



JUST Camden

ISSUE ONE | SUMMER 2025

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Network**

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Edit

Assalamu alaikum and welcome to your first edition of JUSTCamden, a Camden Muslim Network initiative championing justice, fairness and compassion in our community.

I remember a time when Camden had respectable politicians. The late Frank Dobson was a regular presence in our community, someone who put people at ease and truly took an interest in the sentiments of his constituents. On the other side of Camden we had the late Glenda Jackson who had the backbone to challenge then - Prime Minister Tony Blair on tuition fees and the Iraq War.

Today, in place of Frank Dobson, we have Prime Minister Keir Starmer—a man who has made so many sacrifices to reach the top that he seems to have lost his humanity along the way. Once a human rights lawyer, he now lacks the humanity to recognise a genocide. A former defender of protest rights, he now equates throwing paint with terrorism.

In place of Glenda Jackson, we have Tulip Siddiq, who resigned from her short-lived role as Anti-Corruption City Minister—she now faces an arrest warrant from Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission.

At the local level, where Camden once made history and stood firmly against apartheid in South Africa, our council now stays silent on the genocide in Palestine.

It stings to realise how some local councillors—people we grew up with, went to school with, even supported—have revealed themselves as Aristotle's 'political animals' in the worst sense. In their ruthless climb for power, they've abandoned their humanity and any shred of moral decency.

Yet, the struggle for Palestine has united those traditionally divided by class, faith, and ideology. We, at CMN stand shoulder-to-shoulder with activists of all backgrounds—anti-racism organisers, justice campaigners, and ordinary people of conscience—whose lives embody Islamic values of compassion and justice better than some politicians who profess our faith.

JUST Camden

Editorial

These are our true friends, comrades, and brothers and sisters.

This is our collective awakening. Join the Camden Muslim Network as we fight to build a community where justice comes before silence, and conscience before convenience. Here, in our shared struggle, we honor our highest values by standing together.

As Muslims, we have an obligation to stand for what is right, fair and just even when it goes against our personal interests.

'O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even if it be against yourselves, your parents, or your kin.' (Quran 4:135)

Muhammad Chowdhury
Chair of the Camden Muslim Network

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Editorial Team: Muhammad Chowdhury, Shahanaaz Begum, Syed Ali, Shezan Renny, Shahed Kazi, Jullietta Cochrane Art Director: Syed Nuh



CAMDEN MUSLIM NETWORK

A NEW INITIATIVE DEDICATED TO AMPLIFYING THE VOICES, CONCERNS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIMS ACROSS THE BOROUGH.

CMN was born out of the Muslim Vote initiative during the 2024 General Election, which saw communities come together to advocate for fairer representation, greater engagement, and stronger accountability. Building on that momentum, CMN now aims to provide a lasting platform for action and collaboration in Camden.

What We Aim to Do

Our purpose is to empower, represent, and mobilise Camden's Muslim community to actively participate in civic, social, educational, and political life. Our key objectives include:

- Raising political awareness within the Muslim community.
- Increasing civic engagement and voter participation.
- Addressing social issues such as education, housing, healthcare, and employment.
- Building partnerships with local authorities, schools, elected officials, and community groups.
- Amplifying Muslim voices in local decision-making processes.
- Developing local Muslim leadership and nurturing changemakers.

A Platform for Unity and Action

We are an independent, non-partisan network committed to positive change through community empowerment by bringing people together from across Camden's diverse Muslim population. We aim to be a unifying and effective voice.

Whether through public forums, local campaigns, or leadership support, CMN will work to ensure the needs of Camden's Muslim communities are heard and addressed.

Get Involved

We are in our early stages and welcome anyone who wants to help shape our future. If you're interested in becoming a member, ally, or partner — we'd love to hear from you.

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Keffiyehs, Chants, and Tears: Camden's Heartbeat for Palestine

NEARLY 1,000 PEOPLE MARCHED through Keir Starmer's constituency in Camden on Saturday, 5th July, to demand an end to Britain's complicity in genocide and to condemn the actions of Starmer and his Labour government.

Organised by Camden Friends of Palestine, the demonstration marked one year since the 2024 general election and reflected widespread anger toward Starmer, both as a local MP and as Prime Minister.

By taking to the streets of Camden—completely shutting down Kentish Town and rerouting traffic and buses—the protest was a response to Starmer's role in enabling Israel's genocide in Gaza through the UK's sale of F-35 fighter jet parts, as well as direct military support via British planes based in Cyprus conducting surveillance over Palestine. This comes alongside Starmer's decision to increase Britain's defence budget while enforcing austerity measures at home and labelling protest groups as "terrorists."

