faith and Peace Walk, Barnet Multi Faith Forum

Barnet
<https://barnetmultifaithforum.org/>

Creative Wellbeing

Lambeth
www.oasiswaterloo.org/communityspace

The Angels Academies

Brent
www.theangelsacademies.com

Sira's Yoga Centre

Hillingdon

Rashid Ali

Tower Hamlets
www.instagram.com/rashid.ali_ifl

Burnt Oak Nepalese Community

Barnet
www.bonc.org.uk/bonc-governance

Goodnews Bible Youth - You are qualified

Brent
www.goodnewschurch.net

Headspace Hub, The Truth That Sets Free Ministry

Barking and Dagenham
www.instagram.com/thetruththatsetsfreeministry

Music For Futures

Ealing
<https://actionwestlondon.org.uk>

Trailblazing Youth Leadership

Waltham Forest
www.stowinspire.com

British Sikh Consultative Forum's Vaisakhi at Westminster Celebrations

Westminster
<https://bscf.org>

Hillingdon Interfaith Community (HIC)

Hillingdon
www.hillingdoninterfaithcommunity.com

Scriptural Reasoning

Kingston upon Thames
www.dialoguesociety.org

Interfaith Iftar organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith, with Al Mustafa charity and West Thames College

Hounslow

Salaam Peace Stamford Hill Estate

Hackney
<https://salaampeace.org>

Restorative Justice for All

Southwark
<https://rj4all.org/about-us>

Southwark Eid (Project by Southwark Muslim Forum)

Southwark
www.instagram.com/southwark_eid

Smart Phones & Tablets Made Easy for Seniors

Brent
<https://bi-cc.org.uk>

Latin Ageing UK

Southwark
<https://latinageinguk.co.uk>

Chiswick SDA Church

Hounslow
<https://chiswicksdachurch.org.uk>

Chatsworth Foodbank

Hackney
<https://www.npayof.co.uk/chatsworth-food-hub>

Customised African Caribbean Parenting Empowerment Course, Family Mediation Centre Ltd, Goodnews Bible Church

Brent
<http://facebook.com/familymediationcentre>

Woman, You Are Enough, The Truth That Sets Free Ministry

Barking and Dagenham

North London Chinese Association

Barnet
<https://thenlca.org.uk>

SP WAGS Programme - Gulietta Di Li Sandri

Waltham Forest
<https://salaampeace.org>

C-Change West London's Hillingdon Youth Filmmaking Social Action Programme

Hillingdon
<https://ccwl.org.uk>

The Feast

Tower Hamlets
<https://thefeast.org.uk/>

The Alevi Cultural Centre and Cemevi

Haringey

The Over 60's Club, Supporting Humanity

Redbridge
<https://supportinghumanity.org>

Party in the Park, St Peter's Church

Southwark
www.instagram.com/stpeterwalworth

Serenity

Harrow

Milap Conversation Café

Newham

East London Buddhist Cultural Centre

Newham
https://www.facebook.com/elbcc/?locale=en_GB

SUCCESS STORIES

Muslimah Sports Association

Muslimah Sports Association is England's largest Muslim women's sports charity, founded in 2014 in London. MSA aim to offer women a safe and positive environment to participate in a number of sports without compromising their religious or cultural beliefs.

Gaining charity status in 2019, they now offer over 15 different sports per week. They give an outlet to likeminded women and create a place where women are free to participate however they're comfortable to do so. They work with the best qualified female coaches from diverse backgrounds to ensure good quality sessions are on offer.



Muslimah Sports Association

They do this work because there isn't always equal access to sports for Muslim or ethnically diverse women. By removing barriers, there can be more access to sports and a way to help tackle some of society's wider struggles.

MSA started an interfaith journey in 2019 with F&BF when they won a London Faith & Belief Community Award (the former name of the London Dangoor Awards), in the Supporting Women category. From there, they've participated in an online Faith, Fitness and Feeling Good session during Covid-19 – an interfaith week of online health and fitness sessions from multiple faiths. The Interfaith Fun Run and the Interfaith Wellbeing Festival have both had excellent participation from MSA, running art and mindfulness at the latest installment.

MSA this year were honoured with a King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour for a voluntary organisation, equivalent to an MBE, recognising their excellent work over the past decade.

