



GREEN LANE MASJID
& COMMUNITY CENTRE

GREEN LANE MASJID AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

INSIDE BRITAIN'S
**BEST RUN
MOSQUE**

2019/2020





ADDRESS:
**Green Lane Masjid
and Community Centre**
20 Green Lane,
Small Heath,
Birmingham,
B9 5DB

CONTACT:
Telephone: **0121 713 0080**
Email: **info@greenlanemasjid.org**
Website: **www.greenlanemasjid.org**
App: **app.greenlanemasjid.org**

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Facebook: **@GreenLaneMasjid**
Twitter: **@GreenLaneMasjid**
Snapchat: **@GreenLaneMasjid**
Instagram: **@GreenLaneMosque**
Youtube: **@GreenLaneMosque**

ASSALAMU ALAYKUM,

"PEACE BE UPON YOU"

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre (GLMCC). I am honoured to invite you to take a look inside this booklet to discover some of our core values, services and achievements. At GLMCC, our principle aim is to inspire God in the hearts of people. We seek to do this through a carefully designed work cycle in which we Educate, Inspire and Serve the community to have a greater sense of God consciousness.

I sincerely hope that the following pages will highlight the impact that our work has not only on the Muslim community, but also on the wider community, irrespective of race, religion or background. With over a dozen welfare services, I am pleased to share that we have thousands of service users from all walks of life helping to make the world a better place for us all. As Muslims, we believe that we must show compassion and concern for the welfare of all of humanity. The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

'None of you will have faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.'

Bukhari and Muslim

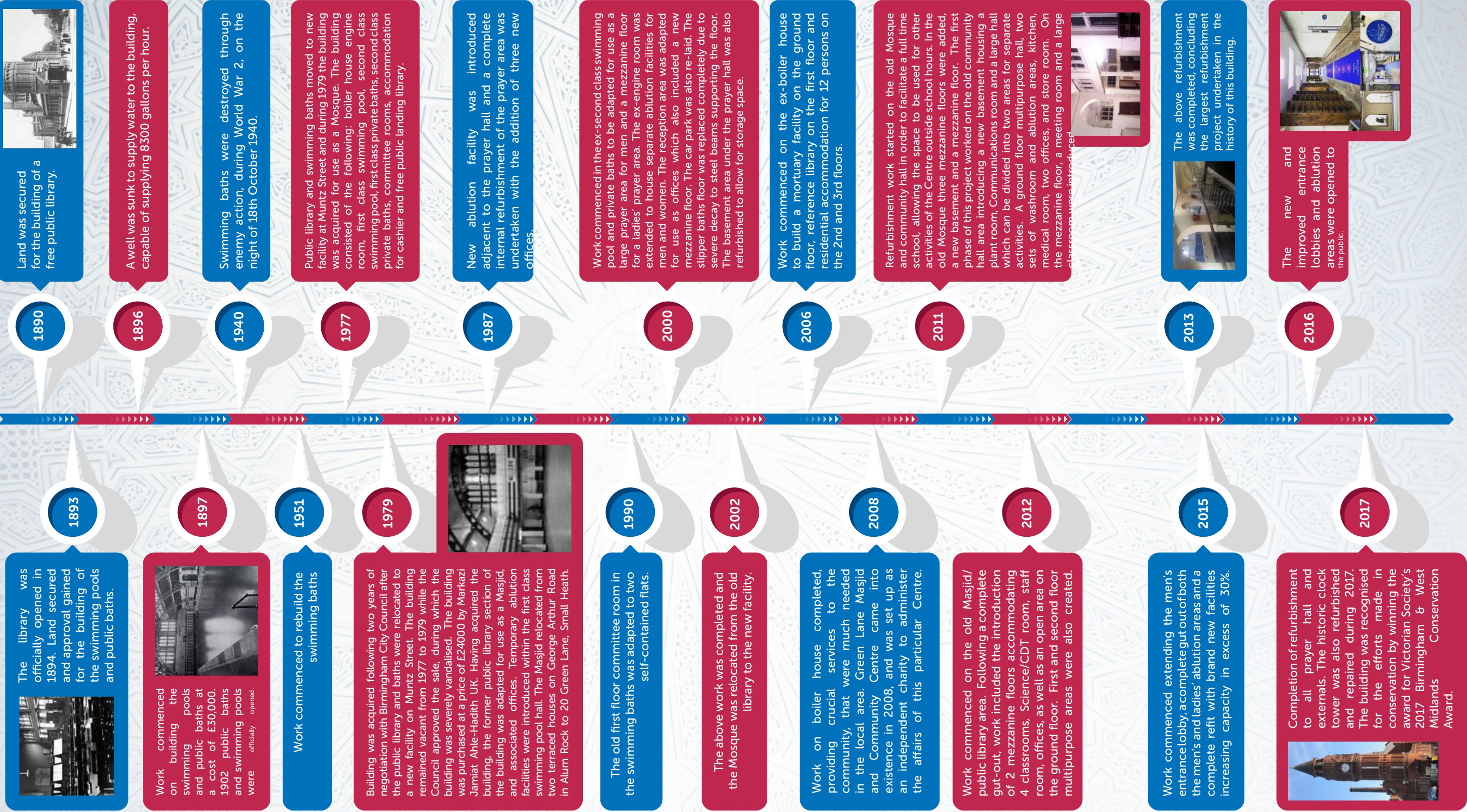
We are privileged that at GLMCC we are able to work with a number of incredible individuals and organisations in order to further the reach of our impact and vision. I express my gratitude to all of those who support our work and advocate our message of faith, progress and service.

