



Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association (UK)

Annual National Peace Symposium 2026

GUEST FEEDBACK

JUSTICE, TOLERANCE AND COMPASSION
Women Uniting for Peace





Professor Joanna Newman MBE

Deputy director and provost at SOAS, University of London

It's such a pleasure to have been invited here tonight. To be in this room full of women from diverse backgrounds who believe in peace and compassion.

I've been really inspired by the energy and generosity of spirit here. I really enjoyed my visit and felt such warmth and commitment to peace at the event.



Sara H

Today's event has been inspirational. The welcome from everyone has been amazing. The values behind everything you do is incredible. It has been amazing to hear about the history of the religion and the ethos that everyone lives by. The generosity everyone has shown has made me feel welcome and I feel humbled by the work everyone does.

Jenny M

It was a very well organised and thought provoking event.

I felt it was good to be reminded about the fact that the role of women in all communities goes well beyond the home. I feel inspired to do more and to give more than I do.

Lauren H

Every human life has equal value – a beautiful message and event. It is so wonderful to see so many women celebrating peace and community, altogether, for each other. Baitul Futuh is a beautiful place of calm and love.

Elizabeth D

I have really enjoyed the peace symposium - concentrating on shared values across faiths. It is a very welcoming environment and I particularly enjoyed the range of female academic speakers. What a beautiful recitation of the verses from the Holy Qur'an.



Dr Irene Morlino

Visiting Fellow, Department of International Relations, LSE.

What I take from this event is really how these values [of justice, tolerance, compassion and peace] travel across faith, travel across background, and across communities.

Being part of a different background, I felt part of the community here. I found this marvellous and something I will cherish and remember as the years go on. I am very grateful to have been a part of this event.



Nina B

Such a welcoming event. It was lovely to hear from different charities working hard to support those desperately in need of care. It was especially nice to see the course being offered to teachers, with an introduction to Islam.

Clare H

I felt very privileged to be invited to attend. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly and its been great to see the amount of support the community provide to each other and the wider community. Thank you.

Sarah T

Thank you so very much for your kind invitation and wonderful hospitality. What an amazing and inspirational event. Thank you. It was first class!

Jihane

I really liked this event, I found all the speeches inspirational and I wish to come again soon. Everyone is very kind and friendly.

Asra D

Enjoyed the speakers who shared thoughtful perspectives. It was inspiring to hear different voices come together. The event was welcoming and well organised.

Cello G

I really appreciated the speakers, very educational and relevant. deeply needed in today's climate. Thank you!



Lex Lindell

The Baytree Centre

Thank you so much for having us. It was such a beautiful evening, and everyone was so warm and welcoming to us. We all left feeling so inspired with a renewed faith in the world and in our shared communities. The food was absolutely delicious and the stalls at the beginning were so informative and impactful!

I am glad my brief speech went well! I was a bit nervous but so grateful for the opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to your association and for inviting us to share in the brilliant mission of peace that your community is putting forth to the world with such dedication. It was wonderful to hear from you and all the speakers present on how we can work together to deliver a world that centres peace, justice, and tolerance.

Thank you again for inviting us and for the opportunity to connect with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association. It is such an inspiring group of women, and it is such a blessing to have been able to learn from you all and connect on our shared values and mission.



Kinza N

Felt a great sense of sisterhood, especially when walking around the stalls, where ladies made us feel welcome and comfortable asking questions. Loved the decor and the food and refreshments were nice. Beautiful heart-warming speeches.

Bianca R

Very nice people. The programme was very nice. I was more comfortable because the event wasn't mixed.

Anna L

Very informative and well organised event. The mosque tour was great, very educational. Great speakers and wonderful charity support.

Hannah M

It was so inspirational to hear all the speakers discussing the themes of compassion, tolerance and justice for all and the idea that all women are capable of working in their own way towards achieving these important goals.

I was invited to the event by a wonderful volunteer and community organiser who I work with in Roehampton.

The food was delicious especially the ice cream with carrot halwa!

Trudi W

A beautiful event, bringing together like-minded females committed to justice, tolerance, compassion and peace. The speakers were inspirational and interesting.



Kath Lawrence

The Rural Refugee Network

It was a great pleasure to experience the warm welcome, energy and positivity of the community. The whole event was meticulously planned and ran incredibly smoothly yet felt organic and relaxed rather than structured.

We were particularly struck by the sense of the whole community pitching in, and how we were approached throughout the evening by numerous members of the community, happily chatting and explaining things, making sure we felt welcome and at ease, and that we were very well fed and watered of course. What absolutely delicious food embodying the warm hospitality!

The tour was fascinating and really helped us to understand much more. Again, efficiently run but managing to also be very relaxed and friendly.

Wonderful atmosphere. Incredibly slick organisation. I love seeing so many women so relaxed and so safe together.



