Message from the Chair

The last six months have been an extremely busy period of growth, both in the number of staff and programmes. We have seen grant applications double and have been able to award an increased number of grants to charities doing exceptional work.

In our largest part-funded project to date, we are working with Cambridge Muslim College and Ebrahim College to help deliver our faith leadership development programme. Our support will contribute to the development of these institutions of Islamic scholarship necessary for the education of future Muslim thinkers and leaders. Our civil leadership scholarships recipients attended an induction day at Cambridge Muslim College in October, where they were able to engage with practitioners in their fields of interest, ask questions and discuss ways to assist their communities.

The Foundation is pleased to have supported the Runnymede Trust in the production of their report Islamophobia: Still a Challenge for Us All, which explores Islamophobia in British society 20 years after Runnymede’s first report on this issue. It offers some recommendations to tackle racial and religious inequality faced by British Muslims. We are also supporting the development of a Religion and Belief Equality Index to help workplaces and service providers engage and accommodate religion and belief effectively. The research is led by Professor Adam Dinham of Goldsmiths, University of London.

The Foundation is excited to be supporting MFest, the UK’s first festival of Muslim Cultures and Ideas which will be taking place at the British Library in April.

Last but not least, we are proud to be supporting the invaluable work of the Grenfell Muslim Response Unit, set up to respond to the medium and long-term needs of those impacted by the fire at Grenfell Tower, in particular to support them with funerals, counselling and legal advice.

Asif Aziz

Board of Advisors Update

JENNY WATSON CBE
The Foundation is pleased to announce that Jenny has joined our Board of Advisors. Jenny served two terms as Chair of the Electoral Commission and, as Chief Counting Officer, was responsible for the overall conduct of the EU Referendum. Jenny is a former Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission and was Vice Chair of the Commission on Islam, Participation and Public Life, set up by Citizens UK and part funded by the Foundation.

She is currently a non-executive director of the Financial Ombudsman Service and a primary school governor. Jenny brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our Board of Advisors, complementing the breadth and depth of knowledge and wisdom already available to us through our existing Advisors. She joins Farmida Bi, Trevor Pears, Francis Campbell, Michael Wakelin and our Patron, Baroness Butler-Sloss. We look forward to working with her.
Community Grants

We are proud to support our new community grants beneficiaries who are working across our target disadvantaged communities. They include the following:

**Mind** is a nationally recognised mental health charity. The Foundation is supporting their Up My Street project, a youth-led intervention for young African and Caribbean people.

**West London Mission** serves the homeless and marginalised in London. The Foundation is supporting their Eat & Heat project which will give provide essential help to the homeless.

**Street Support Network** helps homeless people by connecting them with organisations that provide effective support. The Foundation is supporting the development of their website.

**Amin & Yasmin** create resources for deaf children. The Foundation is supporting their deaf awareness campaign and sponsoring a book on Islamic Sign Language.

**Volunteer It Yourself** is a training project that develops skills for young people. The Foundation is supporting a project to train young people to help the elderly in Haringey.

For our full list of current grantees, please see our website.

**Next Deadline for Applications:**
2 July 2018

Leadership Development

**Afghan Association Paiwand** offers advice to Afghan refugees on health, social services and other matters. The Foundation is supporting their work with children.

**Refugee Action** provides practical support to refugees. The Foundation is supporting their Families United project which helps children reunited with family to access support.

**Spare Tyre** is a participatory, arts-based charity. The Aziz Foundation is part funding their multisensory training sessions for carers of people with dementia in Deptford.

**The Advocacy Academy** runs an eight-month social leadership programme for teenagers in South London. The Foundation will support the expansion of work across London.

**Operation Black Vote** campaigns for racial justice and equality. The Foundation is funding a scheme to nurture new leaders.

**Bursaries**

Our bursaries support potential leaders from disadvantaged communities to study for a post graduate qualification.

**The Centre for Islam and Medicine** facilitates research and knowledge sharing. The Foundation is supporting workshops on the relationship between Islam and health.

**Approachable Parenting** draws on Islamic principles to provide skills to people raising children. The Foundation is supporting the development of their online resources.

**Felicity Ndebele** is the Managing Director of Isocrates. She is studying for an MSc in Education at the Univeristy of Oxford.

**Shafina Vohra** is studying for a PhD in Psychology and Human Development at University College London.

**Elders Voice** supports older people with dementia. The Foundation is supporting a project to improve the mental and physical health of elderly people in Brent.

**Yolanda Kisenyi** is part of World Merit 360. She is studying for an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford.
Arts

Khadija Ahmed is the founder of AnotherLenz and has written for The Huffington Post. She is studying for an MSc in Media and Communications at the London School of Economics.

Tariq Chowdhury is a filmmaker who runs his own production company, Film Pill. He is studying for an MA in Creative Business at the National Film and Television School.

Mohammed-Zain Dada is co-founder of Khidr Collective and Decolonising-SOAS. He is studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Public Policy

St Edmund’s College University of Cambridge

Mirina Paananen specialises in recitation and conducts a Muslim choir. She is studying for an MSt in Islamic Studies and History at Regent’s Park College, Oxford.

Farah Jassat is a former journalist and producer. She is studying Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion at St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge.

Community Services

Goldsmiths University of London

Kawthar Alli is interested in mental health issues faced by minority communities. She is studying for an MA in Counselling and plans to work with Muslim and minority communities.

Hassan Vawda is studying for an MA in Applied Anthropology & Community and Youth Work, and is exploring creative expression in faith dialogues.

Doctoral Studies

Farhana Mayer is conducting research at St Stephen’s House, University of Oxford. She is exploring theological, ethical and legal concepts in relation to the Shariah in Britain.

