



# Eid

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## Gala Dinner

Headline Sponsors:



**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

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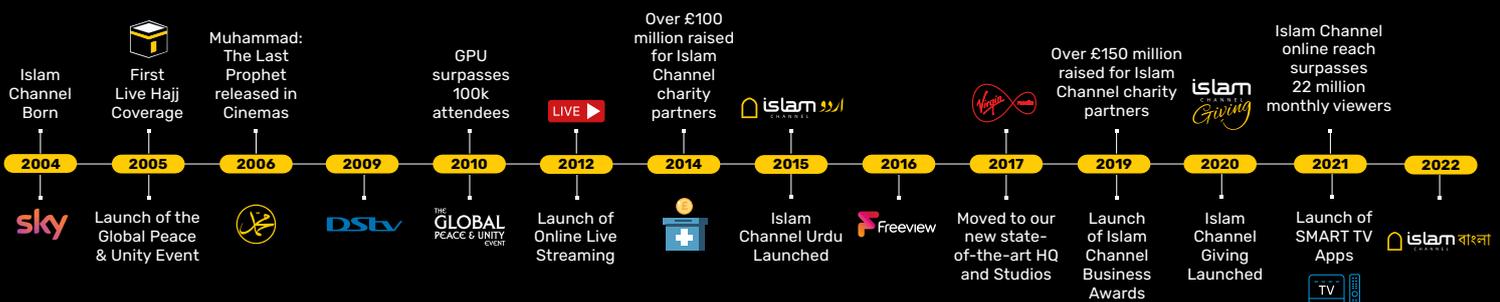
## PROVIDING A TRUSTED MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE SINCE 2004

Islam Channel has been broadcasting worldwide in English from London since 2004 and was joined by sister channel, Islam Channel Urdu in 2015 and Islam Channel Bangla in 2022.

Established at the heart of the British and global Muslim community, Islam Channel is a trusted source of religious knowledge and news and a cherished hub for entertainment, culture and children's programming.

Islam Channel is the best way to reach a Muslim audience, offering comprehensive coverage both in the UK and worldwide on TV and online, via cable and satellite networks, digital channels, SMART TV, tablet and mobile applications and social media platforms.

Since March 2021 we have been registered with BARB, the UK's official service for measuring TV viewership. During Ramadan, we have consistently been reported as the UK TV channel most viewed by British Asians, with over 2.2 million viewers.



# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

**O**n behalf of the Islam Channel team, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the Islam Channel Eid Gala Dinner 2023.

It has been another busy year for us, with lots for us to celebrate and for which to be thankful. In October last year, we launched our newest member of the Islam Channel family: Islam Channel Bangla; to bring our unique blend of Islamic inspiration, education and entertainment to the Bengali-speaking community. We were all immensely grateful when, during its first ever Ramadan, one of our charity partners, Muslim Hands, raised £1.45 million in a live appeal on the channel in one single night. We also saw the successful return of the Islam Channel Business Awards, where hundreds of Muslim businesses came together to celebrate their achievements.

Hosting events, to bring our community together, is an integral part of Islam Channel and we are delighted to be launching brand new events this year such as The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) Conference as well as returning to old favourites, including the long-awaited return of the Global Peace and Unity Festival.

Tonight is about thanking you all for the trust, which you continue to place in us. We are delighted to have you all here with us, and to be in the midst of so many friends and supporters. We would like to send our best wishes to Muslims in the UK and around the world celebrating the festival of Eid al-Fitr. Ramadan is a time of fasting, prayer, contemplation and spiritual renewal and we pray that this special month has been a blessed one for you, your loved ones and all those around you.

Our Eid Gala Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate not only the Islamic Festival of Eid but also the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Muslims in the UK and around the world, as you will see from the high calibre of speakers and entertainers here with us tonight.

Please join me in thanking all those who have contributed to this event: our esteemed sponsors, supporters, our audience and our friends for joining us in this celebration, as well as the Islam Channel, Islam Channel Urdu and Islam Channel Bangla teams who have worked hard to create this event. We look forward to hosting you for many years to come.

**MOHAMED ALI HARRATH**  
Founder Islam Channel



# MESSAGE FROM DR, SHEIKH MUHAMMAD BIN ABDULKARIM AL-ISSA

**A**s the blessed month of Ramadan comes to a close, His Excellency extends his warmest congratulations and heartfelt greetings to all Muslim communities on the joyous occasion of Eid al-Fitr al-Mubarak. May this special time of celebration bring happiness, peace, and blessings to everyone.