We are proactive and always work with the future in mind. By continually endeavouring to please Allah through improving ourselves and the services that we provide, we hope that we will be able to maintain and build upon what we have achieved thus far, God willing.

Mohammad Saeed
CHAIRMAN, GLMCC

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The GLMCC building is Grade II listed building with a rich history dating from the late 1800's.



MASJID

Salah (prayer) is one of the five pillars of Islam. The obligation of prayer entails that a Muslim must perform five daily prayers, as a dedicated act of worship. The primary function of a Masjid is to serve as a place of worship.

At GLMCC, over 200 worshippers congregate every day for each of the five prayers. Additionally, for the weekly Salat Al Jumuah (The Friday Prayer), GLMCC sees a congregation of over 4000 people. Our congregation is spectacularly vibrant, with a diverse range of ages, races and backgrounds.



In Ramadhan, the 9th month of the lunar calendar, Muslims around the world fast for an entire month. From dawn until dusk Muslims abstain from food, drink and marital relations. Every night in Ramadhan, over 2000 people visit GLMCC to perform the night prayer, Taraweeh. During Ramadhan, the Masjid also serves food every night to those who have been fasting, with an average of 450 people collectively breaking their fast on site. On some of the busiest nights, over 1000 men, women and children will enter through our doors for Iftar and Suhoor, to eat together and prepare for the long fasts ahead.



The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“The earth has been made purifying for me, and as a Masjid (a place of prayer).”

SUNAN ABI DAWOOD 489



EDUCATION

Our Education department is committed to ensure that all learners at GLMCC study with an ethos of high aspirations. With over 50 classes running per week, we instil this through focusing on academic achievement, personal development and character refinement. Our curriculum is broad and innovatively-designed to ensure that learners are engaged and inspired through the course of their studentship with us.

We employ over 50 teachers to deliver classes, seminars and specialised courses on a range of topics, including theology, Islamic jurisprudence and Qur'anic exegesis. Though our courses are largely faith based, we are keen to develop dynamic and well-rounded individuals who can benefit society through the skill of being able to contextualise their understanding of Islam.



The GLMCC Madrasah is an Islamic Supplementary Evening School with over 400 students currently in attendance. We offer Islamic Studies, Quran recitation and Quran memorisation classes in a fun yet focused setting. The environment we have created is one that is caring and secure for young people, with their safeguarding being a priority. We endorse excellent manners and nurture what we hope will be future leaders who will positively contribute to British society.

We recognise with sensitivity the great importance of creating a partnership between parents and the Madrasah. By working collaboratively with a child's best interest at heart, we aspire to produce successful, happy and confident Muslims. Together, we are able to offer a unique education to our children.



One of our most popular initiatives at the Masjid, is the Budding Believer's Club. The club was established in 2013 for primary school children, and since, has been running once a month on a Sunday morning. Currently, sessions are delivered to over 150 children by a brilliant team of qualified teachers and experienced volunteers. The children arrive eager to enter into lively sessions, in which love for Islam is inspired through creativity, discussions and role-play.

EXHIBITION ISLAM

Exhibition Islam is a world renowned exhibition company that works in partnership with GLMCC. The company has toured the world with its Islamic exhibitions and its work helps to promote a greater understanding of Islam by utilising alternative educational resources. Rare Islamic artefacts are used to deliver professional museum style exhibitions, and to pay homage to the rich cultural heritage of Muslims.

