



SCOTTISH MUSLIM AWARDS

2026

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026, HILTON, GLASGOW



WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH MUSLIM AWARDS 2026

PEACE BE UPON YOU ALL

Tonight, we gather for the third annual Scottish Muslim Awards - celebrating the excellence, service and remarkable contributions of Scotland's Muslim community.

Across business, education, healthcare, charity, sport, public service, culture and the arts, individuals and organisations are creating opportunities, transforming lives and helping Scotland flourish. Their stories remind us that achievement is not measured only by personal success, but also by the difference we make to others.

At a time when Islamophobia and division continue to affect communities, these awards present a powerful and uplifting counter-narrative - one reflecting the talent, generosity, resilience and leadership of Muslims across Scotland.

This year, our theme is Ihsan - Excellence with Purpose.

Ihsan calls us to strive for excellence while remaining sincere, compassionate and mindful of our responsibilities. It encourages us to go beyond what is expected: to act with integrity, support those around us and leave a positive legacy.

As the Qur'an reminds us:

"INDEED, ALLAH COMMANDS JUSTICE AND EXCELLENCE..."
SURAH AN-NAHL, 16:90

These principles are not confined to any one faith or community. Compassion, fairness, service and respect are shared values that bring people together and help build a stronger, more inclusive Scotland.

May this evening inspire us to celebrate one another's contributions and pursue excellence with humility and purpose.

Welcome to an evening of recognition, inspiration and shared pride.



SCOTTISH MUSLIM AWARDS

A MESSAGE FROM FIRST MINISTER JOHN SWINNEY



I am pleased to send all good wishes for this year's Scottish Muslim Awards 2026.

I recognise that this has been a difficult time for many communities across Scotland and around the world. In times of uncertainty and division, it is more important than ever that we stand together, uphold our shared values of respect and understanding, and continue to support one another.

Scotland's Muslim communities make a valued and lasting contribution to our national life. Through service, enterprise, charity, education, faith leadership, the arts and public service, individuals and organisations across Scotland help strengthen our communities and enrich our society.

The Scottish Muslim Awards provide an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate those whose dedication, achievement and commitment to others make a positive difference to the lives of people across the country.

I congratulate all those being recognised and thank everyone involved in organising this year's event. I hope you have a successful and enjoyable evening celebrating the many contributions of Scotland's Muslim communities and the positive impact they continue to make across Scotland.

JOHN SWINNEY

HOSTS



ISRA ALI

Isra Ali is a Senior Solicitor at Watermans, specialising in Personal Injury law. Alongside her legal career, she has been a dedicated volunteer, supporting humanitarian initiatives both locally and internationally. In her spare time, Isra is also a content creator for weddings, events and businesses, combining creativity, organisation and storytelling to capture meaningful moments and bring ideas to life.



UMAR HUSSAIN

Umar Hussain is an Associate Solicitor at McGreevy & Co. in Glasgow, specialising in criminal defence. Alongside his legal career, he is committed to giving back through volunteering with a local food bank and youth group. His work reflects a strong dedication to professional excellence, community service and supporting people both within the legal profession and across the wider community.

SCHEDULE

3:30pm	GUEST ARRIVAL & RECEPTION
4:30pm	GUESTS SEATED
4:45pm	STARTERS
5:30pm	WELCOME & QUR'AN RECITATION
6:00pm	AWARDS CEREMONY (PART I)
7:00pm	MAGHRIB PRAYER BREAK
7:30pm	AWARDS CEREMONY (PART II)
8:15pm	THE SMA QUIZ
8:30pm	AWARDS CEREMONY (PART III)
9:00pm	MAIN COURSE
9:15pm	CHARITY AUCTION
9:45pm	CLOSING REMARKS
10:00pm	DESSERT, COFFEE & NETWORKING

JUDGES



AJMAL MUSHTAQ

Ajmal Mushtaq is CEO of Boss Pizza and a former Accenture Management Consultant, bringing extensive business experience and a passion for supporting future entrepreneurs.



ZARA MOHAMMED

Zara Mohammed is a leadership consultant and former Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, with a focus on leadership and community empowerment.



DAWUD DUNCAN

Dawud Duncan is a Scottish musician blending Scottish tradition and Muslim culture through music, story and song, performing nationally and internationally.



DR SAHIRA DAR

Dr Sahira Dar is a portfolio GP, President of the British Islamic Medical Association, Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Glasgow and founder of Vibrant Scottish Mosques.



KASHIF RASHID

Kashif Rashid is a Chartered Company Secretary, trustee of Yusuf Youth Initiative and founder of ilm Halal Student Halls, winner of the 2025 Business of the Year award.



SALSABIL EL-AWAISI

Salsabil El-Awaisi is a Palestinian Scot, interior designer and founder of SE Interior in Edinburgh. She is also an activist advocating for Palestinian voices in Scotland.



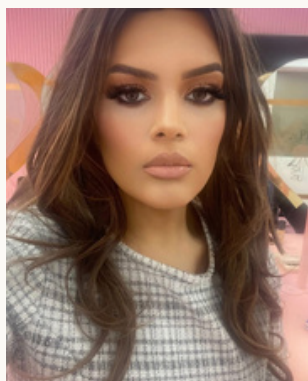
ALI MALIK

Ali Malik is Founder of Awaz FM and a community entrepreneur focused on bringing people together, supporting grassroots organisations and empowering communities.