Samantha P

The hospitality has been so beautiful. The TV studio was very impressive! I loved seeing prayers in the Mosque.

I learnt new things about Islam and women's place in your beautiful faith.

All the Tour Guides and helpers are such eloquent, accomplished, intelligent, engaging young women. I loved the food.

Alison P

I must admit to being a bit nervous as I didn't really know where I was going. I need not have worried as we were met with such warmth and hospitality. Everyone was so friendly and kind.

The meeting itself was interesting and inspirational and I enjoyed the speakers. We have similar and shared ideals and it was so good to come together in friendship. Thank you for showing me the true face of Islam. The media are so negative but what I saw was so positive.



Lizzie, Ali, Anja and Ros

Share and Care Collective

We all had such a wonderful time and couldn't stop talking about it on the way home. We'd been looking forward to our visit for weeks and it was everything we'd expected and more! Everyone we met was so welcoming.

The speakers were all great and we felt that the entire country could benefit from hearing their messages. It seems so logical that treating people with respect and love and aiming for equity in the world makes for a happier, safer planet.

The message that will remain with me is that the power of women should be utilised to its full effect. As one speaker said, women are best placed to see what is going on in society and to see where the need is.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved, particularly the young women who gave us the tour of the Mosque. Many thanks from all of us.



Magda M

It was my first time attending the event and my first visit to the Baitul Futuh Mosque. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed by women who were kind, generous, and incredibly gentle in their approach. Friendly smiles were everywhere, creating an atmosphere that immediately made me feel comfortable and included.

The welcome area gave visitors an opportunity to experience the sense of community that exists within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association and while enjoying refreshments, we could learn about their charitable work and community initiatives. The many information stalls were run by young, intelligent, and enthusiastic women who spoke confidently and passionately about the subjects they were presenting. Their knowledge and commitment were truly inspiring.

The guided tour of the mosque was spectacular. Seeing the high-tech television and radio studios, operated by professionals volunteering their time and expertise, demonstrated what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose. The equipment was state of the art, and the building itself was beautifully designed, reflecting the generosity and dedication of people from around the world who contributed to rebuilding the mosque after the fire.

One aspect that particularly stood out to me was the contrast between the impressive architecture and technology and the complete simplicity of the prayer hall. With its plain walls and clean carpet, the space encouraged spiritual reflection, peace, and calmness. I found this simplicity incredibly beautiful and felt that it represents something the world needs now more than ever.

The visit to the library was another highlight. Learning about the origins of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, its founder, and discovering that the movement began in eighteen eighties was a fascinating and valuable learning experience for me.

The programme also included inspiring speeches from experts representing leading London universities, who discussed peace, humanitarian work, and justice. The presentations were engaging, well balanced in length, and displayed on large screens, making them easy for everyone to follow.

The event concluded with a wonderful meal, once again reflecting the generosity and hospitality of the women who organised it. There was a fantastic selection of authentic dishes full of flavour. The absolute star of the meal for me was the daal – without a doubt the best I have ever tasted. Overall, it was a truly memorable experience, and I would love to attend again next year.



Amanda Adams

President, Kingston Women's Institute

We were very impressed with the organisation and the image presented by your group - and particularly on the basis that it is all achieved by willing volunteers! It was great to see so many women working together so effectively to make your event a success. The tour of the mosque was very interesting and we were of course, very impressed with the TV and radio stations and the women guides who work in them. The explanation of the workings of the mosque and its worship were helpful in understanding the day-to-day workings of the mosque. It was particularly helpful to understand the rationale for the organisation of the mosque and its activities.

The speeches and presentations to charities after our tour gave an insight into the work that the mosque does with local charities and the presentations were thought provoking and gave a new perspective on peace through understanding and co-operation. And last, but far from least, we were so impressed with the lovely meal at the end of the Symposium - served so efficiently and delicious!

It was a fascinating visit: we really appreciate the fact that you reached out to us and we hope to continue and develop friendship between our two organisations going forward.



Cavan J

I just wanted to reach out following the event to express our gratitude for the money that was donated to Little Lives UK, we really appreciate the support and it will make a big difference in our efforts to help disadvantaged children across the UK.

And on behalf of the attendees I would like to say how much they enjoyed the event and they wanted to pass on their thanks to you for organising it.

Cira S

I felt part of the Community and it was a very important message that has been spoken about, - justice, tolerance and compassion - especially during the current times.

Raaj R

I attended the peace symposium in 2023 when the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association kindly donated funds for Hestia.

I was quite humbled by the support of the organisation and I continue to follow their progress after I moved on from Hestia.

I am yet again overwhelmed by the support that you have given to other organisations. It was a wonderful event and I thank you for inviting me.

Indira S

Wonderful, totally fresh experience. Learning about religion and about contributions towards community. In many ways, this is what Islam is about, humanity and love.

MTA NEWS REPORT

