

20th Anniversary Dinner Sunday 27th April 2025 Buile Hill Park Hall



12 March 2025

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Afzal,

I was delighted to learn that the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year.

Over the past two decades, the forum has organised over 150 events which have made a significant contribution in bringing together Muslim people and Jewish people from across Greater Manchester.

The Forum's work continues to promote community cohesion and harmony and forge important cross-cultural ties across the region. Your outreach work is even more vital in current times.

I commend the Muslim Jewish Forum for being notable leaders in community and interfaith work over the past two decades. I extend my appreciation to you and the late Mr Henry Guterman MBE for founding this initiative, as well as to all those who have carried forward the vision

I hope the Forum continues to thrive for many years to come.

All best wishes,

Mr Afzal Khan MP



Cream of seasonal vegetable soup served
with bread roll and butter
or
Duo of melon with a fruit coulis



Poached salmon served with a watercress sauce or Vegetable wellington

Both served with New potatoes Medley of seasonal vegetables



Bread and butter pudding served with custard or $Summer \ fruit \ syllabub$



Tea and coffee and mints



Order of Proceedings

Mr Mohammed Amin MBE, Co-Chair, opens formal proceedings with Co-Chair Cllr Heather Fletcher

Mr Jonny Wineberg, Former Co-Chair - Jewish benediction

Cllr Rabnawaz Akbar, Member of the Executive - Muslim benediction

Mrs Diane Hawkins JP LLB, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester

Mr Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

Starter course - Main course

Mr Phil Rosenberg, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Chair of Religions for Peace UK

Mr Mark Guterman, son of Co-Founder the late Henry Guterman MBE

Mr Afzal Khan CBE, MP for Manchester Rusholme, Co-Founder

Mrs Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA, Member of the Executive - proposes the Loyal Toast

Mrs June Rosen, Member of the Executive - proposes a toast to the Forum

Mr David Lewis JP, Treasurer - vote of thanks

Cllr Heather Fletcher, Co-Chair - closes the formal proceedings

Dessert course

Cutting of Anniversary Cake



n August 2004, Cllr Afzal Khan, now CBE MP, then Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester, and the late Henry Guterman MBE, former president of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region invited a number of people to a public meeting at Manchester Town Hall. We heard two people from London, Rabbi Herschel Gluck and Ismail Amaan, tell us about their Muslim Jewish dialogue activities in North London. The well attended event received a memorable presentation from the speakers, with many questions and answers. In November 2004 Afzal and Henry invited a smaller number of people to Manchester Town Hall again. They asked if we should set up a Muslim Jewish group in Manchester, similar to the one in London. Their proposal received overwhelming support. A small number of people volunteered to serve on a steering group, many of whom are still involved 20 years later.



Two steering group members, barrister David Berkley KC and chartered accountant Mohammed Amin recommended that the proposed group be a company limited by guarantee. Accordingly, the two of them drafted the Memorandum and Articles of Association, with the subscribers to the Memorandum being Afzal Khan and Henry Guterman. The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester was incorporated by Companies House on 14 June 2005, our official "Date of birth." Our website has copies of our legal documents.

Our objectives were drafted to focus entirely on Greater Manchester:

'The objects for which the Forum is established are to develop the cultural and social ties between the Muslim and Jewish Communities of Greater Manchester; to educate members of the Muslim and Jewish Communities in relation to their shared values and common Abrahamic tradition, heritage, history and culture; maximising their potential and improving their health and well-being as residents of Greater Manchester; and to promote better understanding within the wider community of the interests and values that are common to the Muslim and Jewish Communities.'

Very simply, our goal was to make it normal for Muslims and Jews to be friends and do things together. Today there are many friendships between Muslims and Jews which would not exist but for our work. Thanks to our press releases, our radio and

TV appearances, our use of social media, and our website which lists over 170 past events as well as articles and speeches, the Forum's influence extends far beyond Greater Manchester, and is to some extent worldwide.



