



The Economic Contribution of British Muslims to the UK's Growth and Prosperity, and the Risk of Exodus

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Foreword



The contributions of around four million British Muslims to the life and wellbeing of the United Kingdom are considerable, but too often unappreciated. This report highlights how significant this

contribution has become to both our country's economy and supporting wider society. But it also shows that barriers and discrimination faced by British Muslims are at risk of inhibiting that contribution.

The report shows that British Muslims contribute to the United Kingdom economy in numerous ways, in areas stretching across key sectors such as healthcare, the Civil Service, education, transportation and also increasingly in politics. Businesses owned by British Muslims are thriving as well, contributing billions to our economy and employing hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens of all faiths and none. These businesses are helping revive local communities in places that have been facing economic decline.

British Muslims have established a position as one of the most important charitable giving communities in our country. This philanthropy is not just focussed on fellow Muslims but increasingly includes outreach to others in need, both at home and abroad.

Beyond their domestic contributions, British Muslims are, in an era of globalisation, well placed

to generate business for our country through Islamic markets worldwide. We are now the leading destination for those seeking Islamic finance, with London holding 85% of the assets of the European Islamic banking sector. Industry linked to halal products has been valued at over £8 billion. Tourism from predominantly Muslim countries brings in further revenue and helps underpin our country as a global cultural hub.

The report however also highlights how these achievements may be undermined. Wealth creating members of British Muslim communities are more likely to consider emigration than other British citizens and cite a sense of being discriminated against on the basis of their religion as a reason to leave.

In response the report also explores and suggests some solutions that might help address this issue and thus have a positive impact for all British citizens. It is not necessary to agree with all the analysis or the recommendations made, to see that they make an important contribution to a much needed debate. The future of our country depends on our creating a society that values and supports all its citizens and facilitates their ability to work together for the common good, regardless of their faith or belief. This report is to be commended for helping to do this.

Rt Hon Dominic Grieve KC

Former Attorney General

Executive Summary

This comprehensive study not only quantifies the significant impact of the Muslim community on our nation's economy but also offers clear light on the potential risks we face if we fail to address the concerns driving many talented British Muslims to consider emigration.

The research reveals that British Muslims generate £70 billion a year for the UK economy. This impressive figure encompasses contributions from various sectors, including £42 billion from the Muslim workforce, around £25 billion from Muslim-owned businesses, and £2.4 billion in charitable donations and volunteer time. These numbers tell a story of a community that is not just integrated but is actively shaping and strengthening the fabric of our society.

This impact extends far beyond these monetary values. British Muslims fill critical roles in crucial public sectors such as the NHS, where they provide essential care in over 46,000 roles. They are vital contributors to our transport systems, education sector, and civil service. Muslim-owned businesses are creating employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Britons, often in cities that are in dire need of economic rejuvenation.

Moreover, the globally connected nature of the British Muslim population has positioned the UK as a hotspot for Islamic financial investments, Muslim tourism, and halal industries. London has become the West's Islamic finance capital, with UK based Islamic banks controlling assets worth £5.73 billion - 85% of the total assets in Europe's Islamic banking sector. Lastly, with a projected global market worth £230 billion by 2030, the UK has emerged as the most popular Western destination for Muslim tourists globally.

However, the research has also uncovered a concerning trend. British Muslims are 50% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen. Even more alarmingly, affluent British Muslims with an annual income over £62,000 are 65% more likely to consider emigration. This potential 'brain and wealth drain' poses a significant risk to the UK economy and society.

The public polling results reveal that religious discrimination is a key factor driving this desire to leave, with British Muslims three times more likely to cite this as a reason compared to the average Briton. This discrimination often manifests in systemic ways, making it challenging for Muslims to practice their faith and feel comfortable in their day-to-day lives, particularly in the workplace.

These findings are supported by the literature review and interviews conducted as part of this study. Previous reports have highlighted the under-representation of Muslims in various sectors, the challenges faced by Muslim-owned businesses, and the impact of Islamophobia on social and economic integration. The research builds on these studies, providing up-to-date quantitative data and qualitative insights that present a comprehensive picture of the current situation.

We cannot afford to lose the talents and contributions of the UK's Muslim community as we look ahead. The potential economic impact of such an exodus, even with our conservative estimates, suggest a loss of between £234 million and £1.1 billion in annual tax contributions.

Introduction

The United Kingdom has long been an economic haven for people all over the world. Being one of the most advanced and powerful nations in modern history, it has attracted many global immigrants, including Muslims from South Asia and parts of Africa who came in search of better opportunities for themselves and their children.

This research has quantified British Muslims' economic contribution to the UK's growth and prosperity, as well as how Muslim communities have made the UK an attractive location for global investments. Alongside this, we have assessed the risk of, reasons for, and impact of British Muslims

emigrating away, causing a brain and wealth drain to the UK.

According to a breakdown by the Muslim Council of Britain's 2023 report, Muslims are ethnically comprised of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African, Arab, Indian, White, mixed race, and all other ethnicities, respectively (see pie chart and table below for a full breakdown).¹ According to census data, 61% of the UK Muslim population are below the age of 35, representing a potentially significant economically productive population at a time when Britain faces an ageing population.²

Ethnic breakdown of Muslims in the UK

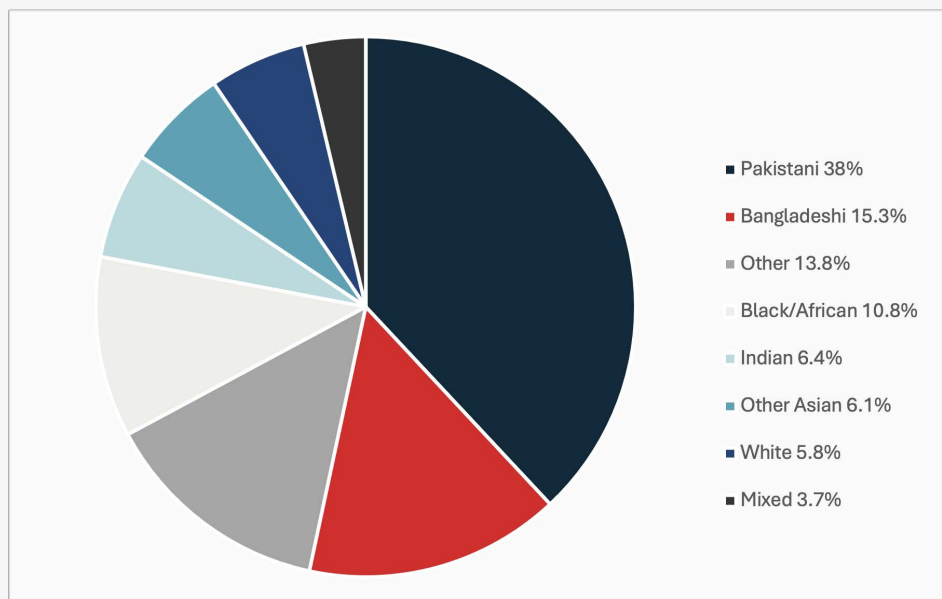


Figure 1: Pie chart displaying the Ethnic Breakdown of Muslims in the UK.

British Muslims are significantly under-privileged, with close to half of the population considered to be in poverty; according the 2021 census, almost 40% of all Muslims in the UK lived in the most deprived areas of the UK.³ Multiple reasons exist for the poor economic conditions faced by this community; including intergenerational poverty, racial and religious discrimination, linguistic barriers, the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis.⁴

In addition, speeches by politicians and articles in the media that demonise British Muslims have led to a significant rise in Islamophobic incidents over time.⁵ Most recently, riots orchestrated by the far-right in August 2024 targeting immigration centres, refugee homes, and mosques in the UK exposed a powerful undercurrent of misguided frustrations against Muslim communities.

