



TERM REPORT 2015 – 2017



ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BRITAIN
26 YORK STREET
LONDON W1U 6PZ
0300 365 10 9 8
INFO@ISB.ORG.UK

FACEBOOK.COM/BRITISLAM



FLICKR.COM/BRITISLAM

@BRITISLAM



YOUTUBE.COM/BRITISLAM



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	5
OFFICE	
ABOUT US	

DEPARTMENT	10
STRATEGIC REVIEW	
COMMUNICATIONS	
YOUNG MUSLIMS	

EVENTS	16
ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK	
LIVING ISLAM FESTIVAL 2016	

SERVICES	20
ISB CAMPUS	

BRANCHES	21
BRADFORD	
GLASGOW	
HALIFAX	
LEICESTER	
LONDON	
MANCHESTER	
BIRMINGHAM	
SHEFFIELD	

TREASURERS REPORT	33
ELECTED AND APPOINTED TERM 2015 - 2017	

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

AJMAL MASROOR

Dear brothers and sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah

I pray you are well and this address reaches you at the peak of your spiritual, physical and emotional health. I begin by thanking Allah for His abundant blessing and sending my salam, salutations and peace and blessings of Allah upon our beloved Prophet.

I would like to welcome you to 2017 Annual Members Meeting and this year's annual report.

I would like to give you a bit of a background before I introduce you to this report. Many people ask me why I joined the Islamic Society of Britain? The answer has always been as clear as the daylight for me. I joined ISB in 1994 with big dreams and mountain high expectations. In my activist lifestyle I have come across many organisation but no other organizations has offered me hope and vision of making a brilliant home in Britain, where my identity as Muslim and British would be intertwined and the destiny of Britain would directly be shaped by all its citizens including British Muslims. I felt ISB was proposing a vision to making Islam and Britain symbiotic and a partnership of equals.

I can proudly say that this clarity of thinking has been the unique hallmark of Islamic Society of Britain. We have made every effort and at the heart of every project there has been an unyielding motivation to benefit people of Britain – Muslims or otherwise. Nearly 30 years has passed, we have served thousands of people and most major cities in the UK.

I am certain that you share with my dream of offering a productive life in Britain. Long may this dream continue and long may our work programmes reflect our core ambitions.

Now let me take you through my quick address and let you enjoy a good and thorough read of the rest of the document.

I was elected one year ago by the ISB membership and I promised to do three things:

- Return ISB to its original vision
- Reactivate members and branches
- Restore balance in ISB's internal and external communications

As soon as I was elected I made it my mission to visit as many of our branches as possible. I wanted to meet as many members of our organisation in person and speak to them directly. I was longing to hear from the members to learn about their own perceptions of where they saw ISB was heading and their own vision of where they wanted ISB to go. I quickly learned that there was a huge discontent between



ISB national leadership and the grassroots members. Many complained that ISB had lost its way. I reassured them that I would do my level best to return ISB to its original vision. With this in mind we assigned a team headed by Zafar Iqbal to engage our members from all branches and walks of life to hear, propose and develop an inclusive vision for ISB. Please refer to the section on ISB strategy in this report.

I reached out to various branches and found that the state of branches were extremely dire. For example there was a branch where the entire local shura had resigned and left the organisation; another where the local activities were circulating around one family circle a month; another branch where members were operating in a very disjointed manner with local personalities clashing and no resolution on sight; another where a number very senior and veteran ISB members lived but the branch was non-existent and another where dissolution and discontent amongst members meant a large number of the local members were on the brink of leaving or had left. There were several branches where the activities revolved around one or two people and the branches were only in name.

I can report to you that with a bit of support and encouragement we now have 7 solid branches that are slowly but surely getting their local activities together and attracting new members and seeing a return of the old ones. I am hoping that in the next term our branches would increase in number and membership would double.

I have struggled extremely hard to restore balance in the ISB's internal and external communiqué and that has been the toughest task in my role as the chair of ISB for the last one year. In our organisation we have always aimed to offer a broad base for all opinions that are balanced and in

the middle (wasat, as mentioned in the Quran). We have aimed to express a balanced narrative that lies in between the extremes. However, it was felt by a large number of our members that our organisation was lurching too far to one side and never allowing the opposite view to be expressed. In the last one year I have tried my level best to return our organisation to the original position of being a broad base for all opinions in the centre.

Unfortunately we have had a substantial change in our office in the middle of my term. Our full time director resigned from his position due to personal circumstances. This has left us in a state of uncertainty and it would require a proper analysis and evaluation before restarting the process of appointment of a new director. In the last national shura meetings this was discussed and action was agreed. It was felt that the appointment of new director should be led by the next elected shura and chair. In the mean time, the organisation has continued its activities and depended on an interim team consisting of chair, 3 vice chairs and general secretary. A seasonal part-time admin support staff has supported the team.

The good news is we are all heading in the right direction. I believe I have worked hard to achieve my 3 main aims to certain degree but with more time and fully staffed office I would be able to make further improvements and changes. Our campus work has been brilliantly managed and led by Sara Saigol and under her leadership campus programme has grown from strength to strength. Rabiha Hannan has provided a superb leadership in running our Young Muslims department. Parents of young teenagers who have attended our YM programmes have expressed immense gratitude. Islam Awareness Week was also successfully completed this year and this was possible due to a team effort from Hifsa

Iqbal, Asma Ali and Joe Dobson. Asma Mustafa put together an exceptionally exciting family retreat attracting a large number of families from all over the country. We have spent this year deeply reflecting on the future of Living Islam and the final recommendations are yet to be formulated. Many of our departments need to be reorganized and new leadership should be appointed. I believe this would happen in the next term.

