

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

**\*\*\* Registration is now open for the Muslims in Britain Research Network's next event \*\*\***

The event is being held in conjunction with the **Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies** on **16th September 2015**.

The morning will include the MBRN AGM and our popular academic networking session.

The day's theme is '**Poverty and British Muslims: Identifying Problems and Proposing Solutions**'. Our keynote speaker will be **Professor Anthony Heath** (CBE, FBA), Director of the Centre for Social Investigation, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

Prof Anthony Heath will be presenting a paper 'How can we explain the high Muslim levels of poverty [in the UK]?' (provisional title) taken from his wider research commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to support their development of an anti-poverty strategy for the UK.

*"In comparison with the relationship between ethnicity and poverty, there has been very little research focusing specifically on religion. However there have been a number of studies which compare the effects of religion and ethnicity on economic activity, unemployment and earnings, which are in turn major factors in poverty. These studies have typically shown that Muslims have lower rates of economic activity and higher rates of unemployment than do members of other faiths... People of Jewish affiliation are least likely to be found in poverty (13 per cent), in contrast to those from the Muslim community (50 per cent)."*

Heath, A. and Li, Y. (2015) Review of the relationship between religion and poverty; an analysis for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. CSI Working paper 2015-01. Downloaded from <http://csi.nuff.ox.ac.uk/>

18% of the British population live in poverty, however,

57% of Muslims of Pakistani heritage...

56% of Muslims of Black African heritage...

49% of Muslims of Bangladeshi heritage...

... in Britain live in Poverty

Sources: UK Longitudinal Household Panel Study (aka Understanding Society (USoc))/ British Household Panel Study (BHPS).

### **Why is this and what can be done about it?**

The day will include academic responses by Dr Nabil Khattab (Associate Professor for Sociology, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies), Asma Khan (PhD Candidate, Islam-UK Centre, Cardiff University), and practitioners observations by Iqbal Nasim (National Zakat Foundation), Heather Knight (Islamic Relief UK), and Shaz Manir (Amirah Foundation). We hope to confirm a couple more speakers/respondents shortly.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.mbrn.org.uk/event-poverty-and-british-muslims-identifying-problems-and-proposing-solutions/>

### **Working Programme**

0945 – 1015 Registration  
1015 – 1215 Academic Networking / MBRN AGM  
1215 – 1300 Tour of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies' new building  
1300 – 1400 Lunch  
1400 – 1445 Keynote: Professor Anthony Heath  
1445 – 1545 Academic Responses and Q&A - Dr Nabil Khattab, Asma Khan  
1545 – 1600 Tea  
1600 – 1700 Practitioner Panel and Q&A - Iqbal Nasim (National Zakat Foundation),  
Heather Knight (Islamic Relief UK), Shaz Manir (Amirah Foundation)  
1700 Closing Remarks

### **Registration**

Online registration is now open. Register here ==> <https://poverty-and-british-muslims.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Cost**

Students and Unwaged £10, Waged £15 (both prices exclude online booking fee). If you would like to pay by cheque please email us on [muslimsinbritainrn@gmail.com](mailto:muslimsinbritainrn@gmail.com)

### **Location**

The event will take place at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, St Georges Mansions, George St, Oxford OX1 2AR

*The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies is a Recognized Independent Centre of the University of Oxford. It was established in 1985 to encourage the scholarly study of Islam and the Islamic world. The Centre is committed to the advancement of academic excellence in teaching, research and publication. Its outreach activities sustain dialogue and promote mutual understanding at national and international levels.*

We hope you can join us to discuss this very important and little highlighted issue - why Muslims in Britain are more likely to be in poverty than any other faith community and help suggest and tease out solutions. Have your say and add your observations and thoughts to the conversation.

Our networking session is a great opportunity to meet other MBRN members face-to-face and update us all on the exciting work you are doing (ask for assistance or promote your most recent research/publication).

The AGM will be an opportunity to learn more about the MBRN, and have your say with regards to future events and direction.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes,  
Mobeen Butt  
MBRN - Executive Committee Member