Yet much of the national discourse on British Muslims belies their significant positive contributions. With about four million, or 6.5%, of the British population identifying as Muslims, there is a need to understand and value the contributions of this fast-growing community. Moreover, with growing numbers of Muslims leaving or expressing a desire to leave the UK in the last few years⁶, it is crucial to understand what the UK stands to lose, considering the current and potential economic contributions of the community.

By collating and quantifying sectors of Muslim economic contribution, this report highlights the benefits brought by thriving Muslim communities in the UK. It examines 3 segments in detail: the Muslim workforce; businesses and entrepreneurship; and charity contributions and volunteer time. We will also discuss how the globally connected nature of the British Muslim population renders the UK a hotspot for Islamic financial investments; Muslim tourism; and halal industries.

This report also analyses several primary sources of data, including a specially commissioned UK-wide poll of over three thousand respondents comparing Muslim and non-Muslim sentiments regarding emigration. We also conducted focus groups, expert and personal interviews, and collected data from social media accounts across YouTube and Reddit. We also analysed secondary sources, including government data, reports by various minority and faith-based groups and think tanks, news reports, and articles (full explanation provided in appendix).

The Headlines

British Muslims generate £70bn for the UK's economy

a) The British Muslim workforce is productive and essential to the UK's economy – generating £42bn in income and providing vital support to the NHS, local and central government, education and transport services.

b) Muslim-owned businesses contribute at least £24.7bn a year to the British economy.

c) British Muslims donate £1.79bn a year to charitable causes, four times more generously than the national average, and volunteer time worth £622m a year.

British Muslim communities are a globally connected demographic that create unique market opportunities for the UK

a) British Muslim communities create demand for Islamic Finance options which boosts the nation's economy – the British Islamic Banking industry holds 85% of assets in the European Islamic Market, worth £5.73bn.

b) The UK is the most popular tourist destination in the West for Muslims globally.

c) British Muslims' requirement of a halal lifestyle creates significant market opportunities in food and consumer goods amounting to at least £2bn.

The risk of affluent British Muslims leaving the UK – the wealth and brain drain

a) British Muslims are 50% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen. If followed through, this could lead to losses worth £1.1bn a year.

b) British Muslims are three times more likely to cite religious discrimination as a reason for leaving the UK.

c) Affluent British Muslims with an annual income of over £62,000 are 65% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen.

d) Affluent British Muslims are twice as likely than the average British citizens to have taken concrete steps to leave the UK.

The Detail

1: British Muslims generate £70bn for the UK's economy

Contribution Type	Amount
a) Employment Contribution	£42bn ⁷
b) Business Contribution	£24.7bn
c) Charity Contribution	£1.79bn ⁸
d) Volunteer Contributions	£622m ⁹
Total	£69.1bn

Table 1: Calculating the overall economic contributions of the Muslims in the UK

British Muslims are major contributors to the UK's economy, generating revenue and resources in diverse ways.

British Muslims excel at innovation and business acumen, high-level professionalism, and motivation to develop themselves and their surroundings. Despite humble beginnings and a poverty rate of close to 50%, British Muslim families have also worked hard to achieve significant social mobility over successive generations, contributing to the economy.

a) The British Muslim workforce is productive and essential to the UK's economy – generating £42bn in income and providing vital support to the NHS, local and central government, education and transport services.

Within the public sector workforce, British Muslims play a significant role by providing skills and labour to essential yet understaffed sectors, including the National Health Service (NHS), education sector and transport, amongst others.

In the NHS, British Muslims provide essential care in over 46,000 NHS roles across the nation, out of a total of 1.5 million roles.¹⁰ The number of Muslim nurses and midwives doubled between 2018 and 2023, from 9,323 to 17,389¹¹ according to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Furthermore, British Muslims account for a growing proportion of specialist and consultant roles. In 2020, 31% of Muslims in the NHS held specialist positions such as General Practitioners (GPs) and doctors¹², even though only 10% of NHS staff overall are hired at such a level. These findings suggest that Muslim professionals' contribution in the health sector is highly significant.

The medical profession is especially popular among British Muslims due to a set of core beliefs. Muslim communities place a strong emphasis on education, as knowledge-seeking is an important tenet of Islam. Muslims also have an ethical obligation to care for the vulnerable and the sick. Additionally, pursuing a career in medicine also holds the promise of a stable and well-paid career, which was an important part of first- and second-generation Muslim family ambitions to help stabilise their position in their adopted country.

Healthcare is not the only essential sector in the UK in which British Muslims contribute at high rates. Transport in the UK also relies on large numbers of British Muslims. This is especially true for Transport for London (TfL) where the most recent TfL Diversity and Inclusion Impact report revealed that 5.6% of staff in the London Underground and 7.9% of staff for the bus system are British Muslims.¹³ Considering the British Muslim productive population only accounts for 1.8% of the UK's population, their contribution to London's travel is considerable.

British Muslims are also vital in Britain's schooling system. Approximately 11,000 Muslim teachers (2.36% of all teachers) and 12,100 teaching assistants¹⁴ worked in schools in England in 2021, contributing to more diversity in education.¹⁵ Currently, Muslims are underrepresented in the education sector, thus increasing the value of each teacher.

British Muslims are also making their mark in the UK's law and order sector. In the Metropolitan Police in London, there are 1,500 Muslim police officers amounting to over 3% of the total police personnel in London.¹⁶

Additionally, according to the Civil Service Statistics 2023, 18,220 British Muslim civil servants support the government in delivering strategies across the nation and the globe. This amounts to 5% of the workforce, corresponding strongly to the productive Muslim population.¹⁷

Using ONS data, it is possible to estimate that the combined income of all British Muslims in the workforce across different sector totals approximately £42bn (See appendix 3 for further breakdown).¹⁸

In sum, British Muslims are heavily involved in the public services that are the foundation of the country. From healthcare to transport to government, Muslims in the UK provide essential skills and expertise to keep Britain running. As further sections demonstrate, the UK risks losing these high-level skills when British Muslims consider an exodus to other countries.

b) Muslim-owned businesses contribute at least £24.7bn a year to the British economy.

Muslim-owned businesses are a thriving sector of the British economy, with billions of pounds paid

in taxes and hundreds of thousands of employees supported with stable employment.

“We see a lot of sophisticated forms of entrepreneurship in the British Muslim community. There’s a lot of businesses that have been founded, established, and run by Muslims in the UK. Some of them are small businesses, for example, selling cars, small accountancy firms, small law firms, but also beyond that there are much larger corporations that have been established”

Dr Leon Moosavi

*Sociologist of race and religion at
University of Liverpool*

Since the founding of these pioneering SMEs, the spirit of entrepreneurship has grown and formalised into large-scale business ventures, creating major pools of wealth in some Muslim communities.

The Sunday Times Rich List provides an insight into the British Muslims at the top of the economic pyramid. It features fifteen Muslims, including nine billionaire and six millionaire families with net worths ranging from £404m to £2.6bn, totalling £18.59bn in combined net worth. Despite significant levels of poverty in the British Muslim community,¹⁹ there are many inspiring stories of social mobility and wealth creation.

The OPEN report for the Minority Supplier Development organisation (MSDUK)²⁰, named ‘Minority Businesses Matter’ shows that minority businesses contribute at least £74 billion pounds a year²¹ to the UK economy²², with much stemming from Muslim-owned brands. Of the top 100 Minority Businesses list from 2019-20, 22% were Muslim-owned businesses.