In addition, His Excellency would like to express his profound gratitude to Islam Channel's CEO and the dedicated team for their tireless efforts in spreading awareness, fostering cooperation, and building bridges between different Muslim individuals and organizations. Their work embodies the core values enshrined in our religious teachings, promoting unity and understanding across all faith groups.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the historic achievement of 1200 Islamic scholars and thinkers from 129 countries who came together in May 2019 for the Charter of Makkah declaration in Makkah al-Mukarramah. This landmark constitution stands as a testament to the shared values of coexistence, tolerance, and inclusion, essential for the prosperity and well-being of all members of society.

We pray that our relationship with Islam Channel continues to flourish, paving the way for even greater collaboration and progress in realizing our shared goals and values. May this Eid al-Fitr be a source of unity, reflection, and joy for all.  
Eid Mubarak!

Thank you and best regards

**His Excellency  
Dr, Sheikh Muhammad bin  
Abdulkarim Al-Issa**  
Secretary General of  
Muslim World League



# MESSAGE FROM CLLR HAMZA TAOUZZALE

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It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Islam Channel on the success of its 4th Eid Gala Dinner.

This event, held here in the heart of Westminster, is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and celebrate Eid. I am proud to see the Islam Channel continuing to play a leading role in promoting interfaith harmony and understanding in our city.

The Eid Gala is also a great opportunity for businesses and not-for-profits to work together to create a stronger and more cohesive community.

Once again, congratulations to all involved in the organising this event, and I wish you a joyous and successful evening. Eid Mubarak!

**CLlr Hamza Taouzzale**

*The Right Worshipful*

*The Lord Mayor of Westminster*



# MESSAGE FROM NAZ SHAH, MP

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It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight to share this celebration of Eid al-Fitr with you all. Celebrations are more important than ever and coming together as a community with our friends and supporters helps give us all strength, highlighting the common values which bind us together.

Events such as this remind us of the blessings which we enjoy – good food, excellent company and inspiring conversations. It is always a pleasure to be in the midst of so many familiar faces and old friends and to share a relaxing, joyful and entertaining evening with Islam Channel viewers.

Being in the company of such a diverse and distinguished gathering highlights the immense contribution which Muslims make not just to the UK but worldwide.

It is wonderful to be here with you tonight on the occasion of Islam Channel's Eid Gala Dinner - Eid Mubarak to you all!

**Naz Shah, MP**  
Shadow Minister ( Home Office)





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# MESSAGE FROM QASIM ZAFAR

**O**n behalf of ILM, I would like to say how happy I am that we are here tonight, as headline sponsors of the Islam Channel Eid Gala Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know you all - Islam Channel's viewers - in person and to tell you more about the important work which we do with your very generous donations. We are grateful to the Islam Channel team for bringing you all together here to share this joyful occasion and to celebrate Eid al-Fitr.

As you are all aware, charity is at the heart of Ramadan and the blessed month is a particularly significant and busy time for those of us who work in the charity sector. It is a time when we all focus on those in need and feel grateful for the blessings bestowed upon us, our work efforts continue all year around. ILM has been delivering aid across the globe since 2003 wherever it is needed the most. We deeply appreciate the trust which you place in us to do so.

Over the past year, there have been so many events across the

world, which have left people suffering and in need of your help. We appreciate that things have also not been easy for many families here in the UK, which makes the extent of your generosity even more humbling.

One of the causes which is closest to our hearts, which has also resonated with the Islam Channel viewers during our live appeals, is our work to rebuild Pakistan after the devastating floods, which have caused catastrophic destruction, affecting the lives of over 33 million people. ILM is on the ground and was one of the first international NGOs, helping families rebuild their homes and livelihoods. We hope that you will understand if we ask you to help us once again here tonight to raise funds to rebuild devastated lives and homes for those suffering to regain the security and comfort of having a roof over their heads – something which many of us take for granted.

We aim to raise £1,500 per family to support 500 families affected by the floods and build 10 micro community villages,



which will provide them with a home equipped with a Kitchen, Bedroom and Washroom, as well as clean drinking water supply. Each village will home a school, mosque, health and vocational centre. Your support is needed more now than ever, and I hope you will support us to achieve this target, please give generously to help Rebuild Pakistan.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

**Lord Qasim Zafar**  
UK Director  
ILM UK

# MESSAGE FROM SIR IQBAL SACRANIE OBE

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all back to the Islam Channel Eid Gala Dinner.

Such significant social occasions, which bring together the cross section of Muslim community and its friends from across the country to celebrate and be entertained are even more important during these uncertain and troubled times.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be joined by so many prominent members of the wider community from our national to local politicians, from community to charitable institutions, from businessmen to social workers all to celebrate the success of our community.

It is a joyous occasion to have such a high calibre of speakers and entertainers here to inform and entertain us. This is a reflection of the outstanding contribution which Muslims make to British society. I am delighted to be able to share this occasion with you all.