The march began outside Mornington Crescent station, near Starmer's long-abandoned constituency office—which many locals note hasn't been open for years, even before he became Prime Minister—and ended in Starmer's neighbourhood of Kentish Town with a rally

featuring speeches from local and national activists and organisers.

Organised by Camden Friends of Palestine with support from Camden PSC, the demonstration was backed by a broad coalition of 35 groups. These included national campaign groups such as the Palestinian Youth Movement, CAGE, and Campaign Against the Arms Trade, alongside local organisations like Camden Muslim Network, Camden UNISON and Camden United Against Racism.

Turnout in Camden during the 2024 election was significantly lower than the national average, and Starmer's majority was nearly halved, reflecting growing discontent.

A Camden Friends of Palestine organiser said: "He is a shameful MP and an even worse Prime Minister. So far, all he has done is enact austerity while propping up the apartheid state of Israel and aiding a genocide. Palestinians are starving and being bombed, yet under his leadership, this government has approved more weapons sales to Israel in just three months than the Tories did in three years. On his watch, we are also training Israeli soldiers in the UK and flying surveillance flights over Gaza.





People Empowerment

THE PAST TWENTY MONTHS have witnessed bloodshed and suffering on a scale few of us could ever imagine. The genocide in Palestine has been driven by racism and Islamophobia. However, amidst these horrors there has been light and even hope: the extraordinary resilience of the Palestinian people, the support Palestine has received across the world (albeit not from the British and other Western governments), and the way communities have come together in support of Palestine and of each other. We have witnessed this community unity in Camden where outrage at our MP's complicity in the genocide has brought all of our diverse communities closer.

At the request of many ordinary residents of Holborn & St. Pancras I agreed to stand against Keir Starmer in the 2024 general election. During the campaign which was driven by hundreds of extraordinary people from Camden and beyond, we knocked on over 50,000 doors, arranged dozens of meetings and chatted with numerous people in shops, cafes and restaurants and on the streets.

At the forefront of this amazing community effort was the Muslim Vote, which has since organised itself locally into the Camden Muslim Network. This group of incredibly dedicated people en-

sured that I was able to spend wonderful time in mosques, community venues and homes where I felt not just welcome but completely at home. We spoke about family, housing, the NHS, the spiralling cost of living, racism and Palestine. And I was treated to delicious food, and incredible stories, wherever I went.

The Muslim community of Camden, in all its breadth, is the heartbeat of our cosmopolitan, caring community that thrives both on our differences of history and culture, as well as on the many things that we share: our love of Camden, of family, of community, of humanity. Our diversity and our unity are what strengthen us as a community. Together we are stronger. As a South African Jew married to a Bangladeshi, I am so at home in our beloved Camden.



Andrew Feinstein

Andrew was a member of the ANC and served as an MP in South Africa under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. He is an Activist, filmmaker, campaigner and author who specialises in the investigation of the global arms trade and the corruption that accompanies it.





Hearty *Iftar*

ON MONDAY 27 MARCH we hosted our first Iftar event. The formal programme began with a beautiful recitation of the opening verses of Surat al-Rahmaan. Our guests were warmly welcomed by our chair, Muhammad Chowdhury, who shared a few reflections on fasting as a means of attaining taqwa—mindfulness and consciousness of Allah. This was followed by the call to prayer (adhan), the Maghrib prayer, and, of course, a traditional Muslim feast.

Among those in attendance were our dear friend, comrade, and brother Andrew Feinstein, as well as Lorna Russel —“the only elected politician in Camden with a backbone, a moral compass, and a passion for humanity.” Both Lorna and Andrew offered brief but heartfelt remarks after the meal.

This was our first Iftar event—an opportunity to break our fast with our Muslim and non-Muslim friends who have stood with us on causes that matter most to our community and all people of conscience. It highlighted the power we have when we work together and reminded us that we need not worry about the established players who, for too long, have failed to uphold our shared values.

It was truly a memorable evening of connection, reflection, and community spirit. We look forward to welcoming everyone again in the future.

After the event, Julietta shared these kind words: “Thanks so much for what was a very special evening ... I really appreciated being included and especially hearing the translation of the prayers... very thoughtful of you to provide that. The food was delicious and, of course, made even better by eating in such company. I'm so glad I came and hope to see you and everyone again soon.”

It was truly a memorable evening of connection, reflection, and community spirit. We look forward to welcoming everyone again in the future.



The Muslim VOTE

THE MUSLIM VOTE is not just about elections. It is about dignity. It is about recognising that our communities have power and must no longer be silent or sidelined. For too long, Muslim votes have been handed over cheaply, dictated by party loyalties, personal connections or vague promises. That time is over.

The Muslim Vote is a movement rooted in moral clarity.

We are building something far greater than a short-term campaign. This is a call to meaningful participation, grounded in justice, accountability and a belief that politics should serve people, not parties. While led by Muslims, this movement speaks to anyone who believes in truth, fairness and the rule of law.

