



## Ideas for Islam Awareness Events

---

The FOSIS Islam Awareness Committee compiled a questionnaire in summer 2006, to understand what made a successful Islamic Events. Many Muslim Students responded to the questionnaire and gave a detailed insight into understanding this issue.

The responses are still being compiled however a section of the answers have been presented within this document. This document details the list of ideas that Islamic Societies can use when thinking about the type of events they should organise.

Please email [iac@fosis.org.uk](mailto:iac@fosis.org.uk) if you would like to make more suggestions.

---

### London Region

#### **1) IAW 'Proof of a creator' - Middlesex University**

This event could be applied to both Muslim and non-Muslim students. The topic was intellectually challenging. Students admire how Islam responds to this sort of challenge.

#### **2) Fresher's Fair - Goldsmiths University (2002)**

They had two separate sections, one for females and one for males but they acted as one. They had posters, Quranic recitation, interaction/socialising section, Henna section, and sport & debate section. The reason it was appealing was because it showed people the variety within Islam and Muslims; they could be fun, entertaining and creative but at the same time they could be serious, could engage and could portray Islam in its true image.

#### **3) Women in Islam vs. Women in West - London Metropolitan University & LSE**

A lot of non-Muslim women attended this event. Whenever media attacks Islam they always pick on our women. This was an excellent opportunity to remove any misconceptions about women in Islam.

#### **4) Clash of Civilisations - Westminster University**

The speakers were well known and eloquent. The reason it was appealing was that the event was around a topic which is controversial and people always talk about such a topic.

#### **5) Why I became Muslim - School of Pharmacy, London**

This event was very effective as people are always curious/nosy about other people. We all know personal interest works which is why gossip magazines and Big Brother are so popular in England.

#### **6) Does Islam Oppress Women? - LSE SU Comparative Ideologies**

The right topic was chosen at the right time. Just as France's Hijab ban in schools was big news a debate between two women was organised between a Dr. wearing jilbaab and an ex-Muslim who believed in freedom from Islam. Crowds were turned away due to lack of space. The event is still talked about at the LSE two years on.

#### **7) It's only a cartoon isn't it? Overreaction or legitimate grievance? - Imperial University**

Again the right topic was organised at the right time with two debaters who understood the substantive issues and kept the discussion simple. Non-Muslims all over campus had to take notice of the event.



#### **8) Exhibition - Islam Awareness Week - School of Pharmacy Islamic Society**

This was mostly charity-based as we were also selling food at stalls located in the main entrance of the building. Various people Muslims and non Muslims approached the stalls during all hours of the day which made it interactive.

#### **9) Women in Islam - Imperial University**

The event was very good the non-Muslim audience got the chance to raise many contentious issues including matters related to oppression, roles, marriage, relationships with men in society etc. A very active Q&A session is what made it a good event. The speaker was also very good in dealing with difficult questions clearly and confidently.

#### **10) Quran - The Word of God? - Imperial University**

This event had a very knowledgeable speaker who dealt with the many questions very well. They clearly showed the superiority of our arguments and gave a very positive image of Islam in general. The talk was well presented in a clear and thoughtful way.

#### **11) Exhibition - Islam Awareness week - Imperial University**

This style of activity was fresh and creative. Many non-Muslims approached the stalls that were up during the busy lunch time hours as part of the isoc's IA week. Appealed to many non-Muslims, was very interactive, people got to see a slightly different side of islam on campus; a diverse deen comprising of many different languages, traditions, cultures etc. The interaction with the non-Muslims was very encouraging with many taking a interest in what was said.

#### **12) ODNF - St Georges University**

Over 160 people attended and most of them were non-Muslims. Here is an outline of what we did:

- Arabic Style Dinner
- Lecturer by spoke about: "Why does God permit suffering?". He managed to attract the attention of all believers in God whether non-Muslim or Muslim with an impressive explanation of Islamic perspective.
- Arabic Calligraphy stall - We had a brother write students names in Arabic on special cardboard paper and people paid £3 towards this for charity.
- Islamic competition at the end where we asked people questions and gave prizes out.

### **FOSIS Wales Region**

#### **13) FOSIS Wales Joint Camp - Hosted by Glamorgan University**

The camp consisted of a series of lectures, seminars and some sports. Although this event was tailored more for the Muslims, it was a great way of bringing people together to learn and remind themselves about Islam. The event lasted over one weekend, therefore was not seriously disruptive to anybody's schedules.

#### **14) Dinner - Cardiff University**

It is a good way of meeting other Muslims, as well as creating a nice environment for non-Muslims.

### **FOSIS Midlands Region**

#### **15) Sex, Drugs and Rock n Roll- Islam: a health kit for social ills - Loughborough University**

A series of lectures were held on the Islamic reasoning and perspective on each of the above theme(s). This theme was appealing as it meant that many non-Muslims could be immediately enticed. However, it is unfortunate that the university does not consist of a very substantial non-Muslim base/'audience' and the timing of the event meant that it was not as successful as perhaps it could have been, if conducted at a different venue.



