

Muslim engagement
& development

  /mendcommunity

mend

Newsletter



Islamophobia is real
Help us make it history

ISLAMOPHOBIA – THE FACTS

Hate Crime



The Met Police recorded a **70%** annual increase in **Islamophobic** hate crime in London (December 2014 - December 2015)

(Source: www.met.police.uk/crimefigures)

Media negativity

For **every one** moderate Muslim mentioned, **21 examples of extremist Muslims** are mentioned in the British press



(Source: *Representations of Islam in the British nationals 1998-2009*, McEnery, Baker)

National Equality Panel (2010)

Employment discrimination



British Muslims suffer disproportionately **high rates of unemployment** relative to all other groups suffering the greatest **'ethnic penalty'**.

Racial profiling

(Source: *An Experimental Analysis of Examinations and Detentions under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000*)

Muslims experience **disproportionately high levels of stop and search** under counter-terrorism legislation relative to their size in the population reinforcing fears of **being treated as a 'suspect community'**.



Playground bullying



Childline reported a **69%** increase in **'racist' bullying** in playgrounds in 2012.

(Source: *'Can I Tell You Something?'*, Childline/NSPCC)



Online Awareness



3,000+ stories featured

MEND's website provides regular daily news and commentary on news stories impacting British Muslims. Such is the quality and originality of our content, we count high profile personalities such as Russell Brand among our fans!

Media corrections

In November 2015, The Sun published a front page story claiming 1 in 5 British Muslims supported 'IS'. The story was based on a Survation poll and attracted 3,800 complaints to the press regulator, Ipso on grounds of inaccuracy and misrepresentation of the polling data. MEND was chosen as 'lead complainant'. Our complaint was upheld and both The Sun and The Times newspapers were required to publish corrections.



Facebook & Twitter

The last 12 months have witnessed an exponential increase with our combined facebook likes and twitter followers exceeding the 25,000 mark!

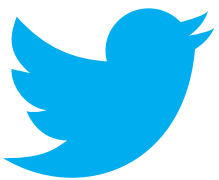
Join our community:   @mendcommunity

MEND APP

In March 2016, we launched our iPhone App so our quality website content is now mobile.



7000+
followers
on Twitter



18,000+
followers
on Facebook



Police, Local councils and Schools

MEND realizes that Islamophobia can only truly be eliminated when society at large embraces the challenge at hand. MEND works with local councils, police forces, schools, interfaith organisations, charitable bodies and community organisations to address this challenge.

Partnering with Police constabularies

Since 2013, we have been working with police constabularies to ensure Islamophobia is recorded under a separate hate crime flag. By 2015, around a quarter of all police forces had committed to recording Islamophobia separately. In late 2015, building on MEND's work, the Government announced that all police forces in England and Wales will be required to record Islamophobia as a separate category of crime with the change taking effect in April 2016.

MEND will continue to work with police forces to ensure anti-Muslim hate crimes are clearly identified and duly recorded taking into consideration 'victim perceptions' of hostility.



Cooperation with Local Councils

The 'Let's End Islamophobia in Manchester' seminar was organised by MEND during Islamophobia Awareness Month in the city. The panel discussion held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour at Manchester Town Hall featured Jim Battle, deputy police and crime commissioner, Fiona Worrall, Director for Neighbourhoods, Manchester City Council, Yousaf Darr, Community Safety Forum alongside MEND. The event was heavily oversubscribed and was popular with practitioners and other communities affected by hate crime.



Building interfaith bridges

Al Madina mosque in Barking, east London, hosted a panel discussion with a local imam, Archdeacon, rabbi and a senior representative of the Sikh faith to discuss 'The Challenges of Faith in Today's Society'. The faith leaders spoke of the need for all communities to work together to tackle Islamophobia, anti-semitism and other challenges to faith groups in modern society.



Locals flock to #Share Iftaar

During Ramadan 2015, MEND Manchester joined the #ShareIftaar initiative run by the Myriad Foundation. Hundreds of work colleagues, neighbours, friends and family joined local Muslims in the breaking of fast.