ABU HURAYRA (RA) AWARD KINDNESS TO ANIMALS



THE FINALISTS



**IQRA
LATIF**

Iqra Latif is an animal welfare advocate, rescuer, environmental educator and founder of Paws4Humanity, a Scottish charity supporting animal welfare, environmental education and mental wellbeing. Alongside her husband, Muhammad Arsalan Rana, she also helps run a major animal rescue charity in Pakistan. Her work is driven by compassion, advocacy and giving animals the dignity, care and kindness they deserve.



**PROF LUBNA
NASIR**

Professor Lubna Nasir is an academic at the University of Glasgow whose research in comparative oncology helps improve understanding of animal disease, health and welfare. With over 70 publications and support from the Wellcome Trust, her work contributes to better veterinary care and advances knowledge that can improve the lives and wellbeing of animals.

**DR GINO
ABDUL-
JABBAR**



Dr Gino Abdul-Jabbar is an Edinburgh-based physicist, bee farmer and internationally recognised honey sensory analyst. Through his award-winning business, Simply Honey, he produces single-origin honeys from bees across Edinburgh and the Lothians. A Scottish Expert Beemaster and international honey judge, he promotes honey education, quality standards and appreciation of Scotland's natural floral heritage.

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THE FINALISTS



**HUMZA
YOUSAF**

Humza Yousaf is a Scottish National Party politician who served as First Minister of Scotland and SNP leader from March 2023 to May 2024. Elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2011, he later served in several ministerial roles. His appointment as First Minister made him Scotland's youngest and first Muslim leader. He remained MSP for Glasgow Pollok until April 2026.



**UZMA
KHAN**

Uzma Khan is Vice-Principal for Economic Development and Innovation and Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the University of Glasgow, making her one of the most senior leaders in Scottish higher education. As the University's Race Equality Champion, she co-chairs the Race Equality Group and leads work to tackle discrimination, promote representation and create a more inclusive culture for staff and students.

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**MANIRA
AHMAD**

Manira Ahmad is a Chief Officer at Public Health Scotland, championing a healthier, fairer Scotland through work in equity, justice, anti-racism and wellbeing. Recently awarded an honorary doctorate for services to public health and civic leadership, she also holds several board and advisory roles, including Vice-Chair of the Anti Racism Observatory for Scotland, supporting representation and community empowerment.

THE FINALISTS



**ASMA
KHAN**

Asma Khan is an Accredited CBT and integrative psychotherapist, clinical supervisor and Co-Founder and Clinical Director of Scottish Asian Counselling Services (SACS). Through SACS and her practice, Reflective Souls Counselling, she combines practice, training and community education to make mental health support accessible and less stigmatised within South Asian and Muslim communities.



**RAINBOW MUSLIM
WOMEN'S GROUP**

Rainbow Muslim Women Group, winner of Organisation of the Year 2025, has been a powerful force for empowerment, inclusion and positive change for over 25 years. Under CEO Samina Ali's leadership, RMWG supports women and families through health and wellbeing, education, skills development and community programmes, creating opportunities for people to thrive.



**ZAHIR HAIDER
STIRLING AID**

Zahir Haider is Chairman of Stirling Aid and has spent the past two years supporting homeless people and families across Glasgow. Each weekend, he helps organise and distribute food in partnership with FareShare, offering reliable support in all conditions. Through his service, Zahir treats people with dignity and compassion while inspiring others to volunteer, give back and support their communities.

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STORNOWAY MASJID

Stornoway Masjid made history in 2018 as the first mosque in Scotland's Western Isles. Created from a derelict building with support from Muslims, Christians, local businesses and the wider community, it now provides prayer, education and social support. More than a place of worship, the mosque represents faith, friendship, integration and a strong sense of belonging.

AL-FAROOQ EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Al-Farooq Education and Community Centre in Glasgow's Southside is a thriving hub for worship, education and community service. Its madrassa supports over 600 children, young people and adults, while its wider work includes a food bank, services for deaf Muslims and online lectures. With new community facilities and further mosque projects, Al-Farooq continues to strengthen faith, support families and invest in future generations.



SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

Almost three years of violence and conflict has been tearing Sudan apart, creating the world's biggest humanitarian catastrophe.

With the war spreading across Sudan, it is now the largest displacement crisis on earth. The armed conflict has displaced an estimated 15 million people, 53% of whom are children. Many are living in temporary camps where conditions are abysmal.

Sudan is experiencing one of the fastest-growing crises in the world, with unprecedented needs arising in a short timeframe. Nearly 11,359,005 internally displaced persons (IDPs) — about one in every nine people in the country — have fled their homes since the conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). As a result, food insecurity currently affects over half the population (24.6 million), exacerbating health risks, especially for the elderly and young children. Many IDPs also lack access to clean water and safe food.

