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2024: How the Genocide in Gaza fuelled global solidarity with Palestine



When Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel had the sympathy of the Western world.

However, within days that sympathy had all but disappeared, swept away by rising revulsion at the slaughter unleashed in Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces. By Oct. 24, 2023, just 17 days after the Hamas-led attack, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was urging the UN Security Council to rein in Israel. He had

“condemned unequivocally the horrifying and unprecedented acts of terror by Hamas in Israel.”

But now, he said, “those appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people” being meted out by Israel in Gaza. “Even war has rules,” he added.

By then, more than a million Palestinians had already been displaced and 5,000 had

been killed, according to Gaza’s health authorities, including more than 1,100 women and 2,000 children, along with journalists, medics, and first responders.

Even before Guterres spoke out, thousands appalled by Israel’s behavior had already begun to take to the streets in Western capitals to express their horror and offer their moral support to the Palestinian people.

We will not stop supporting Palestine

Some of the first protests took place in the UK, on Oct. 15, just a week after the Hamas-led attack. In London, thousands rallied in response to a plea by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and marched on Downing Street, home of the British prime minister.

Many carried Palestinian flags and banners with messages including “Free Palestine – end Israeli occupation” and “Stop bombing Gaza.” The BBC’s headquarters in Portland Place, central London, was daubed in red paint, symbolising what activists called the broadcaster’s “complicity in Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people through biased reporting.” In Parliament and in some sections of the media, the protestors were immediately accused of antisemitism and of supporting Hamas.

“This is not about Hamas,” said a protestor. “This is about protecting Palestinian lives.”

The protests spread like wildfire to other cities and campuses throughout the UK and then to Europe, the Middle East and Asia. By the end of October, demonstrations had erupted in Copenhagen, Rome, Stockholm, and Wellington.

In France, despite a ban on pro-Palestinian rallies, protests still braved arrest to make their voices heard in Paris and Marseille.

The protests were no flash in the pan, either. Into the new year and up until today, they have kept on coming.

As the death toll in Gaza mounted, reaching 30,000 by March 2024, it was not long before the outrage spread to the US, where on March 20 NBC reported that “in cities across the country, highways have been blocked, trains have been delayed and sections of college campuses have been shut down by hundreds of thousands of people who have taken to the streets ... protesting Israel’s invasion of Gaza.”

A week later, on March 27, a Gallup poll found that a majority of Americans opposed Israel’s military action in Gaza.

During a speech on the election campaign trail in North Carolina, President Joe Biden was interrupted by protesters demanding a US intervention to end the suffering of the Palestinians.

Their shouts turned to cheers when the president heard them out and then said: “They have a point. We need to get a lot more care into Gaza.” Dismay at the administration’s failure to rein in Israel, especially among the influential Arab American community in some key swing states, may well have cost Biden’s VP Kamala Harris the presidency.

Everywhere, alarmed by the strength of global feeling provoked by the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza, the pro-Israel

lobby rallied. Unable to defend Israel’s actions in Gaza, instead it went on the attack. The protests, they said, were not pro-Palestinian or even anti-Israel, but antisemitic – an allegation that is frequently leveled at anyone who has criticised Israel’s behavior in Gaza and the West Bank.

In the UK, the lengths to which the pro-Israel lobby was prepared to go to distract attention away from the cause of the protests became evident after an extraordinary episode in April. The media rushed to report the claims of Gideon Falter, the chief executive of the Campaign Against Antisemitism, that he had accidentally stumbled into the path of a pro-Palestinian protest and had then been threatened with arrest because his “openly Jewish” appearance was antagonising the marchers. The incident was filmed, and selectively edited, by the CAA.

But when the full footage later emerged it became clear that Falter had deliberately tried to provoke demonstrators by pushing past police officers and walking in the path of the demonstration. In the US, wealthy Jewish donors banded together to attack universities for allowing pro-Palestinian protests on their campuses. According to a report by CNBC, even as protests were taking off in the US in late October 2023, billionaire supporters of Ivy League schools including Harvard, Yale, and Penn threatened to withdraw funding.



By January 2024, the wealthy donors had successfully hounded out of office two high-profile leaders, Harvard president Claudine Gay and Penn president Liz Magill, both of whom resigned.

In an op-ed published in the Guardian in January 2024, Robert Reich, a former US secretary of labor, wrote that “as a Jew, I also cannot help but worry that the actions of these donors – many of them Jewish, many from Wall Street – could fuel the

very antisemitism they claim to oppose, based on the age-old stereotype of wealthy Jewish bankers controlling the world.”

The determined assault on the defenders of Palestine by the Jewish lobby has continued unabated.

In the UK last week, the head of the British Medical Association was accused by campaign group Labour Against Antisemitism of creating “a hostile environment” for Jewish doctors, and

is now under investigation by her own organization.

Dr. Mary McCarthy’s “offense” was to have reposted a message on her X account that described the conflict in Gaza as “a holocaust.”

Over in Ireland, Israel is to close its embassy in Dublin, accusing the Irish government of “extreme anti-Israel policies” and “crossing every red line.”



Assad should still be held accountable under international law.

The Assad regime is no more.

The road to Damascus was surprisingly short. Syrian rebel groups took control of the capital after a lightning-fast offensive across the country.

Dictator Bashar al-Assad abdicated power and left Syria, according to Russia, his most powerful patron.

