

# Ummah Leah



WORKING TOGETHER  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Established to develop the cultural and social ties between the Muslim & Jewish Communities of Greater Manchester.

## A Brief Introduction

Islam and Judaism are closer to each other than any other two religions. However many Muslims and Jews grow up in Britain knowing little about each other's community. In 2004 a group of us decided that, even if we couldn't change the world, we could do something to bring the two communities together locally, and set up the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester.

Our mission is: *"To educate members of the Muslim and Jewish Communities in relation to their shared values and common Abrahamic tradition, heritage, history and culture; and to promote better understanding within the wider community of our common interests and values."*

**There are two main reasons for doing this:**

1. Muslims and Jews have many common interests which are better pursued if we act together.
2. Learning more about each other and making new friendships enriches us as individuals as well as making our city a better place to live and building a more harmonious and cohesive society.

**Some of the things we have done:**

We engage in practical activities to increase mutual understanding which participants enjoy. These are often educational, but whatever we do needs to be enjoyable, as otherwise people won't come! Some examples are:

- ▶ Visiting mosques and synagogues both in Greater Manchester and elsewhere in the UK
- ▶ Holding celebrations for religious festivals like Eid and Chanukah.
- ▶ Group visits to Krakow, Auschwitz, Granada and Cordoba, Marrakech, Dubrovnik, Paris and Brussels where we have visited sites of Muslim and Jewish interest
- ▶ Business networking events
- ▶ Informal dinners, which allow time for unstructured conversation.
- ▶ Talks on matters such as our respective approaches to finance, marriage and divorce, funeral arrangements etc.
- ▶ Concerts celebrating music from both our faith traditions
- ▶ Faith dialogues in partnership with Faith Network 4 Manchester
- ▶ Faith awareness sessions in schools and youth groups
- ▶ Bringing women together to celebrate International Women's Day exploring their identity
- ▶ Annual lawyers panel events
- ▶ Annual picnics

After almost all events we issue a press release to influence others, and post a write-up on our website [www.muslimjewish.org.uk](http://www.muslimjewish.org.uk) which has a small but growing worldwide readership.

# Becoming a Member

I hereby apply to become a member of the above company and agree to abide by any Bye Laws that may be made from time to time by the Executive Committee. I have read and confirm my agreement with the Declaration of Principles. I acknowledge that in accordance with clause 7 of the Memorandum (copied below) I may be required to contribute the sum of one pound towards any deficiency on a winding up.

*Every Member of the Forum undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Forum in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a Member or within one year after he ceases to be a Member for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Forum contracted before he ceases to be a Member and of the costs charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.*

In accordance with the Articles of Association, I declare that I am:

(tick one box only)

Muslim  Jewish  Neither

Details required for Register of Members:

Full name (print): .....

Residential address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Annual subscription at £10  £5  (unemployed and students) per year (tick one box only)

(Please make cheques payable to: 'The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester')

We need your email address as all communications are by email.

Email (print): .....

Signature of applicant: .....

Date: .....

After completion, please post this form to the address below.

Muslim Jewish Forum, c/o Mohammed Amin, PO Box 66975, London, SE1P 5XB

Email: [mail@muslimjewish.org.uk](mailto:mail@muslimjewish.org.uk)

# The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester

## *Declaration of Principles*

1. We are a non-political organisation set up to develop close cultural and social ties between the Muslim and Jewish Communities of Greater Manchester.
2. We address national and international issues only when they affect the lives of our two communities in Greater Manchester.
3. We acknowledge the diversity of views within each of our communities and recognise and respect those points upon which we do not agree.
4. We celebrate our shared values and common Abrahamic tradition.
5. We promote a better mutual understanding of our respective faiths (including heritage, history and culture) within our communities and to the wider community.
6. We promote such understanding by developing links between our youth members and students at local schools, colleges and universities through social, educational, sporting and other activities.
7. We develop links and maintain interest groups for specific sectors of our communities.
8. We protect the interests of the Jewish and Muslims communities which including:
  - ▶ The right to hold religious beliefs
  - ▶ The right to manifest religious practices
  - ▶ The retention of religious humane methods of animal slaughter for food in the United Kingdom and Europe
  - ▶ The right for young people to be educated in faith schools and to have their religion respected in mainstream schools
  - ▶ The retention of male circumcision
  - ▶ The right to have religious observances respected by public bodies and the wider community
  - ▶ The provision of acceptable methods of post mortem examinations
9. We oppose:-
  - ▶ All forms of religious intolerance and bigotry
  - ▶ All forms of violence and aggression targeted at innocent non-combatants
  - ▶ All form of xenophobia including antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred



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