Islamic Relief continues to focus on providing lifesaving humanitarian aid, including vital food, livelihood support, emergency shelter, WASH interventions, and non-food item (NFI) distributions, helping displaced and returning families rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

£70 can provide a cash grant to a family to buy essentials

£100 can help provide emergency shelter to a displaced family in Sudan

£180 can provide two families with emergency food packs to last one month



Location Al Jazirah, Gedaref, Sennar and Port Sudan
Zakat Eligible Yes



MENA CENTRE



The Mena Centre is a vibrant educational and community hub serving Glasgow and beyond. Rooted in faith, learning and service, it supports children, young people and adults through Qur'an and Arabic education, Tajweed, youth activities and community programmes. Through the Mena Trust, it also oversees projects including Olivewood School, the UK's only independent Arabic-English bilingual school.

THE FINALISTS



**ZAHID
RAZA**

Zahid Raza is a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and a Council Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. With over 24 years' experience, he has advanced surgical training internationally, helped establish MRCS examinations in Pakistan and supported doctors through training and observership opportunities, helping many progress into NHS posts.



**DR NOHA
EL SAKKA OBE**

Dr El Sakka is a Consultant Medical Microbiologist, Clinical Director of Laboratory Medicine in NHS Grampian and Vice President of the Royal College of Pathologists. She has held several national roles, including Specialist Advisor to the Scottish Government and Chief Medical Officer. In 2022, she was awarded an OBE for her outstanding services to the NHS and COVID-19 response.



**PROF SAMEER
MUSTAFA ZUBERI**

Professor Sameer Zuberi is a Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at the Royal Hospital for Children and Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow, where he leads the Paediatric Neurosciences Research Group. His work focuses on epilepsy, including causes, diagnosis, outcomes and treatments, and he has developed technologies using smartphone video and AI to support diagnosis and management of brain diseases.



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THE FINALISTS



**SOPHIA
HASSAN**

Sophia Hassan is committed to helping women become the strongest version of themselves, both mentally and physically. Through 4 The Girls Gym, she is creating a safe and supportive space where women can train, remove their hijab, build confidence and feel comfortable without barriers. Her work is centred on empowerment, strength, wellbeing and creating a community where women can thrive.



**FAIZA
BAQIR**

Faiza Baqir is an accomplished makeup artist with almost a decade of experience in the beauty industry, specialising in bridal and occasion hair and makeup across the UK and internationally. Known for her creativity, detail and professionalism, she takes pride in helping clients feel confident and valued. Alongside her beauty career, she supports The Well Foundation, empowering women, young people and families.



**WAZ
IQBAL**

Hijamawala is one of the UK's notable therapy providers for professional athletes, working with footballers, MMA fighters, jiu-jitsu athletes and boxers across Scotland. The team has supported major combat sports events, including BKFC, providing treatment, weight-cut support and post-fight recovery. Their growing reputation reflects a strong commitment to athlete welfare, preparation and performance.



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ANAS IBN MALIK (RA) AWARD YOUNG MUSLIM



THE FINALISTS



**SOFIA
AHMAD**

Sofia Ahmad is a final-year Finance and Business student at Heriot-Watt University, a Fraud Investigator at NatWest Group and founder of Halal Girls Club. Through the community, she brings Muslim women together across Scotland through welcoming social events. She is also a weekly presenter on Awaz FM and is passionate about creating opportunities, giving back and staying grounded in her faith and values.



**SALMA
KHAN AFRIDI**

Salma Khan Afridi is a medical student at the University of Glasgow, Female Side Lead and Youth Coordinator at Ibrahim Masjid, a Hafidha and an Alimiyyah student. Through her work, she creates opportunities for faith, confidence and community to grow, building partnerships with organisations to bring education, wellbeing support and wider opportunities to young Muslims.



**IBRAHIM
ALGHORANE**

Ibrahim Alghorane is a student from Gaza, now studying at the University of Glasgow. Evacuated after losing everything to the war, he emerged from the womb of pain carrying hope - the hope of building the future his mother and father had always dreamed of for him. His journey reflects resilience, determination and a belief in creating a better future despite everything he has endured.





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IN MEMORIAM

FROM ALLAH WE COME, TO ALLAH IS OUR RETURN

SHAF RASUL

Scottish entrepreneur, investor and former BBC Dragons' Den investor, who built E-Net Computers into a major international business and became a prominent mentor and supporter of entrepreneurs.

KHALIQ-UZ-ZAMAN ANSARI

A leading figure in Tablighi Jamaat in Scotland, remembered for decades of Islamic outreach, religious guidance and community development.

MOHAMMED MAHBOOB UL HAQUE YAQOOB

An artist and interior designer who designed the mihrab in Glasgow Central Mosque, leaving a lasting contribution to one of Scotland's most significant religious institutions

MAWLANA KAMRAN AHMED

An Islamic scholar and teacher who dedicated his life to Qur'anic and Islamic education, religious guidance and Tablighi work, beginning his Islamic learning in Stirling.

SAIRA RASOOL

A remarkable young community leader who served as GUMSA Education Officer, Glasgow Muslim Medics Charity Officer and Charity Week General Secretary for Scotland, combining academic excellence with exceptional service.

HAROON BASHIR CHOCHAN

A generous supporter of Scotland's mosques who regularly rescued unused plastic food rolls from his food business and provided them free of charge to mosques across the community.

