

# Muslim community in Birmingham

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# Introduction

- This slide discusses the selected community that will be focused on in the presentation.
- The presentation will discuss the needs, issues, diversity, opportunities, legal actions and laws, and other significant aspects followed by the focused community across Birmingham.
- The selected community within this presentation is the Muslims living in Birmingham
- Muslims in Birmingham are considered to be the most diverse community with a greater variety of people from different nations and religions.
- According to Birmingham Live (2023), more than 340,000 Muslims live in Birmingham, about 29% of Birmingham's population.

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## Selected Community

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The community chosen for this presentation is “Muslims Living in Birmingham”.

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There is evidence that in 2021 an estimated 29.9% of Birmingham residents were Muslim, up from around 21.8% in 2011 (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

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In general, the percentage increase in the Muslim population in Birmingham has been greater than elsewhere in the UK.

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As an essential part of the UK, Birmingham freely accepts diverse people with different religions and races (Birmingham et al., 2022).

# About the Community

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- Birmingham is home to people from 187 nationalities and religions. Known for its warm welcome, it provides access to the city for a wide variety of people (Birmingham et al., 2023).
- In addition, the city is ethnically diverse and encourages all religions without disrespecting or treating anyone badly.
- About 20.0% of Birmingham's population are residents aged 50 to 64 (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

# Needs of the Community

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- The Government of Birmingham is responsive to the needs of Birmingham's Muslim community.
- About 28% of the Muslim community in the UK live in private rented or rent-free accommodation, and about 30% own a mortgage or share ownership (Office for National Statistics, 2023).
- In addition, it is reported that <sup>12</sup> Muslims are more likely to have poorer access to mental <sup>12</sup> health services than people of other religions.
- It is reported that around 27% <sup>19</sup> of Birmingham's Muslims live in council housing and around 16% are employed full-time, compared to over 30% of other religions in Birmingham (Birmingham et al., 2022b).

# Issues Experienced

- Muslims in Birmingham also suffer from high unemployment rates as they are likely to have difficulties finding a job or having their position in society recognized compared to other residents of the city (Allen, 2017).
- Islamophobia has had a significant impact on Birmingham's Muslim community.
- There is evidence that Muslim women in the UK are more likely to face discrimination and racial abuse (European Network Against Racism, 2016).
- According to Hutnik and Street (2010), compared to other youth, Muslim girls are more likely to be discriminated against by other students in their educational institutions based on their dress and other factors that identify them as Muslim.

# Communication

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- British Muslims use a wider range of media and technologies to communicate with one another.
- According to Knott (2018), there are instances where British Muslims have made extensive use of Urdu media, including newspapers and television, to keep abreast of political and religious events.
- Some Muslims meet and communicate in mosques, cafes and other places of entertainment.
- These individuals mobilize to stay in touch with their communities, families and friends.
- Muslim communities host cultural events where they meet and often spend time with their family and friends living in the UK by visiting their places.

# Support and Provision

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- Muslim Hands is one of the largest international charities in the UK, providing help and support to those in need in the community.
- The charity works for many countries and offers real-time help and support to affected people at every event.
- Another international charity, Muslim Aid, provides development assistance to those in need, helping people regardless of their religion and race (Transparent Hands, 2023).
- The Muslim Council of Britain empowers Muslim communities to become a prosperous British society.

# Policy and Legislation

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- Birmingham City Council and local authorities consider promoting equality and tackling inequalities to be one of the city's key objectives.
- For example, the city uses the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that every Muslim living in Birmingham is protected from discrimination, harassment and victimization based on age, race, disability and other factors (Birmingham et al., 2023c).
- Birmingham City Council has launched several equality activities such as the LGBT Allies network and many other activities that contribute to people's equality (Birmingham et al., 2023c).

# Theory

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- Social capital theory is one of the influential theories that can be implemented in Birmingham's practices, leading to greater development and accumulation of human capital (Wright, 2015).
- The city can develop more human capital by nurturing and developing better social relationships with the Muslim community, which makes up around 29% of its population.
- Another relatable theory is Maslow's theory of needs that may arise within the Muslim community residing in Birmingham.
- Birmingham needs to focus on the needs of the Muslim community and how to provide them with resources and services, which automatically increases their commitment to increasing the city's prosperity compared to other cities and areas in the UK.

# Conclusion and Recommendations

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- Birmingham's Muslim communities are happier. However, most of them are likely to experience challenges and problems related to their health and social care as access to the Muslim community in Birmingham is restricted.
- The presentations offer a deeper insight into the sources of communication used by the Muslim community in Birmingham. It emphasizes the problems and needs of the Muslim community. It also notes that Birmingham's Muslim communities are likely to face social problems and discrimination based on their dress and religion from other communities.
- As such, Birmingham's administration and local authorities must focus on strict policies and practices that benefit Birmingham's Muslim community.

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