My recommendation for the next shura and chair would be 3 things:

- Increase membership and branches all over the country by creative and relevant local activities
- Establish a robust admin office that can support local branches and national programmes
- Have a balanced communications team that has its fingers on the pulse of their membership and is smartly aware of the external changing narratives.

It is important to note that each and every member of our organization exert their voluntary time and effort to make things happen. This is the proof of their commitment to ISB and without this our work would not progress at all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every person who has been so amazing in standing together keeping our brotherhood and sisterhood alive. The love we have for each other is stronger than anything else that binds us. And we do all this for the pleasure and Grace of Allah. May Allah make our work successful, accepts our efforts and increases our love.

I would also like to take this opportunity to seek your forgiveness for my failures and ask Allah to forgive me for all my shortcomings.

Thank you

Your brother

Ajmal Masroor

Chair, Islamic Society of Britain

OFFICE

The Islamic Society of Britain is a community based charity and not-for-profit company. Established in 1990, we were one of the first organisations that sought to evolve a uniquely British flavour to Islam.

In order for this to happen we felt that Muslims would have to think seriously about understanding their faith in a British context.

Our aims are:

- To promote greater understanding and awareness of Islam
- To organise, educate and enhance the development of British Muslim communities
- To encourage positive contribution to British society and the promotion of social justice

We are one of the largest national networks of British Muslim volunteers, successfully harnessing the broad skills base of our members, who hail from a variety of backgrounds – ‘stay at home’ mums and dads as well as doctors, lawyers, teachers...

Members directly elect the Chair along with a National Policy Board (Shura) that overlooks the direction and policies of the organisation. A National Executive overlooks the operation and delivery of projects. Locally, members also elect a Branch Co-ordinator and set up working committees to direct local voluntary work.

The Islamic Society of Britain has played an important and positive part in how British Muslims think about their faith.

Some of our innovative activities often broke new ground, emboldening and empowering many others to create projects of their own.

The Islamic Society of Britain views Islam as a religion of peace and a continuation of age-old teachings from God to humanity. Not as a new religion, but as a way of life that has a strong focus – in spiritual terms on the worship of one God, and in social terms on justice and equity between people.

has grown from strength to strength. Rabiha Hannan has provided a superb leadership in running our Young Muslims department. Parents of young teenagers who have attended our YM programmes have expressed immense gratitude. Islam Awareness Week was also successfully completed this year and this was possible due to a team effort from Hifsa.

At present our Office is run by our Office Manager Afshan Mohi Haque (and as ever we are grateful to her assistance in all that she does to support us).

STRATEGY PLAN

2017-2020

The rationale and methodology for developing strategic framework was approved by the Shura (Appendix A) . A questionnaire was developed to explore the views of the Shura members on the future direction of ISB, it's priorities and the flagship ISB projects. All members of the Shura and Executive were invited to take part in a 1 hour interview. Around 10 interviews were undertaken by a PHD student volunteer identified by Jo Dobson.

When Jo Dobson left ISB the development of the strategy was halted. After a discussion with Husman Khan I have recently agreed to recommence the process. The initial findings of the survey will be analysed in September 2017.

The findings of the survey will be used to develop a discussion paper on future priorities and options for consultation with the Shura and the wider membership.

Zafar Iqbal
September 2017

SB STRATEGY PLAN 2017 – 2020

Introduction

This paper outlines the process and is designed to be a thought document in development of a three year strategic plan. ISB has clear vision and aims :

- To promote greater understanding and awareness of Islam
- To organise, educate and enhance the development of British Muslim communities

- To encourage positive contribution to British society and the promotion of social justice

It is proposed that the current vision and aims is a starting point and they are not to be revised. A great deal of time has already been invested in developing a strategy and the previous material should be a starting point for this strategic plan. ISB has many outstanding projects but careful thought is required on how they evolve to be relevant, cutting edge and most importantly make the maximum impact on British life in the future.

The organisation needs an organisational development plan which ensures the organisation is fit for purpose to deliver the strategy. An organisational development plan needs to be developed in conjunction with the strategy.

WHAT WILL THE OUTPUTS OF THIS STRATEGY?

A number of strategic questions will defined, prioritised and addressed by the membership. Examples might include:

- What measurable objectives does ISB want to set itself, in order to achieve the organisations aims?
- How does ISB develop leadership succession planning?
- How should LIFE evolve?
- Can YM make an impact on mainstream Muslim youth ?
- Can ISB Campus become mainstream in the universities?
- What partnerships does ISB need to develop to further its

aims?

- What relationship should ISB develop with the government and establishment organisations?
- What strategic partnerships does ISB need to develop?
- Does IAW need rebranding and a different focus?
- How does ISB measure its progress its success?
- How does ISB energise and mobilise its membership to contribute to its mission?
- What delivery mechanisms are needed to achieve its ambitions ?

The process for developing the strategy needs to foster ownership of the strategy and encourage all members to participate in delivering the ambitions of ISB

A team with the relevant skills, experience , perspectives and capacity will need to be established to support development of the strategy. The team will require skills to be able to : facilitate workshop, undertake qualitative research and analysis, undertake quantitative surveys and analysis and experience of developing strategies.

The process needs to commence with the Shura and needs ownership and sponsorship from the Shura. Traditional strategy development will be used, techniques including horizon scanning, but building on previous work.

There will be a 4 stage process:

- Initial consultation and engagement with shura , local branches, a survey of all members including young people and new members and important external partners.
- Development of strategic objectives based on the

consultation exercise.

- Testing the strategic objectives with shura, local branches and survey of all members
- Development of the final version to be approved by shura who will approve the final document.
- Publication of an internal document which has a three year plan with clear ambitions, smart objectives and owners.