From this report, we can estimate that the gross value added by British Muslim-owned businesses to the UK's economy falls in the range of £16.3bn²³ to £24.7bn a year.²⁴

Some exceptional examples are presented below:

Company	Founder/ Owner	Rank /100	HQ Local Authority	Employees	Employee Compensation (£ million)	Corporation Tax Contribution (£ million)	Annual Revenue (£) ²⁵
EG Group	Mohsin & Zuber Issa	1	Blackburn & Darwen	33,329	725.1	41.2	28.3bn ²⁶
Bestway Group	Anwar Pervez	5	London	29,172	440.6	112.2	4.51bn ²⁷
Boohoo	Mahmud Kamani	11	Manchester	2,619	106.3	19.3	1.79bn ²⁸
Care Tech Holdings	Haroon & Farouq Sheikh	23	Potters Bar	9,929	227.4	-	79.4m ²⁹
Gorgemead/ Printwest	Yakub Patel	25	Bolton	1,510	39.8	-	298m ³⁰

Table 2: Table displaying the five highest ranking Muslim-owned businesses from MSDUK 'Minority Businesses Matter' report. Corporation Tax information not available for Care Tech Holdings and Gorgemead/Printwest.

The combined revenue of the five examples above totals £35bn, a significant boost to the British economy.

Gross Value Added (GVA) of the examples above provides an excellent insight into their direct economic contribution to the UK – totalling £1.77bn in payments to employees, tax payments, and shareholder surplus. In just these five organisations, Muslim businesses create employment opportunities for 81,000+ Britons. Importantly, Muslim-owned businesses are often headquartered in deprived regions outside of London in need of 'levelling-up'³¹. The EG Group HQ for instance, is located in Blackburn and Darwen, which is among the top 3% of areas facing significant socio-economic challenges according to the English Indices of Deprivation.³² Entrepreneurial British Muslims help to economically enrich these areas by creating employment opportunities, paying local taxes, and encouraging other business people to look outside of London for economic opportunities.

“Social mobility is strong for a range of reasons, one of which is that there’s a really, strong entrepreneurial spirit, not just among British Muslims today, but our elders and ancestors who were brave enough to migrate to a new land”

Sughra Ahmed

*Managing Director of the Peterborough Cultural Alliance
and Yale World Fellow*

Many of the business's leaders listed above are exceptional examples of the social mobility that Muslim communities are capable of. For example, Sir Anwar Pervez transformed his life as a 21-year-old Pakistani immigrant who could not finance his education at university level. He worked as a bus conductor in Bradford before setting up his own business and gradually making his way to become the owner of the largest independent wholesaler in the UK with a turnover of £4.74bn in 2023³³. Pervez

and his co-directors overcame financial lending discrimination by remortgaging their homes when banks refused to finance their major business expansion. Pervez is an example of how Muslim business people rely on determination, risk-taking, and business acumen to transform their lives and overcome their roots in poverty.

These examples of success from humble beginnings demonstrate the economic potential of British Muslims and reveal the potential of the many Muslims struggling with poverty. With sufficient education, resources, and support, British Muslims are capable of astounding social mobility, generating huge benefits for the nation.

c) British Muslims donate £1.79bn a year to charitable causes, four times more generously than the national average, and volunteer time worth £622m a year.

British Muslims make a disproportionately large contribution to the charity sector. According to Blue State, a global consultancy firm, which published the 'British Muslim Giving Behaviours' report in 2024, British Muslims gave 4.3 times more to charity in a year than the average British individual, totalling £708 per person.³⁴ The level of contributions steadily rose, with higher-income Muslims in the £75,000 to £99,000 income bracket giving 10 times more than the average British person in the same bracket.³⁵

Charitable donations add up to £1.79bn³⁶ annually across the adult British Muslim population.

Previous generations of Muslims often sent this money abroad to help develop their communities in their countries of origin. However, as new generations of Muslims become more rooted in the UK and lose ties with their parents and grandparents' extended families in their countries of origins, this charitable giving is increasingly

remaining in the UK. This has a direct effect on local communities, especially since the exacerbation of the cost-of-living crisis. For example, Islamic Relief UK (IRUK), just one Muslim charity out of dozens in the UK, reported that it collected £44.2m in donations in 2022. Much of these funds were re-distributed among British citizens, with the IRUK distributing over 1,000 winter food packs in Birmingham in just one weekend.

Some other examples of local initiatives include³⁷:

- **Project Rise** (Bradford) which leads initiatives for small-scale levelling up projects such as environmental initiatives (tree planting, litter-picks, and river clean-ups) and a neonatal appeal to provide accommodation to parents with infants in hospital care

- **Hamara Healthy Living Centre** (Leeds), an organisation promoting healthy living for older citizens, disabled people, and isolated individuals with 20 staff members and a £1.2m health centre

- **Muslim Hands** (Hounslow), an organisation that runs The Open Kitchen, provides 500 hot meals a day to vulnerable people of all faiths and none, totalling over 215,000 meals since 2018.

- **Aishah Help** (London), is a charitable institution that runs several initiatives including the 'Mind the Gap Befriending Service', aimed at connecting older and younger people experiencing loneliness. This initiative was awarded the 2021 Covid Community Champions Prize by Canary Wharf Group PLC.

- **Sufra** (Northwest London), a food bank that distributed 14,228 meals last year through food banks, kitchens, a community shop, and café, as well as being a gateway for holistic welfare support.³⁸

British Muslims are often at the forefront of contributing to crucial community based projects,

including those that alleviate poverty and help with the increasing cost of living.

British Muslims are also equally generous with their time; the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life

reports that 20% of Muslims in the UK take part in unpaid volunteering work in their local communities.³⁹ Given an average weekly contribution of two hours, we can quantify this contribution economically as:

Age Group	Number of Muslims in the UK ⁴⁰	Number of Volunteers (%20)	Minimum Wage per Hour	Total Contribution Accross the Year (2 hours per week)
16-17	141,730	28,346	£6.40	£19,592,755
18-20	195,615	39,123	£8.60	£36,337,442
21-80	2,291,620	458,324	£11.44	£566,268,468
Total	2,628,965	525,793		£622m

Table 2: Providing an estimate of Muslim contribution via volunteering via economic projection

Based on the above figures, we can approximate the value of the voluntary work that British Muslims provide across the UK at £622m.

2: British Muslim communities are a globally interconnected demographic that create unique market opportunities in Islamic finance, Halal consumer products, and the Halal tourism sector.

British Muslim communities are a globally interconnected demographic with religious, familial, linguistic, and cultural networks that span the world. Muslims generally share similar ethical principles when it comes to matters like Halal food, Islamically compliant financing options, and Muslim-focused tourism, which has led to the emergence of unique industries and opportunities in the UK and around the world.

The demand for access to Islamic finance among British Muslims has positioned the UK as a prime destination for billions of pounds in sharia-compliant

investment and asset management. London's emergence as the West's Islamic finance capital attracts wealthy individuals looking for investment opportunities that align with their moral obligations.

Furthermore, British Muslims have carved a space for their cultural, religious, and community life to flourish in the UK. They have built mosques, created cultural community spaces, established a buoyant Islamic retail and clothing industry, and invested in and developed a thriving halal food market. Additionally, businesses catering to Muslim consumption practices, such as entertainment in alcohol-free environments, and halal cosmetics, have become important sectors in the UK's economy.

These developments make the UK an attractive destination in the West for millions of Muslim tourists who are drawn to the availability of halal food, safe spaces to pray, and a welcoming environment created by British Muslims.

a) British Muslim communities create demand for Islamic finance options which boosts the nation's economy – the British Islamic banking industry holds 85% of assets in European Islamic Market, worth £5.73bn.

In recent decades, London has become the Islamic finance capital of the West, with significant investment and acquisition contributing to the development of the City and the nation. Innovations in the Islamic finance industry within the UK allow it to tap into and become a significant player in the £3.44trillion global industry⁴¹, a necessary boost to the British economy. This sprung out of a class of educated Muslim professionals working in London's vibrant financial sectors who then blend their experiences with Islamic principles.