### **16) Aisha Alvi & Moazzam Begg - Guantanamo: a Violation of Human Rights - Leicester University**

Aisha Alvi, a Muslim lawyer spoke about human rights and Islam and this was followed by an inspiring talk by Moazzam Begg whereby he accounted some of his harrowing experiences in Guantanamo and Belmarsh, etc. Essentially he provided the audience with a snapshot/taster of his book: *Enemy Combatant*. The focus of this lecture was to engage Muslims and non-Muslims alike into being proactive in the fight against terrorists that are Tony Blair and George Bush. It was a fairly politically oriented lecture of course, with a view of the injustices committed against the Muslim world and others. The event had a huge turnout, alhumdulillah and there was much further interest following it. Theme of the IAW - Islam: a religion for all times. Talk can be listened to on: <http://www.leicesterisoc.org/multimedia.htm>

### **FOSIS South Region**

#### **17) One-day exhibition - University of Reading**

The event was mainly about the Prophet (PBUH), his life and how great he was (that was after the Cartoons events). There was also much information about Islam in general, and about the morals in Islam and how women are respected in Islam. The day cost us around £1500-2000, but we still have a lot of stuff left for next events (such as bags, pens, books...etc). Most of the funding was raised during Jummah prayers all over a month. Listed below are the keys to success:

- Held in a central busy building
- An expert company made the installations and the posters, so it was professional.
- VERY generous welcoming with lots of "Hi guys! Come and try our Arabic coffee and sweets. It is absolutely free! It is delicious! Come and try for free!" This method attracted a lot of people.
- Very cool mood in talking to people, with confidence and pride however not arrogance!
- Good range of print outs (we made a special bag, pin and excellent book about Islam, and nice other publications for everybody attended or passed by the event venue.
- We bought translated Quran, but give it only to those who were really interested in having one. We remind them that it is a wholly book and that they should take care of it.
- Excellent dinner that all the visitors were informed about when they came during the day.
- Good Speakers. *This is very important as they should be very professionals, or otherwise, it is better not to have them.*
- We showed a movie "The Legacy of a Prophet" and there was good attendance for the movie.
- Last but not least, to believe in what you are doing, and to make it for the sake of God. Whether it is successful or not, you will be rewarded by God. But it will be successful if you all work as one team, and you loved the success of the event. Very important to remember that it is for the sake of God, and everybody should forget him or her self and remember God only!

### **FOSIS Scotland Region**

#### **18) Comedy Night - Glasgow University (GUMSA)**

The "Allah made me funny" DVD was screened and although some people had reservations about its appeal, it was a success. The aim was to show that Muslims can also have a good time Muslims are also happy and funny people.

#### **19) Interfaith Dinner - Glasgow University GUMSA**

Organised with the Christian Union, it was held in the run up to Islam Awareness Week, so we already had about 50 non-Muslims who wanted to find out about Islam and we didn't have to go on foot patrol. Publicity was distributed and a lot of interest was shown thereafter to attend events during Islam Awareness Week.



## FOSIS North Region

### **20) Q+A - Manchester University**

The winning formula was good speakers which in turn lead to an interested audience.

### **21) ODNF - Manchester University**

This sort of event has a different appeal as it involves fundraising. The event Manchester organised involved dinner, socialising and prize-giving. People see fasting as a challenge.

### **22) IAW Dinner - Manchester University**

Good speaker and as poetry was included into it, it was a bit different. The atmosphere was nice which encouraged people to socialise.

### **23) Exhibition - Salford University**

Good artwork, interesting academic posters and good tour guides.

### **24) Islamic History - not mentioned**

Organising a talk around the discussion of Islamic History is very effective. The event focused on men and women in society, education, inventions, business, treatment to minority such Jews and Christians. This can help remove misconceptions of what is shown in the media.

---

## Need assistance with your Islam Awareness Week?

### Speakers:

If you are looking for speakers for your event, please contact your Regional Representative for guidance.

### Exhibitions:

The FOSIS Office provides ISocs with exhibitions that they can hire out for free. ISoc will need to pay FOSIS the costs for post and package. For further assistance please contact FOSIS office on

### Funding:

FOSIS Islam Awareness Committee can not provide Isocs with funding and encourage ISocs to seek funding from their Students Union, local/national businesses, local mosques, ISoc fundraising events (cake sale/dinner etc).

For any other assistance with your Islam Awareness Week please us on [iac@fosis.org.uk](mailto:iac@fosis.org.uk) OR visit the Islam Awareness Week webpage on <http://www.fosis.org.uk/committees/iac/IAW.html>