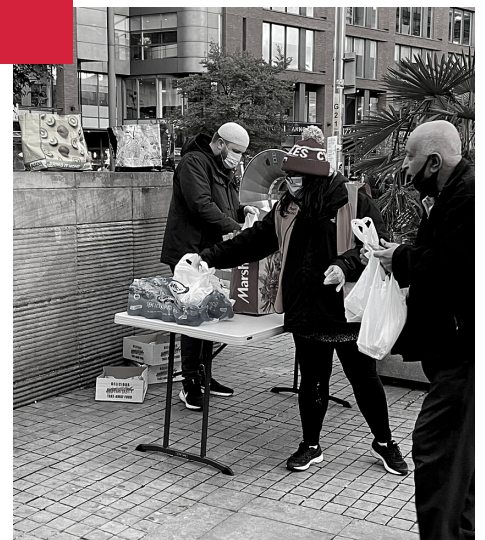


2021 Annual Report

Islamic Society of Britain



Islamic Society of Britain

Bringing people together

@BritIslam | isb.org

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CHAIR'S REPORT



A scholar advised me that ISB was like a ship. Its purpose is to take those on board towards Allah's pleasure and ultimately the rewards of paradise, through self development and service of others. It was a reflective moment.

When I was first involved in YM and the ISB (first camp 1989), the uniqueness of the message was clear, and similar organisations were rare or non-existent. That middle way, the British Muslim identity, religion not culture, faith at home, activism-centred faith, holistic wholesome personal development, aspiring to be the best... I could of course carry on! As I undertook the heavy responsibility two years ago to take the helm, to steer the ship, it has been clear for many years that there are now many organisations striving for what YM/ISB stood for thirty years ago. Organisations which have longevity are rare. Organisations that last have certain characteristics. These organisations are dynamic, have good succession planning of leadership and have managed to stay relevant to its members and to society as a whole. This was and remains the challenge for us as an organisation. Are we relevant? Can we develop and nurture new leaders? And are we strong enough, brave enough to stop doing things just because we have done them in the past, to embrace change and navigate a new course through choppy waters towards our goal?

Change, of course, takes time. Change needs to be done in a way where the impact is lasting. We do need to change.

Our reason for being is to gain Allah's pleasure. To serve Allah, through service towards others, through personal development and to do this as a cohesive unit, where our individual strengths are multiplied by our collective, where our weaknesses are covered by our brotherhood and sisterhood. We make a positive difference to the lives of others selflessly, we ask for no recognition except from Allah. We want to be the difference, we want to impact society, we all want to leave a legacy so our work and our contributions carry on forward, long after we have departed this earth.

I have no doubt that ISB can continue to be this organisation. We will need to be uncomfortable and think out of the box. Of course, this is what we have always been able to do; this is how we are unique. We can and will deal with issues that are relevant and meaningful in society, issues impacting Muslim families in Britain today.

It was with this in mind that we embarked two years ago, understanding that as an organisation we had stagnated, but striving for a connected revival. We were not to know what was around the corner. We plan, and of-course Allah's plans were something else. Barely had we got started and plans for the new term drawn up, when COVID hit. The impact, personally and societally, we now all know. As an organisation, we were not going to stay still. We were able to manoeuvre into the new online world, embracing the changes that have now become the new normal.

This report will summarise many of those activities, and I hope that through it you will also be able to get an indication of the efforts and dedication of the volunteers that made this a reality.

The last two years have given me clarity about many of the changes that need to be made for ISB to re-emerge as an organisation making a positive and lasting impact on British society. We had started to embark on a journey towards becoming a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation); this sadly has been paused due to regulations that would have significantly impacted our finances by virtue of having to close our existing bank accounts. I would expect this to move forward through the term of the next Chair. Perhaps more importantly we need to embrace greater diversity throughout the organisation and definitely at Shura level. A younger cohort with a greater gender and ethnic diversity will bring fresh ideas, increased energy and allow strategic decisions to be made that will engage meaningfully with a wider group of people.

Our Shura remains a very large body for an organisation of our size, considerably beyond the guidelines laid down by the Charities Commission. This has advantages and disadvantages. At a moment in time where as an organisation many of our board members have limited time, pulling so many into the responsibilities of a board/shura member inevitably reduces or removes their abilities to deliver on projects. The Shura's responsibility is to keep the organisation safe and to develop strategy and vision. The projects or activities of ISB are what has always made us vibrant and meaningful. A clear differentiation between the roles of the Shura and the roles of those involved in leading projects (executive) is critical.

My final thoughts are a request. Change is always difficult. The next two years require change. Let us embrace change as a way of safeguarding ISB for future generations. To do this, we need help. We need many people to play a small role, whether that be in localities or in support of the national projects. Let us use these next two years to focus on the difference we want to make, to focus on the legacy we wish to leave for future generations .



Since the update last year, we have been trying to refresh the current websites - ISB, Campus, YM, Plain Islam and others - and bring them all under one roof to improve usability, maintenance and security. We appointed a company in August to help us with this task. We are building a team to help update the website and keep its contents fresh and relevant. Members of the Campus team have also been helping with social media, particularly with the Instagram account. If you are interested, please contact the ISB office to get involved.