Islamic finance opportunities attract global investments from States such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. This can be seen in the funding for iconic landmarks in London such as the Olympic Park and the Shard.⁴² UK Sukuks (Islamic bonds issued by the government which are compliant with Islamic values) worth £700m were used to finance the Emirate Airline investment, and 6,500 homes were built using a £700m investment by Gatehouse Bank.⁴³

Islamic financial institutions are flourishing within the UK too. In 2015 there were 5 fully sharia-compliant banks, 20 Islamic financial service institutions, and 70 universities or business schools offering qualifications in the study of Islamic finance.⁴⁴ Demand for these services is significant and underutilised – the British government's initial release of sovereign Sukuk⁴⁵ was eleven times oversubscribed.⁴⁶

According to the City UK group's 2022 report, UK based Islamic banks now control assets in the range of £5.73bn. While a small sliver of the total assets

of the banking industry, it represents 85% of total assets in the Islamic banking sector in Europe.

Islamic Finance as a financial service is growing in popularity. Islamic Finance Guru, a British-origin company dedicated to providing Islamic financial advice is thriving in the UK, with 20,000 people a month looking for sharia-compliant financial advice, according to Forbes.⁴⁷ Sharia-compliant solutions are not limited to Islamic organizations; many high street banks also provide them. For example, the Lloyd's Islamic account, a Sharia-compliant home purchasing plan, and HSBC's Amanah account demonstrate these providers' desire to cater to the needs of Muslims.

The first major financial requirement that millions of Britons encounter is student finance for university, amounting to almost £45,600 for undergraduate studies⁴⁸, with government will offer Alternative Student Finance (ASF)⁴⁹, which is a loan system compatible with the Islamic principle of Takaful (a cooperative insurance system based on mutual assistance and shared risk without involving interest or speculative practices).⁵⁰ The government is developing the ASF model to ensure that funding for education is 'compatible with some students' religious beliefs and help to mitigate choice constraints'.⁵¹ The government's focus on ASF underscores their recognition of the importance of Islamic finance in the UK, the extent of interest, and its increasing availability.

Despite the foreign investments, one big challenge pointed out by various leaders in the industry is the lack of financing options, which prevents Muslims from taking out loans to start their businesses. At times, Muslim entrepreneurs think of moving abroad to start businesses due to better funding options in countries like the UAE and Malaysia, among others, representing a potential loss to the UK economy. Although, this loss cannot be quantified, there is

sufficient evidence to point out that this is a sector that has much scope for improvement. The Bank of England has recognised the importance of these challenges and suggested options for Muslims who do not want to engage in interest or other Islamically impermissible forms of business.⁵² However, there is still much work to be done, and the scope for growth remains strong.

“There’s a lot of work right now and a lot of banks have got Islamic finance integrated or it’s on the radar. If there was a platform that was really focusing on the startups and growth phases in terms of investing into businesses as well as through Islamic finance products, then I think this will be very very useful.”

Abby Ghaffoor

*Ambassador and Board Member of
London Chamber of Commerce*

b) British Muslims’ requirement of a halal lifestyle creates huge market opportunities in food and consumer goods in the range of £2bn

The term ‘halal’ refers to anything that is permissible in the Islamic faith and may refer to aspects of daily life such as food, entertainment, and consumer goods. This ethical requirement of the Muslim faith has shaped many spaces in Britain, including supermarket shelves, high streets, clothing stores, and restaurants.

The requirement for Muslims to only consume meat from certain animals that have undergone ritual slaughter using a cruelty-free method is one prominent way halal criteria have shaped UK markets. This has created a £1.7bn industry in the UK which is projected to grow to £2bn by 2028.⁵³

Many British farms rely on Muslims to keep their businesses afloat; 74% of the market value of sheep farming in the UK is tapped into by the halal industry. Also, the diets of British Muslims are significantly more diverse than those of the average British population, with a higher consumption of mutton and lamb. This peaks during Ramadan, in which some Muslims sacrifice sheep and distribute the meat between neighbours and the poor.

Due to the prohibition on alcohol consumption, the UK has seen the rise of alternative social hubs such as dessert shops and chai shops, which are open late into the night. Between 2018 and 2022, Chaiwala, a popular chai shop, claims they have sold more than 20 million cups of karak chai.⁵⁴ Though they may primarily cater to the Muslim community, they provide an important alternative to spaces associated with drinking tea for all Britons.



©Emrah Altay, 2017

The cosmetics industry has diversified due to halal requirements, meeting the demand for ethnically manufactured products free of non-halal animal or alcohol components. British Muslim-owned businesses such as Halal Beauty Cosmetics tap into a £31bn global industry projected to grow to £96bn by 2030.⁵⁵

In Britain, the Islamic requirement of 'hijab', which means 'to cover', also creates economic opportunities. With a growing demand for clothing that aligns with religious and cultural values, modest fashion has become a thriving sector within the UK's fashion industry. Major retailers like Marks & Spencer have launched dedicated modest fashion lines, contributing to a global market that is worth billions of pounds. This sector not only caters to the Muslim community but also appeals to a wider audience seeking stylish yet conservative options, further diversifying the British fashion landscape.

c) The UK is the most popular destination in the West for Muslim tourists.

The United Kingdom has become a hub for Muslim travellers from around the world, consistently ranking as the most visited non-Muslim country in the West by Muslim tourists.⁵⁶

The UK's large halal food industry, access to mosques, burgeoning halal tourism companies, and general openness presents the UK as an inviting destination. Cities like Glasgow, Cardiff, Birmingham, and Leicester, among others, embody this.⁵⁷ In addition, Gulf countries like the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia are also investing heavily in the UK, with stakes in key organisations such as Harrods, Heathrow Airport, and football teams such as Manchester City and Newcastle, among others. This has also provided a lot of exposure to Muslim Arab tourists eager to spend their summers in the UK to escape the hot weather prevalent in their own

countries while simultaneously engaging in luxury shopping in the UK. Shopping hotspots like Bicester Village (a luxury shopping spot near Oxford) even have signs and announcements in Arabic, catering to the large number of Arab Muslim tourists. Overall, the UK has much to gain by promoting the halal tourism industry, which is estimated to be a £230bn global industry by 2030.⁵⁸

3: The risk of affluent British Muslims leaving the UK – the wealth and brain drain

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) notes that almost six million people (6-8% of the total population) live abroad, with about 150,000 British citizens⁵⁹ leaving the country annually since the 2010's before reducing to about 100,000 after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite little media attention on emigration, migration influencers are increasing in number and popularity. In an interview with Saira Hayati, an influencer and property consultant with 353,000 followers on TikTok, we gained insight into the growing interest that Britons of all races and religions (with a special focus on British Muslims) have to leave the UK.

“In my inbox there are hundreds of messages per day by people wanting to emigrate. There is a mass migration that’s going to happen.”

Saira Hayati

We commissioned Savanta, a polling company to conduct a public opinion poll of 1,024 British Muslims and 2,237 Britons from the general population to determine attitudes towards emigration and draw comparisons between the two groups. Respondents were questioned on topics such as reasons for wanting to emigrate, whether others in



their network had emigrated, and steps taken to leave the country. Though the sample sizes of specific groups discussed in the report may be a small subsection of our nationally representative data, we found it indicated some interesting and crucial conclusions that aligned with our focus group and expert interview findings.

We found that both the average British citizen and British Muslims who were considering leaving the UK prioritised a higher standard of living and quality of life abroad in their reasons for potentially emigrating (53% and 52%, respectively). From our focus group and interview findings, we found a broad consensus that the UK no longer offers the high standard of

living it once did, with many citing high costs of living, poor infrastructure and public services, and high tax rates.

