



Use Your Voice News from BMSLG

Newsletter January 2021 #3
info@bmslgroup.co.uk
<https://bmslgroup.wixsite.com/bmslgroup>

Bristol scene: Millennium Square

THE BRISTOL MUSLIM STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP (BMSLG)

As we move ourselves through this coronavirus pandemic, Muslims have shown themselves to have stepped up and stood out. In particular our Mosques have led the way to help keep our communities safe. The Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group (BMSLG) are proud of them!

Since August 2020, through our 5 Task Groups, we have been working on a number of projects to improve the position of Muslims in Bristol so they can contribute even more to our great City. Read on to find out more.

The **Council Services Task Group** (with support from Bristol City Council) have successfully negotiated a new multi-faith prayer space in Galleries shopping centre. BMSLG are part of the [Bristol City Council COVID-19 Race Equality Steering Group](#) to ensure that issues especially

affecting Muslims are represented at city-wide planning level. BMSLG have also inputted into [Bristol City Council's Equalities & Inclusions Policy](#) 2018-2023, which demonstrates how we are ensuring the Muslim voice is fed into policy.

Playing our part



Weronika Orzolat, BMSLG Member and social media lead

'BMSLG has given me a sense of purpose during the difficult days of lockdown. I have enjoyed working with the team and our statutory partners to raise awareness of important issues and to improve the lives of Muslims in Bristol.'



Hilbo Mahmood, Chair of Police Task Group, BMSLG

'Knowing that I can influence and steer decisions at a strategic level for the benefit of Bristol's Muslim communities gives me a great sense of optimism.'



Khadeja Abunajm, Chair of Council Services Task Group, BMSLG

'Being a member of BMSLG is one of the best experiences in my life Alhamdulillah. I couldn't be more thrilled to work with such a terrific group of people who have dedicated time and effort voluntarily to serve the Muslim communities in Bristol.'

FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND A VERY STRONG POOL OF CANDIDATES, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME 5 NEW MEMBERS TO BMSLG



Mohammed Sayaqle is founder of Bristol Somali Youth Voice which empowers disadvantaged young people in Bristol.



Dr Lukon Miah recently graduated from UCL and is a year 1 Doctor working in the Severn Deanery.



Dr Mouhammed Thiam is a Senior Lecturer in Accounting and Finance at the University of Gloucestershire.



Dr Alper Aktas works in the aerospace industry in Bristol. He is part of Bristol's Turkish community.



Mohammed El Sharif is the Community Development Manager at Bristol City Council.

Exciting new prayer space in The Galleries!



BMSLG have successfully negotiated a prayer room in The Galleries Shopping Centre that can be used by people of any faith. **OPENING AFTER LOCKDOWN.**



Dr Koyes (BMSLG Vice Chair) gets the Covid-19 vaccine!

In our **Health Task Group**, Dr Koyes recently shared his experience of taking Covid-19 vaccine. BMSLG also did the voiceovers for Prof. Chris Whitty's multilingual messaging for the Cabinet Office. Abdul Tariq shared his experiences of Covid-19 to support mental health and Shiren led on a video with NHS to bust some myths around the vaccine.

Courtesy of the **Research Task Group**, a 2nd edition of the Muslims in Bristol booklet is being prepared for publication and includes a directory for Muslim organisations in Bristol. It has been compiled with assistance from Bristol University, SARI and Bristol City Council. Look out for it in March.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER REQUIRED



We're looking for a dynamic, proactive and energetic intern on a voluntary basis to manage our social media and communication!

If you are interested get in touch on or for further information:

✉ Email: info@bmslgroup.co.uk
 🌐 bmslgroup.wixsite.com/bmslgroup



The **Media Task Group** are currently recruiting interns to develop our social media presence, websites and databases. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to info@bmslgroup.co.uk. You will gain excellent experience in working with the communications teams of our partners, thus enhancing your CV!

The **Police Task Group** is soon to launch a new survey in partnership with Bristol University and Avon & Somerset Police. This survey is designed to gain insights about the perceptions of Muslims on policing in the city and what can be done to improve relations and better policing for all citizens. This is the first survey of its kind so please be sure to complete it. Coming in February.

MUSLIMS IN BRISTOL: A REMINDER OF THE SITUATION



Only 17.9% Muslims are in full time employment than the Bristol average (36.6%).

Muslims have a lower proportion of people in managerial and professional occupations (19.8%) than the city average (43.8%).

Almost a quarter (23%) of Muslims have never worked or are long-term unemployed (Bristol average 5.5%).

Many Muslims (44.4%) live in social rented accommodation, a higher proportion than the population as a whole (19.6%).

People from Muslim backgrounds are increasingly in need of mental health and psychological services but struggling to access it.

Religious hate crime has risen in Bristol with Islamophobia the highest.

COMING SOON!

1

Shape the future of policing in Bristol with this unique survey for Muslims. Launching in February.

Confidential Survey What I Think of the Police: Views of Bristol Muslims





2

Help decide which services there should be more of. Census 2021 coming in March.

The census is a unique survey that takes place every 10 years in England and Wales.

By taking part, you'll help inform decisions that shape your community.

census 2021

