



Working For You

Updates from BMSLG



The balloon fiesta, an iconic Bristol event cancelled this year

THE BRISTOL MUSLIM STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP

Muslims are well known for their charitable activities and Bristol Muslims are committing their time and expertise to improve the position of Muslims in Bristol and contribute fully to life in the City.

This has been even more pronounced during the Covid-19 pandemic. BME communities have been most affected by coronavirus. As many Muslims are from these communities, the Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group (BMSLG) together with our Statutory Partners including the NHS, Avon & Somerset Police, and Bristol City Council has stepped up to produce targeted messaging direct to communities on issues that matter to them - in their own languages.

Here are some examples of our work*:

- Coronavirus video in 8 languages in collaboration with the NHS
- [Ramadan At Home](#) page on our website
- Ramadan Mubarak video in 18 languages
- Mental Health during Lockdown and Ramadan message with the NHS
- [Keeping Active](#) – a 3-part boxing series
- [Ramadan At Home Podcast](#) series consisting of 6 episodes on topical issues
- Eid card competition for children
- Stay Alert video with Mayor's Eid message

This efficient messaging along with swift action by our Bristol Mosques to close promptly has meant that Muslim deaths in wider Bristol have been minimal in comparison to other cosmopolitan cities.

We are also proud of all our Muslim communities in Bristol who during coronavirus have stepped up their actions to support the vulnerable and needy, irrespective of race or religion.

THE ISSUES

These statistics show why it's so important that we come together to address these issues for Muslims in Bristol. This is the purpose of the BMSLG.*

- 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 recent years and Bristol is no exception.



Friendship and support.
Eid cards written out before being Dettol wiped, ready for hand delivery by BMSLG members.

Received by over 120 Care Homes and 24 refugee families in Bristol.

One of the winning Eid cards from our competition, Ayesha aged 11 and Yusuf aged 7

*See www.bristol.gov.uk/statistics

BLACK LIVES STILL MATTER

BMSLG are passionate about this issue and were quick to publicly support the Black Lives Matter campaign. At the heart of BMSLG lies the need for a sense of justice and fairness of opportunity for people of black and ethnic minority background

BMSLG is continuing to fight for equality after the media spotlight has gone. As a Strategic Leadership Group, BMSLG believe that this has to be made at a range of levels.



Members of BMSLG join other community representatives in Eastville Park for a socially distanced show of solidarity for the BLM movement

BMSLG seek to work with our Statutory Partners to ensure that systems and procedures that disadvantage black or minority ethnic people are challenged and changed.

We do this by ensuring that we are a voice at the table when authorities are designing policies that may not recognize the challenges faced by BME people or the potential unintended consequences of a policy.

BMSLG members now sit on the following groups in addition to working with our Statutory Partners. This makes sure that Muslim across all BME groups are represented.

- Health Inequalities Steering Group with NHS CCG South West
- Race Equality in Education Group with Bristol City Council
- Counter-Terrorism Independent Advisory Group with South West Police & CT
- Muslim Myth-busting Booklet – Bristol University, SARI and Bristol City Council
- Post Covid19 Race Equality Planning Group with Bristol City Council

In the coming months we will also be continuing work within our Task Groups with our Statutory and Associate Partners.

Please do visit our website to find out more or let us know what you think we should be doing to improve the position of Muslims in Bristol so they can reach their potential and contribute fully to life in our City.



BMSLG member Weronika Ozpolat with her family at a Black Lives Matter campaign

CALL FOR MEMBERS

We invite applications for 3 new dynamic energetic members to join the BMSLG. We especially welcome applications from people under 30. Please visit our website for an application form or email us. You may contact any one of our members for further information on the role.

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Your BMSLG Strategy Group Members and Partners