GHULAM RASOOL

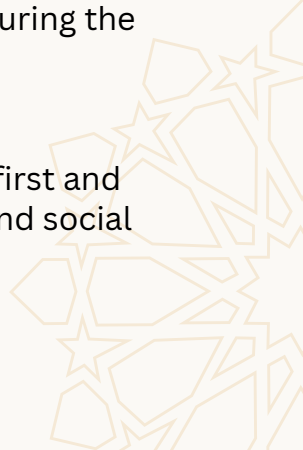
One of the founding members of Stirling Mosque, helping establish a place of worship and community that has served generations of Muslims in Stirling.

SABRA BIBI SHAH

A lifelong Qur'an teacher and Islamic educator who arrived in Scotland in 1980, raised eight children and devoted decades to Islamic education and nurturing the next generation.

SURIYA ALI

The pioneering owner of Edinburgh Fabrics, believed to be Edinburgh's first and longest-running South Asian fabric shop, which became a vital cultural and social hub for the city's Muslim and Asian community.



AN-NAJASHI AWARD SUPPORTING MUSLIMS

THE FINALISTS



**CAPTAIN LAURENCE
GILHOOLY**

Captain Laurence Gilhooly is a valued friend and supporter of the Muslim community at MMCC Bonnyrigg Masjid. Since first attending an open day, he has volunteered his time through free Tai Chi sessions, the Food Bank and Community Diner. His friendship, generosity and consistent service show how practical kindness can strengthen wellbeing, connection and unity across communities.



**EDINBURGH PALESTINE
WELLBEING GROUP**

The Edinburgh Palestine Community Wellbeing Group supports people affected by the genocide in Palestine through decolonising, anti-imperialist and liberation psychology perspectives. Meeting twice monthly, the group explores grief, anger, burnout and isolation. It also offers community activities and mental health training, helping people support one another in the struggle for Palestinian liberation.



**PROF PETER
HOPKINS**

Peter Hopkins is Professor of Social Geography at Newcastle University and a researcher focused on the lived experiences of Scotland's Muslim communities. He helped establish the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia and authored Scotland's Islamophobia. His book, Everyday Islamophobia, explores how Islamophobia shapes daily life and how it can be challenged.



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SOCIAL SECURITY SCOTLAND

Social Security Scotland administers benefits across Scotland for families, disabled people, pensioners and carers. Its work supports national outcomes around tackling poverty, protecting human rights and building inclusive communities. Guided by the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 and Our Charter, the organisation is committed to treating everyone with dignity, fairness and respect.



NETWORK RAIL

Network Rail Scotland is committed to inclusion, ensuring Muslim colleagues feel valued, respected and represented. Initiatives include cultural awareness, Ramadan and Eid engagement, mentoring, STEM outreach, prayer facilities and work to challenge Islamophobia. Working with partners such as Muslims in Rail, the organisation continues to foster a culture of belonging where everyone can be themselves at work.



Glasgow
City Council

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

Glasgow City Council has shown a strong commitment to faith inclusion and community cohesion. During Ramadan 2026, it supported Glasgow's first Open Iftar at City Chambers, welcoming more than 250 people from different backgrounds. Alongside wider work on Islamophobia, faith engagement and workforce diversity, the event reflected the Council's commitment to meaningful inclusion across the city.



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BILAL IBN RABAH (RA) AWARD BRAVEHEART

Shish

THE FINALISTS



THE FAMILIES MEDICALLY EVACUATED FROM GAZA

For the families medically evacuated from Gaza to Scotland, arriving in a new country means navigating unfamiliar languages, cultures and systems while carrying deep trauma and worry for their people. Yet they persevere with remarkable courage. The children, having survived experiences no child should face, remain inquisitive, creative, kind and eager to learn. They are, indeed, truly brave hearts.



SADDAQAT (SID) KHAN

Saddaqt “Sid” Khan is a Scottish-Pakistani humanitarian and long-standing advocate for Palestinian rights and social justice. For almost three decades, he has campaigned for Palestine and, in 2025, joined the Global Sumud Flotilla aboard Adara. He is also a trustee of Sight Relief, supporting essential eye care and sight-restoring treatment in Pakistan.



Shish
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FARKHANDA CHAUDHRY

Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE has worked at national and corporate levels across the third and public sectors. Throughout her career, she has supported Muslim-led organisations through strategic development, helping them strengthen their impact and sustainability. A highly skilled trainer, facilitator and mentor, she has also worked internationally, supporting individuals and organisations to achieve their goals.

Farkhanda is passionate about empowering others and helping people recognise their full potential. She hopes her work has inspired others to grow in confidence, pursue their ambitions and make a positive difference in their communities. Outside of work, she is a proud grandmother whose many grandchildren keep her busy and entertained.



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THE FINALISTS



**TALAT
YAQOOB**

Talat Yaqoob is a strategist and consultant specialising in social research, campaigns, public participation and equalities, with a focus on women's equality, anti-racism and intersecting inequalities. An award-winning campaigner, she founded Pass the Mic to amplify women of colour in the media. She is also a public speaker, writer and commentator on equality, politics and current affairs.