Trade Unions

The National Union of Teachers invited MEND to deliver a keynote address at the Black Teachers Conference. Founder of MEND, Sufyan Ismail, spoke on 'Islamophobia - the new racism'. The session was very popular with many delegates naming it the highlight of their conference.



School Children and teacher training

MEND has recently developed 'lesson plans' on tackling Islamophobia and has delivered lessons to numerous pupils in schools, with highly positive feedback. At a recent Yorkshire event over 230 students and around 18 teachers were in attendance, learning more about anti-Muslim hate and some of the most common misconceptions of Islam and Muslims. MEND also conducts 'Teacher training' sessions alongside our education partners in Yorkshire exploring the menace of Islamophobia in schools and how teachers can work to eradicate it.



Advocacy & Policy

Westminster advocacy

Launch of Muslim Manifesto – In March 2015, MEND launched its 2015 Muslim Manifesto for the general election with cross party support. The manifesto addressed key issues affecting Muslims and advanced policy recommendations on tackling Islamophobia, enabling Muslim labour market access, reforming the media, improving diversity in politics and public life, overhauling the counter-terrorism strategy and advancing British Muslim integration. MPs from all the mainstream parties attended and spoke at the launch.



Briefing papers

MEND has authored over a dozen briefing papers on topics ranging from Islamophobia and media reform to Schedule 7, Palestinian statehood recognition and profiling at ports and airports.



Lord Rosser with MEND

Counter Terrorism and security Bill

Prior to the passage of the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill, MEND prepared regular briefings and updates for MPs and lobbied for key amendments to the legislation to introduce essential legal safeguards to new powers on passport seizure and temporary exclusion orders. The Act, passed in February 2015, adopted several of our supported amendments.



Sir Keith Vaz and Owen Jones speak at MEND Labour fringe 2014



Lynton Crosby and Peter Osborne speak at MEND fringe at Conservative conference 2014



Conservative conference 2014

Party conferences

MEND have actively participated in annual party conferences hosting popular fringe sessions on topical issues like 'The Power of the Muslim Vote'. Speakers at our recent events have included Conservative Party election campaign consultant Sir Lynton Crosby, Home Affairs select committee chair, Keith Vaz, Shadow SNP Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Anne McLaughlin MP and journalists Peter Osborne and Owen Jones.

London Mayoral/GLA and Police Crime Commissioner manifestos

MEND published manifestos for the London Mayoral and GLA elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2016. The manifesto addressed key concerns for Muslim voters on policing, crime, housing, racial and religious equality and employment.

Summary of MEND manifesto on London Mayoral election 2016 and Greater London Assembly elections

Manifsto pledges

On Tackling Islamophobia:

- Commit to a training programme for police officers to properly identify and record anti-Muslim hate crime.
- Commit to evaluating third party reporting centres and improve provisions for Muslims to report hate crime in their local area.
- Commit to appointing an officer with speciality training on racial and religious hate crime to work with Muslim communities to improve hate crime reporting, incident investigation and community partnerships.
- Commit to supporting improvements to security at Islamic places of worship and Muslim schools.
- Commit to addressing the threat posed by far right groups and right wing extremists, including on-street protests and social media forums that foment anti-Muslim prejudice.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections MEND Manifesto 2016

On Community policing:

- Commit to enforcing the 10 recommendations proposed by HMIC on improving the use of stop and search and compliance with the 'Best use of stop and search scheme'.
- Commit to train officers in detecting 'unconscious bias' to improve stop and search 'hit rates' and consistently demonstrate grounds for 'reasonable suspicion'.
- Commit to increasing recruitment, retention and promotion of BME officers with clear plans to improve diversity at senior rank.
- Commit to improving Muslim participation in consultative forums including Independent Advisory Groups.