We are not here to watch injustice unfold. We are here to challenge it.

Holborn and St Pancras matters.

It is not just another constituency. It is the seat of the Prime Minister, a leader who has remained silent in the face of war crimes, overseen cuts that have deepened inequality and repeatedly failed to show moral or political courage. This is not just poor leadership. It is a betrayal of the responsibility that comes with public office. And it must be challenged.

We have already seen what is possible.

In the last general election, The Muslim Vote supported four independent candidates who won their seats. These were individuals chosen for their principles, their independence and their deep connection to local communities. We also supported Andrew Feinstein in Holborn and St Pancras, who significantly reduced the Prime Minister's majority. Across the country, the rise in



support for the Green Party was driven in part by Muslim voters choosing values over party lines.

This is only the beginning.

We are building with patience, with purpose and with a long-term vision. This is not just about voting every few years. It is about reshaping politics from the ground up. We are committed to working with others to address the urgent challenges facing our society, whether on justice, inequality or democratic accountability.

Let it be known that this vote has weight. Let it be known that our communities will not be ignored.

Let it be known that the era of transactional politics is ending. A new politics, principled and people-led, is rising.



Abubakr Nanabawa

Abubakr is the spokesperson and national coordinator of The Muslim Vote





Eid *at the* Heath

SEVERAL HUNDRED people gathered on Sunday at Parliament Hill on Hampstead Heath to celebrate Eid and show solidarity with Palestine. Families shared food, flew Palestinian-themed kites, and took part in activities including kite-making, face painting, henna tattoos and football games. Food and drink were offered to all, including many passers-by who stopped to engage with the gathering.

"It was truly beautiful to see people from so many different backgrounds come together to show solidarity with the Muslim community in Camden at this incredibly difficult time as we continue to witness unbearable suffering," said Rahima Kamaly of Camden Friends of Palestine, one of several local groups that encouraged the event.

The gathering took place against the backdrop of ongoing crisis: 2.1 million people in Gaza currently face crisis levels of hunger, according to the UN. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers continue to force Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank under the watch of Israeli authorities. Tensions escalated further following Israel's recent attack on Iran.

Though complaints had been made to the Hampstead Heath constabulary, police were present throughout the day and allowed the peaceful event to continue, asking only for bunting to be removed to protect trees.

"I came today because I wanted to show support for the many Palestinian members of our community," said Harold, a 30 year old lifelong resident of Camden, who was supervising a football game between children. "I think it was incredibly important to show up to represent the diversity of our area and the support we have for each other."



Shahed Kazi

Shahed is an educator and community activist.



Stamp Out Racism

JULY 30 - 5 AUGUST 2024, race riots occurred in Britain with mosques attacked, migrant hotels set on fire, people of colour assaulted on the streets, and shops looted. This was created by popular far-right influencers and right-wing politicians, stoking up racist rhetoric that inflamed a volatile situation in light of the stabbings of children in Southport.

The seven days of rioting showed the ugly face of racism, Islamophobia and anti-migrant hate stirred up by the far right. A group of anti-racist activists in Camden reached out to each other, meeting over zoom as some were on holiday at the time. An integral part of this group were members of the Camden Muslim Network together with trade unionists, anti-racists and community activists. It was agreed to set up a locally based anti-racist organisation in Camden.

We grew quickly with 14 locally based community groups joining us as well as individuals who live, work, volunteer or study in Camden.

The Camden Muslim Network was instrumental in allowing the group to hear the experiences of racism and Islamophobia that unfortunately happens in Camden. Members of the CMN hold key officer roles in the group.

These are some activities we have undertaken in the past year.

1. Local rallies to support national anti-racist and anti-genocide demonstrations.
2. Local stalls reacting to events stoking a Hostile Environment for Camden communities.
3. Letters to local press (Camden New Journal) responding to comments and actions by our politicians.

We are now working to increase our reach by holding stalls at summer festivals across Camden and a public meeting in September on The Hostile Environment where we will hear speakers from various groups, including the Camden Muslim Network.



We grew quickly with 14 locally based community groups joining us as well as individuals who live, work, volunteer or study in Camden.



Paul Renny

Paul is a retired trade unionist (UNISON). He has been fighting discrimination and racism since the 1970s. He is a founding member of CUaR and Camden Friends of Palestine



The Hostile Environment

Governments should be tackling racism on every level

but under Keir Starmer's leadership the racist rhetoric, policies and the dog-whistle language has carried on putting migrants and local communities under a "hostile environment"

The attacks on immigration, migrants and refugees only serve to spread fear and division within the diverse communities in Camden, giving legitimacy to the hateful scaremongering of the far right, resulting in racist attitudes, language and violence against each other.

