



THE
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PROJECT

Young Muslims Ex Offenders & How We Can Help?

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How Many Muslims in Prison in the UK?

- ▶ According to The Independent Newspaper, 5% of the UK are from Muslim heritage. The Muslim population in British prison is just over 15% and it's growing....

The Independent Newspaper - Saturday 9 September 2017



- ▶ <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/lammy-review-prisons-bame-islamophobia-rehabilitation-discrimination-a7937746.html>

The Misconceptions.....

- ▶ The ONLY Muslim prisoners in the UK are Reverts/Converts....
- ▶ The Muslims in prison are not really Muslims
- ▶ What else?



The Reality



- ▶ The number of Muslim prisoners has more than doubled over the past 15 years. In 2002 there were 5,502 Muslims in prison, by 2017 this had risen to 13,185.46 They now account for 15% of the prison population but just 5% of the general population.
- ▶ Some were born into Muslim families and others have converted. 40% are Asian, 29% are black, 16% are white/Arab and 9% are mixed.
- ▶ Only one per cent of Muslims in prison are currently there for terrorism related offences. So common crimes are robberies, fraud, drugs, assault, abuse etc.



Sources – The Prison Reform Trust

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Bromley%20Briefings/Summer%202018%20factfile.pdf>

More Stats



▶ According to The BBC on 11 March 2015

- ▶ Muslims in Britain have a notably younger age profile than non-Muslims and are more likely to come from lower socio-economic groups."
- ▶ In recent years, 58% of Muslim prisoners were aged 30 or under, compared with 45% of the overall population, and in what's termed the "secure youth estate" - institutions which hold 10- to 17-year-olds - almost one in five prisoners was Muslim. (20%)
- ▶ The reoffending rates of Muslim prisoners are already substantially lower than others, at about 36% compared with 45% .

BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31794599>



Issues

▶ The 4 main issues for ex-offenders, when they come out are

- ▶ 1. Mental Health
- ▶ 2. Housing
- ▶ 3. Drugs
- ▶ 4. Jobs / Accredited Training & Employment



And.....



On 11 March 2015



In a major report last year, Lady Lola Young of Hornsey reached similar conclusions about the reasons for the disproportionate representation of Muslim men at all stages of the criminal justice system.

"They are more likely to be stopped and searched, more likely to plead not guilty and more likely to be tried.

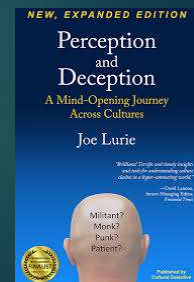
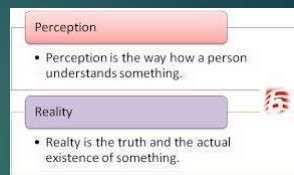
"These disparities... are often part of a complex mix of educational, employment, health and social inequalities that have characterised many of their lives," says Lady Young.

But her study - funded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust, an independent charitable group - also points to evidence of something more disturbing: discrimination. It says policy-makers and politicians haven't "fully grasped" the impact of "negative stereotyping" and "cultural difference".



Perception of Mosques in the Community

- ▶ An old men's club
- ▶ Not child friendly
- ▶ Just pray and nothing else
- ▶ Pre-judged
- ▶ Not a place to go for quality help or intervention
- ▶ Not a place for women
- ▶ Can't speak to people in authority
- ▶ Beat/abuse kids in the Madrassa
- ▶ Not a relevant place in the community



Mosque Facts....

- ▶ According to Cardiff University, there are an estimated 1600 **mosques** in the **UK**.
- ▶ Cardiff University <https://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/islamukcentre/rera/online-teaching-resources/muslims-in-britain-online-course/module-1/basic-beliefs/mosques/>



According to a group of academics they have written a paper called, Mosques are the biggest problems as they are outdated and do not have a clue on how to engage - <https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/617994/3/THAT%20MOSQUES%20ARE%20THE%20BIGGEST%20PROBLEM%20WEVE%20GOT%20RIGHT%20NOW%20%281%29.pdf>

What Does Your Mosque Do For Young People In The Community & Ex Offenders

- ▶ Your Time To Speak.....