How did this happen so swiftly after Syria's thirteen-year civil war? And what comes next for Syria, the Middle East, and the external powers that have been shaping events there?

Syrians have worked thirteen long years to take down their dictator—and an even longer fifty-plus years if you count the whole of the now defunct Assad dynasty.

The international community must centre Syrians in this moment, respect their aspirations for their country, and support them in achieving the pluralistic vision of a free, democratic Syria that so many fought for with their lives and livelihoods.

Even before the shock of Assad's overthrow has worn off, Syrians who have spent more than a decade working on political processes, justice initiatives, and social change are swinging into action to realize the goals of their hard-won revolution.

On the justice front, the international community, global institutions, and

national courts can take immediate action to support Syrians. First, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) can hold Assad and his former officials to account by swiftly opening a preliminary examination into transboundary crimes in the Syrian conflict.

The ICC's mandate in the matter would be limited to crimes against humanity of deportation, persecution, and other inhumane acts committed against Syrian civilians who fled to Jordan, an ICC member state.

However, initiating a preliminary examination into these crimes would send a strong signal that the ICC is fit for purpose and that Assad will not continue to enjoy impunity for some of the worst crimes committed in this century.

And ICC member states can support this push by making their own referrals to the court, similar to their referrals on Ukraine and Palestine.

In tandem, efforts should be made to encourage any interim government in Syria to accept the jurisdiction of the court, similar to how Ukraine did in 2014, with a path to eventual ICC membership once a proper governance structure is established and laws passed.

Second, France can proceed with its Assad case. In June a French appeals court upheld an arrest warrant against Assad,

then a sitting head of state, for chemical weapons attacks against Syria's civilian population. This was precedent setting, due to questions around Assad's head of state immunity.

With that question no longer in dispute, the proceedings should move ahead and with the option for in absentia trials in the French system—where the defendant does not have to physically appear.

This means that Assad's reported presence in Moscow with a refusal to appear or inability to be extradited will be irrelevant to evidence being heard on this critical chapter in Syria's conflict.

This case in France is just one of many universal jurisdiction processes that are currently done, in progress, or anticipated in national courts with the ability to prosecute alleged perpetrators in the Syrian conflict for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

All those processes must continue and be supported by outside countries, particularly as more former Assad regime officials responsible for violations may try to leave Syria in this moment.

Lastly, there will be open questions about what will happen to the case now that The Netherlands and Canada have brought against the Assad regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violations of the Convention against Torture.

British Muslims give £70 billion to charity each year

1: British Muslims generate £70bn for the UK's economy

Contribution Type	Amount
a) Employment Contribution	£42bn ⁷
b) Business Contribution	£24.7bn
c) Charity Contribution	£1.79bn ⁸
d) Volunteer Contributions	£622m ⁹
Total	£69.1bn

British Muslims are the most generous group in the UK, contributing a mind boggling £70 billion to charity each, according to new research by the pioneering think tank Equi.

The report, compiled by Mohammed Sinan Siyech, a doctoral scholar at the University of Edinburgh and Sofia Lailah Shah, a researcher who read History and Politics at the University of Cambridge, showcases how British Muslims contribute to the United Kingdom economy across key sectors such as healthcare, the Civil Service, education, transportation and politics.

The report showcased how businesses owned by British Muslims contribute at least £24.7bn a year to the British economy, whilst employing hundreds of thousands of our people, helping revive local communities in places that have been facing economic decline.

In addition, British Muslims donate £1.79bn a year to charitable causes, four times more generously than the national average, and volunteer time worth £622m a year whilst the British Islamic Banking industry holds 85% of assets in the European Islamic Market, worth £5.73bn.

However, the report also raised the possibility of a 'Muslim brain drain', which could lead to losses of £1.1bn a year.

The report cited the fact that British Muslims are 50% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen.

British Muslims are three times more likely to cite religious discrimination as a reason for leaving the UK. Over £62,000 are 65% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen.

Some focus group respondents suggested that moving to a Muslim-majority country allowed them to practice a "halal lifestyle" easily, including for their children. A policy advisor who had lived in Qatar for three years said, "The whole idea of the Islamic lifestyle tends to be more the idea that you can just be a Muslim without having to explain it.

"You don't have to explain to your employer, 'Oh, I need to take a couple of hours out because it's Jumma' (obligatory Friday prayers for Muslim men) ... It normalises that part of your life."

The poll also showed that British Muslims have a greater preference for

the Middle East as destinations to move to, with respondents citing the UAE (46%), Qatar (32%), the US (24%), Saudi Arabia (24%), and Turkey (20%) as the top 5 destinations they would consider moving to compared to the average Briton who preferred white majority countries, including Spain (29%), Australia (21%), the US (20%), New Zealand (14%), and France (14%).

Considering the projected growth rate of the UK population over the next 10 years and polling data highlighting the numbers of those who have taken steps to leave, the UK is liable to lose between £234 million and over £1.1 billion in annual taxes, as well as potential sources of employment in the next ten years.

The report primarily directs its policy recommendations towards the UK government.

The government has the opportunity to acknowledge and encourage British Muslim contributions to the nation's economic growth and prosperity and create an environment that encourages them to stay in the UK.