Timescales

- 1 months to establish process
- 4 months to develop first draft
- 1 months to test first draft
- 2 months for the Shura to develop and approve final draft.

Z Iqbal Nov 2016

COMMUNICATIONS

Our broader Communications work is based on five key fronts:

- Helping output from the organisation to have consistency in message
- Responding to media enquiries and interview requests
- Pro-actively generating publicity and messages
- Building our presence and promoting our message on social media and the Internet
- Developing and training a team to deliver this work and carry it forward

However, over the last two years, we really struggled with manpower in this department and in agreement with the Director, we decided to keep a simple holding position in case any statements were needed in emergency situations. We also agreed to run some training courses and to regularly update our Facebook page.

Key achievements:

- Despite the challenges mentioned we have made some contribution in this area.
- Approval and editing of content from Living Islam Festival and other events to go online.
- Generating news coverage of Living Islam Festival online, in the mainstream press and on radio, reaching hundreds of thousands of people.
- Our Facebook page now has over 175,000 likes and our Twitter account (@BritIslam) has over 11,500 followers and we have provided regular updates and messages on these outlets.

- We sent out statements around the various terror attacks that happened over the last two years (particularly this year).
- We ran two media training events for younger people in the hope of recruiting newer members to the team (but this needs more work to consolidate the individuals that have shown interest).

Many have given interviews over the last two years and we are thankful to them. Special thanks go to Naved Siddiqi, who has now moved on from his position, for taking on the Facebook page and building it from around 12k followers (in 2013) to its current reach (over 175k) in just 4 years. This involved a lot of innovative thinking and regular posts and updates over this time.

Given the climate we live in, the opportunities available are vast. Over the last 16 years since the establishment of the Communications department (originally called Public Relations Committee/Department) and we were able to bring the organisation to a position that was well respected and often approached for comment on stories in the mainstream media. Our spokespersons have been seen to be thoughtful, balanced, credible and non-sectarian. We would regularly get positive comments from members of the public mentioning how our voice helps them to see Islam in its true light.

But given the limits of our voluntary engagement, we are now not able to respond to media enquiries we get and we can't be as pro-active as we would like to be. At the end of this ISB term, it is now time for this team to have new leadership that can give it the time and focus that it deserves.



YOUNG MUSLIMS



The Young Muslims UK

The Young Muslims (YM) is the Youth Department of The Islamic Society of Britain. Initially set up in December 1984, it has gone through a series of transitional changes to meet the needs and requirements of our young people and the changing dynamics of the world. In 2011 after an ISB National Youth Strategy Meeting our focus became 12- 17 years only, since then we have had a burst of activities, over 150 people have joined the organisation, and hundreds more have benefitted from our activities. The department continues to go from strength to strength.

The YM Department primarily aims to teach young people more about their faith, living it in Britain and their responsibility to serve society, making the world a better place. It also helps them to:

- Attain a better understanding of Islam
- Gain confidence in being a British Muslim
- Feel a greater sense of Identity and belonging
- Have access to trips/residential and day courses
- Get contact with inspirational speakers/leaders
- Develop friendships

- Develop a sense of social justice and responsibility to others (regardless of background)
- Attain new skills and experiences – public speaking, team-building, media skills, making videos, comedy, drama etc
- Have lots of fun!

ACTIVITIES:

YM LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME – THE MIDDLE WAY MARCH 2016

All members (YMs) were invited to apply for the course and 24 young people were selected to take part. The event was held at Caythorpe Close PGL Centre and included a combination of practical activities (problem solving, sensory trails, jacob's ladder, the Cube), to test their physical stamina, leadership and team-building skills as well as their mental agility.

This was combined with a theological programme, which looked at the concept of 'balance' in Islam. Through it we explored Islamic texts together to understand the purpose of life; how to strike balance in all things and avoid 'extreme' thinking, who are the Ummah, what is Shariah and Fiqh and how that impacts on our lives in the UK. Everyone was provided with a training pack, which included various text references, duas, We began an additional mentoring phase, where each mentor had a 10 minute session with a young person to understand a little more about them, and provide support/guidance where needed. We also had an open Q and A session in the evenings where young people were able to ask anything that they were concerned about. Prayers and regular reflections were incorporated throughout.

LIVING ISLAM FESTIVAL JULY 2016

The Young Muslims Zone

- approx. 400 – 500 young people
- 4 exclusive Marquees
- 10 concurrent workshops twice a day
- LiFe Packs

Included: Quran, reminders, art, drama, creative writing, debates, discussions, sport, comedy, inflatables, climbing call and virtual reality challenge, entertainment and more!

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING DAYS

Some of our older members 16/17 year olds, who have now been in YM for 3 years, attended 2 workshops over the year, which look at a breadth of the communications process, including:

- Interview techniques for print, radio and television
- Getting your message across effectively on social media
- Building relationships with journalists and media agencies
- Calibrating your message and devising a communications strategy
- The second session involved meeting at Twitter HQ in London

Trainers have included professionals and experts from the mainstream media, as well as individuals from the Islamic Society of Britain Communications Departments.

YOUNG MUSLIMS UK RESIDENTIAL 2016: 'WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS'

Another incredible fun-packed weekend with eighty 12-17 year olds with: workshops, discussions, talent show, camp fire, praying and reading Quran together, reflections by young people, challenging activities: buggy building, challenge course, abseiling, laser quest /Grid of stones, Aerial trek and so much more!

The programme was designed to help give our young people a renewed sense of confidence in being a Muslim in Britain, as well as acknowledge the responsibility we have to making our society a better, fairer place for all. The sessions helped to strengthen our connection with God, encourage team-building, build self-confidence, aid in communication techniques, and deepen our understanding of the importance of 'how and why' we rise by 'lifting others'.