We demand that our elected representatives promote community cohesion and ensure no minority group or section of our community is a target of discrimination or racist attacks.



CUAR statements & letters to the CNJ - on our website - www.camdenagainstracism.co.uk

Public Event - THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday 18th September, 7 - 9pm
Queen's Crescent Community Association

Confirmed Speakers

- **Andrew Feinstein** - former ANC MP, candidate for Holborn & St Pancras (2024 General Election), activist, filmmaker, campaigner and author, specialises in the investigation of the arms trade and the corruption that accompanies it.
- **Luke Daniels** - Caribbean Labour Solidarity and Camden Trades Council
- **Muhammed Chowdhury** - Camden Muslim Network
- **Amrit Wilson** - South Asia Solidarity Group - writer, journalist and activist focused on issues of race and gender in Britain and South Asian politics. Her 1978 book *Finding a Voice: Asian Women in Britain* won the Martin Luther King Award.
- Speaker from **Migrants Rights Network** and **Camden Anti-Raids** to be confirmed
+ Independent Councillor candidates tbc

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Islamophobia, racism, free speech, slavery, colonialism, imperialism and reparations.

Printed & published by Camden United against Racism, 13 Pratt Street, London NW1 0AE

What can you do

Write to your MP - Keir Starmer or Tulip Siddiq
keir.starmer.constituency@parliament.uk tulipsiddiq.mp@parliament.uk

Write to or contact your local councillor to ask what they are doing to promote community solidarity and ensure no minority group / section of our community in Camden is disadvantaged. To email a Camden councillor, use the general format: firstname.lastname@camden.gov.uk

Find out more about immigration raids and how to help people who are targeted: <https://linktr.ee/camdenantiraid>

Join CUAR (fill in the form from this QR)

Get involved in local actions - bookmark our calendar



Camden Muslim Network



Camden Trades Council



South Asia Solidarity Group



Camden For the Many



Camden Anti-Raids



International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network



Camden Streets Kitchen

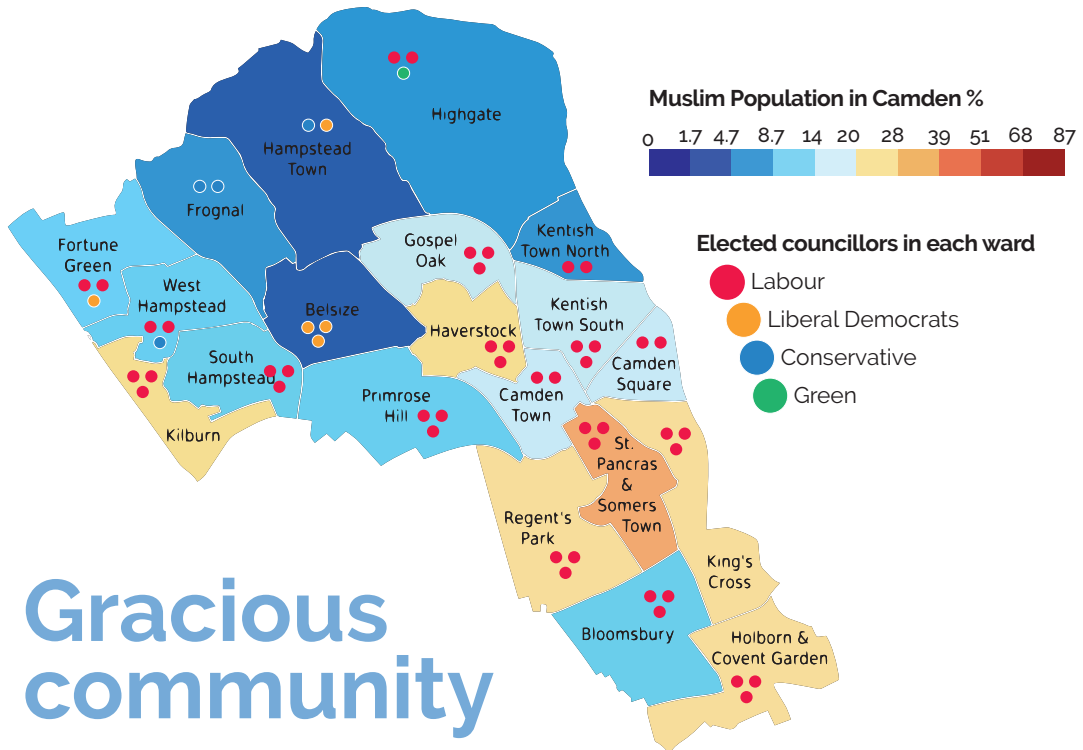


Birkbeck UCU



Camden Friends of Palestine





Gracious community

THESE BOYS AND GIRLS in the Muslim Camden community are truly special. I have been so honoured and blessed to get to know them. We met first through the general election campaign for Andrew Feinstein who was running to unseat the Zionist Keir Starmer (or "Starver" as he is now known since stating in his infamous LBC interview that Israel has the right to stop food and water entering Gaza). The Muslim community, comprising mainly of Bengali and Somali brothers and sisters, as well as plenty of others from varying origins and ethnicities, were most welcoming to me and took me in as one of their own from the first day. I am not from the community but came as an outsider to serve the cause, and within the first day I felt like I was one of their own.