Furthermore, recommendations within the report address issues prevalent throughout the UK, that would invariably have a very positive impact for all UK citizens. The report said the Treasury should acknowledge the £70bn Muslim contribution to the UK economy per annum and work with Muslim communities, through joint events.

Given that the halal industry is one of Europe's fastest-growing sectors and the UK is among the top non-Muslim countries with halal tourism, government must deepen its understanding of how to foster this market further.

The report also said the government should collaborate with Muslim communities to better understand Muslim

Friends of the Library Group Successfully Secures Batley Library from Closure

Pressure from the Friends of the Library group, in collaboration with local councillors and members of the public convinced Kirklees Council to make a dramatic u-turn and renege on controversial plans to move Batley Library and its services from the Grade II Listed Carnegie Building to Batley Town Hall last year, with a petition opposing the move gaining over 1,000 signatures.

Councillor Aziz Daji praised The Friends of the Library group, who tirelessly advocated for the library's continued operation, gaining overwhelming support from residents who recognize the invaluable role the library plays in our lives.

Mr Daji said: "It is with great pleasure that we announce the successful efforts of the Friends of the Library group, in collaboration with local councillors, to secure the Batley Library from potential closure once again.

"This achievement marks a significant

victory for our community, reflecting the collective dedication and hard work of many individuals committed to preserving our local heritage."

Mr Daji explained how the campaign to protect the historic Batley Library building, which was originally gifted to the community, has been a long and challenging journey.

"As independent councillors, we are committed to collaborating with the community and the Council to advocate for the best interests of our constituents."

Mr Daji extended his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported the campaign, including local residents, library patrons, and community organisations.

However, he advised young learners in particular to take advantage of the facilities on offer at the library and to actively take up reading

"Your voices have made a difference,

and together, we can ensure that the Batley Library remains a cornerstone of our community for generations to come.

"However, in order to safeguard the library for future generations, families, children and adults should make use of the library, the vast selection of books on offer, in order to improve the literacy skills of our youngsters.

"This will invariably help our children perform well at school as reading books on a regular basis will open up many opportunities. In addition, the library holds many events throughout the year, everyone is welcome.

"Our efforts will continue as we work towards maintaining and enhancing the services and resources that the Batley Library offers.

"Our library is not just a building; it serves as a vital resource for education, culture, and community engagement."



Tributes flood in for much loved IMWS caretaker – Marhoom Abdul Hak bhai Chothia

The local community has paid tribute to a ‘much-loved’ community stalwart and IMWS caretaker who work colleagues and committee members at IMWS have described as kind, helpful and very loyal.

Abdul Hak was born in Malawi, and arrived in the UK in the mid 70’s.

Abdul Hak started work at IMWS in 2001 with the Jobwise Employment project. Then - a few years later he took up his role as caretaker. He worked for IMWS for around 23 years.

He worked tirelessly, whilst also ensuring morale was always high by showcasing his endearing enthusiasm by uplifting others and making everyone around him smile, thanks to a great sense of humour.

“It is with great sadness that the Committee and staff learned that our friend and much-loved colleague Abdul Haq has returned to the Almighty,” said IMWS Chair, Abdul Aziz Daji.

“However, he was so much more than a caretaker, wholeheartedly joining in with anything, from providing his opinion on the design of the Paigaam calendars to

providing a sympathetic ear to anyone who needed help. He was very loyal to the organisation and cared deeply.

“He would ensure that any resources would be utilised in efficient manner. He was a true gentleman who epitomised the terms courage and tenacity.

“He was a very special man who will be much missed and fondly remembered by so many people.”

Rafik Dabhad, IMWS Treasurer and ex-Chair said Abdul Hak was a proud man with great morals and resplendent character.

“Abdul Hak would ask younger members of staff if they wanted a cup of tea, he was a humble man who would help others.

“His passing has left a void that will be difficult to fill. And although we have to recruit someone to take the position, we will continue to remember him as a great role model for others.

“We will pray for him and we will remember him always. May the Almighty, in his infinite mercy, make Abdul Hak’s

grave a garden from the gardens of Jannah.

“May He raise him among the righteous, grant him the highest abode in Paradise, and bestow upon us all the strength to endure this loss with beautiful patience.”

“He was a true gentleman who epitomised the terms courage and tenacity. We will pray for him and we will remember him always.”

“He was a very special man who will be much missed and fondly remembered by so many people.”

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IMWS hold appreciation evening dinner in association with Islamic Relief for Masjids and donors



The Indian Muslim Welfare Association held an appreciation evening in association with Islamic Relief to honour the local Masjid's who have contributed a great deal to IMWS along with respected donors from within the local area.

Hosted at the Al-Hikmah Centre, the special appreciation night, attended by Chair's and committee members, special guests, donors, volunteers and fundraisers from the area, many of whom were presented with awards, showcasing their dedication generosity and support to both IMWS and Islamic Relief in helping the most vulnerable around the world.

Zia Salik, Deputy Director for Islamic Relief UK, said: "We wanted to thank the IMWS family and recognise the hard work and dedication they have put in to support Islamic Relief UK.

"The long-term relationship Islamic Relief holds with IMWS and its affiliated Masjids, donors, partners and volunteers will be key to saving and supporting lives across the world, and here in the UK."

In total Islamic Relief last year helped more than 17 million people in over 35 countries – this includes the victims of Israel's bombing of Gaza, flood victims

in Pakistan, those affected in the Türkiye-Syria earthquake, through domestic food drives, refugee support and much more.