What some of the young people told us about the weekend:

14 year old male: 'It was different to what I thought it would be like – a BRILLIANT different!'

12 year old female: It was an exhilarating experience!

15 year old male: I loved meeting new people and learning new things

13 year old female: The best part was the presentations/workshops and prayers, because they helped me a lot.

16 year old male: The mentors were excellent! I loved all of it THANK YOU!

What parents told us:

'Jazak'Allah Khairan for inspiring and taking care of our youth'

'My kids had a really good time. After coming back, my daughter, nieces and nephew keep asking when the next one is!'

'Thanks ISB for the amazing experience – my kids loved it!'

FAMILY RESIDENTIAL MARCH 2017: 'THE TIE THAT BINDS'

YM ran a parallel programme alongside other ISB family members, where we came together in the evening for families to spend time together through activities and entertainment.

As well as the usual outdoor sports and activities, the YM programme explored the idea of 'The Tie that bind' means to people; how human beings are all connected to one another, how to escape the 'box' that people may often try to put you in, how to avoid stereotypes and discrimination ourselves, how to strengthen our connection with God, family, friends, neighbours and our communities, regardless of their background, and how to bring more love and kindness to the world.

UPCOMING EVENT:

YM RESIDENTIAL OCTOBER 2017 - WHY DO WE FALL?

Yes the long awaited Young Muslim event of the year is back!

Yet another fun-filled weekend of outdoor activities - high ropes, abseiling, zip wire, bonfire, gaining knowledge, team-building, skills development, talent show, Qur'an, spirituality, fun and laughter!

This year, as we will explore:

- The importance of making mistakes
- How to cope when things don't go according to plan
- How to pick ourselves up and ensure we grow through the process
- How in every test there is a blessing and with every difficulty there is ease

The YM department has also tried to provide long term help, support and guidance to our members where possible. Many of our older members

have now moved on to ISB Campus, which has been a seamless transition (run by YM Senior Committee member Sara Saigol), allowing them to benefit from a more mature programme. We have also helped and encouraged our young members to gain skills and experience, by helping out at events, both beforehand and during, and inviting older members to help with group facilitation exercises, administration work, public speaking and even become mentors. If your child is interested in such opportunities, please do inform us.

Residentials and day events have included a rich and varied programme of personal development, spirituality, increasing one's love for God, deepening one's understanding of Islam, team-building.

- **Membership Pack** – new members should receive a membership pack. We have had a few teething problems with this, but they are being addressed
- We have now have a YM team which includes a mixture of adults and young people, who are involved in decision-making and planning upcoming events/activities.
- **Videos** – we have several good promotional videos about YM from our programmes so far, that we can use them to advertise YM and our activities

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

Celebrating Muslim contribution, highlighting our many commonalities and working for the betterment of others is community. This was the central theme in Scotland, whereas elsewhere in the country a similar theme was adopted of "More in Common".

Islam Awareness Week took place from Monday 27th March to Sunday 2nd April 2017. For the first time, two Launches took place in the Parliament. One in the Scottish Parliament and the other in Westminster. Both were well received and attended by a number of high profile guests from all over the country.

Islam Awareness Week is part of a UK-wide initiative of the Islamic Society of Britain running annually since 1994. We aim to engage people of all faiths and none, in achieving a greater understanding of Islam and celebrate the merits and diversity of Muslim UK wide as an integrated part of communities.

In previous years Islam Awareness Week has brought together over hundreds of organisations – Muslim, of different faiths and none – to organise a week of diverse, stimulating and reflective events which provided an opportunity to promote the many commonly shared values of Islam, as well as the contributions made by Muslims to our society.

In a time when Muslims are often seen as the 'other', it is important to overcome this barrier and emphasise the common values such as respect, striving to build a stronger community and a deep rooted love for one another. It is hoped that through various initiatives during Islam Awareness Week there will be many people and groups coming together and a greater sense of community across the UK celebrating what we have in common with each other.

This year, some of the events focused on community outreach initiatives including:

- Providing food and meals to local people who are homeless or destitute
- Visits to elderly residential homes
- Local neighbourhood clean ups
- Visits and workshops to people in prison
- Health awareness sessions and more
- Mosque open days (across Scotland)
- Interactive workshops delivered in schools
- Family fun day in Scotland- Community focused entitled – BeeUnited celebrating nature and Islam.



LIVING ISLAM 2016



The Living Islam festival took place at the end of July 2016. Attended by almost 3000 people and organised by an army of volunteers, before, during and after the event. Still a truly unique event on the British Muslim calendar.

A programme which remains unparalleled, brought together speakers such as Shaykh Ruzwan Mohammed, Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans, Karen Armstrong, Hussain Manawer, Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner and Shaykh Mohammed Akram Nadwi.

The focus of the programme was 'raising the spirit', touching and engaging many spiritually as well as, political, family, community, interfaith and wider societal topics.

A full Scouts and YM programme entertained and educated those aged 5 to 17yrs and for the first time, sessions for 17–25 yr olds were looked after with the launch of ISB Campus.

The new arts and crafts marquee, hosted a range of programmes for all ages and included an exclusive performance by Dawud Wharhaby for our volunteers. The inter-community programme took place on the Sunday

and culminated in the Celebrating Excellence Awards.

Moving forward, the appetite for the Living Islam Festival is strong but needs a new cohort of volunteers to help bring fresh ideas and energy. Any volunteers!!





ISB CAMPUS

An open, spiritual and vibrant space for 18-25 year olds to discuss, debate and learn together in a friendly environment. ISB Campus will prioritise exploring contemporary and tricky topics that affect young people today where no question is barred.