Many influencers on YouTube, as well as our focus group respondents, also point to this cost-of-living issue, citing that it is close to impossible to afford living in the UK, especially on a single income.⁶⁰ One focus group participant who is a lawyer working in Bahrain stated that in the UK, *"You get taxed a lot, which is off putting because you're working so hard. You're working crazy hours, and then you just see so much of your pay being deducted every month on your payslip, which is annoying, and cost of living also goes hand in hand with that."*

Incomes of British Muslims currently considering leaving the UK

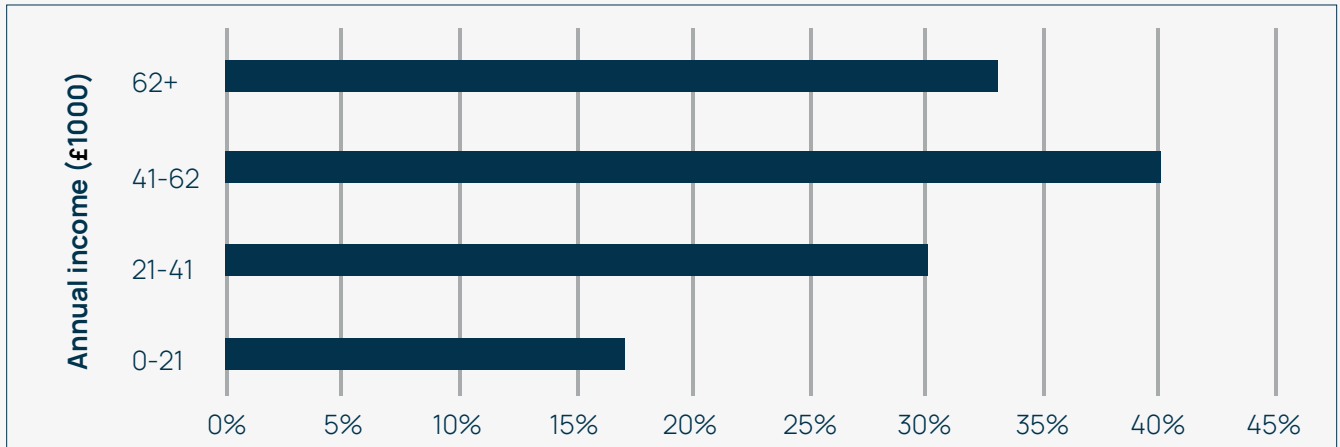


Figure 1: Bar graph presenting the percentage of British Muslims from different income groups who are currently considering leaving the UK

“[My kids] see that the lifestyle they’re afforded here [Malaysia] is so much more conducive to a healthier work life balance. And they see how hard people have to work in London just to be able to keep afloat.”

Interviewee A (British Muslim life coach, educator and corporate trainer who had emigrated to Malaysia)

The decline of British public services was cited as a major issue. One interviewee stated that *“These education and healthcare institutions that the UK used to be known for are really not being invested in”*. We heard that the benefits of the welfare state that historically attracted migrants have deteriorated, with issues such as rising university fees and long NHS waiting times dampening the hopes of British citizens for a brighter future.

“There’s many good things about the UK and living here, but a lot of Muslims may feel that the UK is not what it used to be and that it’s on a decline, especially in comparison to other countries which are perceived to be flourishing economically and socially.”

Dr. Leon Moosavi

Our results on the high numbers of people wanting to leave the United Kingdom were corroborated by the work of Word on the Curb, a consultancy agency focusing on 16–29-year-olds. Their 2024 report ‘Get(ting) Out’ found that 66% of young, first- and second-generation immigrants of all faiths and none are considering emigrating from the UK, citing a declining quality of life, government dissatisfaction, the worsening economy, and racial equality as motivation.⁶¹

a) British Muslims are 50% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average British citizen.

Our poll found that 20% of all British citizens are currently considering leaving the UK compared to 30% of British Muslims- 50% higher. Furthermore, 71% of British Muslims know someone who has emigrated from the UK in the past year, compared to only 44% of Britons overall, a 27% difference.

British Muslims are much more likely to know someone personally who has chosen to move abroad compared to the average Briton. This potentially indicates that a greater proportion of Muslims have emigrated compared to the national average, but could also imply that emigration is easier for the British Muslim community, as networks

actively share experiences and advice, thereby encouraging others to follow suit.

This leads to the phenomenon of 'chain migration'—where migrants to a certain destination motivate others from their community to follow suit, suggesting that current migration trends could increase.

b) Affluent⁶² British Muslims with an annual income of over £62,000 are 65% more likely to want to leave the UK than the average Briton

Our poll reveals that emigration among the middle class/affluent British Muslims is stronger compared to the general British population (19.8%). 33% of British Muslims with a household income of over £62,000 per annum; 40% earning £41k-£62k; 30% in the £21k-£41k bracket, and 17% in the under £21k bracket say they are currently considering leaving the UK. This represents a significant difference compared to the 20% of the average British population that is considering leaving. These results reflect the ability of high-income individuals to leave the country given the contacts, skills, and finances necessary to manage this move. Their exodus would cause a disproportionate loss of wealth to the UK.

One example of destination countries is the UAE which is now home to 240,000 British citizens in 2024.⁶³ For instance, Forbes reported in June 2024 that they expect a record 9,500 millionaires to leave the UK this year. The emphasis on high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) is significant, with countries in the Gulf attracting these individuals due to better standards of living. For example, in 2023, the UAE boasted the second highest net inflow of HNWIs in the world at 4,500, while over the same period, the UK lost 3,200 millionaires.⁶⁴

Furthermore, middle-class individuals are more likely to consider moving, implying that they do

not feel they can progress in the UK job market at a time when higher pay is necessary to upkeep a certain standard of living. The healthcare sector exemplifies this the best as specialist doctors within the higher income brackets are increasingly looking abroad for better remuneration. British healthcare officials received nearly 25,000 requests for required documents for employment abroad in 2022, from both Muslims and non-Muslims.⁶⁵

“People [in the UK] know they’re going to have to continue to work just as hard, if not harder, to maintain a certain lifestyle”

Interviewee A (British Muslim life coach, educator and corporate trainer who emigrated to Malaysia)

These figures reveal an important development in social mobility. They show that generational immigrants whose families have managed to climb the social ladder from humble beginnings in the UK have now gained access to global social mobility. Wealthy individuals can choose to move abroad when they find the national environment to be intolerable—instead of enduring a declining standard of living and religious discrimination, those with the necessary resources and skills can move to a more comfortable environment abroad.

c) Affluent British Muslims are three times as likely than the average British citizen to have taken concrete steps to leave the UK.

British Muslims have been more proactive than the average Briton in their steps to start a new life abroad.

