

12th March 2025

MEDIA STATEMENT

Muslim Heritage Month Launched

Muslim Heritage was formally launched in Parliament on 11th March at an event sponsored by Tik Tok which was attended by over a hundred people across the sectors of finance, law, sports, arts, community and technology. Speakers included Faith and Communities, Lord Khan, Deputy London Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard, former Conservative Minister Lord Ahmad and Baroness Warsi of the APPG on British Muslims. They all praised the initiative and expressed their optimism about its potential future impact.

Muslim Heritage Month has been launched in response to rising hate crimes and growing concerns over the normalisation of anti-Muslim attitudes and therefore aims to challenge negative stereotypes by amplifying positive Muslim stories. Rooted in the theme '*The Ties That Unite Us,*' the initiative aim is to recognise the cultural richness and the historical and contemporary contributions of Muslims in Britain as well as highlighting connections between Muslim and British cultures.

Baroness Shaista Gohir, CEO of Muslim Women's Network UK and the founder of the idea to establish Muslim Heritage Month in the UK, stated: *"We hope to see Muslim Heritage Month becomes a month-long Muslim festival that is marked annually every March through a range of activities. March has been selected to celebrate Muslim Heritage Month to align with the United Nations-recognised International Day to Combat Islamophobia on March 15th. This month, therefore offers an opportunity to take a celebratory yet complementary approach."*

We already have more than 20 organisations joining in this year. There is a dedicated website (www.muslimheritagemonth.org.uk), that offers a toolkit and various resources to support engagement. Some of the examples of organisations marking Muslim Heritage Month include the online lifestyle magazine SheerLuxe, Janus Henderson Investors, Premier League, Muslim at Amazon, the British Film Institute, UK Muslim Film, Crystal FC Charity (Palace for Life), Womble Bond Dickinson, ECB, RCGP, BIMA, Brentford FC, the Ikon Gallery and the X social media platform.

As more organisations come on board, additional events will be announced, ensuring an impactful and inclusive Muslim Heritage Month 2025 and beyond.

Note: Anyone wanting to join in, please email <u>contact@mwnuk.co.uk</u>/ <u>mhm@muslimheritagemonth.org.uk</u>

Additional Information

- Media enquiries can be directed to: <u>contact@mwnuk.co.uk</u> or 0121 2369000
- Muslim Heritage Month toolkit <u>https://www.muslimheritagemonth.org.uk/muslim-heritage-month-toolkit</u>
- Muslim Women's Network UK is a national charity: <u>https://www.mwnuk.co.uk</u>