We aim for 2 residential a year, 2 day training programmes/ workshops and a Living Islam Festival Campus every 2 years.

Since Living Islam Festival 2016, ISB campus has achieved the following:

- December 2016 residential 'Today's Problems.....Prophetic Solutions'
- February 2017 residential 'Romeo and Juliet- The Islamic Perspective on Homosexuality and Marriage.'
- March 2017 Day Workshop on Campaigning skills with MADE
- July 2017 residential 'Finding Strength Within The Storm'

We have achieved a database of over 100 young people with around 50 attending youth residential. We have an open and a closed Campus Facebook page which has increased our reach and message. On this we can share ideas, videos and publicity.

We have been producing monthly videos by activists, scholars and academics with short, powerful messages to our youth. Contributors have included Dawud Wharansby Ali, Julie Siddiqi, Ajmal Masroor and many more.....

Our young people have shown amazing skill and commitment in producing fantastic short videos elaborating what ISB campus brings to them.

We also have a youth Whatsapp group to share information and support.

Planned events:

We plan to continue with 2 residential and 2 day workshops a year:

- 16th September 2017 'Not in Our Name- Debunking Extremist Lies and Misinterpretations.'
- July 2018 Living Islam Festival Campus

We hope to galvanise a youth committee and strengthen our social media presence.



BRANCH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

BRADFORD

Branch Coordinator: Shannaz Zahoor

Bradford@isb.org.uk

I have now been Branch Coordinator for Bradford for the past 4 years. It has been beneficial and rewarding for both myself and the community. This report will give you an insight as to what I have been up to in the last 2 years.

SCOUTS

Fortnightly, Young Muslims scouts takes place in the home of either myself or another volunteer parent. The group is made up of young girls and boys aged 6-12 years old in a respectful and inclusive environment. Each week our topics change according to the Islamic months and events. In each session is opened with Qura'an recitation by a scout member. We then explain and divulge in the meaning of the particular verse or Surah recited.

Our recent Eid Ul-Adha event, attended by the scouts and their parents was a success and the children really enjoyed themselves as well as learn the true meaning behind the celebration itself.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & EVENTS

I approached family and friends to organize pick up and deliver eid meals for 20+ vulnerable men and women living in a homeless hostel in Bradford. We also provided portions of Qurbani meat which was donated by a kind sister.

I organized and attended numerous events as part of raising the profile and awareness of ISB. Our flagship project Living Islam 2016 was promoted at local charity dinners which I attended in partnership with Islamic Relief and St Martins Hospice. The Daughters of Eve event held in Bradford was also another chance for me to also talk about and promote ISB and its work.

In partnership with Families Relief and with the generous help of family and friends, I organized food, clothing, essentials and funds to be dropped off at my house and collected by a member of Families relief for their regular containers being shipped to refugee camps in Greece.

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

An interfaith dinner was held at Anams Restaurant, with the theme 'More In Common' which had over 100 attendees. We had various speakers including Abda Khan, Tell Mama organization member, ISB director Jo Dobson.

The tragic death of Police officer Jo Cox in West Yorkshire inspired this years theme of 'More in Common'. We wanted to send out the message that there is unity amongst this multicultural society. Among the attendees were also community police officers, catholic priests, faith leaders who spoke about the importance of our religious and cultural similarities and how they should be celebrated in a diverse community

MOVING FORWARD

It has been an eventful few years for me, at times difficult, nevertheless a great achievement and experience. I have learnt many things along the way. With the help of Allah, I would like to continue being branch coordinator as it has been a fulfilling and a non stop adventure. I have the following plans in the pipeline and would sincerely appreciate the help and support of ISB members, parents and volunteers to achieve these goals insha'allah.

- Parenting Classes/Workshops
- Raising Her profile
- Trip Abroad
- Family Residential
- Regular charity work
- Marriage service including Counselling, couple workshops
- Tackling Mental health and isolation



GLASGOW

Branch Coordinator: Asma Ali

glasgow@isb.org.uk

In Glasgow we decided to focus on the following areas over the last term with the aim of consolidating our branch work and raising the profile of our activities.

MEMBER'S TARBIYYA SESSION

This was piloted in March 2016 and was successful with a large number of YM and ISB members in attendance. The deliverance was through a talk followed by workshops.

Regrettably due to a number of issues including identifying a lead for this area, it was not possible to continue this.

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

Our local team has gone from strength to strength, building excellent partnerships across Glasgow and Scotland.

This was restricted to 3 core projects – a Launch in the Scottish Parliament (the first of its kind and one that attracted the highest level of attendees for a Launch since IAW Scotland); an interfaith family fun day and the ever popular schools project - Reaching out to 1000+ school children over the week.

YOUNG MUSLIMS

Young Muslims work remains active and shows great potential.

We have a number of weekly activity circles running across the city.

We also teach two classes of iSyllabus for Schools every week. A number of activities take place regularly including FIFA tournament.

FEED GLASGOW

FEEDGLASGOW.ORG

Established in 2011, Feed Glasgow was the first initiative of its kind in Scotland to raise awareness amongst local Muslims of the issues affecting the most vulnerable in our society. We have weekly street distributions and also campaigns during winter to collect essential items and clothing.

The ARK Led by some of our most talented ISB members, The ARK is associated with Radio Ramadan Glasgow and is a building which aims to be a dynamic hub providing a home for the new and existing projects coming out of Glasgow's vibrant Muslim community.

WWW.ARK.SCOT

ELDERLY CARE PROJECT

This runs the third Wednesday of every month and involves a consistent visit to the same care home where members from ISB and beyond partake in getting to know the patrons of the care home through activities, talk and games.