Martyn Rush is conducting doctorate research at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. He is exploring finance issues impacting British Muslims.

Scholarships

We are proud to have awarded ten postgraduate scholarships to emerging leaders as part of our Muslim Leadership Development Programme.

Our scholarships open annually in January and close between April and July. Please see our website for details.

The Foundation is proud to have formally launched its seminaries development project through a signing ceremony on 15 October 2017.

The Foundation is proud to be sponsoring a professorship and a lectureship at Cambridge Muslim College, a lectureship at Ebrahim College, and a chaplain who will work with students and staff at both institutions. The new staff appointed are:

Professor Abdal Hakim Murad is the Aziz Foundation Professor of Islamic Studies at CMC. He was Director of Studies in Theology at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Najah Nadi is the Aziz Foundation Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Cambridge Muslim College. She has studied at Al Azhar, Princeton and submitted her PhD at Oxford University.

Dr Ramon Harvey is the Aziz Foundation Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Ebrahim College. His book, The Qur’an and the Just Society, is published by Edinburgh University Press.

Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra is the new Aziz Foundation Chaplain. He is a visiting imam at De Montfort University and a member of the University of Leicester’s World Faiths Advisory Group. He regularly advises Lambeth Palace on Muslim issues.

Khadiza Ahmed is the founder of AnotherLenz and has written for The Huffington Post. She is studying for an MSc in Media and Communications at the London School of Economics.

Tariq Chowdhury is a filmmaker who runs his own production company, Film Pill. He is studying for an MA in Creative Business at the National Film and Television School.

Mohammed-Zain Dada is co-founder of Khidr Collective and Decolonising-SOAS. He is studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Our scholarships open annually in January and close between April and July. Please see our website for details.
Research & Policy Grants

We are pleased to be currently part funding research at a number of organisations and institutions. These include the following:

**London Gypsies and Travellers**
charting the inequalities travellers face in the UK and examining their presence in British public life.

**Runnymede** is the UK’s leading independent race equality think tank. The Foundation is supporting a new report on the continuing challenges and developments in tackling Islamophobia.

**Britain Thinks** is an insight and strategy consultancy service. The Foundation is supporting research into effective communication strategies for Muslim civil society organisations in addressing Islamophobia.

**Arts & Culture Grants**

The Foundation is proud to fund the following grant recipients in the arts and culture sector:

**Celebrating cultures and ideas: a weekend of discussions, workshops and performances from Muslim communities.**
Friday 27th - Sunday 29th April 2018
The British Library
96 Euston Rd, Kings Cross, London NW1 2DB
Sign up for updates at www.mfest.org

**The Foundation** part-funded Zhangal (Jungle), a co-production between National Theatre and Young Vic Theatre, exploring experiences of refugees at the Calais “Jungle” refugee camp. The cast includes people who have experienced displacement.

**Arts in the Yard** is a membership organisation and local forum based in Birmingham. The Foundation is funding an art installation around the theme of migration.

**The Tricycle Theatre** is producing an ambitious play that will champion diversity on the London stage. The Foundation is supporting pre-production workshops.

**HALOL** creates comedy nights and musical performances at mainstream venues to ensure artists and audiences of minority ethnic backgrounds feel represented and welcome.

Financial Distribution

To date we have approved grants totalling just under £3.6 million. This money has been allocated as follows:

- Community Empowerment £749k
- Leadership Development £1.82m
- Public Engagement £689k
- Beehive Residencies £585k
- Other projects £47k

Operations

As our work expands, so does our team of staff. We are delighted to welcome on board the following new team members:

**SHENAZ BUNGLAWALA**
Public Engagement Manager
Shenaz is the former Head of Research at MEND. She will develop and oversee our Public Engagement workstream.

**HAZAN MAHAMDAULIE**
Arts & Culture Manager
Hassan was a senior strategy officer at Arts Council England’s diversity unit. He will develop our Arts and Culture workstream.

New Staff

The Foundation is supporting a research project by **London Gypsies and Travellers** charting the inequalities travellers face in the UK and examining their presence in British public life.

**Britain Thinks**
Insight & Strategy

The Foundation is supporting the **All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims**. The Group will engage with parliamentarians to raise awareness of British Muslim communities and the challenges they face.

Financial Distribution

To date we have approved grants totalling just under £3.6 million. This money has been allocated as follows:

- Community Empowerment £749k
- Leadership Development £1.82m
- Public Engagement £689k
- Beehive Residencies £585k
- Other projects £47k

Operations

As our work expands, so does our team of staff. We are delighted to welcome on board the following new team members:

**SHENAZ BUNGLAWALA**
Public Engagement Manager
Shenaz is the former Head of Research at MEND. She will develop and oversee our Public Engagement workstream.

**HAZAN MAHAMDAULIE**
Arts & Culture Manager
Hassan was a senior strategy officer at Arts Council England’s diversity unit. He will develop our Arts and Culture workstream.

New Staff

The Foundation is supporting a research project by **London Gypsies and Travellers** charting the inequalities travellers face in the UK and examining their presence in British public life.

**Britain Thinks**
Insight & Strategy

The Foundation is supporting the **All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims**. The Group will engage with parliamentarians to raise awareness of British Muslim communities and the challenges they face.

Celebrating cultures and ideas: a weekend of discussions, workshops and performances from Muslim communities.
Friday 27th - Sunday 29th April 2018
The British Library
96 Euston Rd, Kings Cross, London NW1 2DB
Sign up for updates at www.mfest.org

If you would like to know more about our work or apply for funding, please visit us at:
www.azizfoundation.org.uk

@AzizFndn
@AzizFndn