Education and Employment

Commit to supporting improvements in educational attainment levels among BME groups, including Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils in the capital's schools and address remaining disparities in the attainment gap between inner and outer London.

Commit to supporting London Boroughs in developing teaching materials to educate young people on Islamophobia, racism, and anti-Semitism; to fund projects to promote educational programmes on Islam awareness to prioritise religious education in the national curriculum in order to prepare young people for life in a religiously plural, vibrant capital city.

Commit to strengthening powers of teachers to deal with racist and Islamophobic bullying in schools in the capital, support the educational sector in developing Islamophobia awareness programmes for teaching staff to equip them with skills to identify and tackle hate incidents in schools.

Commit to tackling religious discrimination in the workplace and address the low level of economic activity among Muslims through targeted interventions at stages of recruitment, retention and promotion. Create a taskforce to examine Muslim labour market discrimination in the capital and work with public and private sector employers to tackle the high levels of unemployment among Muslim Londoners.

Housing and Health

Commit to ending affordable housing in the capital to meet housing needs and to creating a BME Housing Strategy for London to address specific housing problems facing Muslim Londoners.

Commit to delivering the recommendations proposed by the London Health Commission to address health problems among BME groups and the higher proportion of Muslim Londoners reporting 'bad' or 'very bad' health compared to the general population in all age groups.

Transport and culture

Commit to tackling fare rises for public transport services and making services run more efficiently to address the adverse effects of high public transport costs on all Londoners, and particularly those on low incomes.

Commit to supporting London's museums and galleries in outreach initiatives to BME communities thereby extending visitor base to include marginalised groups and facilitate the use of the capital's arts and culture scene to bring diverse communities together by organising more exhibitions and cultural events about Islam and British-Muslims.

MEND at the EU

MEND were invited to participate at the EU's first ever Colloquium on Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in September 2015. MEND addressed the meeting highlighting the shocking rise in Islamophobia in the UK and articulated examples of our work with government, police and communities to tackle the problem.



MEND in the Community

Raising awareness in communities about Islamophobia

MEND's landmark presentation 'Islamophobia – causes and cures' is an unparalleled visual exposé of the causal factors resulting in the steady growth in Islamophobia today. It also lists practical steps on how to make a real difference in tackling the problem. The presentation has been delivered on hundreds of occasions across the UK in Mosques, community centres, offices and homes!



Over 2,500 people have attended our masterclasses and workshops

Over 100 masterclasses & workshops have been held nationally



Over 300 community events have been delivered

MEND Bradford has arrived

MEND Bradford was launched in late 2015 by the highly talented Bradford Working Group. Main speakers included the CEO of MEND Sufyan Ismail, Imran Hussain MP – Bradford East, and Sergeant Jonathan Pickles from the Bradford District Constabulary. Over 150 people turned up to learn more about Islamophobia and how to address it.

MEND Cardiff does it in style!

Well, even by MEND's standards, the Cardiff team's local launch was something special! On 22 November, at Cardiff City Hall, over 300 people attended the inauguration of MEND's first group in Wales. Guests included Mark Drakeford, Minister for Health and Social Services and representatives from Cardiff's faith communities.

Newham Imams take up the MEND challenge!

Imams and mosque committee members from across Newham joined us in raising awareness about Islamophobia among their congregations and supporting our work to engage communities in civic life. Mosques have a key role to play in promoting civic integration and Newham imams are leading the way!

Ladies lead the way

Leicester Vintage Tea Party

MEND Leicester held a 'Vintage Tea' party inviting locals to enjoy tea and cake while talking over the need to work together to tackle prejudice and hatred against minority groups. The event was a resounding success and the first of its kind for MEND.

Blackburn Aunties Rule!

Over 80 local women, aged over 60 gathered at Little Harwood community centre to discuss the causes of Islamophobia and their important role in tackling it in the community. Talks were given by Sarfraz Ismail and Dr Siema Iqbal.



Spinwatch

MEND hosted Professor David Miller from think tank Spinwatch who delivered his '5 pillars of Islamophobia presentation'. Events were held in London, Leeds, Leicester and Manchester.