IMWS Chair, Cllr Aziz Daji, said: "It was a privilege to be part of this very special evening and be present alongside so many incredible organisations and groups.

"We care about helping our local community and have also built some strong relationships with our affiliated Masjids. We will continue our meaningful partnership with our affiliated Masjids, partners, volunteers and also help Islamic Relief to continue the incredible work they do.

"It was a pleasure to have given out so many awards to our affiliated Masjids. May their efforts be accepted."

Majeed Mayet, Committee Member, Masjid E Mahmoodiyah said: "We are particularly proud of how we were able to support those affected by bombings and natural disasters, and I am so pleased that we are able to help those in need.

"I would like to thank those our members who kindly contributed to our fundraising efforts. The money raised has been used to rebuild homes in areas that have been

affected by the floods and support those families who are in desperate need of help."

IMWS General Manager, Nadeem Raja said the organisation was determined to showcase their love and appreciation for Islamic Relief and its founder, Dar Hanny El Banna OBE.

"The IMWS award was hand delivered to Dr Hany El-Banna OBE at his home in Birmingham. Dr Hany sends his warmest salaams to everyone. May the Almighty grant Dr Hany a full and speedy recovery."

IMWS Charity worker, Munir Daji thanked the assembled audience and everyone who has helped IMWS and Islamic Relief help so many people the world over.

"We hosted our annual dinner and invited our stakeholders to thank them for their generosity and unwavering support. Without you, we wouldn't be where we are today!

"We have been blessed with many years of serving humanity and uniting the ummah and I pray the Almighty allows us to continue thriving in the next 40 years to come."



Health Page

One cigarette takes 20 minutes off your life!

Smokers are being urged to kick the habit in 2025 after researchers at University College London found that on average a single cigarette takes about 20 minutes off a person's life, meaning that a typical pack of 20 cigarettes can shorten a person's life by nearly seven hours.

According to the research, if a smoker on 10 cigarettes a day quits on 1 January, they could prevent the loss of a full day of life by 8 January. They could boost their life expectancy by a week if they quit until 5 February and a whole month if they stop until 5 August. By the end of 2025, the research found they could actually avoid losing 50 days of life, the assessment found.

"People generally know that smoking is harmful but tend to underestimate just how much," said Dr Sarah Jackson, a principal research fellow at UCL's alcohol and tobacco research group. "On average, smokers who don't quit lose around a decade of life. That's 10 years of precious time, life moments, and milestones with loved ones."

Smoking is one of the world's leading preventable causes of disease and death,

killing up to two-thirds of long-term users, causing about 80,000 deaths a year in the UK and a quarter of all cancer deaths in England.

The study, commissioned by the Department of Health, draws on the latest data from the British Doctors Study, which began in 1951 as one of the world's first large studies into the effects of smoking, and the Million Women Study, which has tracked women's health since 1996.

While an earlier assessment in the BMJ in 2000 found that on average a single cigarette reduced life expectancy by about 11 minutes, the latest analysis published in the Journal of Addiction nearly doubles the figure to 20 minutes – 17 minutes for men and 22 minutes for women.

"Some people might think they don't mind missing out on a few years of life, given that old age is often marked by chronic illness or disability.

"But smoking doesn't cut short the unhealthy period at the end of life," Jackson insisted. "It primarily eats into the relatively healthy years in midlife, bringing forward the onset of ill-health. This means

a 60-year-old smoker will typically have the health profile of a 70-year-old non-smoker."

Although some smokers live long lives, others develop smoking-related diseases and even die from them in their 40s. The variation is driven by differences in smoking habits such as the type of cigarette used, the number of puffs taken and how deeply smokers inhale. People also differ in how susceptible they are to the toxic substances in cigarette smoke.

The authors stress that smokers must quit completely to get the full benefits to health and life expectancy.

Previous work has shown there is no safe level of smoking: the risk of heart disease and stroke is only about 50% lower for people who smoke one cigarette a day compared with those who smoke 20 a day.

"Stopping smoking at every age is beneficial, but the sooner smokers get off this escalator of death the longer and healthier they can expect their lives to be," they insist.

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Tributes paid to Marhoom Rafik bhai Rawat

Tributes have been paid to the “thoughtful, warm and wonderful” treasurer of Masjid E-Noor Dark Lane Masjid, who passed away last month.

Rafik bhai Rawat, of Woodsome Estate served as the Treasurer at Dark Lane Masjid for many years.

Rafik bhai cared about people and always completed his work with a quiet determination which was unbeatable.

Rafik bhai was thoughtful, warm and wonderful – there are not enough words for to do him justice.

He helped so many people and he was a fantastic man who will not be forgotten.

He epitomised all that is best in volunteering. The local community will

miss his quiet wisdom.

Masjid E Noor Chairman, Haroon bhai Karolia paid tribute to Rafik bhai’s dedication to the Masjid, the community whilst acknowledging that he was a man of principles and great character.

“We are very saddened at the passing away of one of our committee member Rafiq Rawat,” said Mr Karolia.

“He was always a very kind gentleman willing to volunteer and take part in the committee.

”Over the years he served as a treasurer, office bearer, would always help the committee in helping in events, youth programmes, any financial appeal, doing door to door collection giving out timetables, dedicating his valuable time to help with the financial running of the

Masjid.

