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THE FOSIS INSIDER

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PASHA MOSQUE, MOSTAR,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

EDITORS: MALYKA RASHID, ALI BUDHWANI



AS SALAMU'ALAIKUM

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the FOSIS Insider!

In this issue, discover the latest updates from ISocs across the country – with opportunities to seize, projects to get involved in, and reflections to inspire. Alḥamdulillāh, our Annual Conference was a great success (**read more on page 4**), and FOSIS has been busy with impactful webinars and initiatives. As we prepare for the new academic year, we're excited to welcome freshers with a record number of packs sold. Subḥānallāh, we look forward to building this community with you.

Flip through – your next opportunity might just be inside!

Malyka Rashid (editor)



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROJECTS

Please note the following latest updates



Bring Winter Conference to your ISOC! [FOSIS.uk/FWC26Nomination](https://fosis.uk/FWC26Nomination)



ISoc Essentials Website - A new site to access all FOSIS resources



Find a Muslim mentor who gets you — free, personalised, faith-driven support: mymuslimmentor.com



Whatsapp **broadcast channel** for all big updates, statements and articles (scan to join)



New **Reporting System** for ISocs to alert FOSIS to incidents: fosis.uk/report

UPCOMING WITH FOSIS



Reaching Reverts

We're excited to launch Reaching Reverts — a new national initiative supporting reverts and returning Muslims on campus, starting in the Midlands. With trained peer mentors, regular check-ins, and welcoming ISoc communities, this project builds vital networks of support. ISoc Committees can get involved by nominating one brother and one sister as trained "Reachers."

In collaboration with IslamWise, Solace, and Convert Muslim Foundation.



Rise and Teach — Coming Soon to Scotland!

FOSIS Scotland is excited to launch Rise and Teach, a brand-new training programme designed to empower students with the skills to share knowledge confidently and effectively.

- Brothers will gain training in khutbah writing, public speaking, and the etiquettes of a khateeb, while sisters will focus on halaqah writing, facilitation, and the etiquettes of teaching.
- End of October / November — Date & venue TBC

ISOC SPOTLIGHT: Maynooth ISoc, Ireland

Maynooth ISoc, Winners of 'Most Improved ISoc Award 2025'



In the space of a single year, Maynooth ISoc transformed from a society of just five people at the end of the 23/24 AGM into FOSIS' Most Improved ISoc.

What changed wasn't numbers, but vision, passion, and unity. The 24/25 committee poured energy into every corner of ISoc life, focusing on building brotherhood and sisterhood as the foundation. With consistency and sincerity, each event — from charity fundraisers and impactful talks to sports tournaments and competitions — was prepared with care and delivered with purpose.

Slowly, ISoc became the heartbeat of our campus.

Even as our committee dwindled to nine by year's end, we remained driven by sincerity. The highlight of our growth wasn't just headlines in Muslim media across the country, but the genuine bonds formed on campus. We carried the faces of Muslims at Maynooth with pride, going out of our way to welcome, connect, and strengthen ties with every brother and sister. If there is a lesson from our journey, it's this: a stronger community is a bigger community. Numbers follow when hearts are united. To any ISoc striving for growth, focus on brotherhood, focus on sisterhood. Be sincere, renew your intentions, and say bismillah. With that, Allah will place barakah in your efforts.

 @maynoothisoc

Submit your story to be in the spotlight
DM us on Instagram: @fosischanel

ARTICLE:

TOWARDS AN UMMATIC VISION: LESSONS FROM 62ND ANNUAL FOSIS CONFERENCE



BY ALI BUDHWANI
CONFERENCE LEAD, FAC62

FAC62 showed us the power of unity; the next step is action

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges facing the Muslim Ummah is our tendency towards 'reactivism,' where we mobilise passionately in response to crises, but often struggle to move the needle on the deeper, systemic issues that affect us most. Gaza has been the most visible rallying point, but the same pattern appears across other social matters too. In the past two years, protests have become a vital means of voicing truth to power – many of which I myself have attended. Yet even I recognise that protests, while powerful, are also an admission. They admit that our influence is still limited to the ground level, and that we have not yet fully established ourselves in positions of leadership and responsibility. The theme of this year's conference, "Rise and Lead," emerged from this very reflection: a call to mobilise the young Muslim Ummah with a purposeful, unified vision that moves beyond reaction into transformation.

A misconception exists in some institutions that leadership lies in positions, ISoc election results and the like. Over the course of the FAC62 weekend, attendees learned that **true leadership entails having a strategic vision and being ambitious**. Sometimes we hamstring ourselves with a weak vision, often limiting it to something 'realistic' or achievable in the short term. Perhaps this comes from a place of not having pondered on Allah's infinite nature, where we make humble duas with an assumption that because we are limited beings, our goals should be like us, limited and finite. It is within our own Islamic tradition to have lofty goals, for example we learn that when asking for Jannah, we should make dua for Jannatul Firdaus. This practice comes from knowledge of Allah and the self.