Dr Ibrahim Varsani



SAFEGUARDING

Over the last 18 months, new safeguarding policies and procedures have been developed and implemented into the organisation, including the provision of Safeguarding Awareness training for all key personnel involved in delivering our work. We have also appointed a Designated Safeguarding Lead for ISB to oversee any safeguarding issues raised. An online safeguarding/accident reporting system has been introduced via the ISB website to allow anyone to report a concern in strict confidence.

MEMBERSHIP

Given the challenges around the recruitment of new members, an extensive survey was conducted of current and past members in early 2021 which highlighted a number of major areas for change or improvement. The main findings of the survey have been used to run a series of workshops to flesh out the underlying issues. It is hoped that, during the coming year, a small group will be tasked with developing and implementing a new membership proposition which reflects the current environment. This will include a secure membership area on the ISB website to access specific resources, a package of incentives and a membership pack outlining details of our service offers.





Ramadan Photography Competition

A photography competition was run during Ramadan which captured the beauty of the outdoors. We received over 20 entries. The entries were judged by a professional photographer in three age categories. The winning entry and the runners up each received a special Amazon prize. Their pictures were also included in the specially commissioned Eid cards sold to our members.

2021



VOLUNTEERS



In order to improve the management of volunteers, we have introduced a simple online registration process for all volunteers supporting our work. All volunteers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with our safeguarding policies and procedures before commencing any work. To recognise the valuable contribution our volunteers make for the organisation, we have introduced a simple Volunteer Recognition certificate for anyone completing over 10 volunteering hours in a 12-month period i.e., supporting vaccination clinics, delivering meals to the homeless, delivering our educational programmes, residentials, and mentoring. To date, over 150 volunteers have received a certificate.



GOVERNANCE

To bring us in line with charity best practice, we have invested a lot of time over the past year into redrafting and implementing a wide range of operational policies and procedures. At the same time, a new central Risk Register was created to enable the SMT to track all major issues. This work is ongoing.

At the 2020 AMM, we had proposed to convert ISB to a “Chartered Incorporated Organisation” (CIO) from a charity and a company limited by guarantee to simplify the administration of the organisation.

Unfortunately, we discovered late into the conversion process that this would impact part of our monthly membership income as we would be required to set up new direct debit payments for many of our long term donors whose current addresses would take a significant amount of time to track down. The Board (shura) felt this was too big a risk to take at the moment given the uncertainty around our future income streams. Hence the CIO process has been suspended for the time being.

Over the past 12 months, we have also been re-evaluating the sustainability of our current national and branch governance structures. In line with best practice, we need to simplify the management of the organisation and redefine the relationships and responsibilities in each area. We expect to present new proposals to the Shura in the next few months.

FUNDING



Like many charitable organisations, we have to secure additional sources of funding to support our activities. Membership income has remained static for a number of years. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are hoping to launch a number of new national projects over the next 12 months including mental health and wellbeing provision, which will require significant funding. At branch level, we want to encourage local fundraising to support local initiatives such as feeding the homeless. In Manchester, we have successfully raised nearly £6,000 from various local grants to support the community work with residents of care homes and the meals Outreach work to support the most vulnerable in the local community.

Khalid Anis - Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income and Expenditure statement

	2018	2019	2020
RECEIPTS			
Membership Contributions	35,548	32,753	36,768
Other Income (Events, Grants, etc...)	10,079	36,827	3,062
Total	45,627	69,579	39,380
EXPENDITURE			
Office (Salaries)	10,636	39,447	26,850
Meetings (AMM, <u>Shurah</u> , etc..)	1,978	4,784	460
Events (National)	109	1,990	472
Projects (YM, Campus)	6,848	19,874	4,866
Others (Web, IT, Insurance, Telecoms, etc..)	1,399	5,583	2,204
Virtual Office Costs	--	--	1,924
Training (Safeguarding, etc..)	--	--	2,384
Total	20,969	71,678	39,160

NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

24,657

-2,099

670

2021 Finance Forecast

Current Income projection : £34,000

Major Expenses projection : £50-55,000

Branch Rebates review : £8,500

Given the above situation, the following recommendations have been made:

- Shura/trustees need to keep finance in mind, as income is generally reducing year on year
- Make fundraising a priority to be able to sustain current work levels and support national projects
- Accelerate membership - great plans, but a more sustained effort is required across the country

Zahid Chohan - Treasurer

NATIONAL PROJECTS

Tarbiyah Committee - Development and Education

YM, Campus and ISB have been busy over the past two years with lots of development and education initiatives. We now have regular online study circles to guide and support young people from ages 14-24 and beyond (14-16 circle, sixth form circle and Campus development circle).

Education has also been taking place through residentials, courses, masterclasses and e-circles, with material on our Facebook page and YouTube videos. Content from the Classical to Contemporary syllabus has been converted into educational modules, available through a learning platform called the Transformational Youth Leadership Program (TYLP). There is also a large team working on editing material for study circles that could take place on university campuses.

Practical development work takes place in Campus with the empowerment of young people to take on responsibilities and be part of teams, as well as the nurturing and supporting of them in developing their leadership skills.





The aims of the Tarbiyah Committee are to:



DEVELOP AND EDIT

Develop and edit existing educational content (ISB has generated a large amount of excellent resource material over the years) and offer this to the wider community online, in an accessible way



COORDINATE

Coordinate the existing work



CALIBRATE CONTENT

Calibrate the content of study circles to achieve holistic developmental objectives for young people

Dr Rizwan Syed - Project Lead

CAMPUS

The past two years have been a period of great changes, and we have been blessed to see Campus develop and grow in this time. We have reviewed our working structures and created sub-committees as well as an overseer group, developed our vision statement and a mission statement and we have further developed our aims and strategies.

