

## **ACTION CARD – MAY 2022**

### **Muslims in Britain**

Material provided by Christians Aware



Young Muslims at a conference in London

There are approximately 3 million Muslims in Britain and Islam is the fastest growing religion in the region.

68% are of Asian descent

There are also Arab, Turkish and African Muslims.

37% live in London.

Some Muslims came to Britain in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Woking Mosque was established in 1889 and in 1914 the British Muslim Society was established. Muslims fought for Britain in the first and second world wars. Many came to Britain following the Partition of India in 1947 and a large number were from the Punjab, which suffered the most disturbance during the Partition. The building of the Mangla Dam in Pakistan displaced about 100,000 people, mainly from Mirpur, and some of them settled in Bradford and other British cities. Muslim families, following single male pioneers, generally settled in Britain in the 1960s and it was then that their communities grew and many mosques, schools and shops followed. University students also came during those years.

Today Muslims living in Britain have the protection of the 1976 Race Relations Act, which was extended to include religion. Many are appreciated and well-established members of British society whilst others still struggle. In recent years the rise of Islamism has brought fear and isolation to some British Muslims, especially young men. The communities spend a lot of time helping their young people to conquer the fear of rejection and to go out into British society. Some Muslim women, who traditionally stay at home, also need encouragement to go out and to learn English.

**Some Possible Actions:**

**Read ; Meeting Muslims' published by Christians Aware in 2012. The editors are – Christopher Lamb and Ataullah Siddique.**

**Meet |Muslim people.  
Listen, learn and develop friendship.  
Perhaps form a regular group.**