“May Allah SWT grant the marhoom Janatul firdoos for all of his khidmat and efforts throughout the years and may Allah SWT grant the family sabr.”

May the Almighty, in his infinite mercy, make Rafik bhai’s grave a garden from the gardens of Jannah and expand it as far as the eyes can see.

May He raise him among the righteous, grant him the highest abode in Paradise, and bestow upon us all the strength to endure this loss with beautiful patience.

Let us honor his memory by striving for the everlasting bliss of Jannah, where we will reunite, Insha’Allah.

Parking charges introduced at 15 Kirklees car parks

Parking charges have been introduced at 15 Kirklees car parks.

Although the car parks were previously free to use, the charges have come into effect following a decision made by Kirklees Council.

Drivers using the car parks will be entitled to two hours of free parking before hourly charges apply.

Kirklees Council initially proposed bringing in the charges at 57 free car parks under its jurisdiction.

However, they scaled back the plans following a great deal of anger from the community. The fees apply to car parks with 25 spaces, and most charges begin at

80p per hour for the first three hours.

Some of the sites will only be able to charge £6.50 for five hours or more. The one exception is Field Lane in Batley, where drivers have to pay £1.60 for four hours and then £3.50 for all day.

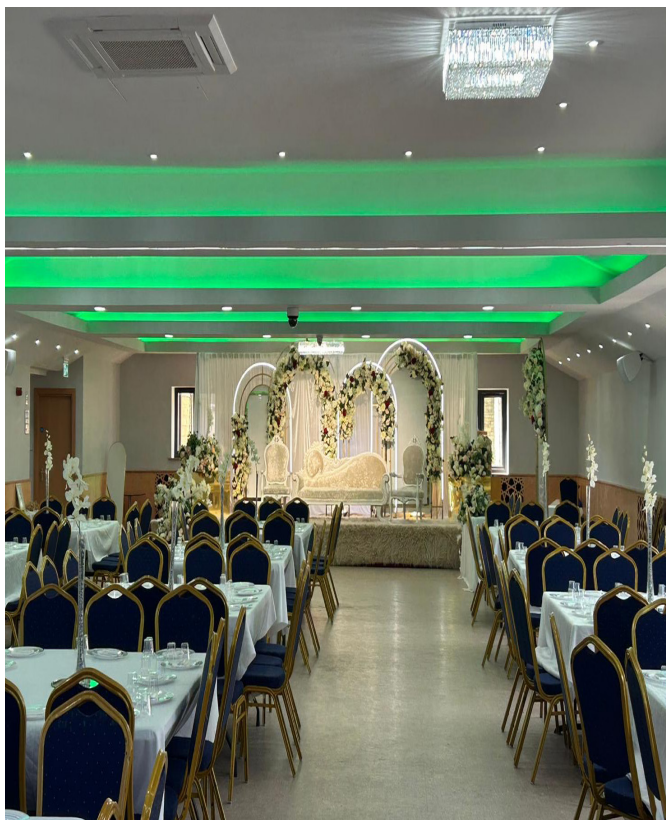
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IMWS Wedding Fair a resounding success

Couples planning their big day found there was plenty to inspire them at the much-anticipated annual IMWS Wedding Fair.

The popular event, was held at the Al-Hikmah centre, one of Batley's most popular wedding/banqueting suites on Sunday the 22nd of December.

With more than 40 exhibitors offering expert tips and advice for couples, whilst also showcasing a variety of services to help soon-to-be-wed couples design their perfect celebration, it was described as a "resounding success" as attendees had the opportunity to gather ideas, ask questions, and connect directly with local professionals.

Wedding cake bakers, food caterers, tea companies, waitering services, stae set-up, decorators, outfit designers, make-up and henna artists along with renowned Jeweller, Pugata converged upon the Al-Hikmah Centre – welcoming hundreds of people from the vicinity and beyond, creating a vibrant atmosphere full of

excitement and inspiration. IMWS Centre Manager, Nadeem Raja said the event was a great success with exhibitors and guests enjoying the experience as a whole, whilst also gaining a great deal of custom.

"We are absolutely delighted with the turnout and the energy in the room," Mr Raja said. "A huge thank you to everyone who came along and to our fantastic exhibitors who made the day so special."

Mr Raja continued: "We also want to extend our thanks to the IMWS team for organising such a fantastic event.

"With such a successful day filled with excitement and wedding inspiration, the IMWS Wedding Fair continues to be a highlight for future brides, grooms, and their families across the area and beyond."

Mr Raja said the Al-Hikmah Centre has seen demand for weddings, conferences and corporate events increase.

"The wedding hall has been completely transformed into a much more

contemporary and glamorous setting - creating a beautiful backdrop, the whole area has a truly friendly yet nonchalant setting."

"We offer flexibility for corporate meetings, or larger events such as weddings that require flexibility, exclusivity, and a change from the norm.

"The entire hall has been refurbished with a beautiful light textured style which will feels brighter and will have a more neutral backdrop, allowing couples to bring their own style to the room even more.

"It's a neutral and muted palate that lends itself well to all sorts of themes and styles. "The beautiful new soft lights add a touch of glamour in a way that's perfectly balanced against the natural feel and neutral tones.