In the past two decades, Exhibition Islam has attracted over 1.3 million visitors, establishing its name as the leading Islamic exhibition provider in the world. Exhibitions have been held at over 1300 venues across the UK, including Buckingham Palace. A number of exhibitions have also taken place overseas in countries including Denmark, Qatar and South Africa. At an exclusive exhibition held in Norway, the Queen of Norway attended to inaugurate the event.





A principle teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was to love for one's brother what one loves for one's self. As a pioneering humanitarian, in his sermons he would urge his listeners to give charity and look out for the welfare of others. He treated orphans with gentleness and compassion, and would tend to the needs of the underprivileged. As Muslims we are inspired by the prophet's character and values, and aspire to cultivate the quality of being charitable.

In 2019 alone, Task Force GLM (TFGLM) have raised £1.6 million for humanitarian causes. On the busiest night of Ramadhan earlier this year – the 27th night – an outstanding £400,000 was raised within a couple of hours. At GLMCC, we aim to promote the altruistic essence of Islam by serving the needs of humanity to the best of our ability.



In just six years, TFGLM have raised over £6.6 million supporting thousands of people across the world. The team is run entirely by a group of volunteers who work tirelessly to deliver aid in just under twenty countries. TFGLM engages with the entire community by holding a number of fundraising events to showcase its work, educate, and raise awareness on global crises. A number of fundraising dinners are organised by the team over the year, attracting hundreds of people, with tens of thousands raised for humanitarian causes at every event.



And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive, [Saying], "We feed you only for the countenance of Allah. We wish not from you reward or gratitude."

(QURAAAN : AL INSAN 8-9)



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Every week at GLMCC, a number of social events are held to inspire the overall development of the Muslim community. Our weekly coffee morning sees an attendance of over 50 women. A number of women in attendance don't have access to safe spaces and therefore coffee morning offers them an opportunity to develop their faith, friendships and wellbeing.

To promote fitness, confidence and an active lifestyle, we offer a number of opportunities on a weekly basis:

WOMEN ONLY BASKETBALL

KICK BOXING FOR YOUTH

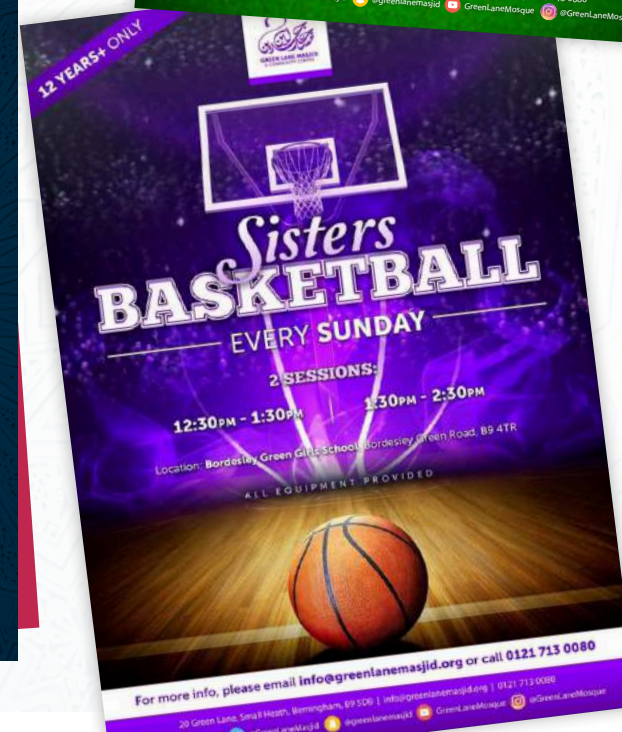
CRICKET CLUB FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL CLUB RUN IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FA

The prophet (peace be upon him) said:

“A strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than a weak believer, and there is good in everyone, (but) cherish that which gives you benefit and seek help from Allah and do not lose heart [...]”

(MUSLIM)



Our scouts group (GLM 309 Scouts) is the second largest in the region with over 130 children registered, and over 200 on the waiting list. GLM scouts held the first ever Muslim jamboree, raised over £30,000 for Syrian refugees, and have won regional awards. At GLMCC, along with our rigorous educational programmes, we aim to interweave a number of other activities in throughout the week in order to serve both the intellectual and social needs of the community.