HALIFAX

Branch Coordinator: Arshid Zaman

halifax@isb.org.uk

During Ramadan we have held Iftaar to Seri Programs covering the following topic areas:

- Mental Health & well being from a Quranic perspective
- Extremism
- Lessons from the past and potential issues in the future
- Q & A session with Halifax MP Holly Lynch



LEICESTER

Branch Coordinator: Samina Ali

leicester@isb.org.uk

EAT 'N' MEET

Our Leicester Branch initiated Eat n Meet, a campaign that aims to help the homeless and vulnerable in Leicester, by offering a safe, warm place for them to rest and meet others, a hot meal and a bag of essential food, toiletries and clothing.

Our members and volunteers provide these services through a weekly drop-in which runs every Saturday from 11am-2pm. Through this process we are able to meet and talk to those in more difficult circumstances than ourselves, understand their situation better and try to identify what assistance they may need.

MOONWALKERS

Moonwalkers Youth Group is a local club for children aged 5 to 10. It began life in 2007 after an auction dinner ... where £1,000 was raised for it. The group that meets every Friday afternoon at a local hall in Knighton is so popular that now there is a waiting list of children wanting to join.

Children at Moonwalkers enjoy a varied 'curriculum' of prayer, arts and crafts, cookery, drama, trips, visitors and discussion, making learning about Islam fun. Every year, Moonwalkers support a different charity and try to hold a fundraising event that involves the local community. The end of each year is celebrated with the annual End of Year Performance and prize giving where families, friends and relatives come to see the children perform plays, sing songs and give speeches about what they have done that year at Moonwalkers.

ISB STUDY CIRCLE

Our Leicester branch meets every Monday mornings from 9:30-10:30am and is open to all members and non-members. The aim of this circle is to kick off the week with a spiritual uplift discussing Qur'an, Hadith and contemporary issues we have as British Muslims and ways in which we can tackle them.

LONDON

Branch Coordinator: Maswood Ahmed

london@isb.org.uk

Although ISB London has a long history of buzzing with activities, there was a period of slowing down of coordinated activities. However, last year, after the election of the current Chair Ajmal Masroor there was a renewed interest amongst members and a new election was held on 27th November 2017 at which Maswood Ahmed was elected as the London branch president with a new executive (Shura) committee. Since the election the group is going through a process of getting to know each other and organising joined up activities to benefit the membership and the community of London at large.

The branch members were actively involved in feeding the homeless through joint activities with charitable organisations involved in homeless projects.

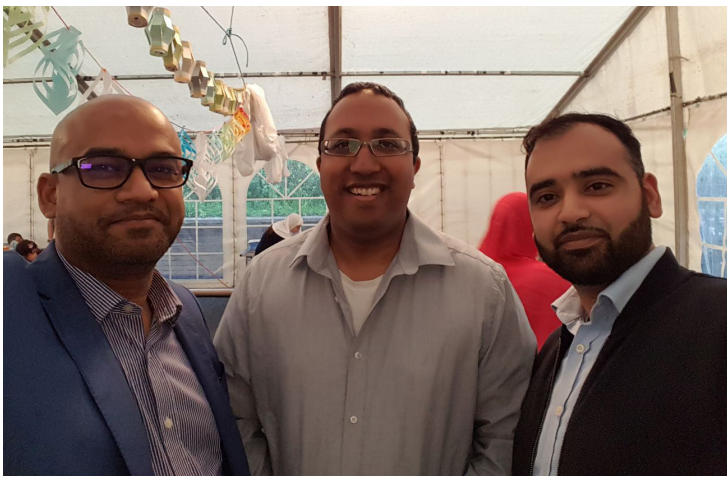
During Ramadhan and Eid festivals members were involved in hosting private Iftar (breaking of fast) events, helping friends and neighbours to have a better understanding of the spirit of fasting and sacrifice. A special community Ifter programme was held in the beautiful Palmers Green Mosque with the help of the organising team which included Sisters Sr Henrietta, Sr Rozina, Sr Atia and Br Din, Br Salim, Br Sibt, Br Ishtiaq and many others who helped out. A good attendance by many non-Muslim friends and

colleagues created a nice a pleasant atmosphere of sharing and caring which resulted in a very successful programme.

ISB London Members attended the National residential event in large numbers and hosted and participated in this unique ISB event that brought the whole family together in the beautiful surroundings of Doncaster.

Members of the branch have been actively involved in organising charitable events in their community and liaising with local community organisations speaking and joining forces in doing good community work that benefits everyone including children and families. One example of such work is the leading role provided by the ISB London Coordinator, Brother Maswood Ahmed following the unprecedented rise in knife crime (particularly in London). Maswood Ahmed has been the campaign coordinator for www.stopknifecrime.uk campaigning on the issue of knife crime through countless media interviews locally and nationally and attending meetings with community and political leaders including the Mayor of London's office.

Although it has been a challenging year, much has been achieved through the events and activities of the members of ISB in London. There is a lot of potential for ISB London to make significant contributions to the Muslims and non-Muslims by creating better understanding and sharing the Islamic message of peace.



MANCHESTER

Branch Coordinator: Khalid Anis

Manchester@isb.org.uk

The ISB Manchester branch held elections in December 2016 with Khalid Anis elected as the local branch coordinator. Subsequently there have been regular and one-off activities.

PEACE WALK

Organised by dr Lutfi Sulaiman, a social and community walk with a purpose! Regular walks are held of varying difficulty and length around the beautiful Greater Manchester and Cheshire countryside. Open to anyone and designed for the whole family. Allows socialization with some exercise and often in conjunction with other local organisations.