Brotherhood at our 10th Anniversary Celebrations

The keynote speakers, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, greeting each other at the dinner at Manchester Town Hall.



The Executive Committee at 10th Anniversary Celebrations The fact that Manchester City Council gave us the Town Hall to hold the event shows the high regard in which the Forum is held.



Remember Srebrenica Memorial Event 2016 This event received the "Best educational event" award for the North West from the charity Remembering Srebrenica.



Annual Picnic 2017 Our annual picnic is always well attended and gives you the chance to meet new people in a very informal environment.



Annual "Loose Lawyers" Panel Event Our 2019 event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and discussed the revocation of British citizenship.





The Forum's Co-Chairs

Mohammed Amin
MBE FRSA MA FCA AMCT CTA(Fellow)

Cllr Heather D. Fletcher LL.B (Hons)



ohammed Amin has lived in Manchester since 1952. His parents were poor and illiterate but believed in education. Amin went on to graduate in mathematics from Clare College, Cambridge and obtain a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from Leeds University before becoming a chartered accountant, a chartered tax adviser and a qualified corporate treasurer. In 1990 he became the first Muslim partner in Price Waterhouse (now PwC) in the UK. From 2003 until he retired at the end of 2009. Amin was an elected member of PwC's 15-person Supervisory Board. Amin devotes his retirement to informal mentoring, to helping run many organisations listed on his website www.mohammedamin.com, and to writing. public speaking, and appearing in the media. For his public service Clare College chose him as its Alumnus of the Year 2014. In June 2016 his MBE citation read "Founder Member and Co-Chair, Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester. For services to Community Cohesion and Inter-faith Relations in Greater Manchester."

eather was born in Salford in the early 1960's. She obtained a law degree from Birmingham University and for a decade worked as a Family Law Solicitor. For twenty years thereafter she worked in another branch of the legal profession as a Law Costs Draftsman who prepared bills of costs for other solicitors.

Heather changed career direction and went into local politics. She was elected a Labour councillor representing Swinton Park in 2016 and was re-elected in 2021 and in 2024. Heather is currently the Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of Salford and is looking forward to being Mayor in May.

Heather attended the first meeting of Muslim and Jewish people in Manchester in August 2004 which led to the formation of the Forum. Initially, she served as Company Secretary. She has been the Jewish Co-Chair since 2015. Heather has been instrumental in organising many of the 170 diverse events bringing people together over the past twenty years and believes that the Forum has enriched her life and hopes it has enriched the lives of many others who have attended these events too.



Forum's Co-Founders



Afzal Khan CBE MP

fzal Khan was the co-founder of the Muslim Jewish Forum along with the late Henry Guterman MBE.

Born in Pakistan, he moved to the UK as a child and rose from working as a cotton mill labourer, bus driver, and police officer to qualifying as a solicitor and becoming a partner at his own firm. Elected to Manchester City Council for Cheetham in 2000, Afzal became the city's first Asian Lord Mayor, earning Manchester's

inaugural Co-op 'Mayor of the Year' award, and

later served on the council's Executive.

Afzal represented North West England as a Member of the European Parliament after defeating Nick Griffin and held roles including Vice Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence, and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He also helped establish European Commission coordinators to tackle anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Afzal has also assisted the Jewish community in several ways, including helping secure funding for the Jewish Museum's extension, advocating for the kosher slaughter of animals, and supporting the North

Manchester Eruv. Engaged in community relations and anti-racism work since the early '80s, Afzal helped launch a number of interfaith groups, including the UK Christian-Muslim Forum and Greater Manchester Faith Leaders Forum.

Afzal has additionally served in several prominent national Muslim organisations, including as the Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Elected as Labour MP for Manchester Rusholme in 2024, and previously serving as MP for Manchester Gorton from 2017 to 2024, he has held shadow roles for Immigration, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Exports and Deputy Leader of the House. He is also an officer on several All-Party Parliamentary Groups, including APPGs for British Muslims, Parks and Green Spaces, and Greater Manchester.