What Would You 'Like' To Do For Young People & Ex offenders In The Community ?

- ▶ Your Time To Speak.....



Mainstream Organisations That Can Help Ex Offenders

- ▶ **Street Link**

<http://www.streetlink.org.uk> / 0203090147 / CONTACT@STREETLINK.ORG.UK

- ▶ **NACRO**

<https://www.nacro.org.uk> / 0300 123 1999 / info@nacro.org.uk

- ▶ **St Giles Trust**

<http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk> / 0113 819 9910

- ▶ **The Prince's Trust (16 – 30 years old)**

<https://www.theprinces-trust.org.uk/> / 0800 842 842

- ▶ **Working Chance (Women)**

<https://workingchance.org/Women-Ex-Offenders/> / 020 7276 1332

- ▶ **Only Connect**

<http://www.onlyconnect.org.uk> / 0207 278 8939



Invite Them To Your Mosque To Engage & Connect

Good Muslim Organisations Who Help Ex Offenders

- ▶ NZF National Zakat Foundation - 0333 312 3123 (Hardship grants)
- ▶ Muslim Youth Helpline - 0808 808 2008 (Free Counselling)
- ▶ Muslim Aid - 020 7377 4200 (Hardship Grants)
- ▶ Islamic Psychology Professional Association - <https://www.islamicpsychology.org>
- ▶ Zahid Mubarek Trust 020 7443 5551 (Complaints & General Advice)
- ▶ Muntada Aid - <https://www.muntadaaid.org/> 0207118 0777 (small grants)



Good Connections for Advice & Networking

- ▶ Dr Denise Parnell of Feltham Community Chaplaincy
<https://www.felthamcommunitychaplancy.com/> **0208 844 5028**
- ▶ Imam Kabbir of Wormwood Scrubbs (Muslim Chaplain)
020 8588 3200 / info@mca-hmps.co.uk / <https://www.mca-hmps.co.uk/about/>



What Can The Mosque Do?

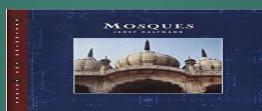
- ▶ Set up a Youth Club once a week or once a fortnight
- ▶ Set Up a monthly 'Drop In'
- ▶ Utilise the congregation to donate to support local prisoners
- ▶ Connect with service providers & get them to work with the Mosque.
- ▶ Recruit 'Mentors' from the community to meet with local ex-offenders at the Mosque.
- ▶ Offer mediation between ex-offenders and their families.
- ▶ Build an alliance with other Mosques in your area and approach statutory organisations as a collective.



A Good Examples of Mosques in the Community

- ▶ Khizra Mosque in Manchester has a weekly youth club with trained youth workers from the congregation. They regularly invite local professionals to come to the youth club to inspire young people in the community. They have built a good reputation with the council, youth services, statutory organisations, service providers in the community and they invite representatives to speak to their congregation. They host Mosque open days twice a week during Ramadan. They also host a weekly soup kitchen. They support ex offenders in the community with various interventions by utilising their congregation and service providers.

<https://www.khizramasjid.org> - Tel: 0161 205 6662 - Email: info@khizramasjid.org



- ▶ WLICC West London Islamic Cultural Centre in West London is not only a Mosque, they have a regular youth club, they host school holiday programmes for young people in the community. They host poetry and Halal entertainment. They host regular sports programmes for young people in the community. They have a resident youth worker who works with gangs in the community as well as young people going through issues in the UK. with vibrant programmes for women/girls. They facilitate ex offender engagement in the community and utilise their congregation to. They have partnered with a charity (Mutanda Aid) to give hardship grants for ex offenders in the community

<http://wlicc.org/> 020 7471 8291 info@wlicc.org

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