"We're so excited by this investment and redevelopment as it will give a cohesive connection to the rest of our centre. It's a very exciting time for IMWS."





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We are blessed to have with us sacred relics and artefacts from Makkah and Madina – including pieces of the Kiswah (the cloth that covers the Kaaba), cloth from the inner chamber of Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) tomb, and the Lock and Key of the Two Holy Mosques

Additionally, historical treasures from the Ottoman and Abbasid eras will be on display. Join us as we embark on an incredible journey to establish a museum that will preserve and showcase these priceless pieces of Islamic heritage

This will be a unique opportunity for our community and future generations to connect with the rich history of Islam – to see, learn, and reflect on these artefacts up close

We need your support to make this vision a reality

Your donations will help create a space where Islamic knowledge thrives, and our heritage is honoured and passed down

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May Allah reward you for your efforts



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MADINA MASJID

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PURWELL LANE - BATLEY - WF17 7NQ

SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025

WOMENS EVENT 12PM-3PM
MENS EVENT 3PM-6PM

Help support our journey to establish a permanent museum here in Dewsbury
PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY

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IMWS Muslim Burial Services

The IMWS Muslim Burial Service is continuing as normal. Our services are open to everyone.

During office hours burial van keys can be collected from the main office. Out of hours can be collected from Ebrahim Chopdat.

Kirklees Council Burial fee (including chamber) is £3,315. Donations towards the running costs of the funeral van would be most appreciated.

Burial Contact Numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat
07980381197
Yusuf Patel (Paliya)
07590019315
Munir Daji
07739142988



Qasim

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What's on at the Al-hikmah Centre

Autumn 2024	Morning	Afternoon/Evening		
Mon	Groovy Grannies Chair based exercises -open to all females. 10.30am-11.30am Ring to check dates 07747145358 £2 per session	Ladies Quran Tajweed Class (free) 1pm-3pm Provided by IMWS FREE	Ladies Relaxation with Exercise Stretch and tone exercise class with relaxation 5.45pm-6.45pm £2 per session	
Tues	Harmony Ladies' Social Group (Free) Tea and wellbeing activities runs every 2 weeks– open to all females 9.30am-11.30am 24/9/24, 8/10/24, 22/10/24	ESOL Entry Level 3 Speaking and Listening (Free) 10am-12pm Full	Free Ladies Aerobics (Free) 5pm-6pm Provided by IMWS Starts 17/9/24	Free Men's Circuit Training (free) 7pm-8pm Provided by IMWS
Wed	ESOL Entry 1 Speaking and Listening (Free) 9.30am-12.30pm Full			
Thurs	ESOL Entry Level 2 Speaking and Listening (Free) 10am-12pm Full ESOL E3 Writing (Free) 9.30am-12.30pm Full	Sahara Social Group (free) First Thursday of every month open to all females 11am-1pm Contact Zohfina 07823668714	Ladies Lunchtime Exercise Class 12pm-1pm Term time only Ready Steady Active 07974647062 £2/session	

IMWS Community Champions: Awareness or signposting available for Diabetes, Cervical Cancer, Breast/Bowel cancer, Asthma, Falls, Vaccines etc

Limelight– empowering women project: Support in finding courses, volunteering and governance and trustee roles.

Teaching Assistant/Hair styling courses at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) - 07735874071

Ladies Sewing class at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) – Wed 9am-11am 07894708917.

Girl Guides at the Al Hikmah (external) every Sunday 10:30am- 12:00pm – visit www.girlguiding.org.uk to register interest.

NHS Blood donation at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) – Register to donate blood at the Centre visit www.blood.co.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning – open to all Tuesday 24th September 10am-12.30pm Al Hikmah Centre

Please ring the Centre before attending classes or for more information please call:

01924 500555
info@imws.org.uk

www.imws.org.uk



A1

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Paigaam Kids page

Winners



1st Prize sponsored
by Pizza GOGO
Pick up ONLY

1) Raheem Dadhiwala
Batley



2) Ismaeel Bhana
Batley

2nd Prize sponsored
by Chickanos
Pick up ONLY



3) Samiullah
Hussain
Batley

3rd Prize sponsored
by Islamic Bakery
Pick up ONLY

Please collect your prizes from the
Al-Hikmah Centre.

Terms and conditions apply

Name and town of winning entries will be published.
Age limit 13.

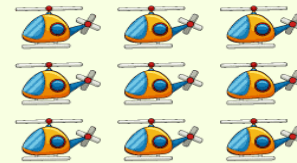
Please screen shot this page & highlight the
answers. Please send a screen shot via email to
info@imws.org.uk with your
name, address, postcode, age and telephone
number before 20th November 2024 .

