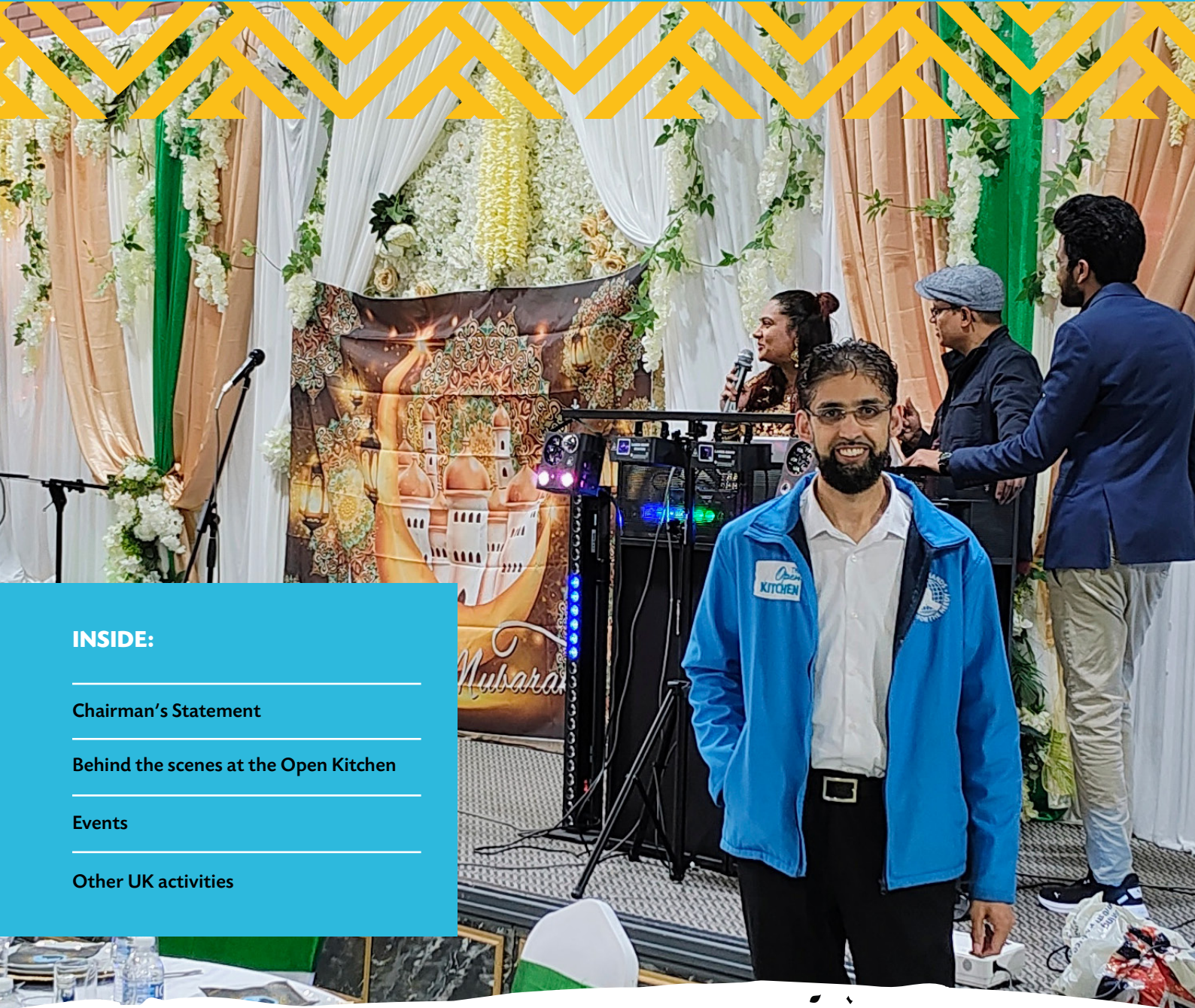


THE  
*Open*  
KITCHEN

# Newsletter

ISSUE 02 - JUL 2024:  
MAKING HUGE STRIDES



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For sponsorship enquiries, please email: [naser.hussain@muslimhands.org.uk](mailto:naser.hussain@muslimhands.org.uk)

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## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

*As the cost-of-living crisis continues to linger, Muslim Hands Open Kitchen in Nottingham and Hounslow is still on the frontline, providing support and safe space for our users.*

Providing varied, nutritious meals catering to the different dietary requirements of our users fulfils a basic necessity, removing one less worry from the beneficiaries' daily challenges.

Over the past three months, the Open Kitchen has conducted a wide range of activities. We have celebrated Eid, distributed premium organic Halal meat from Hill Farm Finest, and expanded our services to include advice on housing and career. We have also welcomed new volunteers, whose support has been invaluable.

The Qur'an states, '**Verily Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves.**'

With your support and generous donations, the Open Kitchen will continue to get stronger and provide a services to meet the demand of a wider community.