MEND MasterClasses

Media and political literacy are much needed skills among BME communities, particularly Muslims. The recent rise in negative media coverage of Islam and Muslims has encouraged more Muslims to want to engage effectively with the media and politics and our masterclasses are designed to help them learn how. Our masterclasses up-skill grassroots Muslim communities with training on how media and political institutions work, key legislation, lobbying and media regulation.



Campaigns

General Election 2015 - Get Out and Vote

With British Muslim voter turnout lower than the UK average, MEND has enlisted the support of leading political and religious figures to improve Muslim political participation in elections and democratic life. Speakers have included British Muslim politicians, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and Shabana Mahmood, and other national and European elected officials such as Kate Green MP and Julie Ward MEP, to name a few.

MEND ran an energetic election campaign in 2015 producing a Muslim Manifesto and featuring a dedicated elections website 'Get Out and Vote.' Our GE2015 activities ranged from awareness raising on the importance of voting to dozens of local election hustings with prospective and incumbent candidates. Our GOAV Campaign is now a household name which will only grow further in successive elections.

Hustings

With moderate to large Muslim populations spread across several marginal and other constituencies, hustings form a key plank in our election campaigning. In 2015, MEND organised hustings in Blackburn, Manchester, Leicester, Leeds and Birmingham and in the London constituencies of Finchley, Tooting and Redbridge.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

November is Islamophobia Awareness Month. This initiative, started by a coalition of Muslim groups in 2012, is now spearheaded by MEND. The entire month is dedicated to events across the UK raising awareness about Islamophobia and inviting local communities and civil society groups to come together to challenge anti-Muslim hatred and prejudice and promote social integration. Thousands of individuals have joined our events since IAM's inception.

Universities' Tour

Islamophobia on university campuses is a growing area of concern especially since the introduction of the statutory duty on Prevent. MEND was hosted at a number of Russell Group universities throughout IAM bringing our expertise to student societies and student unions across the country.



Working groups progress report

Local Working groups are the heartbeat of MEND. MEND already have over 25 working groups across the UK with many more planned for the future. Local groups bring together individuals from diverse professional, ethnic and social backgrounds from entrepreneurs and retired grandmothers to doctors, teachers and Islamic scholars - all working together to promote active citizenship.



Resources

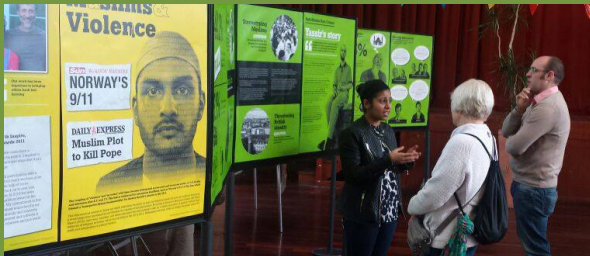
Media Toolkit

Our media monitoring toolkit helps readers to respond to media output in 3 easy steps. Our 'Commend or Complain' guide provides details of regulatory codes and allows readers to respond to news stories or TV programmes in just 5 minutes!



Islamophobia Exhibition

The MEND Islamophobia Awareness Exhibition is a resource designed to raise public awareness about Islamophobia and its impact on British Muslims. The exhibition showcases the enormous contributions by British Muslims to the UK in the fields of medicine, business, sport, finance and economy.



Exhibition Guide

Our exhibition guide accompanies our Islamophobia Awareness Exhibition and is an invaluable 'reader's guide' to Islamophobia in Britain today.



Guides and publications

MEND has produced a vast array of easy read guides and publications on topical issues such as press regulation, counter terror law, foreign policy, police crime commissioners and more.



Recognition and Accolades

The World Economic Forum has commended MEND's work as an example of 'best practice' in 'human rights protection and promotion'.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) have commended MEND's annual reports on Islamophobia as 'best example' for civil society organisations.



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