Vision Statement:

‘British Muslim youth exploring faith in a contemporary, friendly and spiritual way’

The logo for ISB Campus, featuring the text 'ISB' above 'CAMPUS' in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark red circular graphic that has a subtle, swirling pattern.

Mission Statement:

A space for young British Muslims to:

- Explore faith together
- Nurture a generation of positive purpose, balance and moral integrity
- Cultivate a strong confident British Muslim identity
- Actively participate and contribute to mainstream society by standing firmly for the values of justice and social concern

Campus aims to draw on the deep well of spirituality in 17-26 year old Muslims, as well as on our connections as citizens of Britain today. We want to develop and support learning, reflection and development of key life skills with scholars, activists and specialists to enable our members to stand firm for justice, social concern and positive endeavour, engaging actively with those around us to develop communities that represent purpose, balance, concern and moral integrity.

As part of our vision, we have set out a number of aspirations for our culture as objectives. These are that Campus should:

- Be lead by young people and supported by the advisory team
- Welcome new attendees without judgement
- Nurture and respect concerns, aspirations and opinions
- Encourage questioning and discussions
- Respect differences of opinion
- Encourage learning through sound scholarship
- Encourage interactive learning with discussions led by experts in their field

Projects:

In order to achieve this vision, ISB Campus plans to organise at a national level:

- Two residentials per year
- Two masterclasses per year
- E-circles
- Weekly Quranic Arabic classes
- Leadership Training
- Campus discussion group
- 'Students of Campus' group
- Study Circle packs
- Leadership development

Alongside these major projects, several smaller initiatives were founded and are being run by sub-committees within the ISB Campus group. These are:

- An ISB magazine
- Tajweed Classes
- Regional Campus Groups

These projects, amongst others, will be expanded on later in the report.

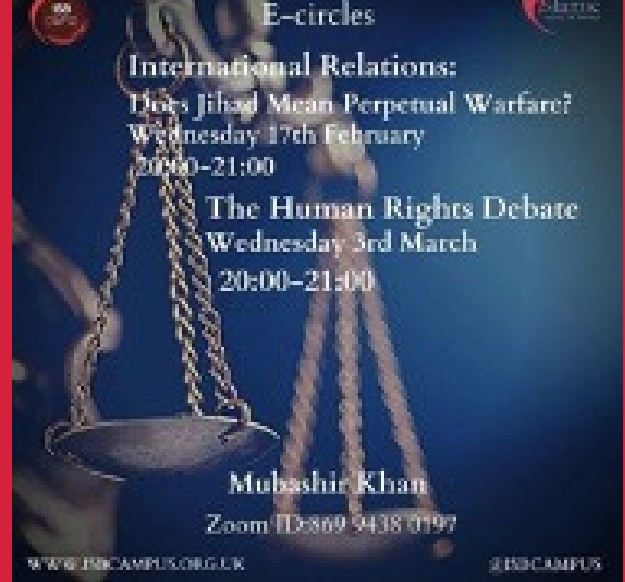
In addition to these projects, Campus has worked in partnership with University societies to create and deliver talks on a variety of issues. Campus mentors Dr Rizwan Syed and Dr Sara Saigol have led talks for the University of Birmingham's Islamic Medical Society for Medical and Dental Sciences and for the University of Kent's Islamic Society (ISoc) respectively. For International Women's Day 2021, Campus worked with several university groups including Brighton ISoc, Bristol ISoc and Exeter ISoc amongst others, to present a series of talks on Zoom exploring the concept of 'Men and Women as partners in faith and society', which were very well received.



The weekly Quranic Arabic classes are led by Dr Riza Mohammed and follow a structured course aimed at teaching basic Arabic grammar and vocabulary common in the Quran. The tajweed circles are segregated by gender and lead by Shazia Qureshi, with a discounted price for ISB members. We currently have two class groups and we are looking to expand to three insha'Allah.

Alongside the Ramadan study circle packs Campus created and shared, the Campus Study Material project also focuses on making content for Islamic reminders easily accessible. The Campus Circle Material project aims to collate educational Islamic content from a variety of sources and use it to create a centralised, formatted and organised set of resources accessible on the ISB website. One of the primary purposes of this is to provide a convenient set of materials which can be used to create and present Islamic study circles. To reinforce this, we will soon be launching the Transformational Youth Leadership Programme, a platform providing condensed notes and classes hosted on a virtual learning platform for people to digest and benefit from insha'Allah. Further information on these can be found on the ISB Campus section of the main ISB website.

E-Circles

A highlight of the year has been the virtual fortnightly e-circles. The 'Classical to Contemporary' e-circles followed a syllabus developed and run by Dr Rizwan Syed, attended by and with reminders given by young Muslims across the United Kingdom. These included special series on a variety of topics, such as a series on 'Islamic Slavery: Text and Context' which was also led by Dr Rizwan Syed, and contemporary topics, including International Relations and Human Rights, which were led by Mubashir Khan.



E-Circles

Re start on Wednesday 4th November & alternate Wednesdays after.
Everyone is welcome!