ImpACT Youth Kitchen: Cooking Up Change Together

The story starts with the ImpACT Youth Kitchen, one initiative of former London Dangoor Award Winner, Project ImpACT, which brings teens together to volunteer and cook healthy meals for food banks and homeless shelters across London using surplus food, supplying over 32,000 meals so far.

Chayli Fehler, Founder and CEO of Project ImpACT wanted to expand the Youth Kitchen and launch an interfaith volunteering initiative that would bring together teens from different backgrounds to do meaningful social action.

Following the London Dangoor Awards event, she approached the Faith & Belief Forum, who recommended Salaam Peace, which uses sport and education to drive positive change, and the Znaniye Foundation who support young people from predominantly BAME backgrounds across London.

In April 2025, these three outstanding London Dangoor Award winners joined together at the ImpACT Youth Kitchen for a powerful interfaith social action project. After learning about food insecurity in the UK, they rolled up their sleeves to turn surplus produce from The Felix Project into over 150 nutritious meals, delivered that evening to local food banks and homeless shelters.



ImpACT Youth Kitchen

"The interfaith gathering was such an inspiring experience. Being surrounded by supportive young people from all backgrounds made it so much fun. We laughed, learned, and bonded over food, it was a perfect example of what community and connection really mean." Zaara, a teen participant from Salaam Peace.

"It was inspiring to see teens from diverse faith backgrounds working side by side with a shared purpose of giving back," said Chayli. "This event highlighted the power of interfaith collaboration and the meaningful impact young people can have when they unite for a common goal."

If ever there was a story to illustrate why you should meet someone new tonight and dream about new ideas together, the ImpACT Youth Kitchen is just that!

To get involved in this impactful interfaith initiative or explore collaboration opportunities, contact

info@projectimpact.org.uk.

SUCCESS STORIES

SCHOOLS INTERFAITH WORK

FEATURED BOROUGH

Camden

Year 5 Students in Camden schools are invited to attend an Interfaith Conference where pupils will meet local faith and belief representatives to discuss the importance of communities for wellbeing. All materials and plans are shared with attending teachers and pupils, so that they can go back to their respective schools and lead a similar conference there with a class or year group. Sixth Form students in Camden schools receive training in public speaking and presentation skills, to become Faith & Belief Speakers, invited by schools to present to KS2 and KS3 students aged 9-14. This allows young people to: share lived experiences and worldviews; develop confidence in public speaking; and allows younger pupils to learn about faith and belief communities from relatable practitioners.

<https://camdenlearning.org.uk>

Newham

Since 2012, the Infant RE Interfaith Conference and Junior RE Interfaith Conference have been held annually, giving Newham children a space to explore spirituality through interfaith learning. Each school sends six pupils from Year 2 and Year 5, with staff accompanying them. The conferences promote dialogue and understanding between children of differing religions, non-religious worldviews, backgrounds, and cultures. They also contribute to community benefit by addressing children's concerns and empowering them to solve problems and create advice for schools.

Student RE Matters, winners of the first London Dangoor Award for *Schools & Educational Establishments*, is a group of young people from Newham secondary schools who explore moral and religious issues from different backgrounds and cultures. This year's focus is *Faith & Belief in Action*. "This experience allows you to express your ideas and beliefs and learn about different perspectives. This also gives you an opportunity to show your leadership skills," said one student participant.

FEATURED SCHOOL

Nishkam School West London

Nishkam School West London's virtues-led education helps pupils become self-reflective and flourish; they build strong, meaningful relationships and understand their responsibilities to the global family.

To promote interfaith understanding and inclusivity, they hold prayers twice daily from three different religions (Christianity, Sikhism, and Hinduism) led by volunteers according to the faiths represented in the class. Each week, a "virtue of the week" such as compassion or humility is introduced, with 30 seconds of silent reflection at the start of every lesson. In February, they ran an interfaith day for Year 8, where speakers from six different faith backgrounds engaged in dialogue. During break and lunch, the faith space remains open and welcoming to all.

www.nishkamschooltrust.org/nswl



Nishkam School West London

Inter Faith Week in Schools

The Inter Faith Week for Schools initiative is developed and delivered by the Faith & Belief Forum to support schools with clear, high-quality resources and ideas to celebrate the diversity of their school community during Inter Faith Week. The initiative is part of the wider Inter Faith Week 2025, delivered in partnership between the Faith & Belief Forum, United Religions Initiative UK, and Faiths Forum for London, and supported by the National Steering Group for Inter Faith Week 2025.

