

EMPOWER



National Theatre: Another World

Message from the Director

As we celebrate our first full year in operation, I am very pleased to share some of the highlights of our progress.

We now have a full team of patron, trustees, advisors and staff. The most recent additions to the team are introduced in this newsletter. It is this great team that makes it all possible at the Foundation – from visionary thinking to strategic planning to effective delivery.

We have now agreed a second tranche of community empowerment grants, bringing the total since our inception to just over £120,000. These grants bring enormous benefit to individuals and groups in some of the most disadvantaged communities in our society.

We have now also launched our incubation programme, and are already facilitating three young or new start-ups to develop their organisational infrastructure and programmes. Each residency receives office space, a generous start-up grant and organisational development support. The start-ups range in

their focus from political literacy and policy advocacy to media and culture.

Our Scholarship programme is now fully underway. From one scholarship last year, we are providing four more scholarships this year. Our scholars will be studying for a wide range of Masters at Oxbridge, from history to environmental studies.

Our research and policy work has taken off. We are particularly proud of a collaboration with some leading grant-makers to commission Ipsos MORI to undertake work on social attitudes in and regarding Muslim communities. We hope this can be developed into an annual survey, providing valuable information for future policy and development work in one of the most disadvantaged communities in Britain today.

Perhaps the most thrilling news for us so far, however, is the acquisition of a community and cultural hub at the Trocadero in Piccadilly Circus. The hub will accommodate a theatre/concert hall, an incubation space for start-ups, two art galleries, a multi-faith mezzanine and a café. Design and building work at the hub is already underway and we hope it will be in full operation by Christmas next year.

There are also many other developments in progress. We hope to share these with you in our next newsletter.

Mohammed Aziz
Trustee & Director

New Advisors

We are pleased to welcome three new members to our Board of Patron and Advisors. They bring with them a great wealth of expertise, experience and insight.



FARMIDA BI

Farmida is a Partner at a global law firm. She specialises in debt and equity, emerging markets, mergers and acquisitions and Islamic finance. Farmida has previously served as a trustee of the Muslim Youth Helpline and the Peabody Trust.



FRANCIS CAMPBELL

Francis has held positions in the European Union and the UN Security Council. He served on the staff of Tony Blair, PM, as a Policy Adviser and as a Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He is currently Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's University, Twickenham, London.



TREVOR PEARS CMG

Trevor is a Director of the William Pears Group and the Executive Chair of the family's charitable foundation, the Pears Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1992 to help understand and address key issues in society through research, education and social action.

New Staff Members

As our work expands, so too our staff team is growing. We are delighted to welcome on board the following new staff.



OMAYMA EL ELLA

Programmes Manager

Omayma was the Operations Manager at the Muslim Charities Forum. Her previous work in conflict resolution and economic development has led her to Sri Lanka, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Central African Republic. She will be taking forward programmes and projects across our work streams.



SAADIA MAHMOOD

Grants Officer

Saadia has previously worked for the Charity Commission, the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Muslim Charities Forum. She has also worked at the James Caan Foundation and as a voluntary teacher in Indian administered Kashmir. She will now be responsible for co-ordinating our grant-making work across the Foundation.



AFTAB AHMED

Programmes Officer

Aftab has taught English at universities across the Arab world. He was director of a think-tank in Jordan for three years before managing a publishing house in the UK. He now works as a freelancer on a variety of projects. He is working part-time at the Foundation, leading our work on leadership development.



ONJALI RAUF

Communications Officer

Onjali was Communications Manager for Women for Women International (UK) and Assistant Editor of emel magazine. She is the founder and director of women's rights group Making Herstory. She will be working part-time at the Foundation on communications and public relations.

GOOD NEWS!

The Aziz Foundation is now a UK registered charity.
Charity No: 1169558

Community Empowerment Grants

Since our last newsletter, we are proud to have supported the following projects, each highlighting or addressing an important issue or need in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK.



Football Beyond Borders sees the launch of a youth-led football media platform, FBB TV Young Leaders. The platform will provide young people from disadvantaged backgrounds from across London with the training and opportunities to produce their own online media stories. The young people will work with Premier League and international football stars such as Santi Cazorla, Yaya Toure and Lianne Sanderson to produce their stories.



The Berakah Project's Youth Ensemble is a new inter-faith music initiative dedicated to enabling young people to cross the boundaries of race, religion and culture. In addition to delivering performances, the project will use music to develop confidence, trust and friendships to enable multi-faith dialogue and activism between young musicians.



Raising Voices was a theatre-based confidence-building programme for young Muslim women aged 16-25. Through the medium of creative storytelling and monologues inspired by their lives and celebrating their unique perspectives on life in London, it culminated in a one-off performance at the Lyric Theatre on 6 August 2016.

SAINT+JAMES'S
PICCADILLY

There are a growing number of men and women forced to sleep on the streets of London each night. In order to help address their basic needs, the Aziz Foundation will be supporting St. James's Church, Piccadilly, in providing hot meals on a weekly basis to local homeless people.