Topic: What is a good Muslim?

- We like to call people 'good Muslims' or 'bad Muslims' but who actually decides?
- We will reveal Islam's undisputable Spiritual Code: follow this code and you will enter Jannah!



Syllabus Title: Classical to Contemporary
With Dr. Rizwan Syed

20:15 - 21:00 - Open session. Everyone welcome!
21:00 - 21:20 - Campus only session with reminder and opportunity to further discuss the E-Circle

Zoom ID: 869 9438 0197

For further details please email Campus@isb.org.uk


@isbcampus isbcampus.org.uk isb.org.uk

E-Circle

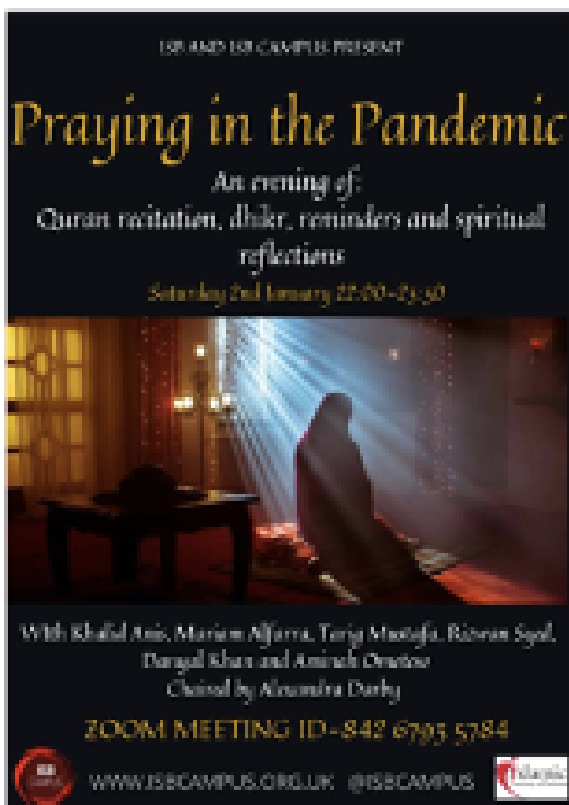
Islamic Slavery? Text and Context

With Dr Rizwan Syed



Wednesday 16th December 2020 8pm

Over the lockdown period, these virtual circles were made open to all ISB members. As things open up again, we envisage these circles taking on a new form that is more tailored to a Campus audience by becoming a closed, more interactive circle. This is intended to help participants feel more able to ask questions amongst their peers.



Masterclasses

Whilst our masterclasses would normally happen in person, this year we ran several online. These were attended by a large number of people live, as well as being broadcast onto the ISB Campus Facebook platform, with the recording later watched by many on the BritIslam YouTube channel. The masterclasses covered contemporary issues and featured speakers such as Ismael Lea South, Sheikh Dr Munir Ahmed and Dr Khadijah Eishayyal amongst others. Their titles are listed below, and recordings of them can be found on the BritIslam YouTube channel (link below).

- A closer look at gender segregation (30th May 2020)
- Why people embrace and leave Islam (6th June 2020)
- Islam and Evolution (20th June 2020)
- Black British Muslims (4th July 2020)
- Remembering Srebrenica (18th July 2020)
- Atheism and Islam: A contemporary dialogue (31st October 2020)
- Capitalism is Broken (28th November 2020)
- Towards greater Understanding: Shi'a - Sunni Dialogue (20th December 2020)
- Women in Mosques (30th January 2021)
- Thinking about Giving (28th March 2021)
- COVID-19 Vaccine: Explaining the facts (14th February 2021)

Masterclasses were also offered as dua gatherings, also hosted on Zoom and available on the YouTube channel:

- Praying in the Pandemic (2nd January 2021)
- Praying for Palestine (29th May 2021)
- Seeking the Night of Power Together (9th & 10th May 2021)

BritIslam. Please do visit, subscribe and share - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BritIslam>

Structure

Moving forward, there are several committees to oversee the projects we have been managing and a main Coordinator team to direct and oversee the sub-committees. The Campus Coordinators consist of three Campus members (Aliya Ismangil, Yusuf Varsani and Alexandra Darby) with each taking a three-month session as the Lead Coordinator. The coordinators feedback to the Campus Committee, a team of 13 Campus members and five older mentors from the main ISB group. The working sub-teams include a social media team, a website team and regional teams. The regional teams are three groups, each led by a Campus member. Before COVID-19 restrictions limited social interactions, they hosted monthly socials, most often with an Islamic reminder. Currently, the regional groups have, during term time, monthly online meetings with social time, a discussion and an Islamic reminder. The Campus North regional group has led on several local community projects, including a Christmas gift project providing meals to local homeless shelters, and a Women's shelter. As restrictions are easing, and it becomes safer to meet in person, we are looking into restarting and re-energising our regional groups insha'Allah.

Website and Social Media

The website and social media team have been busier than ever over the lockdown period working on updating and developing the new ISB website and social media accounts. This includes establishing a new platform on WordPress, and working on the branding and content for the Instagram, Facebook and YouTube pages and channels.

A soft launch version of the website is available now at isb.org.uk

ISB Campus has a very active social media working group and video editing group who develop content for our platforms. Daily posts include reflections, reminders, promotion of our events and wellbeing messages. We've held Instagram Q&As in the past and encourage interactivity with our members. We are also developing an ISB magazine with two issues already available; this team is led by Farah Morley with input from Campus members. Both issues are available on the ISB website.