Every year after the month of Ramadhan comes to an end, Muslims worldwide take part in a day of festivities and celebration. This day is known as the day of Eid. GLMCC are the founders of Celebrate Eid, an event which has established itself as the largest outdoor Islamic event in Europe, with over 80,000 people in attendance. The scale of the event increases every year, with over a quarter of Birmingham's Muslim population sharing in the food, festivities and fun at the last Celebrate Eid event.

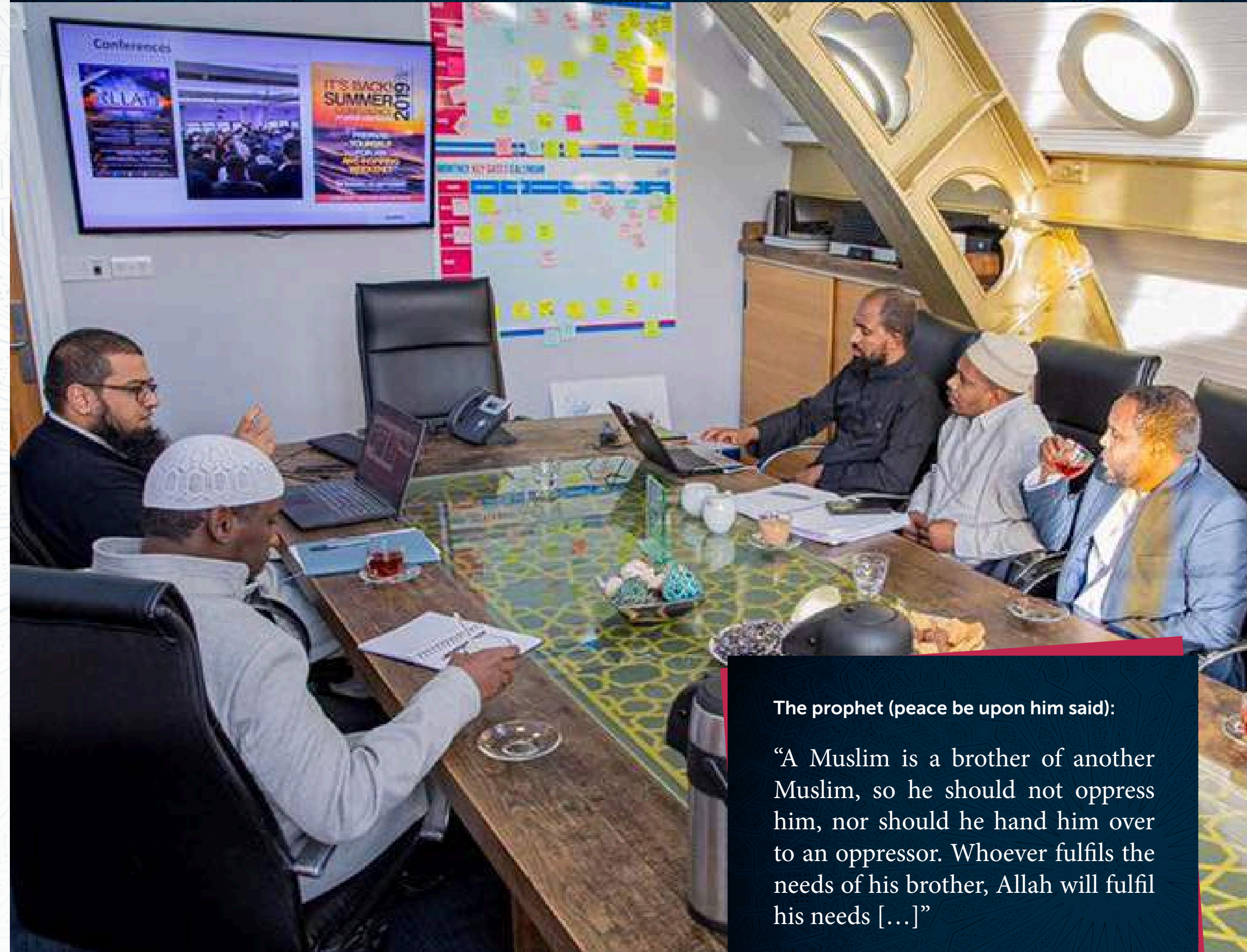


COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GLMCC does not only favour its own progress, but also seeks to be in the service of other mosques and local organisations. As a result of decades of experience and growth, we are now at a stage where we can share our good practice by offering training, consultations and support to mosques around the country.