Another World, performed at the National Theatre, provided a deep insight into the rise of 'Islamic State' and its appeal to young Muslims. The Foundation helped launch its tour by sponsoring its first stop at the Mulberry School for Girls in Tower Hamlets, taking the play to both the girls of the school and the surrounding community.



The One Million Mentors project aims to connect one million mentors with one million young people with a view to encouraging, developing and maximising the potential of new talent. Our grant helped UpRising to undertake the feasibility and launch of the project.



MADE's Activism & Leadership project seeks to identify and encourage potential young leaders to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to champion environment-related campaigns. The expectation is that these leaders will lead such campaigns in minority communities and society at large.



Queens of Syria was a UK-wide tour of a ground-breaking play highlighting the plight of women refugees of war. Performed by an all-female cast of 14 refugees from across Syria, the Foundation supported Developing Artists' three-week tour of the play in seven cities, including Edinburgh, Liverpool and London.



Ramadan Tent's Open Iftar brings together people of different faiths and beliefs and the homeless during the month of Ramadan for the sharing of food and stories. The Foundation supported this project to help foster greater understanding between communities and different parts of society.

Young Scholars

After the success of our pilot scholarship last year, we are very pleased to provide a new batch of scholarships to the following young scholars.



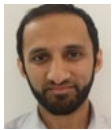
MARTYN RUSH

With a First in History from University College London (UCL) and a subsequent teaching qualification, Martyn was nominated as Ambassador of the Teach First Programme. He is currently completing an MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University. He hopes to specialise in economic and finance issues impacting British Muslims.



THILAL HALIMAH

A qualified teacher with a diploma in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Thilal was recipient of an award from Kings College London for her work supporting refugee children in Syria and Turkey. She will be pursuing an MA in Education and Psychology at the University of Cambridge.



SAQIB HUSSAIN

With a BSc in Physics from Oxford University, Saqib went on to intern at the Home Office before working as a physicist for British Nuclear Fuels and as a Senior Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. He will now begin his MPhil in Islamic Studies and History at Oxford University.



HIBBA MAZHARY

Hibba holds a BA in Geography from the University of Oxford. As an executive committee member of the Oxford University ISOC, she launched a number of initiatives to enhance local knowledge about organic farming. She will continue studying at Oxford, embarking on an MSc in Environmental Governance.

Research & Policy Work

Our research and policy work has taken off, in terms of both in-house and commissioning work, and also in terms of supporting external projects. Our current work includes the following.



The Foundation is contributing to a mapping exercise on faith communities, networks and organisations and their involvement in migration work. The mapping exercise will provide a clearer picture of what work is currently being undertaken, where the gaps are, and what more can be done.

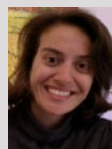


The Foundation is joining forces with Unbound Philanthropy, Barrow Cadbury and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to commission research on Muslim social attitudes and public attitudes towards Islam and Muslims in Britain. The work will be undertaken by Ipsos MORI and will initially re-evaluate existing data sets to understand and set baselines. The long-term objective is to commission periodic surveys to reveal changes in this baseline. We hope this will help to guide resources and policy work where developments are most needed.



The Foundation is supporting some policy work on counter-terrorism. We recently funded a Rights Watch UK conference on Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding, organised jointly with Chatham House.

We have also hosted several roundtable discussions on various aspects of counter-terrorism, enabling civil society groups to engage directly with high profile practitioners in this field such as David Anderson QC (Independent Reviewer of Counter-Terrorism Legislation) and Sir Peter Fahy (former Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police).



"The Aziz Foundation was instrumental in facilitating the joint roundtable held by Rights Watch (UK) and Chatham House which assessed the UK

Government's approach to counter extremism. The event provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders from government, academia and civil society to discuss issues concerning the human rights compliance of the government's approach to counter extremism and will feed into work being carried out by these organisations."

YASMINE AHMED
Director, Rights Watch UK

Incubation Residents

Our incubation grants, which include desk space, seed capital and development support, are awarded to pioneers in our three streams of work. So far, we have made three such awards.



Patchwork Foundation works to encourage the positive integration of minority, disadvantaged and under-represented communities into British political society. Through facilitating opportunities for interaction between such communities and MPs and policy makers and shapers, it empowers citizens to play a more active role on the issues that impact them.



Patchwork Foundation: Mandela Project



The Bridge Institute is an independent think-tank producing in-depth research and analysis on Muslims in Britain and the issues that affect them. It aims to develop discourses that better reflect the realities with regards to, and as experienced by, British Muslims. It seeks thereby to provide a more informed basis for policy interventions likely to impact Muslim communities.

M-FEST

M-Fest is a new literary festival exploring Muslims and their cultural diversity through a combination of author-led events, panel discussions on topical issues and live entertainment. Gathering voices from across the literature landscape, it will forge a forward-thinking initiative celebrating Muslim cultural actors and voices in London and beyond.