As the table in Figure 2 below shows, British Muslims considering leaving the UK have taken more concrete steps to emigrate, including researching destinations (49%), looking for jobs (55%), or

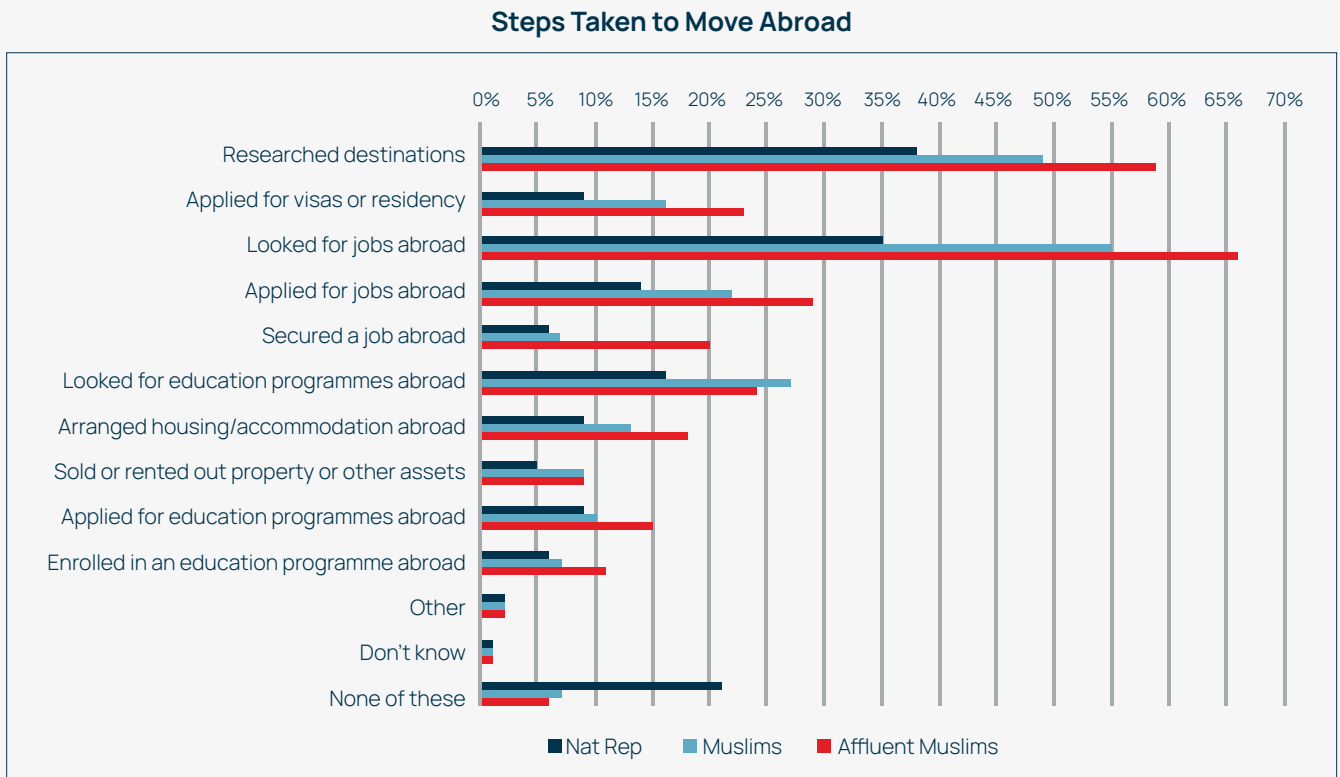


Figure 2: Bar graph presenting percentage of respondents who have taken steps to move abroad

Subset of Respondents: All respondents who are considering leaving the UK and living in another country in the future. Sample size of affluent Muslims considering leaving = 73

applying for a visa or residency (16%). Overall, 92% of Muslims who are considering leaving the UK have taken steps to do so. On the other hand, only 76% of average Britons considering leaving the UK have taken steps as researching destinations (38%), applying for jobs (14%), or applying for a visa or residency (9%).

Affluent British Muslims in particular have taken more concrete steps to emigrating. 17% of British Muslims earning over £62,000 who want to leave the UK have secured a job abroad, compared to 3-6% for lower income groups.

d) British Muslims are three times more likely to cite religious discrimination as a reason for leaving the UK than the average Briton.

As the graph below shows, British Muslims are three times more likely to consider leaving the UK due to religious discrimination.

Religious discrimination stands out as a towering reason for British Muslims to consider leaving the UK having three times the potency to drive out Muslims. 41% of Muslims cited religious discrimination as a reason for leaving as opposed to the national average of 14%. However, in our research, only a few of our focus group interviewees pointed to hate speech by politicians or overt cases of Islamophobia as a reason for considering leaving the UK. Despite the prevalence of these factors, their understanding of the religious discrimination motivating them to leave the country manifested in more systematic forms.

For most of our primary research respondents, religious discrimination manifested through the difficulties Muslims face in practicing their religion and existing as a Muslim day-to-day in the UK. This included not being able to guarantee leave from work on Eid (due to the unpredictability of moon

Reasons for Emigration

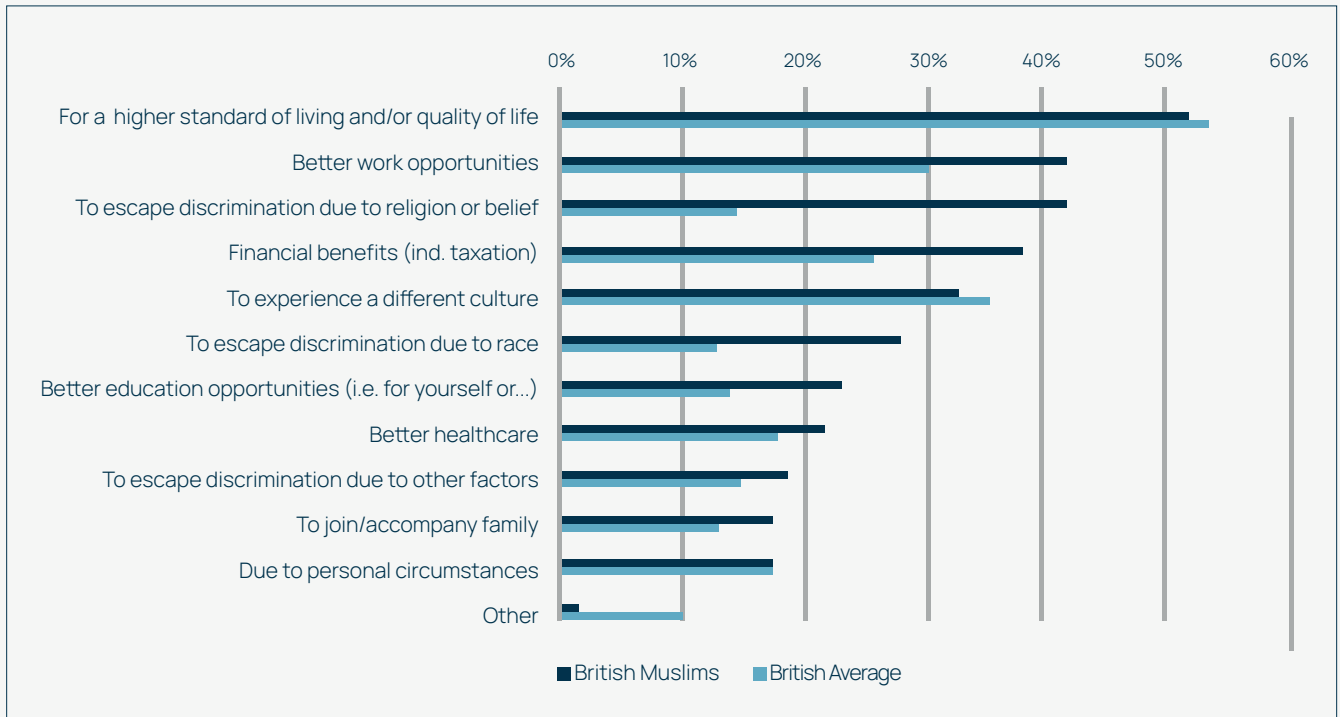


Figure 3: Bar graph presenting respondents' answer to the question "What are the main reasons why you are considering leaving the UK and living in another country?"

Subset: All respondents who are considering leaving the UK and living in another country in the future

sightings on which Eid is declared), having to avoid alcohol-centred work gatherings, and taking time off for Friday prayers.

"You want to be in an environment where you feel you can practice your deen (religion) without being in a compromised position. It shouldn't be something that you have to keep looking over your shoulder."