Currently, we support eight mosques with their Dawah (presentation of Islam) and governance frameworks, as well as delivering hundreds of sermons across a number of mosques throughout the year. We arrange weekly lectures at GLMCC with a theme that changes every month. Additionally, we hold a number of general weekly lectures that run on almost every day of the week. We also host a number of school trips in conjunction with Exhibition Islam to introduce students across to city to the core beliefs and practices of Muslims, along with a guided tour of the mosque.

At a subsidised rate, we offer exclusive quarterly weekend courses with world renowned lecturers. We offer the community a unique opportunity to learn through these structured courses with some of the best Islamic educators, in a way that is accessible for everyone. Annually, we hold a summer and a winter conference with speakers of the highest academic calibre across the Muslim world. Both conferences are attended by over 2000 people from across Europe, making them some of the most anticipated events of the year.



The prophet (peace be upon him said):

“A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor. Whoever fulfils the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfil his needs [...]

(BUKHARI)

YOUTH

GLM Youth is a youth led initiative that seeks to empower and serve young people by focusing on five main areas:

ISLAMIC EDUCATION

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

CAREERS AND FUTURE PLANNING

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

GANGS AND VIOLENCE

The youth team aim to inspire youth to become more well-rounded and thoughtful individuals who champion both their Islamic and British identity. GLM Youth recognise the challenges and pressures that young people face in today's society, and therefore prioritise campaigning and holding events on mental health, self-empowerment and antisocial behaviour. By teaming up with religious guides, medical professionals, counsellors and mentors, GLM Youth offer a unique system of support and motivation to its service users.



The youth are brought together through dynamic educational discussions in which they have the freedom to bring up questions and struggles they may have in a non-judgmental and supportive environment. Furthermore, a number of sleepovers, activity days, camping trips, life-skills courses and sports based activities are organised to ensure that the youth within the community are offered a range of enjoyable, engaging and fun events to take part in. The large range of social events provides youth with the opportunity to make new friends in a positive environment. Over 3000 youth have benefitted from programmes held by GLM Youth, with overwhelming positive feedback.

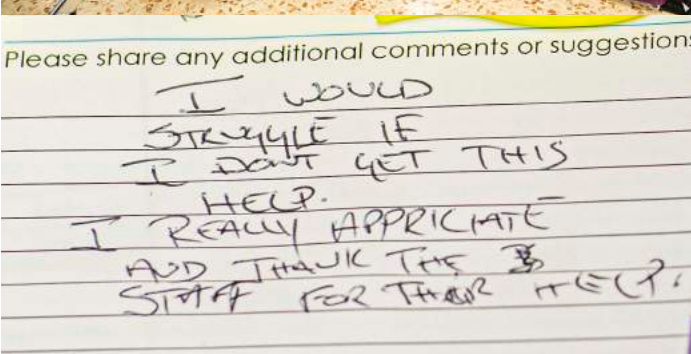


The prophet (peace be upon him said):

“A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor. Whoever fulfils the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfil his needs [...]

(BUKHARI)





WELFARE SERVICES

Islam is a religion that considers a person holistically, to ensure that they are in the best of health spiritually, physically and mentally. The spirit of Islam is one that supports a person's progress and wellbeing in every sphere of life and society. For this reason, GLMCC is at the forefront of developing its welfare services, making it one of the fastest growing departments of the mosque.

The prophet (peace be upon him said):

"If anyone removes his brother's anxiety of this world, Allah will remove for him one of the anxieties of the Day of resurrection; if anyone makes easy for an impoverished man, Allah will make easy for him in this world and on the day of resurrection; if anyone conceals a Muslim's secrets, Allah will conceal his secrets in this world and on the Day of resurrection; Allah will remain in the aid of a servant so long as the servant remains in the aid of his brother."

(SUNAN ABI DAWOOD)



WELFARE SERVICES WE OFFER INCLUDE:

- Food bank**
A community supported initiative helping over 30 people per week.
- Elders' lunch**
An average attendance of 50 people.
- Food kitchen**
Working in partnerships with Greggs and operating three times a week to provide 30 meals to the homeless per session.
- Is Anyone There?**
A free counselling service providing Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to both men and women.
- Free legal surgery**
In conjunction with a law firm.
- Free immigration surgery**
In conjunction with the Home Office.
- Imam Q&A**
Operating four times a week and providing hundreds of hours of advice every year.
- Cancer support group**
In partnership with Macmillan's and other mosques.
- Joint pain clinic**
In partnership with an orthopaedic specialist.
- Knife bank**
Over 80 weapons including a bullet surrendered.
- Zakah service**
Over 400 cases dealt with and supported.
- GLMFS**
A 24-hour funeral service with full in-house equipment.
- Street watch**
In partnership with WM Police.
- IslamWise**
Welfare and spiritual support for new Muslims.