**PROF SYED FAISAL
AHMED**

Professor Ahmed is Samson Gemmell Chair of Child Health at the University of Glasgow and a Consultant in Paediatric Endocrinology. His research focuses on improving care for people with rare conditions through global and interdisciplinary collaboration. He also holds a professorship at the University of Leiden and, in 2024, was appointed Editor in Chief of Endocrine Connections.



**PROF NAVEED
SATTAR**

Naveed Sattar is Professor of Cardiometabolic Medicine at the University of Glasgow and Honorary Consultant at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Recognised for his research on obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, he has helped shape understanding of cardiometabolic risk and treatments. He has authored 1,600 papers and chairs the UK Government's Obesity Healthcare Goals Programme.



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FATIMA AL-FIHRI AWARD STUDENTS ORGANISATION

THE FINALISTS



STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Strathclyde University Muslim Students' Association (SUMSA) serves Muslim students at the University of Strathclyde. For decades, it has provided a place to practise faith, find community and feel at home, while supporting students through education, welfare, charity and advocacy. SUMSA continues to be shaped by generations of students committed to serving others.

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY ISLAMIC SOCIETY



Dundee University Islamic Society (DUIS) is one of the largest and most active student societies at the University of Dundee. It provides a welcoming community for Muslim students while bringing people together across the wider university and city. Last year, DUIS raised over £15,000 for charity, supported local foodbanks, delivered 500+ free iftars and hosted more than 40 events.



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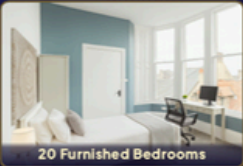
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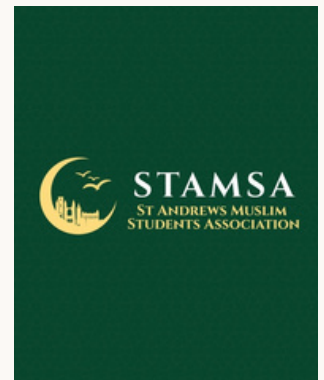
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ST ANDREWS MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION



STAMSA is at the heart of the Islamic community at the University of St Andrews, bringing together students from across the globe and creating a strong sense of belonging. From weekly Friday prayers to Ramadan iftars, it provides a welcoming space to practise, learn about and grow in faith. Open to all, STAMSA builds community through charity, education, friendship and meaningful engagement across campus.



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HALAL & TAYYAB AWARD FOOD & DRINK



THE FINALISTS



KEBABISH GRILL

Established in Glasgow in 2005, Kebabish Grill is a family-run restaurant built on faith, hard work and hospitality. For over two decades, it has served authentic Punjabi and South Asian cuisine in a welcoming, family-friendly environment. With strong community support at its heart, Kebabish Grill remains committed to fairness, quality halal food and honouring the trust of its loyal customers.



PARATHA BOX

Paratha Box is a halal food business bringing the flavours and comfort of South Asian cuisine to Glasgow. With the traditional paratha at the heart of its menu, it combines familiar recipes with creative fillings, generous portions and a modern approach. Through quality, value and a strong culinary identity, Paratha Box has built a loyal following and strengthened Glasgow's diverse halal food scene.



SHAWARMA GRILL

Shawarma Grill has been part of Glasgow's halal food scene since 2016, known for authentic Middle Eastern flavours, quality food and welcoming service. Its menu includes traditional shawarma, charcoal-grilled meats, kebabs and falafel. Named Glasgow's Best Kebab Shop in 2025, its success reflects a strong commitment to halal dining, consistency, hospitality and community trust.

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THE FINALISTS



GLASGOW ANSAR

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AMINA MWRC



The Amina - The Muslim Women's Resource Centre has supported women across Scotland for over 20 years, providing trusted, culturally responsive services. Through its dedicated helpline and advocacy work, Amina supports Muslim and Minority Ethnic women facing issues including poverty, discrimination, domestic abuse, poor mental health and isolation. Its work helps women find safety, rebuild confidence and create better futures.




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IMAM AL GHAZALI AWARD RELIGIOUS PERSONALITY

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THE FINALISTS



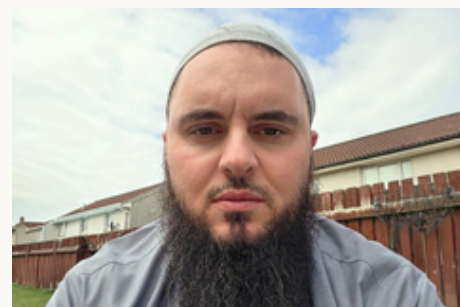
**SHAYKH HASSAN
RABBANI**

Shaykh Hassan Rabbani Al-Azhari is an Imam, Muslim chaplain, counsellor and teacher based in Scotland. A graduate of Al-Azhar University and the University of Glasgow, he serves as Muslim Chaplain at Heriot-Watt University. A qualified counsellor and couples therapist, he combines Islamic guidance, pastoral care and psychological insight to support individuals, families and communities in faith and wellbeing.