Future plans

We are currently also in planning for our upcoming in-person residential, with the theme of 'Seeking the Divine' (12th-14th November). The lead is Faiz Salim and several interactive workshops are being arranged with guest speakers including Sheikh Shafi Chowdhury. This will mark our first face-to-face event since the national lockdowns.

We hope to continue to work and improve on the format next year, God willing. I am blessed by Allah to be lead Coordinator for this period, on a project that has so much potential and that puts me in contact with such incredible Muslims across the United Kingdom. May Allah continue to bless this project, guide its leaders and bless all those that contribute towards its vision. Ameen!

Alexandra Darby - ISB Campus Lead Coordinator



Friday Sixth form circle

20:00-21:15

Friday 2nd July 2021

Topics

Community life with 20 members

Good character in the Quran?

How to hold a debate

England's performance in the FA Euro 2021

England's performance in the FA Euro 2021

email: campus@isb.org.uk to register



Campus Sixth Form Circle - 16 to 18 years

Every other Friday evening, the sixth form circle meets online.

There is always a current affairs interactive session and then a faith-based topic, as well as discussions on contemporary issues that affect Muslim youth today. ISB and Campus members are asked to deliver short talks and reminders regularly. These have included Tawqeer Rashid (ISB Manchester in-charge) and Rebecca Elias (Why should we help others?).

Campus members who have spoken include Moheez Hussain, Rasheed Miladi and Ameena Omoteso (on student and university life); Aadam Varsani (What is success?); and Rahma Anis and Ali Drabu (Gender Ethics). Alexandra Darby has met a few participants for extra advice and support outside the circle.

All circle participants are encouraged to deliver reminders, and these have been fantastically delivered.

Topics that we have covered include:

Current Affairs

- The inauguration ceremony of Joe Biden
- Capitol Hill riots
- Racism in sport
- Palestine crisis
- The situation in Afghanistan

Faith based topics

- The miraculous nature of the Quran
- Belief in God
- Luqman's advice to his son
- Surah Furqan - the Beloveds of Allah
- Taqwa and 'Udwaan
- Aspects of Seerah
- Meaning of Prayer
- Ramadan

Contemporary topics

- Mental wellbeing with scenarios based on bullying and parties/clubbing
- LGBT issues
- Gender ethics

Friday e-Circle

For 16-18 Year olds



Friday 2nd July

20:00-21:15

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION:

-Life of prophet Muhammad (SAW)

The discussion will take place through several Seerah narratives

INTERACTIVE SESSION:

-Dealing with bullying

-Dealing with challenges in Imaan (Faith)

-Social engagement (politics, environment)

Friday Sixth form circle

20:30-21:45

Friday 10th September

Topics

History of the Afghanistan conflict



Dr Sara Saigol - Circle Lead Coordinator

YOUNG MUSLIMS

Aims to educate youngsters aged 11 to 16 years



The Young Muslims UK

YM Weekly e-Circles

These have continued since last Ramadan, with a total of 371 devices having signed up for the e-Circle. Of these 371, approximately 106 are from Birmingham. The remainder are from a total of 6 countries worldwide and 48 towns/cities.

The circles continue to have an average attendance of 45 sign-ins per week, with some sign-ins having 3+ youngsters participating.

YM Camp April 2020 - "Your Mother, Your Mother, Your Mother"

This camp had been planned and booked for April 2020. There were 36 bookings made one month before the camp was scheduled to go ahead. Due to the pandemic, the SMT decided to cancel the booking and refund all of the people who had booked. The preparations are still in place for when restrictions are fully lifted and the SMT (which also consists of two medical doctors) feel that it is safe to proceed.

Daily Dhul-Hijah e-Circles

The best days of the year had circles daily with competitions to keep the youngsters engaged. The youngsters heard reminders about the beauty of the Hajj period and the virtue of the 10 days. They also participated in a competition to produce a model related to the Harem.

Daily e-Circles during Ramadan 2021

The tradition continued with daily e-Circles, competitions and Qiyams during the last 10 nights. There were an average of 45 sign-ins throughout the month. We had a number of competitions running throughout the blessed month, and three Qiyam-ul-Layls, alhamdulillah. When the team feels that face to face circles can continue, we aim to have a Zoom link to the face to face circles for people to attend remotely if their locality does not have a local YM Circle.

Developments

Weekly Level 2 Circles

A 13+ break out room was started just before Ramadan 2021 which is attended by approximately 15 sign-ins. This is a more in-depth study circle which involves a greater degree of youngster participation, and there are currently three regular, consistent mentors who teach this level. The youngsters are already involved in delivering reminders to the L1 circles on a weekly basis.

L2 Circle development using the Woking Syllabus

The team are involved in developing a syllabus for youngsters to follow which is based on the tried and tested Woking Syllabus. The intention is that youngsters who attend the L1 circle will be invited to the L2 circle when they come of age.

Promotional Activities

WhatsApp Messenger

Weekly reminders are sent to hundreds of phone numbers on groups which have grown since the circles began..

Social Media Advertising

A paid campaign was set up throughout Ramadan in which approximately 25,000 targeted people were reached with the e-Circle flyer and registration link.