A true vision must be larger than ourselves, something that may outlive our own lifetime. It should feel almost utopian, not in the sense of fantasy, but in the sense of striving towards an ideal that gives meaning to our efforts. Take, for example, the liberation of Al-Aqsa: every generation toils for it, knowing full well it may not be achieved in their years on earth, yet the struggle itself gives purpose. This is the kind of lofty, enduring vision our ISocs must embrace. Too often, we become caught in the cycle of chai socials and culture nights, stumbling from one election to the next. While these events have value in building community, they must serve a bigger picture. Our question should not be, "What event shall we run next?" but rather, "What kind of society do we ultimately wish to build?"



Dr Wajid Akhter, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain, delivering a workshop to FAC62 attendees

Perhaps what we need now, more than ever, is a lofty and unified vision. A vision that, like the planting of a sapling even on the Day of Judgment, reminds us that our duty is to strive, even if we do not see the fruits ourselves. **Islamic civilisation has always thrived when it embraced an ummatic attitude** by caring for neighbours, strengthening the family unit, and having one another's backs. Of course, every ISoc WhatsApp group will experience disagreements, whether over ideology or religious interpretation. And while genuine differences of opinion are a mercy in our tradition, allowing richness of thought, turning those differences into division is a futile exercise. Especially at a time when anti-Muslim forces, who see us all as one regardless of our labels, actively seek to fragment us. Unity does not mean uniformity, it means holding fast to the rope of Allah together, even as we differ, so that our vision remains greater than our disagreements.

FAC62 reminded us of what becomes possible when Muslims gather with vision, the hunger for change, the energy of youth, and the limitless potential of unity. But these conferences are not ends in themselves; they are catalysts, sparks that must be carried forward into our campuses, our careers, and our communities. **Leadership is not a title but a trust**, and the Ummah needs each of us to rise into it with sincerity and courage.

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Even if the Resurrection were established upon one of you while he has in his hand a sapling, let him plant it."

Musnad Ahmed

DEPARTMENT DISPATCH

THE LATEST UPDATES BY YOUR VICE PRESIDENTS



**STUDENT
AFFAIRS**
KAUTHER B

We have been engaging with the **NotMyNUS campaign**, which raises concerns about Muslim student representation within the NUS. An open letter, signed by over 70 sabbatical officers and 120+ student groups, and supported by ELSC and PSC, has called for change. This campaign reflects a growing student voice seeking accountability and inclusivity, ensuring that national representation truly safeguards the interests and wellbeing of Muslim students.

ISoc Essentials continues to grow with new resources such as the Leadership Toolkit, with Treasurer Essentials coming soon. **Khateeb Trainings** are being rolled out across **Scotland** in person and online in **Ireland**, with more sessions planned. The **ISoc 101** curriculum is under review and nearly ready to launch. In partnership with **IERA**, **Dawah Training** is now available to book. Scotland updates include a city training tour starting in Glasgow and a combined “Rise and Teach” event.



**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
SOHAIB S



**STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT**
ABDULLAH F

A few days ago, we hosted a **Graduate Masterclass webinar** with students from top firms, offering valuable career insights. Our **MyMuslimMentor initiative** also continues to provide 1:1 guidance on applications, interviews, and workplace challenges. Meanwhile, **Freshers’ Packs** are being shipped to regional hubs — and **Alhamdulillah, 10,000 were sold in just three days**, setting a new FOSIS record. These projects aim to equip Muslim students with tools, mentorship, and confidence.

Our FE Department has formed a new partnership with **Siraat** to provide mentorship for **Oxbridge** and top university applications, with a dentistry work experience partnership soon to be announced. We are also conducting surveys on the Muslim student experience in FE—take part at fosis.uk/fefosis to contribute to pioneering research. Looking ahead, we are excited to host an FE Conference with LSE, offering tailored advice on university applications.



**FURTHER
EDUCATION**
ALI E

TEAM FOSIS REFLECTIONS

"The state of qahr (قهر) is to be overwhelmed, crushed beneath a sorrow that feels inescapable.

I have travelled across the Muslim world, East to West, and everywhere I found the same heaviness. Each time our Ummah bled – in Syria, Yemen, Somalia – our hearts twisted with qahr, and all we could do was cry: "Yā Allāh, help them." Yet the quieter injustices also suffocate us: an economy chaining the poor, neglected rights, exploited lands, borrowed values, unprotected children.

Allah honoured us with Islam; if we seek dignity elsewhere, He will humble us. Where then is our 'izzah?

For me, joining FOSIS was about restoring that 'izzah—turning helplessness into action. Every project, every meeting, every idea is a chance to fight injustice, to lead and serve our Ummah, and to build ṣadaqah jāriyah that benefits hundreds of thousands of students."



Sohalia Marmoush

FOSIS North Vice
Sister

KEY RESOURCES

[🔗 \[PDF\] PRAYER ROOM GUIDE](#)

[🔗 REPORTING TOOL](#)

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