The fact that this community steadfastly rose to place the force of their support behind a Jewish election candidate rather than the Bengali Muslim alternative demonstrated to me that they ooze and overflow true integrity. They would much rather put their weight behind a truly pro-Palestinian candidate than blindly associate themselves with an individual through sectarian lines. They are warm, genuine, loving people with the warmest of hearts.

The aftermath of the election saw us continue to stay in touch. They have become cherished friends. As I don't reside in the region, I don't get to see them as often as I would have liked but the fact that we still remain in contact demonstrates our mutual love and respect. It would have been all too easy and convenient to diverge but the bond created appears to be an inseparable one, cemented with love.

For those in the community reading this, please know that you will forever be in my heart. For those outside the community reading this, I would strongly encourage you to go have a wander through the streets of the area starting with Queen's Crescent and Drummond Street. Go enjoy the culture and harmony that I was blessed to be embraced with. I can't recommend these beautiful people enough.



Dr Sammy Darwish

Samy is a highly distinguished Consultant Periodontist and Oral Surgeon with a post graduate qualifications in Medical Law and Ethics

NEW party in Camden

ANDREW FEINSTEIN STOOD AGAINST STARMER at the last election on a platform of justice and equality, and holding politicians to account. He did surprisingly well, especially given a standing start of only a few weeks.

Given Starmer's plummeting support, it is predicted that Feinstein would beat Starmer at a future election. Meanwhile we have local elections in May 2026, where we need progressive candidates to step forward to stand in promising wards so that we can end the terrible record of Camden Council – on housing, services, health – and refusing to even debate the genocide in Gaza. The organisation that first endorsed Feinstein to stand in the last general election was Camden For the Many, a group of more than 100 people who had come together as they were horrified by the massive shift to the right of the Labour Party, both nationally and in Camden. The Muslim Vote (now Camden Muslim Network) played a pivotal role in Andrew's election success

Since the election, Camden For the Many has met regularly to discuss the political situation and how we could contribute to making Camden a better place to live and work. It was also proud to be a founder of Camden United Against Racism, along with the Camden Muslim Network. This is an im-

portant addition to the community campaigning of Camden.

Camden For the Many has decided to merge into a new political organisation: the Camden People's Alliance (CPA), which has emerged from Feinstein's electoral campaign. The CPA is a broad alliance of local residents – young and old, renters and workers, parents, students and pensioners – who love Camden but not our failing public services and our politicians who refuse to be properly accountable. The CPA will campaign for affordable homes, a safe and healthy environment, and for Camden Council to be accountable to the people who elected them. Camden People's Alliance will be launched in the Autumn. It will be looking for candidates to support in the coming local elections and members to join and help with campaigning. We hope you will join us and get involved.



Susan Michie

Susan is a professor of health psychology at UCL and a member of the UK's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

Strongest independent

□ **OUTRAGE** over Sir Keir Starmer's apparent support for Israel's various violations of international law is not confined to people of the Muslim faith.

It is a sentiment shared by members of all faith and non-faith communities. Notable members of the local Muslim community who were initially supportive of a Bangladeshi candidate who hails from Tower Hamlets, Wais Islam, have now decided to support Andrew Feinstein, who has a

long and consistent history of fighting against racism and apartheid.

We have come to realise that Feinstein is the right candidate who is best suited to challenge Starmer. He has a far deeper reach to all communities across the whole of the constituency,

bringing people together from all walks of life.

Our objective is to unseat Starmer and Feinstein is the strongest independent candidate that can achieve this. That's why he has our support.

MUHAMMAD CHOWDHURY
Address supplied

Thursday 1 May 2023

Crime 'league tables' will fan flames

By David Hogg

Crime 'league tables' will fan flames, say critics. The tables, which rank police forces by crime rates, are seen as a way to compare performance. But critics say they will lead to a 'league of nations' where forces compete to be the best, rather than working together to reduce crime. The tables are also seen as a way to identify areas of high crime, but critics say they will lead to a 'league of nations' where forces compete to be the best, rather than working together to reduce crime.