May I finally congratulate the Founder of Islam Channel Mr Mohamed Ali Harrath and his entire team for the significant role which Islam Channel plays in bringing together the community on such special occasions.

## **Sir Iqbal Sacranie OBE**

Former Founding  
Secretary General MCB

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# WELCOME TO THE EID GALA DINNER 2023

Islam Channel, in partnership with Muslim World League and ILM UK, is pleased to welcome you to its Eid Gala Dinner 2023 at the London Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square. Ours is a gathering which brings together an outstanding community, making a tremendous impact on the social, political and cultural landscape of Britain.

Islam Channel is honoured to host such an esteemed event and delighted to be joined by you here tonight. We hope you have a memorable and enjoyable evening, as we celebrate the blessed occasion of Eid al-Fitr with inspirational speakers and world-class entertainment.







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# EVENT PROGRAMME

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*7.00 pm* Recitation & Welcome

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Hammad Ajmal Khan  
*Global CEO, ILM UK*

HE Dr, Sheikh Muhammad  
bin Abdulkarim Al Issa  
*Secretary General, Muslim World League*

Al Nour Band  
*Nasheed Group*

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*7:40 pm* Starters

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Sir Iqbal Sacranie OBE  
*Senior Advisor, Islam Channel*

Mohamed Ali Harrath  
*Founder, Islam Channel*

Cllr Hamza Taouzzale  
*The Lord Mayor of Westminster*

ILM UK

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*8.50 pm* Maghrib & Main Course

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Prince Abdi  
*Comedian & Writer*

Naz Shah MP  
*Shadow Minister ( Home office)*

Lord Wajid Khan  
*Shadow Minister for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities*

Sheikh Yousef Khalawi  
*Secretary General, ICCIA*

Safe Adam  
*Nasheed Artist*

Desserts



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# HOSTS PROFILES



## SAJID VARDA

Host

Sajid is a producer, writer, actor, and broadcaster who has worked in the entertainment industry for more than three decades. He has played lead roles in dramas and comedies and is the longest-serving presenter on Islam Channel, having started since its inception in 2004.



## AYESHA TARIQ

Host

Ayesha Tariq is a long-serving Presenter at Islam Channel spanning over 15 years in shows like City Sisters, Living the Life, The Today Show, Coffee with Ayesha and many more. In addition to this, Ayesha set up an organisation to support local grassroots organisations working with Muslims living in the UK to become more fundable and raise awareness about the work they offer.

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# ARTIST PROFILES

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## **SAFE ADAM** Nasheed Artist

Safe Adam a Nasheed Artist and a British singer-songwriter from Essex, first entered the Islamic entertainment industry in 2012 and performed in sold out concerts all over the world.

Other than performing Safe Adam also invests his time in Dawah work to benefit local communities. In 2021 after a 5-year break Safe came back to the industry with his vocal only nasheeds.



## **PRINCE ABDI** Comedian

Prince Abdi is a British-Somali Comedian, actor, and writer from south London, who has appeared on TV screens across the globe. As well as being a regular on the UK comedy circuit, Prince has performed in various countries overseas, and has toured around the world.



## **AL NOUR BAND** Nasheed Band

The band is led by Abdesselam, a Moroccan nasheed artist renowned for combining historical Islamic music with modern elements from different cultures.

He has performed at many prominent interfaith events in the UK, using his art to break down barriers. His band preserves Islamic culture and history with nasheeds that have been passed down through generations, spanning the Islamic world.



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# SPEAKER PROFILES

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**MOHAMED ALI HARRATH**  
Founder of Islam Channel

Founder of the three channels: Islam Channel, Islam Channel Urdu and Islam Channel Bangla, Mohamed Ali Harrath oversees their operation, as well as France Islam and charities: Teebah Foundation and The Dawah Project. He is also the Chairman of the Global Peace and Unity Foundation.



**SIR IQBAL SACRANIE**  
Senior Advisor, Islam Channel

Sir Iqbal is the founding Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain. In a career spanning over four decades, he has been involved with many community and charitable activities both nationally and internationally. He sits on a number of boards and committees. Sir Iqbal has been awarded numerous times, including with an OBE in 2001 and a knighthood in 2005.



**NAZ SHAH MP**  
Shadow Minister (Home Office)

Naz Shah is the Labour MP for Bradford West. She currently undertakes the role of Shadow Minister (Home Office), having previously been Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities Minister. Naz is a former chair of mental health charity Sharing Voices Bradford and was CEO of Monster Fun & Listers Ladies Gym.



**SHEIKH YOUSEF HASSAN KHALAWI**  
Secretary General  
ICCIA

Mr. Khalawi currently serves as the Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. He is currently a board member of many companies around the world and member of the main council of the Islamic Fiqh Academy.