The Prophet (SAW) said, "**Whoever does not thank people has not thanked Allah.**"

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this noble cause.  
Warm regards,

*Pir Syed*

Pir Syed Lakhte Hassanain



## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE OPEN KITCHEN

Throughout the year, several regional schools visit the Open Kitchen in Nottingham to hear from the beneficiaries and donate food items. Recently, teachers and students from Jamia al Hudaa visited the Open Kitchen. Throughout the morning, the girls and their teacher met with service users, learned more about the Open Kitchen and Muslim Hands, and donated food items.

Adey and Jodi from The Health Shop and the peer-to-peer Naloxone project have been offering support and guidance to beneficiaries with drug addiction. Both organisations aim to educate beneficiaries on drug addiction and health promotion.

Jasmine Banton from Refugee Roots, a refugee charity based in Nottingham, visited the Kitchen. Jasmine was highly impressed with the quality of the food and service provided. Refugee Roots will work with the Open Kitchen to support and empower asylum seekers and refugees.

Nottingham City Council Housing Services have joined forces with the Open Kitchen. The Council will visit the Open Kitchen fortnightly to provide advice on all housing-related matters during the sessions.

We also had a visit from Nahida Ahmed, the Director of People and Inclusion at the Trussell Trust.

Second Chance Learning Academy has been visiting the Open Kitchen to support the hub users. Maria has been coming to the Open Kitchen weekly, training and supporting beneficiaries in developing their CVs. One of our regular users, Paul, has now found a job after being out of employment for a few years, thanks to Maria's support. To celebrate, we surprised Maria and Paul with a celebratory cake!

Additionally, a Muslim Hands staff member knitted a lovely small jersey, which was gifted to a young girl who uses our service.





## EVENTS

### DANCE CHARITY CLASS

*Bhangra Charity Class, a Leicester dance school, was impressed with the work Muslim Hands is doing in combatting food insecurity in Nottingham.*

They were eager to fundraise for this amazing cause and invited our team to visit the dance studio. The class attendees generously donated over £300.



### OPEN KITCHEN EID CELEBRATION

*The Open Kitchen in Nottingham successfully organised an Eid celebration for the local community.*

During the festival, Muslim Hands organised multiple activities, including inflatables, clothing stalls, food, refreshments, and an ice cream van. The celebration aimed to raise funds to provide free hot meals to beneficiaries impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

Naser Hussain (event organiser) also met Guninder, Community Engagement Manager for the Nottinghamshire Fire Rescue Service. The Police and Fire services also had stalls at the event to share key messages with the community.

Eid celebrations did not stop there; at The Open Kitchen Nottingham, we displayed Eid Mubarak banners, and the beneficiaries were given treats on the day to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Muslim Hands distributed UK Qurbani meat to local partners in Hounslow, Manchester, and Nottingham. In Nottingham, the meat was given to Himmah Food Bank to distribute to beneficiaries, who otherwise may not get the opportunity to eat meat.

The Church of England School invited the Open Kitchen to participate in their Eid school event. Imran, the co-ordinator, attended on behalf of the Open Kitchen.

We also received an invitation from Bookers Wholesale to join their Eid celebrations with their partners in Manchester. Alhamdulillah, over £1500 was donated to the cause on the night. A big thank you to Lakhbir and Rohit for the invite and generous donation!

A local Mosque reached out to collaborate with Muslim Hands Open Kitchen to hold an Eid event at their venue. This was another wonderful gesture, as the proceeds went to the Open Kitchen to feed the local community.

## OTHER UK ACTIVITIES

### FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

*Muslim Hands has supported the Gambian community by helping raise funds for their Masjid in Nottingham.*

Muslim Hands entered the local annual football tournament, and many of our staff members participated. Special Guest and Football sensation Alassana Jatta (Notts County Football Club) attended the friendly football match.



### MUSLIM HANDS X KARIMIA INSTITUTE

*Muslim Hands was present at the annual Nottingham Cultural Festival organised by Karimia Institute at the Forest Recreation Ground.*

Muslim Hands sold delicious food, desserts, refreshments, and sweets. All proceeds went to our Gaza Emergency Appeal. For every £1 donated, we can provide three hot-cooked meals. We will also raise funds to provide free hot food via the Open Kitchen.



### SECOND CHANCE LEARNING ACADEMY

In May, we had Harriett from Second Chance Learning Academy visit us. Maria is now having a weekly session at the OK.



### TIPU SULTAN

MH had a weekend for Gaza donation location at Tipu Sultan Nottingham. We were joined by Haseeb Hameed, captain of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, who also said a few words in support of our Gaza collection



### BLOTT'S COUNTRY CLUB

We had a fantastic weekend for Gaza event, at the Blotts Country Club. Raising money for the hot meals project. A festival on the Saturday and a fundraising dinner on the Sunday. The community helped us raise more than £70k! A big thanks to the people of Nottingham.



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