Sleem Hasan

Financial Entrepreneur who emigrated to Dubai

The poll also showed that British Muslims have a greater preference for the Middle East as destinations to move to, with respondents citing the UAE (46%), Qatar (32%), the US (24%),

Saudi Arabia (24%), and Turkey (20%) as their top five destinations they would consider moving to, compared to the average Briton who preferred white-majority countries, including Spain (29%), Australia (21%), the US (20%), New Zealand (14%), and France (14%).

Some focus group respondents suggested that moving to a Muslim-majority country allowed them to practice a "halal lifestyle" easily, including for their children. A policy advisor who had lived in Qatar for three years said, *"The whole idea of the Islamic lifestyle tends to be more the idea that you can just be a Muslim without having to explain it."* You don't have to explain to your employer, 'Oh, I need to take a couple of hours out because it's Jumma' (obligatory Friday prayers for Muslim men) ... It normalises that part of your life."



@Riza Azhari, 2019

“In the UK, it wasn’t as if I couldn’t practise my faith. I could pray at my desk, but it was a bit more difficult. When we came to Qatar, the country is actually developed around being Muslim, so you don’t have the issue of having to pray... there are 10–15 places in our company site where a person can pray.”

Interviewee C, Engineer based in Qatar

Workplaces that expect people to conform to a specific, monolithic culture rather than being accommodating of different religious practices in day-to-day working life induce a sense of discomfort that makes British Muslims feel out of place and contributes to why such large numbers think of leaving the country.

A Changing Britain has much to lose from Muslims leaving the UK

As the polling, focus groups, and interviews suggest, there are statistically significant numbers

of talented and affluent Muslims wanting to leave the United Kingdom. Despite a broader trend of British citizens wanting to leave the UK regardless of religion, there are specific reasons why Muslims want to leave. Racial and religious discrimination are key factors in compelling Muslims to think of taking such steps.

Considering the projected growth rate of the UK population over the next 10 years and polling data highlighting the numbers of those who have taken steps to leave, the UK is liable to lose between £234 million and over £1.1 billion in annual taxes, as well as potential sources of employment in the next ten years.⁶⁷ These losses could be much higher if we account for the potential growth of the Muslim community in the UK - if they were given the right support. As our focus group respondents pointed out it is more lucrative to move to such countries for those in the higher income brackets.

Policy Recommendations

This report primarily directs its policy recommendations towards the UK government. The government has the opportunity to acknowledge and encourage British Muslim contributions to the nation's economic growth and prosperity and create an environment that encourages them to stay in the UK. Furthermore, the recommendations outlined below, which address issues prevalent throughout the UK, have positive impact for all UK citizens.

Recommendation 1: His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) must recognise the economic contributions of British Muslims and review its data collection systems to improve data on faith communities.

HMT should acknowledge the £70bn Muslim contribution to the UK economy per annum and work with Muslim communities, through joint events and initiatives, to better understand, promote, and increase this contribution. In doing so, it should adopt a narrative towards Muslim communities showcasing it as a successful and contributing community, rather than simply one that is disadvantaged and reliant on the public purse. HMT should work with all relevant agencies, e.g., the ONS, to improve data collection on faith groups—in terms of their contribution to the economy, and emigration. While this study has provided some estimates of the Muslim community's contribution to the UK economy, it has also highlighted where and why this estimate is difficult to achieve due to data collection issues.

Recommendation 2: The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) must understand and replicate

the successes of the Muslim community in the workforce.

Given the growing success of the British Muslims working in certain key employment sectors of the country, the DWP should collaborate with Muslim communities to better understand the reasons for this success, devise strategies to replicate this success, and identify the obstacles preventing further progress, with effective solutions to address them. The British Muslims are a young and dynamic community, with a current population bulge in the pre-employment cohort. Investing resources into this cohort to enable further successes will multiply the returns for the country.

Recommendation 3: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) must better understand the rapidly growing halal products and tourism industry in the UK and tap into the global market.

Given that the halal industry is one of Europe's fastest-growing sectors and the UK is among the top non-Muslim countries with halal tourism, government must deepen its understanding of how to foster this market further. The DCMS should collaborate with Muslim communities to better understand Muslim lifestyles, consumption patterns, and needs in order to further enhance the value of these industries. Better data gathering and the strengthening of businesses and industries that have the potential to grow exponentially and capture larger shares of the European and global markets for halal products and tourism will help accomplish this.

Recommendation 4: The Department of Business and Trade (DBT) should tap into the intellectual, cultural, and linguistic diversity of British Muslim businesses to replicate their successes nationally. HMT should draw in investments from the Islamic finance industry.

The DBT should collaborate with Muslim communities to understand the success of Muslim businesses and help replicate it for other Muslim and disadvantaged communities across the country. To achieve this, HMT/DBT should specifically leverage soft skills such as languages, cultural literacy, and connections across the Muslim world, to attract inward investment into Britain from Muslim countries.

Given the strength of the Islamic finance industry and the growing recognition of its strength, HMT must develop a strategy to draw in the global multi-trillion-pound Islamic finance industry to Britain.

Recommendation 5: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) should set up a working group to tap into the philanthropic activities of Muslim charities to revitalise public services.

With Muslims being the most generous faith community in the UK, with an increasing focus on supporting causes within the country, government should provide incentives for Muslim aid charities to support local communities in the UK. MHCLG should initiate this work through a cross-government working group with HMT, DHSC, DfE, MoJ and the Home Office. It should work with Muslim communities on a 'public-civic partnership', so that the annual multi-billion pound pot in Muslim communities, consisting of philanthropic and charitable giving; the availability of thousands of real estate assets for delivering public services; and a mass of volunteers, can be used to revitalise public

service provision, including, but not exclusively, in areas with high concentrations of Muslims, who are also dependent on these services.

Recommendation 6: The Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) should lead a drive against religious bigotry and implement more faith literate policies.

In the context of a disproportionate number of British Muslims, especially those with higher incomes, considering leaving the UK, citing race, cultural and religious exclusion and discrimination as key reasons, the MHCLG should lead a new drive in the UK against religious bigotry and discrimination and towards a more faith inclusive and literate government and society so that all faith communities feel at home in Britain and able to fulfil their potential.

Recommendation 7: The Race Equality (Equal Pay) Bill should include religion and beliefs as defined in the Equality Act of 2010 to avoid producing a multi-tiered system on matters of pay, race, and faith.

With the new Race Equality (Equal Pay) Bill announced in the King's Speech (2024), the government has the opportunity to address a key driver of a potential wave of Muslim emigration from the UK. The government must either add Islamophobia into the definition of race, as recommended by the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, and as previously done by case law for British Sikhs and Jews; or extend the Bill to include religion and belief as defined in the Equality Act of 2010. A failure to do this will reintroduce/reinforce a multi-tier UK in terms of its treatment of its faith communities – i.e., Jews and Sikhs as groups will have access to equal pay provisions, but not Christians, Muslims, or Buddhists. This will be particularly damaging, as Muslims are currently most

likely to suffer from unequal pay, and inequality more generally, as cited by those Muslims wanting to leave Britain, and now well established by research.

Recommendation 8: HM Treasury and Department for Business and Trade to should establish a commission to investigate additional Islamic finance options for businesses.

The UK government has been reviewing Alternate Sources of Financing for student loans in line with Muslim beliefs since 2013. These measures can be expanded by the relevant departments and organs of state such as the Treasury, DBT and the Bank of England to look at faith sensitive business financing options for the large group of entrepreneurs within the Muslim community. This can help provide more options for Muslim entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and to tap into potential global markets as well. Failure to do so can result in significant talent within the community moving to other countries with such financing options, thereby adding to the risk of a wealth drain from the UK.