Unity FM in Birmingham

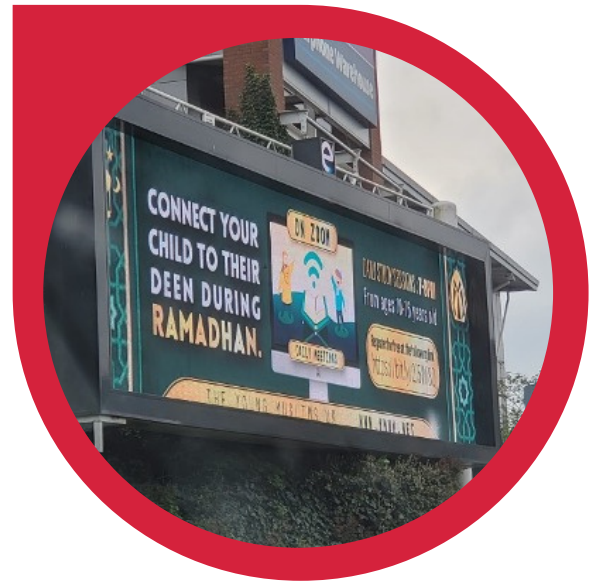
This method of promotion has also been used before for local face-to-face circles in Birmingham.

Promotion of e-Circles and projects through digital advertising billboards

A paid campaign was set up throughout Ramadan in prime locations around the city of Birmingham.

Regular Website Updates - www.ymuk.net

The website has been kept up to date with projects and activities. This is the go-to place for all of our marketing. The resources here have also increased, and now include a step-by-step guide to creating a circle in your locality.



Projects

Stop Motion Competition

The aim was to get youngsters involved in producing great Islamic content. There were 15 entries and a showcase in which a winner was chosen.

Surah Kahf Memorisation

We challenged the youngsters to memorise the first 10 verses of Surah Kahf, and by the grace of Allah swt, approximately 29 youngsters successfully managed to learn the verses, masha Allah!

NHS Hospital Dates for Ramadhan

One of the Muslim chaplains asked if the Young Muslims could help with distributing dates to staff at NHS hospitals. Small packs were assembled and then given to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

End of life Dua Cards for Muslim Chaplains

The YM team is continuing to design a special Dua Card for families of patients who are ill, and for those who have recently lost a loved one.

Feeding 1000 Families

YM UK, in conjunction with the Muslim Scouts, are aiming to feed 1000 families with food packs. So far, around 600 food packs have been made and distributed to vulnerable families, and we aim to complete the project by the end of June, insha Allah. The packs contain a great message from the Young Muslims, which we hope will elevate the spirits of Muslim as well as non-Muslim families in need, insha Allah - the template for national rollout is on our website.



Prayer Mat Competition

YM aim to hand out portable prayer mats for people attending mosques during the pandemic. The youngsters have submitted their designs, and the winner will be announced shortly, insha Allah.

Sleep Pod Fund Raiser

Refugees and rough sleepers have a much more difficult time during the winter months. YM managed to fundraise £1,000 for a project to produce “sleep pods”, which help save lives, masha Allah!

Hospital Virtual Visitor Project

After brother Mohammed Ali from Aerosol Arabic lost his mother during the pandemic, he reflected upon how difficult it was to stay in touch with loved ones who were isolated in hospital wards. He created a “toolkit” for people who would like to stay in touch with loved ones stuck in hospital using video calling.

YM have been liaising with brother Mohammed and a Muslim chaplain to see if we can help to produce a pack of items to donate to hospital wards which would allow loved ones to stay in touch throughout the pandemic and beyond, insha Allah.

Dua Box

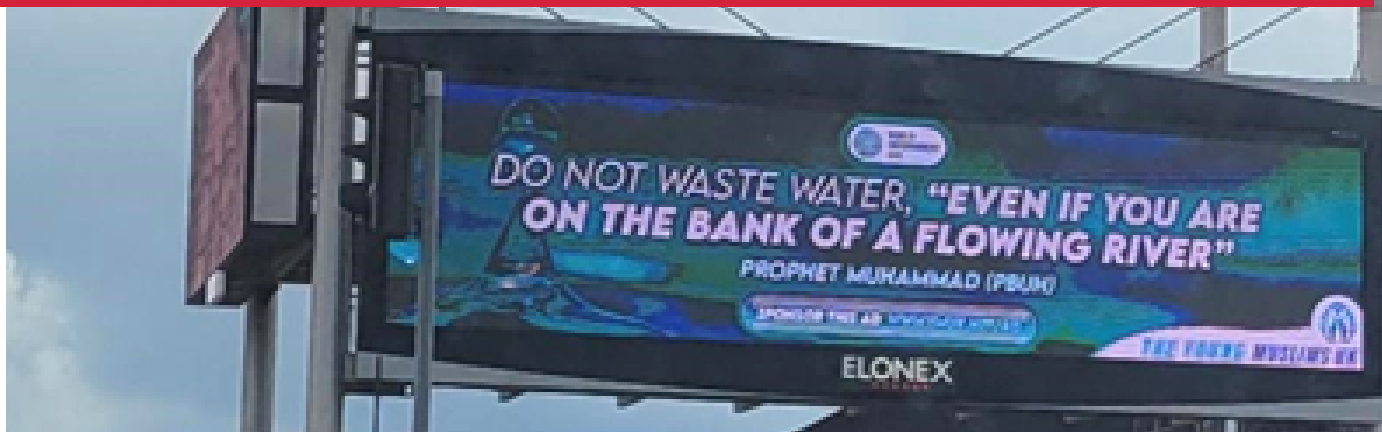
After the Dua Cube project proved to be of great use, the next project to teach our youngsters everyday duas was born. The Dua Box has been developed in conjunction with a tech company in China which will teach youngsters their duas for entering and leaving the home, entering and leaving the bathroom, beginning and finishing eating, and before sleeping and upon waking up.