SOCIAL INITIATIVE CAMPAIGNS

At GLMCC, we hope to educate and inspire the Muslim community to strive to become model Muslims. We have run a number of major campaigns to facilitate positive change in our society and daily life. The choices we make as individuals not only affect us, but also the people around us. We will only live more compassionately, consciously and meaningfully upon recognising the individual capacity we have to make powerful change.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN:

On average, every night during Ramadhan, 800 plastic water bottles would be distributed. This resulted in skips being hired by the Mosque for the sole purpose of disposing of colossal plastic waste. The accumulation of plastic waste has an incredibly adverse effect on the environment, putting the lives of living creatures at risk. To counter this, we developed our very own stainless steel water bottles, available to purchase on site. This initiative dramatically reduced the plastic waste we were producing, while also enabling us to educate our congregation on the harms and dangers that the frequent use of plastic presents.



‘[...] and waste not by excess: for Allah does not love those who waste.’

QURAAAN : AL AN'AAM 141

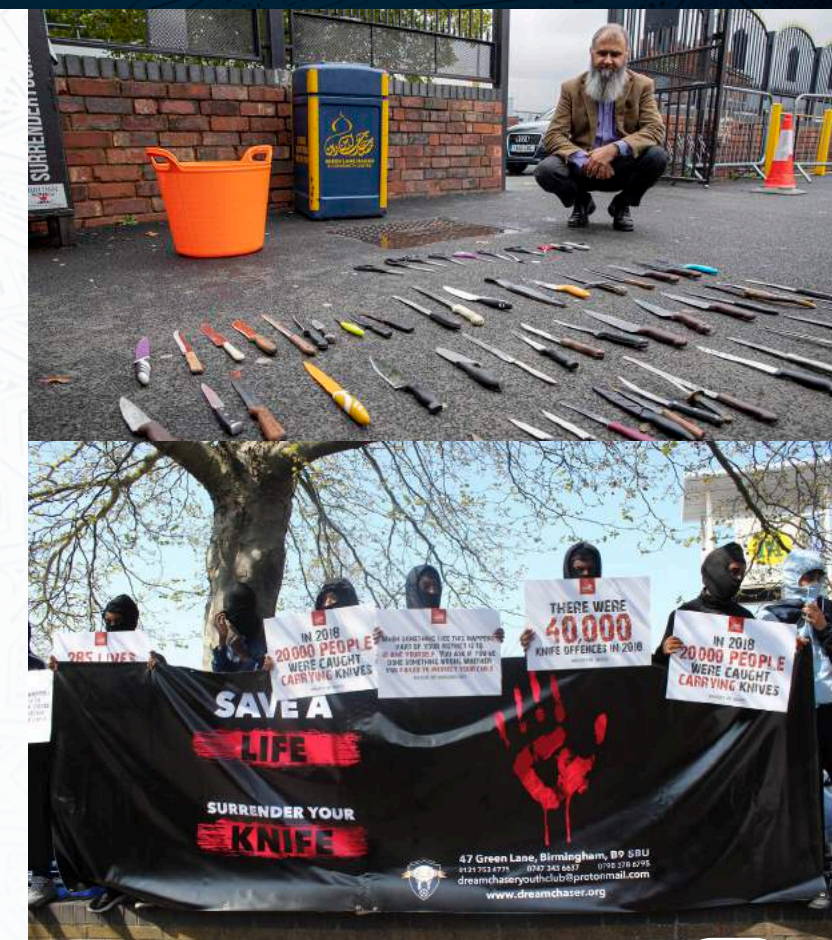
WINTER FREEZE PROJECT:

Last Winter at GLMCC, we opened up our doors to shelter the homeless and give them a place to stay at night. For four weeks during freezing weather conditions, we provided free food, snacks and hot drinks, as well as access to our toilet facilities. An average of fifteen people were fed and homed every night, with up to twenty-five people on the busiest nights. Additionally, food-parcels were distributed across the city centre, with hundreds fed and given clothing and blankets over the period. We were also able to support ten people in getting off the streets and into housing. At GLMCC, we aim to inspire God (Allah) in the hearts and minds of people. We hope to do this by following the prophet's example of not only caring for our brothers in faith, but also, our brothers in humanity.