Conclusion

Over decades, British Muslims have been caricatured as poverty stricken, poorly skilled, unemployed and unhealthy people, being a drain on state funding. Though there are economic disparities within the Muslim community, this narrative does not do justice to the overall positive contribution that British Muslims have made and are increasingly making to the prosperity and future growth of this country. It is in the best interests of both the British nation and British Muslims to change that narrative.

The British Muslim community is a proud contributor to the British economy, with the 'Muslim pound' being worth almost £70 billion a year. This has the potential to grow to 100 billion over the next 10 years if Muslims are provided with the necessary resources for growth and if barriers to access are removed.

The government should acknowledge the significant contributions made by British Muslims to the UK's economy and ensure that it supports these efforts and not of stifle them, inadvertently or otherwise.

Yet, Britain is at risk of losing its productive British Muslim population to emigration. Countries in the Gulf, especially, have become attractive places for Muslims to move to, particularly for those who feel that the practice of their faith is not understood or welcomed in the UK. Incidents like the far-right riots of August 2024 further exacerbate this point. This report clearly demonstrates that British Muslims, especially the more affluent, are more inclined to leave the UK than the average Briton due to religious and racial discrimination. This should not be ignored.

We must curb these negative developments, as the UK cannot afford to lose such a large sector of its productive population and their significant economic contributions. Rather, the government should proactively value the contributions of British Muslims, invest in their significant growth potential, and take measures to create a more inclusive society for people of different faiths and backgrounds and so prevent the potential for a British Muslim brain and wealth drain, which the country can ill afford.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Methodology and data sets

We used several sources of data to come to our conclusion. Firstly, we conducted a literature review to gather and consolidate publicly available information. This included sources such as government reports and ONS data, mainstream media, including the Sunday Times Rich List, expert reports by MSDUK, and think tanks such as The Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life and the Blue State.

Secondly, we made estimations using ethnic identifiers in the absence of faith-based data. The 2021 census shows that 92% of British Bangladeshis, 93% of British Pakistanis, 14.6% of British black people, and 13.3% of British Indians identify as Muslim. We estimated the total number of British Muslims in the NHS and education sector using these percentages.

Thirdly, due to a scarcity of literature on emigration, there is little statistical analysis of individuals leaving the UK, and even less consideration of in-group differentiation. To this end, in August 2024, Equi commissioned Savanta to conduct two surveys of 1,024 British Muslims and 2,237 Britons in the general population. Both surveys ensured that the polls were representative of their populations, factoring in gender, age, region, ethnicity, income, social grade, education, and disability. The sample sizes of average Britons currently considering leaving was 442, British Muslims currently considering leaving was 518, 'Affluent Muslims' was 222, and Affluent Muslims currently considering leaving 73. Conclusions indicated by groups with smaller sample sizes were corroborated by focus group findings and expert interviews.

We conducted our survey from the 6th of August 2024 to the 19th of August 2024.

We also conducted two focus groups and personal interviews with 12 individuals who have either left or are planning to leave the UK. Our focus groups sampled eight people who lived in or had lived in a range of countries, mostly in the Middle East (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar), but also other countries, including Brunei, Malaysia, and the US. Four participants were from London, and the others came from Coventry, Birmingham, and Slough. The age group ranged from 26 to 56 years, and there were 6 men and 1 woman. The group represented a variety of occupations, including a lawyer, engineer, policy advisor, financial advisor, and three teachers. Two participants returned to the UK after living abroad for several years. The amount of time participants spent abroad ranged from 1 month to 30 years.

We also interviewed three men and one woman who are planning on moving abroad to the Middle East. Three participants had already secured jobs or housing abroad and planned to move this year.

Nine expert interviews, including business leaders, representatives of British expatriate groups, and social media influencers encouraging emigration, have identified and informed broader trends. Lastly, we also reviewed open-source data available on social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. Despite difficulties in access to data, we are confident that our triangulation of data through a combination of large-scale data collection from primary and secondary sources and personalised engagement within our study will yield the most accurate results for a study of this size.

Appendix 2: Calculating the Economic Contribution of British Muslims by Income

To calculate the value of British Muslims' contribution to the UK's economy through their employment, we aimed to estimate the combined income of British Muslim communities.

To calculate the Muslim 'Productive Population', the following process can be followed:

British Muslims aged 16-64: 2,478,210 ⁶⁸
Employment rate: 51.4% ⁶⁹
Muslim Productive Population: 1,273,800

Proportion of British Muslims in Each Employment Sector

The Census 2021 report 'Religion by housing, health, employment, and education, England and Wales' provides a detailed breakdown of the productive populations of each major faith group in the UK, presenting the proportion in seven employment sectors. ⁷⁰ The data used for 'Figure 10: Religion by Occupation' was used in the table below.

Average Salary for Employment Sectors

The Office for National Statistics report 'Employee earnings in the UK: 2022' provides a detailed breakdown average salary for occupations in seven employment sectors. ⁷¹ The data used for 'Figure 10 Annual full-time gross pay by occupation' to estimate an average salary for each employment sector by taking an average of all salaries provided.

The table below presents these calculations.

Calculating the Economic Contribution of Muslims by Income				
Employment Sector	Proportion of Working British Muslim (%)	British Muslim Workforce	Average Salary (£)	Combined income of British Muslims (£)
Elementary occupations	13.1	166,867	23,527	3,925,898,731
Process, plant and machine operatives	12.9	164,320	31,407	5,160,804,521
Sales and customer service occupations	11.5	146,487	24,906	3,648,405,222
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	9.3	118,463	24,912	2,951,160,221
Skilled trades occupations	7.0	89,166	31,207	2,782,603,362
Administrative and secretarial occupations	7.8	99,356	26,352	2,618,239,853
Associate professional and technical occupations	9.2	117,189	33,137	3,883,311,775
Professional occupations	19.2	244,569	42,151	10,308,853,209
Managers, directors and senior officials	9.8	124,832	49,468	6,175,209,163

The sum of the figures above demonstrates that:

Total Economic Contribution by Income of British Muslims = £41,454,486,057.60 ≈ **£41.5bn**

Minimum tax contribution = £8,290,897,211.52 ≈ **£8.3bn**

Endnotes

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8 For calculation process, see Finding 1.d

9 For calculation process, see Finding 1.d

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21 Philippe Legrain and Martyn Fitzgerald, 'Minority Businesses Matter: The Contribution and Challenges of Ethnic Minority Businesses in the UK', *Open Network*, February 2021. <https://www.opennetwork.net/minority-businesses-matter/>

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24 Higher estimate based on the fact that 1/3 of members of the BAME community are Muslim <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/3726/pdf/> Conservative and liberal range provided – higher figure used in calculations throughout this report

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45 Sovereign Sukuk are structured in a way that adheres to Islamic finance principles. Instead of paying interest, which is forbidden in Islam, Sukuk represent ownership in tangible assets or a share of the revenue generated from these assets. The returns to investors come from the profits earned by the assets rather than from fixed interest payments. The government issues Sukuk to finance public projects or manage financial needs, and the Sukuk are typically backed by specific assets or projects. Investors receive periodic payments based on the performance of these assets or the project revenue.

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About Equi

Equi is a pioneering think tank. An independent, nonpartisan organisation whose mission is to develop and promote new public policy ideas for a just and prosperous society for all. Borne from a recognition that British Muslims are not included in the crucial arena of public policy formation, it has been driven by a desire to contribute more fully to the health and wellbeing of the UK bringing into play the values and ethics of public service. Outcomes

will be driven by British Muslims, but not simply for British Muslims. Equi is committed to an evidence-based approach to policy development and retains copyright and full editorial control over all its written research. We work in partnership with academics and other experts and commission studies involving empirical research

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This work does not make any claim to represent their specific views or seek to find a median position that they can all take.

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