Kiddies Competition, Al-Hikmah Centre,
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire,
WF17 7AA

Complete the equations



$$4 \times \square = 8$$

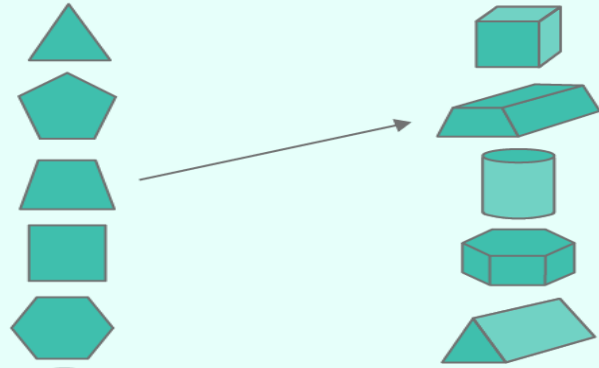


$$\square \times 3 = 9$$



$$\square \times 2 = 4$$

Match the 2d shape with the
correct 3D shapes



Full Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Age/Date

Tel. No:

ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટીનો એપ્રીસીએશન ડીનર સમારંભ

૭મી ડીસેમ્બર ૨૦૨૪ના શનિવારના રોજ અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર બાટલી ખાતે ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી તથા ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફ યુ.કે. મારફત એક ચેરિટી ડીનરનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આપણી સોસાયટી વર્ષોથી ચેરિટી સબ કમિટી મારફત યુ.કે. તથા પરદેશમાં ચેરિટીનું કામ કરે છે. અને તે માટે અહીં અપીલ કરી ચેરિટીની રકમ એકત્ર કરે છે. અને તેની ફાળવણી હાજતમંદો અને કુદરતી આફતો સર્જાય છે તેવા દેશોમાં મદદ પહોંચાડે છે. આ માટે ખાસ કરીને સોસાયટી અત્રેની સૌથી મોટી ચેરિટી ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફ સાથે મળી આ કામને અંજામ આપે છે. જેમાં બાટલી, ડ્યુઝબરીના આપણા લોકો અને બાટલીની મસ્જિદો તરફથી નાણાં એકત્ર કરવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં લોકો ઉદાર દીલે મદદ કરે છે. જેને ધ્યાનમાં લઈ આવા અમારા દાનવીરો અને મસ્જિદ કમિટીના સભ્યો માટે ઉપરોક્ત એપ્રીસીએશન ડીનરનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

આ પ્રોગ્રામમાં ચેરિટી સબ કમિટીના પ્રમુખ જનાબ મહમુદભાઈ પટેલે આમંત્રિત મહેમાનોનો હાજર રહેવા બદલ આભાર માની સંસ્થાની ચેરિટી પ્રવૃત્તિનો ચિતાર રજૂ કર્યો હતો. સાથે ઝકાત, ફીતરા, ઈફતાર પ્રોજેક્ટ અને બીજા પ્રોજેક્ટો વિદેશોમાં કરવામાં આવે છે તેની માહિતી આપતો એક વિડીયો બતાવવામાં આવ્યો હતો. ત્યારબાદ તુફેલ હુસેને (ડાયરેક્ટર, ઓફ ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફ, યુ.કે.) ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફની કામગીરી, આપણી સોસાયટી તરફથી મળતી રકમ અને આપણી કામગીરી વગેરે માટે માહિતી આપી હતી. તથા ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફની સ્થાપનાને આ વર્ષે ૪૦વર્ષ થયા છે તેની માહિતી આપી આ વર્ષોમાં કેવી કામગીરી થઈ અને તે કેટલી પડકારરૂપ રહી હતી તેની વિગતો દર્શાવી હતી. તેમણે સોસાયટીની કામગીરીની સરાહના કરી મુબારકબાદી પાઠવી હતી. આ પ્રસંગે ખાસ મહામાન તરીકે ડો. હાની અલ-બનાનને આમંત્રણ પાઠવવામાં આવ્યું હતું પરંતુ તેમની નાદુરસ્ત તબિયત અને થયેલ ઓપરેશનના કારણે હાજરી આપી શક્યા ન હતા. પરિણામે તેમણે આ પ્રસંગને સંબોધતો એક વિડીયો સુટ કરી મોકલ્યો હતો. જે આ પ્રોગ્રામમાં બતાવવામાં આવ્યો હતો. જેમાં તેમણે આ ચેરિટીની સ્થાપના ૪૦વર્ષ પહેલા કેવી રીતે કરી અને તેનું કામ કેવી રીતે આગળ વધ્યું તેની માહિતી આપી હતી. તેમણે પોતાના સંદેશમાં યંગ જનરેશનને કેટલીક નસીહતો કરી હતી જે ખૂબજ પ્રેરણાદાયક હતી.

ત્યાર પછી ઝીયા સાલીક જેઓ ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફના ડેપ્યુટી ડાયરેક્ટર, યુ.કે. પદ પર છે. જેઓ આપણી સાથે વર્ષોથી જોડાયેલા છે અને કુદરતી આપદા કે બીજા ચેરિટી વર્ક માટે અસર પામેલ દેશોમાં વિઝીટ કરતા રહે છે તેમણે ચેરિટી કામગીરીની વ્યવસ્થા અને તરતીબ વિશે વાતો કરી હતી. સાથેજ ચેરિટી ડ્રીસ્ટ્રીબ્યુશનના તેમના અનુભવો વિષે જાણકારી આપી હતી.