FAMILY CIRCLE

A regular gathering of Manchester ISB families and friends to hear a wide variety of talks from speakers both local and national. A wonderful occasion to meet together, gain some knowledge, plan future events and eat biryani!!

BOYS STUDY CIRCLE

A boy's circle for 11-14 yr olds takes place every Sunday in South Manchester, covering a wide range of topics and linking in with the national YM programme.

HOMELESS KITCHEN

Established in 2011, Feed Glasgow was the first initiative of its ISB Manchester regularly supports two homeless shelters in Manchester, including regular provision of food as well as fundraising for necessary clothes and items. Every couple of months a group of volunteers will organise, food cooking, delivery and service to a part of our society that often gets neglected.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Great Get together- Manchester City Centre. In light of the recent Manchester bombing, on the anniversary of the death of Jo Cox, Manchester ISB organized a momentous gathering in Piccadilly Gardens. Organised in conjunction with many other organisations, including Manchester Citizens, The Jo Cox Foundation and Manchester City Council, the event brought together almost 1000 Mancunians, to share food, conversation and music. Covered by Channel 4 and with special guests including Dawud Wharansby and the new Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We have organized a networking seminar to bring together organisations across Manchester, who work in the voluntary sector. Our special guest will be Dr Hany Al Banna . This will take place on the 14th October inshAllah.

BRIMINGHAM

Branch Coordinator:

Birmingham@isb.org.uk

The Birmingham branch has the following areas of work:

- YM
- Family Circle
- Adult Circle
- Interfaith Circle
- UnityFM

YOUNG MUSLIMS

Quite a lot of energy is being invested into developing local YM. Our local YM coordinator is Wahid Anwar.

We have 2 open circles (one for girls and one for boys) running every week during term time and 1 closed circle (girls and boys together) running at the same time as the open circle.

The boys open circle attendance varies from 20 to 40. They have football at the end for half an hour.

They've also had a trip out with the children to Chatsworth Gardens, Peak District in the summer.

The girls open circle attendance varies from 15 to 30. The girls have games in the circle for about 10 minutes in between the main talk and the discussion. We are also planning a trip with the girls at some point.

The closed circle has been overseen by Dr Rizwan, with help from a few people. The youngsters from this circle have helped at Living Islam Festival. They've attended YM national programmes and campus programmes too. They've also had training from Hope Not Hate on Socratic questioning, empathetic listening and how the youth have changed the nation's policy on race relations and civil rights movements.

Local ISB have developed connections with The Feast. The Feast is a Christian charity based in Birmingham, working to promote community cohesion between young people of different faiths and cultures. All the 3 circles have had the opportunity to have encounters with youngsters from the Christian faith. They are encouraged and equipped to discuss their faith in ways which highlight both the similarities and differences between them. This is done with the intention of developing and understanding of other faiths and respecting them.



FAMILY CIRCLE

This is coordinated by Arslan Rafiq. We have a regular Family Circle, which we aim to have once every 3 months. This replaces one of the Fridays we have our circles on. Parents of the children who attend the circle, along with other people are invited to attend the circle. We have food, which gives us the opportunity to talk to one another. Members are also encouraged to bring a dish to share. There is a separate programme for under 6 year olds and one for up to 10 year olds.

STUDY CIRCLE FOR ADULTS

We had a circle run by Dr Allama Khalid from UKIM. This gave us the opportunity to ask questions on challenging issues we are facing in our lives.

This has stopped for now. However, we are considering resuming the circle at some point.

INTERFAITH CIRCLE

This circle has been running for more than a year now. We encourage families to attend with a food dish to share. This gives us the opportunity for all members of the family to talk to someone from a different background and to build friendships.

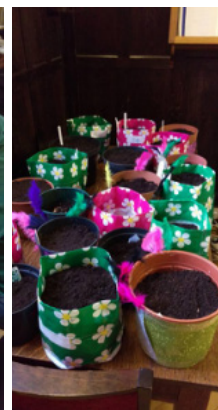
So far, we have potted some plants, carved pumpkins, cooked food, organised a BBQ, made cards, had an Iftar together and done so much more!

This circle is run by ISB and our Quaker friends. Invitation is made out to people of all faiths and backgrounds.

UNITY FM

Birmingham ISB members have been actively involved with UnityFM, as community radio station, since it was established. ISB

Birmingham branch members continue to play a very active role in helping to run the radio station and recruit volunteers for it.





LUTON

Branch Coordinator: Husman Khan

Luton@isb.org.uk

The last two years have been very eventful with highs and lows. After the AMM in 2015, the branch was on hold for a time to reflect on direction and the way forward. During that period, one of our local shura members returned to his Lord in May 2016. Our dear brother Imran Ali lost his battle with liver cancer. Truly from Allah we come and to Him is our return.

The branch restarted at the end of 2016 with a new shura group and since then we have been going from strength to strength by the grace of Allah.

- Our locally sponsored scout group, Beech Hill ISB Scouts has continued to be active with a full cub pack and scout troop. Recent activities include a group camp, a cardboard regatta with the district and several activity badges including a mechanics badge for the scouts repairing old mini-motorbikes.
- Young Muslims UK have started weekly football sessions for boys with training and a reminder happening weekly on Saturday mornings at a local park.
- We have also held Young Muslim circles for brothers and sisters tackling various themes.
- ISB Luton were also part of "The Great Get Together" during Ramadan with several others at a local public "Big Iftar".
- We have run successful "qiyam-ul-layl" programmes at one of the local masjid aimed at families spending time in the mosque.

We have many more things in the pipeline with an active group of brothers and sisters working together to deliver on our aims at grass roots level. By Allah's grace and with patience and duas, the local branch has become much more active and is going from strength to strength.