Laptops donated by Serco

We were blessed to be given 5 reconditioned laptops for distribution to youngsters who were struggling to attend the e-Circle. We had a number of entries, and alhamdulillah, we managed to distribute them to youngsters in need.

Design a Billboard Competition

The circle attendees were asked to design a billboard promoting positivity in Islam. Throughout the last year, YM have been sending positive messages out to the public through digital billboards. An example is shown below:



Covid Pack

2,000 Community Care Packages including hand sanitiser, gloves, tissues and masks were made and distributed to vulnerable people at the beginning of the Pandemic.

Dua Cube

Dua Cubes were made last year for people in hospitals who were potentially terminally ill. The concept was to have the Dua Cubes constantly reciting the Shahadah and Quranic surahs.

Pixeleyed Pictures – Rizwan Wadan

YM was filmed distributing Covid Community Care Packages to vulnerable people by Pixeleyed Pictures. Their goal was to film the contribution of Muslims during the pandemic.

Daily e-Circles during Ramadan

To keep the youngsters engaged with their spirituality during Ramadan Lockdown, the e-Circles ran daily in an attempt to continue the “Ramadhan Feeling”



The Young Muslims UK

2020

HIGHLIGHTS



Nadim Tahir - YM Lead Coordinator

SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROJECT

A unique and exciting project presenting Islam and its lived experience in schools and bringing schools into mosques. It provides students and teachers with a stimulating programme of discussions, demonstrations and interactions concerning the Islamic faith at primary and secondary level.

The groundwork began in August 2020, where we created a working group consisting of existing team members who ran this project very successfully at AHMA (Altrincham and Hale Muslim Association) over the course of ten years.

With frequent requests for presentations of Islam and the school-mosque workshops, the importance of this work was evident. ISB planned to develop this, benefitting schools nationally and providing this valuable and appropriately communicated set of resources. This would be presented by volunteers who would undergo our training and coaching process under the supervision and support of our experienced leaders.

The overall objective of Schools Outreach is to help teachers deliver their RS syllabus. The aim is to provide an immersive experience at the mosque with sensory and interactive elements, for example a discussion of the characteristics of our local mosque, referring to its design and outstanding features and understanding the role of the mosque in the community. Other elements include a mood board, pictures and a quiz of famous Muslims, listening to a live recitation of the Quran (looking at it visually and noticing its distinguishing features), a demonstration of the daily prayer and much more. The Islamic Spiritual Code underpins the presentation. Important contemporary topics such as gender issues and the media are covered at secondary level. There are also further discussions on tricky and commonly asked questions for this age group.



FEB
2021

Awareness Seminar. The project was launched with an insight from the presenters.

MAR
2021

Training Seminar for primary schools and the foundation of secondary schools.

JUN
2021

Secondary School Training Session.

OCT
2021 TO JAN 2022

To run coaching sessions for committed volunteers who will then embark on running the project in their locality.

At the last seminar, the feedback poll from our attendees was excellent, with the majority stating that they wanted to undertake further coaching. The project has also attracted funding while in its developmental stage from the local community. MCB is keen to partner with us to combine our resources for this work. Some feedback from attendees:

“ Loved the session, can't wait to continue with you and get access to the resources. I was always looking for something like this, pass on my personal thanks to the team

I was impressed with the quality of the material, the content and your delivery, alhamdulillah

As an Islamic Studies teacher and head in the Middle East for many years, this has been really impressive and brilliant. I look forward to learning more from the Schools Project

”

Sahdia Salim - Project Lead

BRANCHES



01. Manchester

Manchester is one of ISB's more active branches, though not without its challenges of lockdown and co-ordinating activities over such a wide geographical area. Also, the many mosques and organisations around the city provide a great service for both Muslim and non-Muslim oriented activities. As examples, we have Heritage Radio and centres like the Muslim Youth Foundation, British Muslim Heritage Centre and the nearby European Institute of Islamic Sciences.

1. Family Circle

- This used to occur every 3-6 months
- Around 100 people attended
- Popular with branch members
- We did one online meeting oriented to our older members

2. Boys Circle

- Every week for secondary school boys
- Around 5-10 boys
- In lockdown this has been folded into the current YM online circles

3. Meals Outreach

- Every week we provide food from volunteers to the homeless & vulnerable
- Around 85 people fed per week
- This has continued through lockdown

4. Ramadan Feed Project

- In the last 10 days of Ramadan, ISB committed to ensuring nobody in the city of Manchester went one day without a good meal
- Working with local donors and restaurants, this project was a great success
- Alhamdulillah around 5-6,000 meals were provided for free
- Project repeated on a smaller scale in dhull hijjah when 700 meals were provided

5. Youth Care Home Visits

- Very popular activity with secondary school children visiting a care home for the elderly: around 10 children each time
- Project continuing in an online format

6. Covid Vaccine Volunteer Support

- Every week, ISB provides volunteers at two different vaccination centres to help marshal, support and organise those attending for vaccination.
- This was started in January 2021 in response to the COVID pandemic and the availability and need to get the local population vaccinated.