A Cultural Hub at the Trocadero

One of the most exciting developments at the Aziz Foundation this year is its acquisition of a new community and cultural hub at the Trocadero in central London. The space will include the following.

AN AUDITORIUM – to be used as a theatre, concert hall or conference facility. It will be fully equipped for drama, music and comedy rehearsals and performances, lectures, debates and discussions, exhibitions and other community events – for example, multi-faith events and prayer gatherings. It will contribute to the ‘social capital’ of London’s communities, and be a unique central location geared towards developing the spirit, artistic skills and cultural output of those otherwise most disadvantaged in our society.

TWO ART GALLERIES – one housing a large historical collection of Islamic art and artefacts, consisting of over 3,000 pieces from Turkey and the Middle East. The gallery will provide display space for approximately 300 pieces at a time. The collection will therefore be presented in a cyclical rotation of these pieces. There will be a second gallery for the exhibition of more contemporary collections

and works by young artists, featuring pieces which may also be available for sale to the general public.

AN INCUBATION CENTRE – to assist the development of not-for-profit start-ups in three core areas: community and leadership development work; research, public policy and political engagement work; and the development of the arts and artists in disadvantaged communities. The centre will include meeting rooms, a library and a multi-purpose seminar/training room for use by start-ups and others using the centre through its hot-desking provisions.

A MULTI-FAITH MEZZANINE – this will be open to people of all faiths and none and used as a quiet space, prayer facility and for holding religious services and multi-faith discussions. The space will allow single-faith programming with observers and interfaith groups to organise multi-faith events. The space will be served by a full-time chaplain.

A CAFÉ – to seat approximately 60 people. The café will also accommodate a bookshop and a gift shop. This will be a part café, part social enterprise and part art space in which contemporary artists and photographers will exhibit their works for sale. It will be a place to meet, to linger and to work for London’s future social entrepreneurs, aspiring leaders and artists from all backgrounds, including disadvantaged and ethnic minority communities.

We hope this new space at the Trocadero will be a bustling hub for community and cultural activities – a place where new bridges will be built, new ideas and projects will be developed, and where people from all communities will be able to experience the rich diversity of identities, histories and cultures that make Britain so great today.

Financial Distribution

In our first year of operation, we have approved grants totalling just under **£1.6m** to pioneering organisations and projects across the UK. This investment, which marks the launch of our work across all three work streams, has been allocated as follows:

- £120,100 in community grants.
- £975,000 to leadership initiatives.
- £180,025 to public engagement programmes.
- £300,000 to support our start-up residents.
- £16,000 to other work.



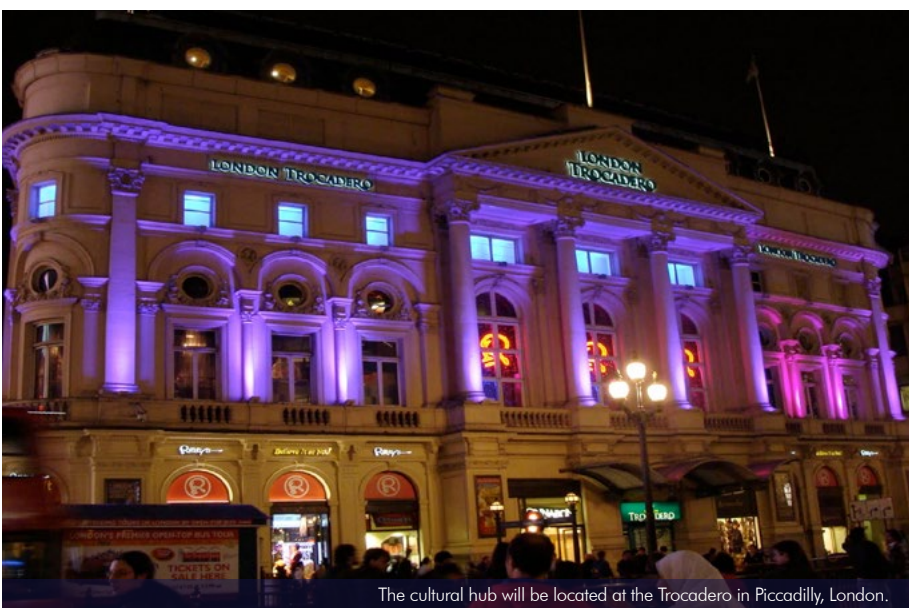
- Community Grants
- Leadership Development Initiatives
- Public Engagement Projects
- Start-Up Residencies
- Other Work

As we continue to develop our work streams, we look forward to widening our support to organisations and individuals who share our vision. In particular, we look forward to working with partner funders to optimise our growth and impact.

“

I can do things you cannot.
You can do things I cannot.
Together we can do great things...

MOTHER TERESA



The cultural hub will be located at the Trocadero in Piccadilly, London.

If you would like to learn more about our work or apply for funding, please follow us at:

www.azizfoundation.org.uk