**SHAYKH AMER
JAMIL**

Shaykh Amer Jamil is a respected Scottish Muslim scholar and educator. Born and raised in Glasgow, he studied law before spending ten years studying Arabic and Islamic sciences in Syria and Yemen. A specialist in Islamic family law, he co-founded Solas Foundation and iSyllabus and serves as Muslim Chaplain at Glasgow Caledonian University, supporting students, families and communities across Scotland.



**IMAM ABHAD
KHAN**

Imam Abhad Khan is a Muslim chaplain with the Scottish Prison Service, where he began volunteering in 2009 before becoming an employed chaplain in 2012. He also serves as a volunteer chaplain at the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow. Alongside his chaplaincy, he supports new Muslims and those reconnecting with their faith, while providing faith-based counselling to individuals and couples.



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THE FINALISTS



**MOTAZ
AMER**

Motaz Amer is an award-winning human rights campaigner and youth advocate focused on migration, social justice and youth participation. Drawing on his experience of displacement from Yemen, he works to ensure refugees and young people have a voice in decisions affecting their lives. Through advocacy and public speaking, Motaz challenges harmful narratives and amplifies underrepresented voices.



**AHLAM
AL-BASHIRI**

Ahlam Al-Bashiri is a former Yemeni diplomat and refugee rights activist in Scotland. She works with the Scottish Refugee Council, supporting asylum seekers and refugees to access their rights, services and opportunities. She also successfully campaigned to extend voting rights in Scottish elections to all residents with leave to remain, including those with refugee status, helping strengthen inclusion and representation.



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**FAWZIA
OSMAN**

Fawzia Osman is an Edinburgh-based advocate for diversity, inclusion and community participation. Since 2016, she has worked to make Scouting more accessible and in 2024 founded the 20th AlFonj Scout Group in Niddrie, created with Sudanese community support. Her work helps young people build confidence, resilience and leadership while supporting refugees to develop friendships, belonging and active community involvement.

JUNAID JAMSHED AWARD ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



THE FINALISTS



**SHASTA
HANIF ALI**

Shasta Hanif Ali is a writer, poet and anti-racism campaigner whose work focuses on race, empire, heritage and structural change. She works at Corra Foundation exploring equitable grantmaking for racially minoritised communities. Her writing has appeared widely, and she is a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award recipient for Poetry 2026 and a recognised Edinburgh trailblazing woman.



**SUMAYYA
USMANI**

Sumayya Usmani is an award-winning author born and raised in Karachi and based in Glasgow. She is the author of *Andaza*, *Summers Under the Tamarind Tree* and *Mountain Berries and Desert Spice*. Her writing explores food, displacement, nostalgia, identity and belonging, and has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Telegraph* and other leading publications.

**MUMINAH
KOLEOSO**



Muminah Koleoso FRSA is a Nigerian-British Muslim creative, writer and advocate for youth and women's rights. She founded and hosts *Sister Station*, a podcast reaching audiences in over 48 countries, and has written for *Black Ballad*, *Friday Magazine* and *The Scotsman*. Her work uses storytelling to amplify Black and Muslim women's voices across media, poetry and advocacy.



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THE FINALISTS



**SEHAR
SHAHID**

Sehar Shahid is an award-winning pharmacist, entrepreneur and healthcare leader, and Founder and CEO of 24 HR Pharmacy. She is also a Board Director for the National Pharmacy Association in Scotland. She is passionate about pharmacy innovation, women in healthcare and entrepreneurship, Sehar founded Dose of Empowerment to help women connect, learn and support one another.



**RUKHSAR
AHMED**

The Managing Director of Green Fulfilment leads an award-winning order fulfilment company supporting brands across the UK and internationally. With over 17 years of experience, they have helped businesses scale through reliable fulfilment services. Green Fulfilment operates six warehouses across the UK and Netherlands while remaining committed to sustainability and Halal business principles.



**ZAIN
YOUNIS**

Zain Younis is a community pharmacist improving healthcare access in Campbeltown and surrounding rural communities. He has developed his pharmacy into a vital clinical hub, offering Pharmacy First Plus, specialist ear checks and same-day medicine delivery. His work supports vulnerable patients, improves access to care and helps reduce pressure on local GP and emergency services.



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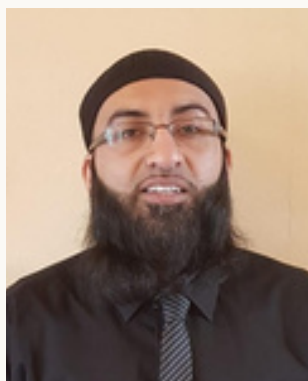


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THE FINALISTS



**BILAL
ANWAR**

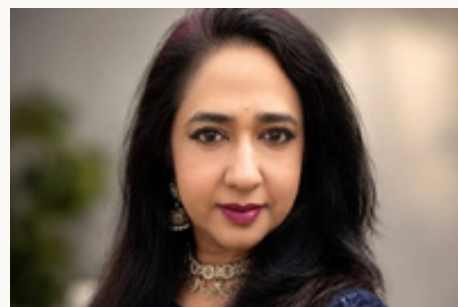
Bilal Anwar has been involved in community projects since childhood, first remembering packing toys and clothes for those affected by the Bosnia genocide at the age of 10. Since 2001, his main focus has been Palestine through volunteering with Friends of Al-Aqsa. Travelling to Palestine opened his eyes to the reality of the situation and strengthened his commitment to the cause. Free Palestine!