In recognition of his contributions, Afzal was awarded a CBE in 2008 for community cohesion, inter-faith work, and local government, and received Pakistan's highest civilian honour, the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam, in 2018.

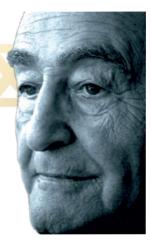
He also holds a number of honorary doctorates and an honorary Professorship at Astana University.



Forum's Co-Founders

Henry Guterman MBE

he late Henry Guterman MBE was co-host (along with Afzal Khan CBE MEP, then Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester) of the open meeting in Manchester Town Hall where Rabbi Herschel Gluck OBE and Ismail Amaan spoke about their Muslim Jewish dialogue in London. That meeting led to the setting up of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester, and Henry served as its Jewish Co-Chair until his death in May 2007.



Henry Guterman was born in 1926 in Germany. His father Berthold was a soap manufacturer in Berlin and a great admirer of Britain. After Kristallnacht in 1938 when Henry was 12, the Guterman family were able to emigrate from Germany to Manchester, thereby escaping the Holocaust. Henry became a great servant of the Jewish community. He served as Manchester Jewish Representative Council President and for over 40 years was a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Henry was also extremely active in many other Jewish organisations some of which are listed at the bottom of this page.

Throughout his life Henry was at the helm of most of Manchester's interfaith groups, some of which are included in the list below. His funeral was attended by bishops side by side with Hindus and Muslims wearing yarmulkes.



A partial list of organisations:

Bury Inter-Faith, Collyhurst Police Community Action Group, Commonwealth Games Advisory Committee, Disabled Living, Greater Manchester Criminal Justice Board Diversity IAG, Heathlands, Indian Jewish Association, Manchester City Council Housing Committee Black and Ethnic Committee, Manchester Council for Community Relations, Manchester Council of Christians and Jews, Manchester Inter-Faith Forum, Morris Feinmann Homes, National League of Hospital Friends, North Manchester Crime Prevention Council, North Manchester Hospital Black & Ethnic Committee, North Manchester Jewish Youth Project, Outreach, South East Lancashire Housing Association, South Manchester Health Authority Fair Access Group, South Manchester Synagogue, Tameside Area Health Authority, The Black Jewish Forum, The Three Faiths Forum, Trafford Partnership Board Diverse Communities Forum, Trafford SACRE, Trafford Safer Partnership, Zionist Central Council.



Shalom Paix Salam! visit Manchester The Forum hosted a visit by its Paris sister organisation, including a visit to the British Muslim Heritage Centre.



International Women's Day Muslim and Jewish women show off their artwork created at this event which was funded by Manchester City Council.



Literary evening at Manchester Jewish Museum

Authors Qaisra Shahraz, Sherry Ashworth and Zahid Hussain read illuminating extracts from their books and talked about the art of their profession.



5th Anniversary Celebrations The Forum celebrating its 5th anniversary at the Nicky Alliance Day Centre.



The Forum visits Granada

Forum members visited a disused synagogue and the Mezquita in Cordoba, also visiting The Alhambra Palace, seen here in the background.



Forum members' thoughts

"It is only by meeting with Muslims, fellow Jews and those of other faiths and beliefs and sharing our experiences and views that we can build respect and understanding. That is what the Forum does and why people should get involved."

Jonny Wineberg

"Forming amazing and lasting friendships by sitting together, eating, debating, and sharing our lives on our annual international trips.

Once I went twice to Morocco in the same year, just to be with my Muslim and Jewish friends!"

Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA

"Despite living in Manchester for over 50 years, before joining the Forum I had never set foot in a synagogue."

Mohammed Amin MBE

"It is an honour to be on the Executive of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester. The Forum is an essential organisation and does a wonderful job of bringing people together from the two faiths. Islam and Judaism are very similar and this is something which should be celebrated."

