

## **PROJECT PROPOSALS BY BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL** **PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM PATHFINDER FUND**

### **Young People and Women**

**Young Muslim Leadership Programmes:** Leadership programmes for young people led by steering group of young people in partnership with Birmingham City Council (BCC) and supported community, voluntary and faith based organisations. The aims of the projects would be to build the confidence of young Muslims in Birmingham preparing them to help address the needs of young people and future challenges. The programme will include a series of workshops on extremism and how to identify signs of radicalisation amongst young people and what steps to take to tackle these views via a series of de-radicalisation activities.

**Development of Success Clubs:** The concept of success clubs is to enable young people to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that are more likely to lead to personal success in life. Success Clubs are based on sharing ideas with and between young people. Five common themes that success clubs look at developing are goals, mentors, morality, group identity and entrepreneurial skills. The project is looking to pilot this approach in five settings targeting young people at risk of disaffection.

**Study Circles and a 'Journey of the Soul' Project.** The circles will enable mainstream Imams to re-connect with young people and help them to build their understanding of Islam with a focus on spirituality and inner peace making them more resilient to messages of hate and extremism. Study Circles target young people in communities at risk of being targeted by extremist ideologies.

**Empowering Muslim Women:** This project is aimed at enhancing and empowering Muslim Women to contribute to building stronger communities and tackling violent extremism. The role of Muslim Women as mothers, wives and sisters enables them to help educate and influence vulnerable members of their inner circle. However to do this effectively Muslim Women need their voices to be heard and a development of their capacity to engage with disillusioned youth.

### **Interfaith Projects**

**Birmingham Citizenship and Interfaith Consultations and Conference:** To engage Muslim and non Muslim youths in a series of citizenship workshops looking into shared values, common interests and respecting equality and diversity. The consultations with young people on citizenship shall help shape a local citizenship charter to be launched at a 'Faith Based Birmingham Citizenship Charter' conference.

### **Reclaiming Islam**

**Capacity Building of Mosques:** To run a pilot programme of building the Capacity of Mosques in Birmingham. The programme will aim to help to build the capacity of Mosque Committees to ensure that Mosques are aware of the laws and regulations of the UK covering areas of Health and Safety, Child Protection, CRB checks etc. The programme will also encourage the role of women and young people in committees as well as building the capacity of committee

members to deal with rogue individuals or Imams preaching a message of division and hatred.

**Imam Training** – The training will help empower Imams to deliver sermons in English to have maximum impact and reach across the community. The programme will also cover aspects of media and civic engagement as well as having the confidence of tackling extremists and violently extreme ideologies.

**Working with Islamic Schools, Madrasah's and Supplementary Schools:** To improve the quality of teaching, curriculum and teaching resources. To promote integration/community cohesion and work with mainstream schools. Supplementary schools are those operating out of mosques. Madrasah are Islamic colleges which are not funded by the state, and Islamic schools are that voluntary-aided.

## Media

**Positive Media Resource:** A project to tackle misperceptions of Islam and other faith minorities by developing visual materials which will promote a positive image of Islam and other faith communities. The outcome will be an exhibition and learning aids which inform young Muslims and non-Muslims which will address radicalisation.

**Media Skills Workshops:** Workshops to help develop the skills of community leaders, young people, and in particular Muslim women in handling the media and becoming spoke persons. It was evident following the arrests in Birmingham that media engagement was very poor and proved that few people are really comfortable with a tough radio or television interview, now matter how senior or skilled they are at their own work. The training will be based around conducting interviews in the street, at a radio studio as well as a television studio.