**SURIYA
ARSHAD**

Suriya Arshad is a qualified CBT therapist, registered BACP member and founder of Nur Therapy, with a professional background in pharmacy. She also works with Scottish Asian Counselling Services (SACS), supporting clients and community initiatives. Her work focuses on making mental health support more accessible, culturally sensitive and better understood within South Asian and Muslim communities.

**NUZHAT
UTHMANI**



Nuzhat Uthmani is a primary teacher, researcher and national advocate specialising in antiracism, citizenship and equalities education. She sits on the Scottish Government's Antiracism in Education Programme and Co-Chairs the Diversity in the Teaching Profession Subgroup. Her work supports teachers to challenge discrimination, decolonise learning and create more inclusive classrooms across Scotland.

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**ZESHAN
ULLAH**

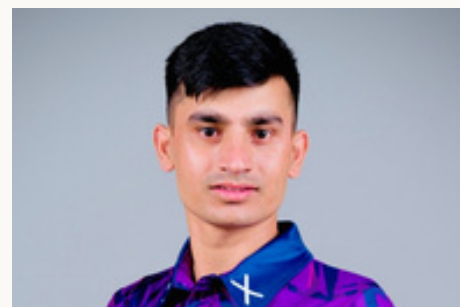
Zeshan is a UEFA-licensed coach who has worked with Celtic FC since 2011. He has coached within the Youth Academy and represented Celtic internationally, working with players and coaches around the world. With extensive experience in youth development, player coaching and coach education, he continues to support the development of football programmes and share Celtic's coaching philosophy globally.



**GLASGOW
ANSAR**

For 25 years, Glasgow ANSAR (All Nations Sports, Arts & Recreation) has created opportunities for young people from diverse communities to participate, progress and achieve through sport. Its programmes and partnerships help build confidence, develop talent and open pathways into competitive sport, coaching, volunteering and leadership, while raising aspirations and creating a more inclusive sporting future.

**ZAINULLAH
IHSAN**



Zainullah Ihsan is an Afghanistan-born Scottish cricketer whose journey has taken him from tape-ball cricket in Nangarhar to representing Scotland internationally. Arriving in Scotland in 2022 as an unaccompanied asylum seeker, he rebuilt his life while developing his talent in Glasgow. In 2026, aged 19, he was selected for Scotland's T20 World Cup squad, reflecting remarkable resilience and ambition.

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THE FINALISTS



**UZMA
MIR**

Uzma joined BBC Scotland as a Graduate Production Trainee in 1989 and has since worked across documentary, education, arts and children's drama. In 2008, she founded Turmeric Media, producing television and audio content with diversity at its heart. Passionate about representation on and off screen, she currently Executive Produces the CBBC series Anisha, Accidental Detective.



**REEM
SATAR**

Reem Satar is a journalist at STV News in Aberdeen who grew up in Scotland with a dream of becoming a reporter. Passionate about international issues and giving local communities a voice, she has reported on Sudan, artificial intelligence, online safety and the asylum system, focusing on how these issues affect people in Scotland. She has also covered a range of sports stories and features.

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**SANA
BILGRAMI**



Sana Bilgrami is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and Programme Leader for MA Creative Documentary Filmmaking at Edinburgh Napier University. Her work explores archive, identity, memory and place, with credits including Across the Waters, BAFTA-nominated Tree Fellers and New Ten Commandments. She also curates international exhibitions and is currently completing her PhD and personal documentary, The Album.

THE FINALISTS



**PROF KHADIJA
MOHAMMED**

Professor Khadija Mohammed is Associate Vice Principal (Inclusivity) at the University of the West of Scotland and a leader in anti-racism and inclusive education. Her work has influenced policy across Scotland, particularly in teacher education and workforce diversity. She is Co-founder and Chair of the Scottish Association of Minority Ethnic Educators and chairs the Anti-Racism in Education Programme Board.



**PROF QAMMER
HUSSAIN ABBASI**

Professor Qammer H. Abbasi is Professor at the University of Glasgow and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in Applied Electromagnetics. A leading researcher and educator, his work covers future communications, healthcare, AI and new technology. He is also passionate about education, mentoring and helping the next generation of leaders from diverse backgrounds to grow and succeed.



**PROF MONA
SIDDIQUI OBE**

Professor Mona Siddiqui OBE is an author, broadcaster and Professor of Religion and Society at King's College London. Her scholarship explores Islamic law, ethics, theology and Christian-Muslim relations. A regular contributor to BBC Radio 4 and author of several influential books, she was awarded an OBE for services to interfaith relations and has helped strengthen religious understanding and public debate.



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THE FINALISTS



REBECCA
ELYAZRHI

Rebecca Elyazrhi is a Scottish revert to Islam from the Isle of Skye, her journey began through wanting to understand her husband's faith. After a year of learning, researching and asking questions, she took her Shahada at Glasgow Central Mosque in March 2023. She now shares her journey through YouTube, supporting others who are learning about Islam or considering the same path.