**CLLR HAMZA TAOUZZALE**  
The Right Worshipful  
The Lord Mayor of Westminster

Councillor Hamza Taouzzale was elected to Westminster City Council in 2018, representing Queen’s Park Ward. He is the youngest ever councillor to be elected to the City.

Hamza’s introduction to the council was, in fact, a few years before and came in October 2015 as a member of the Westminster Youth Council. Four months later he was elected as the member of the Youth Parliament for Westminster. As a councillor, Hamza was quickly promoted to being the Shadow Cabinet Member.



**HAMMAD AJMAL KHAN**  
Global CEO for ILM Group

Hammad Khan is a Pharmacist and a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. He has focused on commercial and civil litigation practice, whilst taking a keen interest in the development of Charity Law and Family Law. Hammad is transitioning into his role as Global CEO of ILM Group and hopes to oversee its growth and development globally.

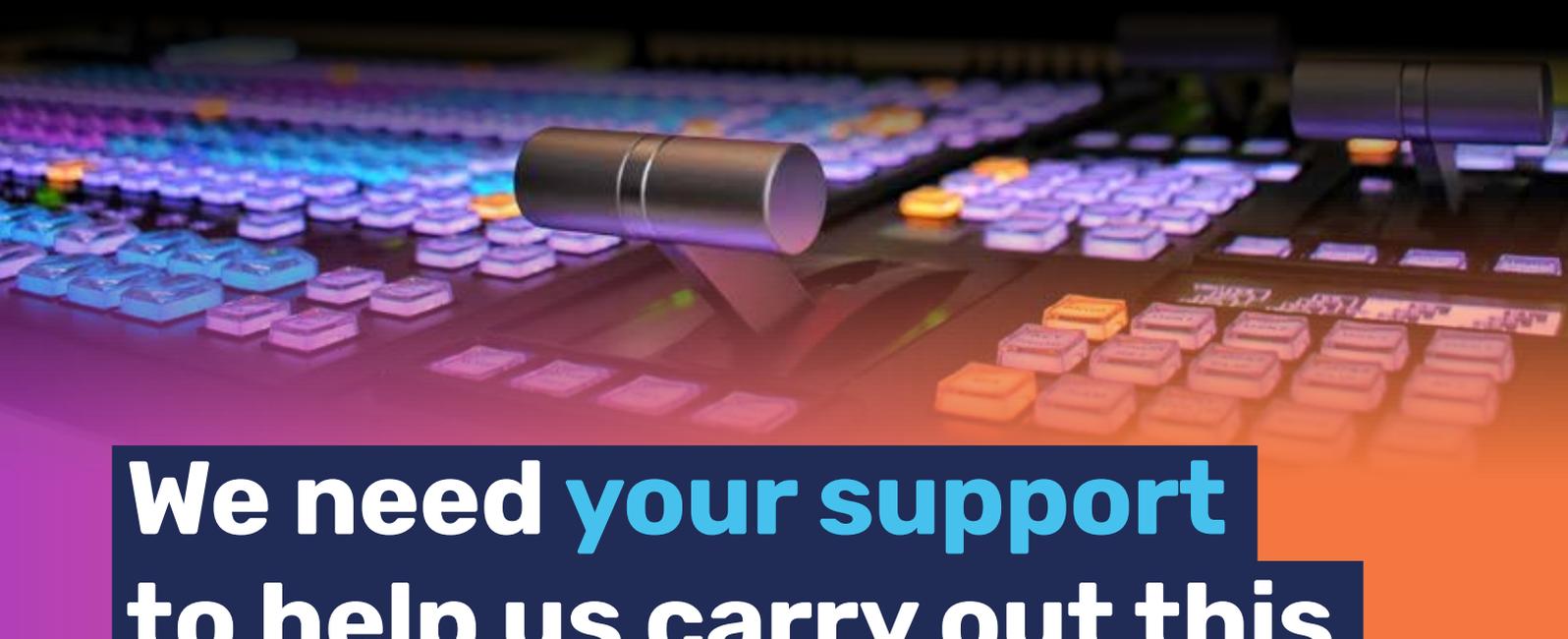


**LORD WAJID KHAN**  
Shadow Minister for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Wajid Khan was appointed to the House of Lords by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth in December 2020, having been nominated by the Labour Party Leader: Sir Keir Starmer.

Wajid became the Shadow Environment Minister in May 2021 and worked on the landmark Environment Bill in the House of Lords. In the Shadow Cabinet reshuffle in December 2021, Wajid’s role changed to Shadow Minister for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

Wajid served as the youngest ever Mayor of Burnley in 2020-2021. Wajid has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in the field of education from the University of Gujrat. He also was awarded an international award from the Government of Pakistan for his work on human rights.



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# Eid

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