Court ruling's disappointing

The court ruling is disappointing, say critics. The ruling, which states that the league tables are not a legal requirement, is seen as a setback for those who want to see the tables abolished. Critics say the ruling will lead to a 'league of nations' where forces compete to be the best, rather than working together to reduce crime.

Support the CPA by signing up to: newjournal.substack.com

'Island of strangers'? That's racist

By David Hogg

'Island of strangers'? That's racist, say critics. The article, which discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community, is seen as a way to highlight the challenges faced by the community. Critics say the article will lead to a 'league of nations' where forces compete to be the best, rather than working together to reduce crime.

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BOOK REVIEW:

The Fate of Abraham: Why the West is Wrong About Muslim Politics

by Peter Osborne

Peter Osborne's *The Fate of Abraham* (2022) delivers a powerful critique of how Western governments, media, and political elites systematically misrepresent Muslim political movements, framing them through the lens of extremism and security threats. A veteran journalist and former Daily Telegraph chief political commentator, Osborne dismantles the pervasive "clash of civilizations" narrative, arguing that Islamophobia has been weaponised to justify foreign interventions, suppress democratic movements, and silence dissent.

Central to the book is the theme of manufactured Islamophobia. Osborne meticulously documents how Muslim political agency is distorted, from the false conflation of mainstream groups with terrorism to the UK Conservative Party's institutionalised anti-Muslim bias—exposed but buried in a 2021 report. He also highlights Western double standards, contrasting the uncritical support for

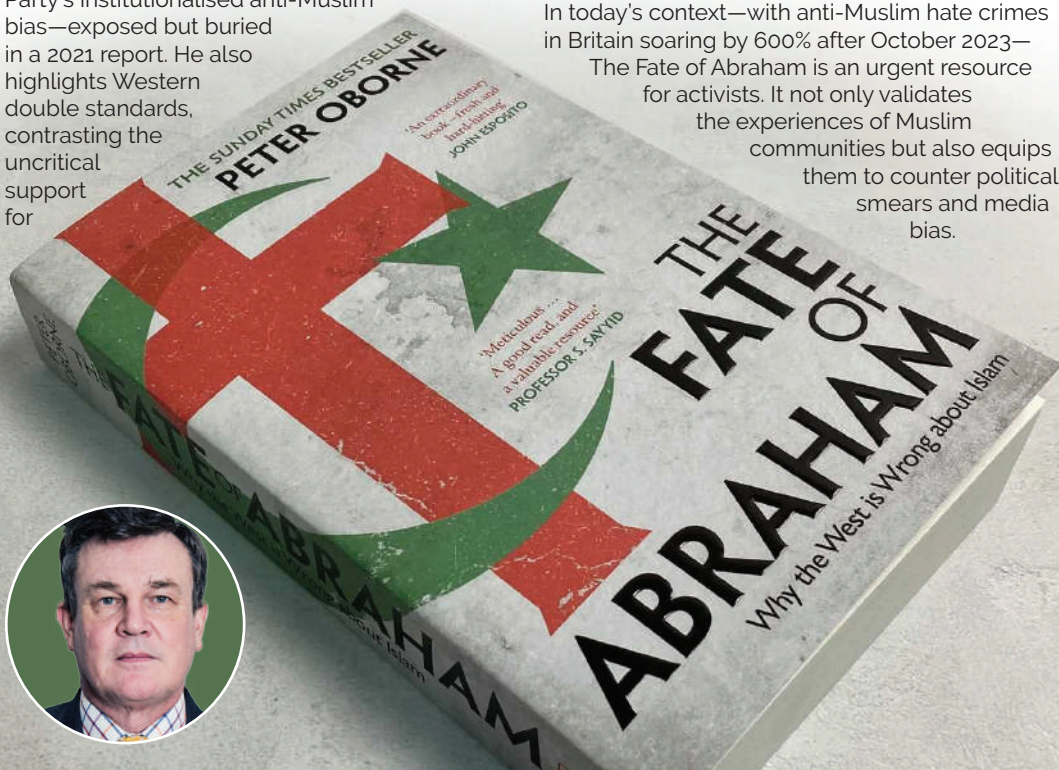
regimes like Modi's India, with its documented anti-Muslim violence, against the demonisation of democratically elected Muslim leaders such as Egypt's Mohamed Morsi or Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Palestine emerges as a recurring litmus test for Western hypocrisy. Osborne demonstrates how criticism of Israel is frequently smeared as antisemitic, while Islamophobic rhetoric—from media pundits to policymakers—faces little accountability. Yet the book also spotlights grassroots resistance, profiling initiatives like the UK's Stop the War Coalition and local Muslim civic organisations (such as Camden Muslim Network) that challenge dominant narratives.

