

## **Muslims urged to give back to Britain for National Islam Awareness Week 2015**

**Muslims across Britain are being encouraged to become blood donors, carry organ donor cards and register for bone marrow transplants.**

The call to ‘Give a Little of Yourself’ is the theme for National Islam Awareness Week (IAW) that begins on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Research published last year found that Muslim communities in Britain were the largest donors to charity. This year, Muslims are being asked to think of how they can give something other than money or time and are being encouraged to become blood donors, carry organ donor cards and register for bone marrow transplants.

An initiative that has been running since 1994, the aim of Islam Awareness Week is two fold. It aims to raise awareness and remove misconceptions surrounding Britain’s second largest faith group, as well as encourage Muslims to promote social cohesion and work with the many different groups and community organisations to build a better society.

National Lead for IAW 2015, said “Islam is very much a part of everyday life for many Britons. Islam guides its followers to respect, preserve and strengthen all that is good in British society. British values are Muslim values”.

“We already contribute in many ways; time, money and assistance but this year, we are asking people to think outside of the box. For example, could you literally give a little of yourself if it meant giving someone the most wonderful gift of all, the gift of life?”

The International Foods has happened on a yearly basis since 2011. Every year we can see that it has been a success as many faiths come together to enjoy the foods from different cultures and we all find this evening enlightening because we are able to learn about different Faiths and come together to create community cohesion. This year we will be having entertainment from Dawud Wharnsby Ali, world renowned artist who is originally from Canada, he spends his time doing community work and spreading peace around the world through his folk music. Hopefully this evening can be filled with inspiration.

I would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Islamic Society of Britain. The International Foods will take place at on

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. **St Mark's Church Broomfield Road Broomhill**  
Sheffield S10 2SE. @ 7 Pm

The International Foods will be an evening of socialising and Build bridges between different faiths. The title of the evening is 'A Taste of Different Faiths'

Among Dignitaries:

Methodist Minister I. Bhogal

South Yorkshire Crime Commissioner Police

For further information or to attend please contact:

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### **Additional Information**

1. The Islamic Society of Britain initiated Islam Awareness Week (IAW) in 1994, to raise awareness and remove misconceptions surrounding Britain's second largest faith group and to encourage Muslims to work with their fellow citizens for the common good.
2. IAW has been taking place in many towns and cities across the UK and since the year 2000, a theme has been chosen which highlights an issue that is of common concern across communities. This is because the main idea of IAW is to promote social cohesion rather than dwelling on differences.
3. British Muslims make up almost 5% of the population and consist of diverse communities, representing many backgrounds. They can be found in every field and walk of life, and do play their part in contributing to Britain's wealth and culture.
4. In 2015, the theme for National Islam Awareness Week is **Give A Little of Yourself**. It builds on last year's theme of 'Charity begins at home' and celebrates and champions, the givers, that enrich our country. We give in many ways; time, money and assistance just being some of the ways people give. Muslims up and down the country are being encouraged to become blood donors, sign up for donating bone marrow, or to even consider carrying an organ donation card. Mosques will also be encouraged to deliver a pre-prepared sermon to their congregations on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Events will be taking place the length and breadth of the country from Glasgow to London and many towns and cities in between.