KNIFE CRIME:

Earlier this year, GLMCC hosted a hard-hitting one-day anti-knife crime campaign. Upon completing their Friday prayer, congregation members left the mosque and adjacent streets holding up placards with heart-breaking stories and horrific statistics related to the relentless nature of knife crime. The campaign saw extensive positive media coverage from the BBC, ITV News, Birmingham Mail, Free Radio and others. In an effort to raise awareness on knife crime in the wider community, we also organised a billboard campaign around the city, to further the reach of the campaign.



CASE STUDIES



'I was homeless and eating out of bins'

- Desperate reality of living on the streets of Birmingham

I was living a pretty good life. I had a wife, three kids and a good job as a carpenter. Things were stable, and I was content. In a matter of moments however, my world was turned upside down. My wife left me and my marriage just fell apart. The hostility with which she left our marriage left me feeling completely devastated and unable to cope. I was severely depressed and in a state of shock. Things go so bad that I ended up sleeping on the streets. To hide my homelessness from my kids, I would shower in local leisure centres and tidy myself up before visiting them.

I didn't want to tell anyone what was happening and it was an awful time. I was completely alone, and invisible. When you're homeless, it's surprisingly easy to stay out of people's way. It's as though people didn't know I existed. No one really saw me. To survive, I had to eat out of bins. One night, someone tried to set fire to my sleeping bag while I was asleep. I was also spat on, called names, kicked and hit. Somehow, I ended up here, at GLMCC. This place has honestly saved my life. I didn't think I'd ever manage to get off the streets, but I've been supported from the moment I got here. They have housed me, fed me, and managed to get me into permanent accommodation. I'm finally off the streets and doing so much better now. My life has been transformed. Thank You.

Kieron Goble



'GLMCC became my second home'

I was raised in a very happy household. My parents and siblings were my best friends and we were always very close. My parents worked extremely hard to support us and held strict family values, yet were always very loving. As a student, I did whatever I liked. I worked hard, lived in a luxury apartment, and established my career as an English teacher. Then, I became a Muslim. My parents were outraged. Within two hours, they disowned me, and the silence still continues 11 years on. My mother said that I had shamed and disgraced them. I had chosen a religion that the world hates. I was heartbroken.

Suddenly, I was subjected to isolation, rejection, and the frightening reality of Islamophobia. As I stood on the escalators in the City Centre one day, a lady behind me said, "they're pests, they're everywhere, why don't they p*ss off back where they came from?" I felt sick. I had no one to turn to. In this time of pain and confusion, I found some very precious friends. The community at GLMCC have become my family. They have welcomed me, listened to me and helped me at my most vulnerable point. Though nothing can replace the love of a mother or father, I have found friends who treat me with a loving sincerity and gentleness that eases my sadness. I have felt spurts of newfound happiness emerging within. Islam has given me strength, and GLMCC have supported me at a time when I felt not even one person in the world were on my side.