SHEFFIELD

Branch Coordinator: Abdul Kadir Gooljar

Sheffield@isb.org.uk

The most comprehensive year so far, 2017 has been anything but typical. calling it a 'bad year' is akin to viewing the pacific ocean as 'somewhat damp.' it has been the year of trump, brexit, the seemingly unstoppable lone wolf terror attacks by the islamic state extremists in france, belgium, barcelona, london and germany, to the ongoing challenges of the migrant crisis, the destruction of syria, and the rise of the populist right in europe and a milestone year for the LGBTQ community in various corners of the earth

OUR ACTIVITIES

- School assemblies
- interfaith meetings
- Weekly radio shows
- NHS engagement meetings
- Faith engagement dinners
- Social events
- Open days
- Homeless dinners
- Red rose campaign
- Annual peace walk
- Conference on grooming [ANNUAL INCREASE OF 43%]

OUR FRIENDS

- Lord Lieutenant
- Bishop of Hallam
- SY Police Commissioner
- Head of Sheffield Council
- Leader of Unitarian Church
- Lord Mayoress - Sheffield
- Lord Mayor - Rotherham
- High Sheriff - S Ingram Esq
- Initiative of Change
- Families Relief
- Lord Mayor of Doncaster [ANNUAL INCREASE OF 23%]
- PRESS MENTIONS
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- BBC Yorkshire
- Sheffield Star
- Local radio (iman fm)
- Sheffield Telegraph
- Unitarian Church Newspaper
- Local Church Blogs

TREASURERS REPORT

FINANCE REPORT 2016 SUMMARY

The financial situation of the charity is sound, with relevant reporting to official bodies in order for the year Jan-Dec 2016. Whilst employing a director, it is essential that the director raises funds to contribute towards the costs of her or his employment, as well as generating funds to enhance the work. This report excludes the finances of LIFe project, which is reported separately, but will formulate part of the final accounts.

PRIORITIES IN 2016

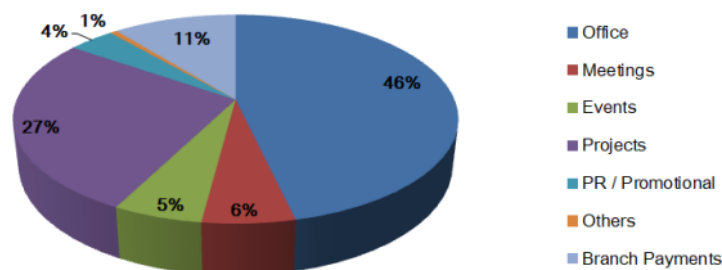
- Organisation of records and improvements in processes, in preparation for electronic accounting system
- Cost reductions and ensuring costs are legitimate and necessary
- Clearing historical debts
- Support of national projects

KEY POINTS

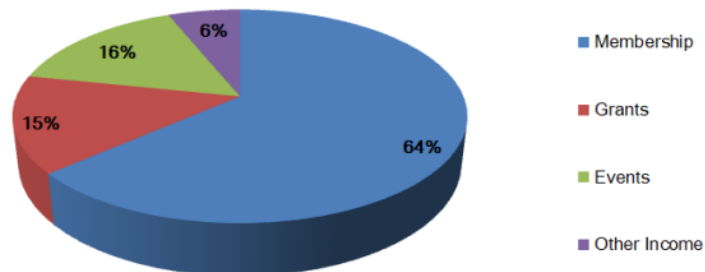
- The charity's Balance sheet shows a healthy figure - largely accumulated during periods when no director was employed.
 - Income
 - Membership income has been steady but not seen an increase in the past 12 months.
 - Income from grants has been low, and needs to be a priority of next director.

- Expenditure
- Costs have been scrutinised to ensure improved value for money, thereby reducing expenditure over the financial year.
- The charts below show the proportional breakdown of expenditure and income.

2016 Expenditure breakdown



2016 Income breakdown



ELECTED & APPOINTED TERM

2015 - 2017

SHURA COUNCIL

The Shura Council is elected every two years at the Annual Members Meeting (AMM). Below is a list of the current elected Shura Council and some of whom are elected Branch Coordinators.

- Ajmal Masroor: Chair
- Ibrahim Varsani: Vice Chair
- Asma Ali: Vice Chair
- Tawqeer Rashid: Vice Chair
- Husman Khan: General Secretary
- Shafeeq Sadiq: Treasurer

- Abdul Kadir Gooljar
- Aman Durrani
- Arshid Zaman
- Dilwar Hussain
- Hifsa Haroon Iqbal
- Khalid Anis
- Mahmooda Qureishi
- Maswood Ahmed
- Dr Mohammed Shafiq
- Naved Siddiqi

- Dr Obaid Khan
- Rabiha Hannan
- Sajid Quayum
- Samina Ali
- Sara Saigol
- Shannaz Kauser Zahoor
- Sughra Ahmed

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Afshan Mohi Haque: Office Administrator
- Asma Mustapha ISB Residential/Retreat
- Dilwar Hussain: Strategic Review Unit & Communications
- Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal/Asma Ali: Islam Awareness Week
- Khalid Anis: Living Islam Festival
- Rabiha Hannan: Young Muslims
- Sara Saigol ISB Campus
- Sibte Ali: IT & Central Repository
- Shafeeq Sadiq: Treasurer
- Zafar Iqbal: Membership

- Joe Dobson (ISB Director - Resigned)
- Sibte Ali (IT - Resigned)









**DO NOT DESPAIR AND DO NOT BE SAD, FOR YOU ARE BOUND TO RISE
HIGH IF YOU ARE [TRULY] BELIEVERS. - SURAH AL IMRAN 3:139**

ISB.ORG.UK