02. Glasgow

Glasgow, like all other localities, has suffered from the effects of COVID. We would usually have had a very active branch with activities such as the Family Circle, which involves all the family members with appropriate activities. A chance to learn together and catch up with friends over a nibble of lunch.

Our flagship annual event IAW was not able to take place which has been one of the prominent events in our calendar – much collaborative work takes place during this week.

Universities take part along with interfaith activities. The bulk of the work sees us contacting schools and inviting them to the mosque, which has been very popular, not just with schools but also with volunteers. The week finished with a dinner where we had relevant talks, with an array of community members, teachers, doctors and members of interfaith groups invited to share a meal together and network.

We also would have had summer activities such as BBQs, outdoor walks and picnics.

One of the things we did manage to achieve was an ongoing sisters and brothers usrah which kept people nourished spiritually. Mainly focusing on Quran tafseer and lively discussions on topical issues.

We also had a boys usrah running for as long as we could. This involved an immersive style of learning including reminders, topical discussions and quizzes.

The Glasgow branch has benefited immensely with the various online talks ISB nationally organised throughout COVID.

A small team of Glasgow volunteers has been actively taking part in the schools project training events with the hope to start getting schools to come to the mosque for Islamic awareness throughout the term time.

We saw the ISB Glasgow branch pulling together by raising money amongst us and cooking meals for refugee families in the month of Ramadan.

Memuna Chaudry - Glasgow Branch Coordinator



03. Birmingham

The Birmingham branch has struggled through COVID. Before lockdown, local YM had regular weekly Friday study circles taking place at Birmingham Central Mosque. We had about four circles going on for different age groups at the same time. However, they had to end abruptly. After starting them online, there was a great take up of about 40/50 young people taking part.

We're now at a stage where we're looking at restarting Campus. YM circles have come to a halt for now, as we don't have a suitable venue to restart them at.

Mahmooda Qureshi – Birmingham Branch Coordinator



04. Luton

Greetings of Peace!

SubhanAllah the last twenty months have been a trial. The story of our branch and its many achievements are set in this context - where we were before and after the impact of the pandemic on our locality.

Before COVID-19 entered into our lives, we had a new scout group run by the branch with the Scout Association run by Muslim leaders and with an Islamic ethos. We were holding regular circles for the family and various events and gatherings.

Once the lockdown was required, our scout group was put on hold and our circles moved online for the duration of the first wave. Ramadan during lockdown was a trial but was also blessed. For my own family, we read our Eid salaah in our backyard. As the country opened up (remember "eat out to help out"?), the various venues were still closed, and the National Youth Association alert status was red - meaning no youth work and activities were permitted inside or out.

We went into the second lockdown and this for us was a real trial. Our dear branch-in-charge Soheb was shielding as a vulnerable individual while the impact in our community escalated significantly. At this time Soheb stepped away and I took over the branch again with the agreement of the local shura.

Over the last 20 months, the scout group was closed by the district and our circles had not happened for some time. Our volunteers have dwindled away and our engagement with members has been quite limited.

We plan and Allah (s) plans! So, we are now ready to rebuild our branch. We have plans for a new YM-scouts youth group based on the scouting model that is ready to launch. We will start recruiting and training adults to support. We also have a camp planned which will now be spring/summer 2022 insha'Allah. We have more to do with growing our activities in the locality and look to partner with others on projects to support and develop our local community. Membership remains a challenge, but we have a plan ready to start recruitment once our dear brothers and sisters at national level are ready to help us get this moving.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved or would like to know more about what we are planning, do reach out via luton@isb.org.uk, or to myself directly at husman@isb.org.uk.

Husman Khan – Luton Branch Coordinator



05. Sheffield

Assalamu Alaikum

We were unable to do much work due to COVID-19. Somehow we have diverted our energy helping humanity in different ways.

We were supplying 180 food parcels to food banks per week.

On two occasions, we distributed cooked meals to 100 families.

We were working alongside the church together to fight poverty. We attended weekly COVID-19 Faith Group Meetings with representatives from NHS/Faith/Food bank. It was very useful and we learned a lot.

We also helped asylum seekers with food/clothes and gave them copies of the Quran. The church and some mosques donated food.

I attended a memorial Service for the Duke of Edinburgh and also a service for the Lord Lieutenant.

We participated in a meeting with faith leaders discussing the Government Immigration/Asylum Bill. The Bishop of Sheffield sent a letter on our behalf to the Home Secretary expressing our strong reservations to the content of the Bill.

During the pandemic, we were not able to do any school assemblies.

Future Plans

- Organise a mosque open day subject to COVID-19 restrictions
- Memorial Service: the church are having meetings with me to finalise it.
- Interfaith Conference on Climate

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done; we are monitoring the situation.

I pray to almighty Allah to guide us to the straight path and protect us from COVID-19. Give us imaan and taqwa.

I have been invited to a talk at a conference for Black History Month.

Next Friday I will talk about the impact of poverty



Abdool Gooljar - Sheffield Branch Coordinator