Osborne's rigorous investigation benefits from his insider perspective, particularly in dissecting UK government deceit, while his global scope—spanning Bosnia, Xinjiang, and beyond—ties local anti-Muslim policies to broader geopolitical strategies. Written with journalistic clarity, the book avoids academic abstraction, making its arguments accessible to a wide audience.

In today's context—with anti-Muslim hate crimes in Britain soaring by 600% after October 2023—

The Fate of Abraham is an urgent resource for activists. It not only validates the experiences of Muslim communities but also equips them to counter political smears and media bias.



Grassroots Campaign Exposes: **Labour's** Disconnect in Camden

In the weeks of the 2024 General elections, Camden activists set up stalls and whiteboards in the heart of Camden. The purpose, a question to passersby: *"Does Labour still represent you?"* [Yes/No] The public responses, tallied with marker, exposes were damning.

What began as an impromptu protest, expressing solidarity with Palestine and an opportunity for locals to voice their frustrations, became a raw public indictment of Keir Starmer's leadership. Photos from the campaign showed messages like "Labour betrayed us" and "Starmer endorsed genocide." For many, Starmer's refusal not only to condemn Israel's assault on Gaza but approve its genocide was incomprehensible to the principles of the locals who lived in the area.

The MP for St Pancras & Holborn went on to say "Israel has a right to" totally cut power and water supplies to Palestinians in Gaza. As Starmer pledged his support for war crimes, we gave locals a way to express 'This isn't in our name' – and the responses were overwhelming.

Committed volunteers with the Camden Muslim Network and The Muslim Vote, turned quiet anger into action. Posters, whiteboards, and street conversations became the tools to reach the voices of those that are all too often ignored and taken for granted. When politicians won't listen, we find ways to speak louder and more creatively to ensure the message is heard.

A Warning for Labour?

Somers Town was once a Labour stronghold. Now, it's a bellwether for the party's unravelling bond with its base. Gaza is just one fracture point; austerity, migrant rights, and a sense of abandonment have deepened the rift.

As local organisers vow to expand their efforts, Labour faces a reckoning: Can it go back to its founding principles and win back let-down working class voters? Or will it be down to movements like ours — organic, uncompromising, and rooted in community, to reshape British politics from the ground up in favour of working class communities?





Faith in Andrew

I've been interested in politics since I was in primary school, so when the opportunity came to be actively involved, I jumped at the chance. We've all seen the horror of Israel's genocide unfold, and although I had previously taken part in marches, I wanted to do something that could potentially have an even more direct impact.

So when I heard that Andrew Feinstein was standing against Keir Starmer, I was ready to help in any way I could. In Andrew, I saw a candidate who stood for what I believed in—especially on the issue of Palestine. I believed that having an independent, pro-Palestine MP in Parliament would help challenge the UK's role in its support for Israel.

Andrew's campaign gave me insight into how political advocacy can lead to meaningful political change when executed in the right way. Not many people believed Andrew would be able to run an organised campaign, or that it would be as successful as it was. This proved to me that if we work together, we can achieve even greater success.

My understanding of politics has improved, and my desire to get involved is even stronger. I hope to study international relations at university, and this experience within UK politics has helped shape my interest in international affairs.



Salsabil Kazi

Salsabil has just completed her A'levels and is due to start university in September 2025.



HSP4NHS is a grassroots campaign group gaining significant traction in Camden. Our mission is to energise constituents through meaningful dialogue and build lasting engagement.

Currently, we're collecting signatures for a letter to Keir Starmer, due at the end of October, protesting the deliberate privatisation and Americanisation of the NHS. The letter will demand answers from the Labour leader to 15,000 of his constituents who've signed.

The response has surpassed all expectations – this issue has proven powerfully unifying. Constituents actively discuss the campaign, willingly open their doors to sign, and even share contact details for updates. Canvassers report residents chasing them through stairwells, eager to add their support!

This model must be replicated in other constituencies. Camden's residents are politically engaged, demanding accountability – and they deserve answers.



Diane Datson

Diane is a retired housing manager and trade unionist. She was actively involved in Andrew Feinstein's campaign to unseat Keir Starmer last summer

Constituents actively discuss the campaign, willingly open their doors to sign, and even share contact details for updates.

No more deaths from misdiagnosis.

We want fully qualified doctors.
No to Physician Associates, PAs.

Our NHS shouldn't be a business interest for corporate predators.

Keep private equity firms away from our NHS.

Our MPs accept money from private healthcare companies.

This causes a conflict of interest.
Our health means nothing to them.

Private health firms are bribing our government.

To guarantee them long term contracts & public money, and our government is bowing to their pressure.

How do you feel about paying £2 an hour for using a wheelchair at hospitals' A&E departments?

NHS/Government is a sham and does what it wants and really doesn't care about us.

The money government gives to private healthcare companies drains away to shareholders and big payouts for executives.
Not to front line healthcare for all.

Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister and our MP, and **Wes Streeting** Health Secretary have both received large sums of money from private healthcare companies.
Do we trust them to act in our interest?

Doctors are being replaced by Physician Associates who only have two years training. There have been deaths due to misdiagnosis.

Charging for services has already started and soon we will be paying for many more.

Government has been changing us to a minimal, "easyJet service" based on US state healthcare, with fake A&Es that can't treat serious conditions, fake doctors who can't diagnose you, fewer proper local general hospitals and local GP surgeries.

NHS/Government is a vehicle for corporate power dressed up as "the NHS"

Interested in volunteering with us?

Visit our website for further information

Want to find out more about the deliberate destruction of our NHS?

www.hsp4nhs.org

Camden and beyond

Standing up for justice

LIKE SO MANY ACROSS OUR BOROUGH, I have watched the devastation in Gaza with heartbreak and horror. The loss of tens of thousands of Palestinian lives, including thousands of children, is a tragedy that should shock the conscience of the world. What we are witnessing is not a "conflict" between equals, it is the collective punishment of a trapped civilian population. I believe it is my duty as a politician to speak out clearly and firmly against this injustice.

Since the early days of the assault on Gaza, I have sadly been the only voice in Camden Council calling for meaningful action.

Last year I submitted a motion to the Council calling for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and urgent humanitarian access to civilians. As the sole Green Party councillor in Camden, I was sadly unable to get a seconder from any other political party, and the motion was not debated.

But I did not stop there. In January this year, when a petition came to the Council calling on Camden to divest its pension fund from companies complicit in breaking international humanitarian law - including those involved in Israel's military actions - I stood proudly in support.

I argued that our pension fund must align with international law and the values we hold as a community. Camden is a borough that stands for fairness, equity, and human rights, and we cannot allow our money to be tied to companies that profit from the violation of those very principles. If we know our investments are linked to human suffering, how can we justify inaction?

As Camden's only Green Party councillor, I do not have the numbers to change policy alone - but I will not give up. I believe in moral leadership and in showing our communities that at least one person inside the Town Hall is listening and standing with them.

I am only one voice. But I hope that at the 2026 local elections, more voices like mine will be elected. If you believe in peace, justice, and standing up for the oppressed, please vote for a party like the Greens that shares your values.



Councillor **Lorna Jane Russell**
Green Party





BDS



FREEDOM
JUSTICE
EQUALITY

THE MORAL IMPERATIVE

WHY I SPOKE AT CAMDEN COUNCIL: A Personal Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

On the 20th of January, I stood before Camden Council, not just as a resident of this borough, but as a British Palestinian whose family continues to suffer under a system of occupation, apartheid, and bombardment — a system funded in part by UK investments, including right here in Camden. I reminded the councillors of their own legacy. In 1983, this very council made history by taking a principled stand against apartheid in South Africa. They divested. They called on the community to boycott. And they helped send a message that Camden would not stay silent in the face of injustice.

Now, decades later, Camden is at another crossroads. Will it take a principled stance once more? Or will it continue to invest £83 million in companies complicit in the destruction of Palestinian lives?

This isn't just political for me, it's personal. My cousin Omar's home was bombed, killing three of his children and severely injuring his wife. My cousin Amal's husband, Ali, was shot in a marketplace by a drone funded by the very companies Camden invests in. My aunt Huda lost two sons. My aunts Hanan and Hiba have lost everything: their home, their safety, their sense of normalcy.



These stories are not statistics. They are people I know. People I love.

And I ask: What am I meant to tell them? That here in Camden, my community, our council funds the same machinery of death that's taken their lives apart?

This is why I support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Because it's non-violent. Because it's grounded in international law. And because it gives us, the people, a way to say: Not in our name.

So I called on Camden Council to take action. But I also call on my fellow British Muslims — especially those living in Camden — to do the same.

Boycotting is not just symbolic; it is a spiritual, ethical, and moral response to oppression. As Muslims, we are taught that when we see injustice, we must act against it, with our hands, our voices, or our hearts. At the very least, let our spending reflect our values. Let's divest from complicity. Let's stop normalising oppression. Let's build collective power and solidarity through every purchase we make, every voice we raise, and every story we share.

Camden has the chance to lead with conscience once again. But we, as its residents, as Muslims, and as people of principle, must hold it to account and lead by example ourselves. Let history remember us as the generation that did not look away.



Lubaba Khalid

Lubaba is a freelance photographer and a community activist.





Passionate to vote for a change in Camden?

If you have concerns surrounding last year's General election as well as the subsequent by-elections — get involved with Camden Muslim Network and make a difference.

Want to register and vote but don't know how?

Scan this QR code to take you directly to the page for you to register your right to vote.



gov.uk/register-to-vote



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