Graham Gordon

"Very enjoyable and diverse ways to learn about the two religions while making friends."

Anne Isaac



Members of the Forum's **Executive Committee**



Mohammed Amin **MBE** (Co-Chair)



Cllr Heather Fletcher (Co-Chair)



Tahara Amin (Secretary)



David Lewis JP (Treasurer)



Cllr Rabnawaz Akbar



David Berkley KC



Jackie Harrison



Graham Gordon



Cllr Naeem Ul-Hassan JP



June Rosen



Anne Isaac



Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA



Memories of the Forum

I went to a meeting at Manchester Town Hall in August 2004 The message of spreading peace and harmony was at the core. It was the very first meeting of over a hundred Muslims and Jews

Attending the gathering, I saw I had much to gain and nothing to lose

The meeting was organised by Afzal Khan and the late Henry Guterman MBE

Their positivity and good intent were clear for all to see.

A few months after this first meeting in the middle of June 2005

The Muslim Jewish Forum was founded by Henry and Afzal and has continued to thrive.

The Forum was created to promote stronger ties between our two communities and a mutual respect

As we learnt from each other, the similarities rather than differences were easier to detect.

Once every six weeks our Executive would come together and meet

I became Company Secretary then Co Chair- I thought it was quite a feat!

Throughout these years our communities have done so many different things together

Including sharing meals and holding picnics in both sunny and rainy Manchester weather!

We have also visited the National Holocaust Centre, Lincoln and Liverpool too

And institutions like the Jewish Museum and British Muslim Heritage Centre to name a few.

The Forum has become prominent and in the spotlight more

And there have been many informative events discussing ethics and law.

We have organised over 170 events and a few have visited places of Muslim and Jewish interest in Norway and Spain

We won two awards, a British Muslim award and Fusion community award, which brought us some welcome fame

Some people were sceptical of our work and even thought we might have to fold But our dedication, spirit and loyal support has ensured that the Forum has reached a magical 20 YEARS OLD!

Heather D. Fletcher © 2021 amended 2025



Social Action at Tesco Cheetham Hill

The Forum has organised several supermarket collections for food banks.





Interfaith Football Tournament 60 boys played in mixed teams at the Henry Guterman Sports Centre in Heald Green, named after our co-founder.



Paris Jewish Museum

Members of the Forum and our sister organisation Shalom Paix Salam! spending the weekend together and visiting this inspiring museum.







The Forum visits Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool This splendid synagogue is a testament to the wealth of the 19th century Liverpool Jewish community.











Deferred 15th Anniversary celebration 2021



Visit of Leeds contingent to Central Manchester Mosque



Muslim Jewish Forum travellers outside the Mosque in Sofia



Muslim Jewish Forum travellers at the Jewish Museum in Oslo





Muslim Jewish Forum Iftar in 2024 attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and the Dean of Manchester Cathedral alongside other guests.



Neighbours in Faith Partners in Peace

As a proud Jewish councillor, it is my deep honour to support the Muslim Jewish Forum.

In Salford, we are blessed to live side by side: Muslim and Jewish families raising children, celebrating festivals, and working for a better world.

Our faiths may follow different paths, but they lead us to common values - kindness, hospitality, justice, and the sanctity of life.

I believe with all my heart that the work of the Forum matters now more than ever. May your efforts be blessed, your bonds grow stronger, and your voices be heard - together.

Cllr Andrew Walters

Leader of the unwhipped Group -Councillor for Kersal and Broughton Park

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Congratulations to the Muslim Jewish Forum on its 20th Anniversary!

I am delighted about the great work undertaken over the years building on the original vision of the Founders.

BEST WISHES MARK GUTERMAN AND FAMILY



18 27th April 2025



Many congratulations MJF on your 20th Anniversary.

Keep up the wonderful work!

Congratulations to the Muslim Jewish Forum on 20 years of service to the community.

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