ત્યારબાદ દરેક મસ્જિદોને આપણી સંસ્થા સાથેના ચેરિટી વર્કમાં મદદ કરવા બદલ એવોર્ડ અર્પણ કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી તરફથી ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફ યુ.કે.ને તેમના ચેરિટી વર્ક માટે અને આ ચેરિટીના પાયોનીયર ડો. હાની અલ

બનાનને પણ સોસાયટીના ચેરમેન અબ્દુલ અઝીઝ દાજીના હસ્તે એવોર્ડ અર્પણ કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. આ બન્ને એવોર્ડ અનુક્રમે તુફેલ હુસેન અને ઝીયા સાલિકે સ્વીકાર્યા હતા. અઝીઝ દાજીએ એવોર્ડ આપતા પહેલા ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફની કામગીરીની પ્રસંશા કરી હતી અને ડો.હાનીની ૪૦વર્ષની ચેરિટી સફરની માહિતી આપી તેમની કામગીરીને બિરદાવી હતી.

સ્વાદિષ્ટ ભોજનનો લ્હાવો માંણી સફળતાપૂર્વક પ્રોગ્રામ પૂરો થયો હતો. પ્રોગ્રામ બાદ અનેક સભ્યોના આ પ્રોગ્રામની સફળતાના અને પ્રોગ્રામમાં પૂરી પાડવામાં આવેલ ઉપયોગી માહિતી અને જાણકારી બદલ વખાણ અને મુબારકબાદીના અનેક સંદેશાઓ સોશીયલ મિડીયા ઉપર જોવા મળ્યા હતા.

સૌથી પ્રિય નામમાં મોહમ્મદ મોખરે

યુ.કે. ખાતે બહાર પડેલ એક રિપોર્ટમાં જણાવવામાં આવ્યું છે કે, વર્ષ ૨૦૨૩માં ઈંગ્લેન્ડ અને વેલ્સમાં છોકરાનું સૌથી પ્રિય નામ મોહમ્મદ છે. વાલિઓની પહેલી પસંદ મોહમ્મદ ના નામની રહી છે. આમ તો ૨૦૧૬થી મોહમ્મદ નામ પ્રથમ ટોપ ૧૦ માં આવતું રહ્યું હતું. પરંતુ ૨૦૨૩માં તેણે અંગ્રેજી નામ નોહા, ઓલીવર વગેરેને પાછળ પાડી પ્રથમ નંબર હાંસિલ કર્યો છે. બીજા નંબરે નોહ, ત્રીજા નંબરે ઓલીવર ચોથા નંબરે જ્યોર્જ નામનો સમાવેશ છે. ભારતમાં મુસલમાનોની વસ્તી લગભગ ૧૫૮૬ છે. ત્યાં પણ ૨૦૨૨માં મોહમ્મદ નામ સૌથી પ્રિય છે અને પ્રથમ ક્રમે રહ્યું હતું. જ્યારે કે હિન્દુ નામ શિવાંશ બીજા નંબર અને ધ્રુવ નામ ત્રીજા નંબરે છે. ઈસ્લામમાં છોકરાઓનું નામ પયગમ્બર મોહમ્મદ (સ.અ.વ.)ના નામને રાખવામાં મહત્વતા આપવામાં આવે છે.

કર્કલીસમાં ડસ્ટબીન બાબતે લોકોનો વિજય

ગયા માસમાં કર્કલીસ કાઉન્સિલે ઘરના કચરા નિકાલના જે ડસ્ટબીનો હોય છે તેની સાઈઝમાં ૨૫૮૬૬ ઘટાડો એટલેકે હાલના બીનોથી ૨૫૮૬૬ નાનું બીન બદલવાનો નિર્ણય લીધો હતો. તેમના મતે આમ કરવાથી એક વર્ષ પછી દર વર્ષે લગભગ એક લાખ પાઉન્ડની બચત થશે એવું અનુમાન લગાવ્યું હતું. આપણે જાણીએ છીએ કે, હાલમાં જે સાઈઝના ગ્રે અને ગ્રીન બીનો છે તે દર બે અઠવાડિયે કલેક્ટ કરવામાં આવે છે. ગ્રે બીનનો વપરાશ પણ વધુ હોય છે જેથી મોટી ફેમિલીના લોકોના ગ્રે બિનો જલ્દી ભરાય છે. તેવા સંજોગોમાં નાના બીનો જો મૂકવામાં આવે તો પરિસ્થિતિ વધુ ખરાબ થઈ શકે છે.

પરિણામે કર્કલીસના અનેક રહેવાસીઓએ આ નિર્ણયનો જબરદસ્ત વિરોધ કર્યો હતો અને પેટીશન પણ દાખલ કરી હતી. જેને કારણે કર્કલીસે તેમનો નિર્ણય બદલી આ યોજના પડતી મૂકી છે. પરિણામે લોકોનો વિજય થયો છે અને રહેવાસીઓમાં રાહતની લાગણી ફેલાઈ છે. એજ રીતે કેટલાક સમય ઉપર બાટલીની લાયબ્રેરીને બંધ કરવાનો પણ નિર્ણય કર્કલીસ કાઉન્સિલે લીધો હતો. જેના માટે પણ લોકોએ વિરોધ નોંધાવ્યો હતો. અને એક ઝુંબેશ ચલાવવામાં આવી હતી. જે માટે કર્કલીસ કાઉન્સિલના અપક્ષ કાઉન્સિલરોએ આ લડતને ઉપાડી લીધી હતી અને તેમના પ્રયત્નોના કારણે લાયબ્રેરી બંધ ન કરવાનો નિર્ણય પણ કાઉન્સિલે લીધો છે. આમ બે જગ્યાએ લોકોનો વિજય થયો છે.



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