Anonymous

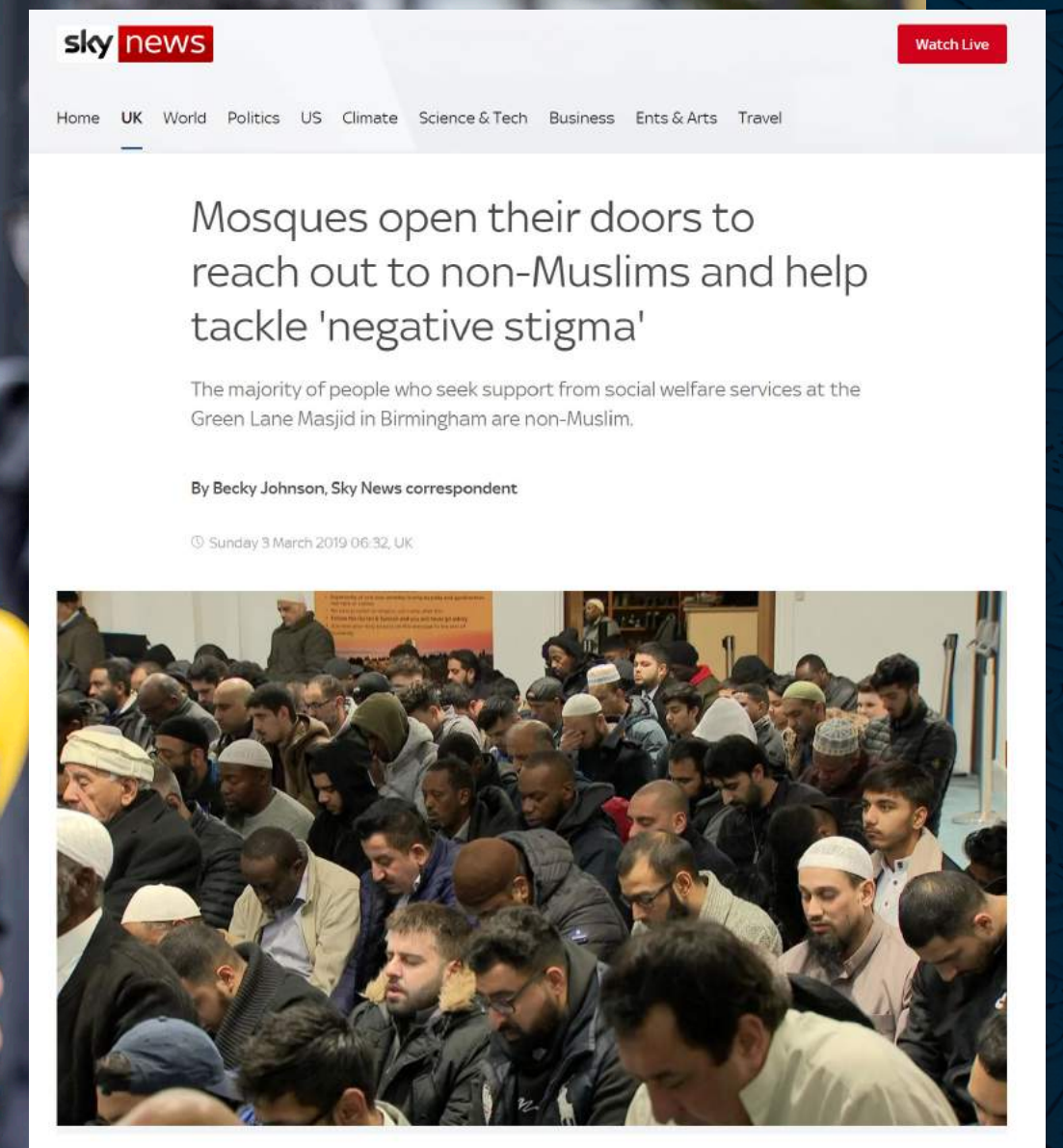
MEDIA

Following the catastrophic events of the early 2000s, Islamophobic attitudes towards Muslims steadily began to rise at an alarming rate. In a 2012 review written for the University of Birmingham, Dr Chris Allen explained that by 2006, 91% of media coverage on Muslims was negative, and by 2007, media coverage on Muslims was 'likely to provoke and increase feelings of insecurity, suspicion and anxiety amongst non-Muslims.'¹ Shockingly, by 2010 anti-Muslim sentiments were higher than they were in the immediate days and weeks following 9/11.²

Though Muslims have largely been misrepresented, vilified and stigmatised in mainstream media, we recognise the imperative responsibility we hold to actively counter such narratives. By working together with organisations such as the Muslim Council of Britain, we are able to improve media reception and engagement with Muslims in the UK. Using our own voice to share the positive work and ideals that we are committed to, we are empowered to shape our own narrative and speak for ourselves.

In the last year, over 60 articles have been written on GLMCC by various media outlets including CNN, Sky News, Birmingham Mail, Metro, Birmingham Live, The Guardian and Channel 5. These articles highlight the incredible work that GLMCC promotes and oversees, inviting the greater public to engage more readily and positively with Muslim communities. We have received a range of positive feedback from non-Muslims readers who are inspired by our work and innovative initiatives, voicing their support for our campaigns. We have a large online presence with over 750,000 Facebook followers, and over 100,000 YouTube subscribers which enables us to share the pioneering work that we're doing with a large virtual audience.

We have had over a dozen media appearances on ITV News, BBC and Islam Channel. Additionally, we regularly take part in radio interviews for channels such as BBC WM, Heart FM, Unity FM and Drivetime. We hope that by continuing our efforts to promote positive media engagement with Muslims, we will empower British Muslims to practice their faith confidently, safely and with the aspiration to serve their community.



SUPPORT YOUR MASJID TODAY



WWW.GREENLANEMASJID.ORG/DIRECT-DEBIT

The Prophet Muhammad,
(peace be upon him)
said:

“The most beloved to Allah (God)
from amongst mankind,
are those who bring the
greatest benefit to mankind”



www.greenlanemasjid.org