F&BF's Inter Faith Week resources have so far been used to reach 33,837 students in London, with this number continuing to rise daily as more responses come in, and 643,000 students across the country. These resources are designed to support each key stage and guide schools through five lesson plans exploring the concept of community, what it means in different faith and belief traditions, how it looks in their local area, and how to create safe spaces for dialogue in London schools.

Many schools will also be inviting in faith speakers, visiting local places of worship, entering the Inter Faith Week poetry competition, and attending F&BF-led assemblies and events.

www.ifw4schools.co.uk

THE LONDON COLLECTIVE CHOIR

The London Collective Choir is a vibrant, inclusive community of singers from across London who believe in the power of music to unite, uplift, and inspire. Their members come from all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, each bringing their own story, voice, and joy to the collective sound.

They perform an uplifting mix of gospel, soul, pop, and contemporary music, blending powerful harmonies with heartfelt energy that reflects their unique community spirit.

The choir has performed at iconic venues including Wembley Park, Regent Hall (Oxford Circus), Porchester Hall, Hays Galleria, and abroad at the Hilton in Chicago and Melia in Sitges, Barcelona. Whether singing in grand halls or open public spaces,

their aim is always the same — to share hope, joy, and togetherness through music.

For The London Collective Choir, every performance is more than just a show; it's a moment of connection. Singing together is a reminder that that, despite our differences, harmony is possible when we listen to one another — both musically and as people.

Follow their journey, find upcoming performances, or join the choir at:

www.thelondon.church/ams
[@londoncollectivechoir on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/londoncollectivechoir)
<https://youtube.com/@londoncollectivechoir>

The London Collective Choir — where every voice matters, and every song brings us closer together.



The London Collective Choir

DIETARY, ACCESS AND PRAYER ROOM INFORMATION

Access Information

The venue is fully accessible, with accessible toilets next to the Atrium. There is accessible seating in the Auditorium, speak to staff if you need accessible seating.

Disabled parking is available on surrounding roads with correct permit displayed. For other parking, Q-Park is a 3-minute walk away.

First aid staff are Leo and Diaina.

Dietary Information

All salads will be labelled and a food menu will also be displayed at the buffet tables. RSM staff will be informed about all dietary needs too, so speak with them if you have any further questions.

Kosher food will be ordered separately, double-wrapped from Hermolis and served on a table next to the main buffet. Kosher guests should have already been contacted.

Multi Faith Prayer Space

There is a multi faith prayer space on the lower floor. Please speak to the RSM reception team to get access to the room as you'll need a key card.

SPONSORS

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

Dangoor Education

Headline Sponsor for the London Faith & Belief Community Awards.



Culham St Gabriels

We are an endowed charitable foundation which champions religion and worldviews education. Our vision is for broad-based, critical and reflective religion and worldviews education contributing to a well-informed respectful and open society. We are committed to providing teachers in schools and other educational professionals with the support, connections, and challenges they need. We aim to promote the public perception and understanding of the benefits of high-quality religion and worldviews education in a range of sectors. We provide grant funding, professional development and advocate with policy makers to help us achieve our vision.



The Morgan Charitable Foundation

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



Community Union

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

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



CREDITS

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

We are grateful to Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London and Dr David Dangoor CBE, who have supported the awards since their inception in 2017.

We must express particular thanks to Bushra Nasir CBE DL, who has acted as Chair of the Steering Committee from the inception of this event; and to Himanshu Jain DL who has expertly acted as Chair of the Judging Panel this year.

Thank you to the Judging Panel: Himanshu Jain DL, Bibi Khan MBE DL, Babulal Sethia DL, Rosi Prescott DL FRSA, Geraldine Norris DL, Rachel Cohen, Amy Ark and Sarah March.

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 Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard for your time and your speech this evening.

Thank you to the London Collective Choir for your performance 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.

WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

Follow and tag us on social media, we could love to see your photos! Use #LDAwards2025

faithbeliefforum.org

-  X (Twitter): @faithbeliefforum
-  Instagram: @faithbeliefforum
-  Facebook: @faithbeliefforum
-  LinkedIn: The Faith & Belief Forum

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

faithbeliefforum.org/support-us



ImpACT Youth Kitchen

**The
Faith
& Belief
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Headline Sponsor