REPORT
HATE.SCOT



ReportHate.scot is an independent, Scotland-wide platform offering a safe and accessible way to report experiences of hate. Reports can be made anonymously and are reviewed by trained volunteers, with anonymised data helping build a clearer picture of hate across Scotland. For Muslim communities, it provides an important way to ensure experiences of Islamophobia are heard, recorded and understood.



AMINA
MWRC



The Amina - The Muslim Women's Resource Centre has supported women across Scotland for over 20 years, providing trusted, culturally responsive services. Through its dedicated helpline and advocacy work, Amina supports Muslim and Minority Ethnic women facing issues including poverty, discrimination, domestic abuse, poor mental health and isolation. Its work helps women find safety, rebuild confidence and create better futures.

SALAHUDEEN AYUBI AWARD MALE OF THE YEAR



THE FINALISTS



**AMEER
DIN**

Ameer is an NHS Digital Product Manager and community advocate, Co-Founder of Urban Community Project and Founder of ReportHate.scot. His work focuses on bringing people together, amplifying voices, creating opportunities for young people and supporting communities across Scotland. He sees community work as a way of giving back and is grateful to those who have inspired him.



**ASAAD
TARIQ**

Asaad Tariq is a Bathgate-born entrepreneur and long-serving trustee of Bathgate Mosque, where he began volunteering as a boy. He has led the St David's House project, creating a new home for the congregation and a community hub with a gym, classrooms, café, foodbank and retail space open to all. Asaad also runs a national restaurant franchise group of over 30 sites, creating jobs and business opportunities across the UK.



**FAHIM
BAQIR**

Fahim Baqir is a businessman, community leader and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, committed to service and bringing people together. He works closely with Lanarkshire Mosque, supporting local initiatives and projects, while also contributing to humanitarian, sporting and youth development work. Fahim is passionate about building bridges, creating opportunities and making a positive impact.



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THE FINALISTS



**DR MAHMOOD
KOORIA**

Mahmood Kooria is Lecturer in the History of the Indian Ocean World at the University of Edinburgh and Deputy Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Global History. His research focuses on Islam, law and the Indian Ocean world. In 2024, he won the Infosys Prize in Humanities and Social Sciences for his contributions to the study of Islam and Malabar.



**DR SEHRISH
ATIF**

Dr Sehrish Atif is an academic and researcher focused on sustainability, digital innovation, gender diversity and inclusion. The first woman in her family to complete both a master's degree and PhD, she now teaches across Scottish universities and supports underrepresented students, particularly Pakistani Muslim girls and women, through mentoring and guidance.



**PROF MUHAMMED
ALI IMRAN**

Professor Muhammad Ali Imran is Head of the James Watt School of Engineering at the University of Glasgow and a leading expert in communication systems. His research in 5G/6G, energy-efficient networks and connectivity has influenced global innovation, while his work also supports wider access to technology and future generations of engineers.



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SAYED HOSSEIN NASR AWARD ENVIRONMENTALISM

THE FINALISTS



FATIMA
IFTIKHAR

Fatima Iftikhar is a climate justice advocate, writer and community leader with over a decade of experience linking environmental action with social justice. Her work focuses on inclusive climate education, energy justice and supporting migrant, refugee and minority ethnic women to become voices for change. She is also Chair of the United Nations Association Glasgow and has represented the organisation at COP for five years.



ZARINA
AHMAD

Zarina Ahmad is a climate justice activist, environmentalist and Co-Director of the Women's Environmental Network. Her work focuses on inclusive environmentalism and community climate action, ensuring underrepresented communities are recognised as leaders. She founded the Ethnic Minority Environmental Network in Scotland and helped establish over 150 community climate projects.

EMERITUS
PROF
TAHSEEN
JAFRY



Tahseen Jafry is an award-winning Emeritus Professor of climate change and inequality at Glasgow Caledonian University. For over 30 years, her work has focused on climate justice, social equity and vulnerable communities across the Global South. Her research has helped advance understanding of women's mental health, access to drinking water and the wider social impacts of climate change.



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THE FINALISTS



**MARIAM
AHMED**

Mariam Ahmed has advocated for women's rights for over 18 years and is Chief Executive of Amina – The Muslim Women's Resource Centre. She supports Muslim and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women facing barriers including domestic abuse, poverty and isolation. Through leadership, advocacy and campaigning, she works to ensure women feel safe, heard, valued and able to shape their own futures.



**MANIRA
AHMAD**

Manira Ahmad is a Chief Officer at Public Health Scotland, working to advance equity, justice, anti-racism and wellbeing. Recently awarded an honorary doctorate for services to public health and civic leadership, she also holds several board and advisory roles, including Vice-Chair of the Anti Racism Observatory for Scotland, supporting representation, inclusion and community empowerment.



**MAARIYAH
ADAM**



Maariyah is Founder and Managing Director of Sacred (body:mind:space), a Scottish community research organisation addressing abuse and harm within Muslim communities. She is also a PhD researcher at the University of Glasgow, exploring Muslim men's experiences of spiritual abuse. Her work brings together research, lived experience and community action to help build safer, more accountable Muslim communities.



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