



# BUILDING OUR FUTURES TOGETHER

*“Bridging the Armed Forces”*



**'Director of Faith Matters Fiyaz Mughal OBE, with Lance Sergeant Johnson Gideon Beharry VC'**



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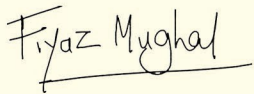
# Introduction

## Working Towards Stronger Bonds Between Our Armed Forces and Diverse Communities in London

The recent brutal murder of Lee Rigby on the streets of Woolwich was a wake-up call for us all within communities. It was a wake-up call when two young men decided to murder a young man walking on the streets of our capital and means that we all have a joint responsibility to tackle hate, intolerance and prejudice. It also sends a strong signal that more work needs to be done to bring together our armed forces and diverse communities.

We acknowledge that there are some difficult times in the nation's history when young men and women have to go to war to protect the State and its national interests. We also acknowledge that war in far flung parts of the globe mean that our armed forces have to carry out the wishes of Parliament and our elected representatives, sometimes with grave consequences. Yet, there are clearly those driven by ideologies which mean that they blame our armed forces for the actions and decision of Parliamentarians. This is deeply troubling and worrying, particularly where extreme or violent extremist views are promoted and accepted and then aimed at innocent people on our streets.

The best resilience building to such hatred is to ensure that our armed forces, serving chaplains and the families of soldiers engage with diverse communities and reduce any barriers and tackle prevailing inaccurate perceptions. Let us also not forget that our armed forces undertake nation building, relief and security work in various parts of the globe when our support is called upon in a globalised and connected world. The least we can do at home is to ensure that some within communities understand and engage with serving members of armed forces. We owe that to Lee and we owe that to a future which we hope, will never see a young man so brutally murdered simply because he was a serving soldier.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiyaz Mughal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Fiyaz Mughal OBE FCMI, Founder & Director – Faith Matters

# About us

**Faith Matters** was established in 2005 provide inter-faith and conflict resolution programmes for the benefit of faith communities in the United Kingdom. Faith Matters has continued to focus on the provision of a variety of grassroots and research programmes to promote dialogue, understanding and peaceful co-existence between and within faith communities; it also works to provide a positive counter-voice to challenge hateful or discriminatory narratives and to overcome inter-community tensions. These community programmes include **The Role of Chaplains, Connecting Communities & Developing Diversity**

## **Role of Chaplains National Project**

The Role of Chaplains Project looked at the role of chaplains in public sector institutions such as the NHS and Prisons, as well as in Higher and Further Education institutions. Our society is increasingly diverse and multicultural where our public institutions serve those of different backgrounds and faiths; therefore those using and working in these institutions have access to services which meet their needs and receive high standards of care, including spiritual care. With this in mind

the project aimed to provide guidance to institutions such as the NHS and the prison service to develop support for chaplains working in these areas. Faith Matters worked with a variety of faith-based community organizations, chaplains and chaplains' associations to do so.

## **Connecting Communities**

Connecting Communities was recently launched in Westminster Abbey and aims to enhance the power of communities who are of Pakistani heritage and who are citizens of the United Kingdom. It is using a combination of mixed media and face to face meetings to highlight the importance of minority rights in Pakistan & the United Kingdom. Activating the diaspora community of Pakistani heritage who have leading roles in promoting equalities work in the United Kingdom is key and we have found that many want to actively promote and shape equalities work with minority faith communities in Pakistan, including the Ahmaddiya, Shia and Christian Communities.

## Developing Diversity

The purpose of Developing Diversity was to put together a directory of the 100 most 'women friendly' mosques in England with the aim of measuring how 'women-friendly' these mosques were whilst encouraging government and other agencies to work with them to promote the good practice in these institutions. The directory was cited in national press media as a model of good practice.

## Building Our Futures Together

Building Our Futures Together is one in a series of projects currently being implemented by Faith Matters to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion amongst local communities. We are working to bring together our Armed Forces with diverse communities, and these discussions will include the varying roles of the Armed Forces, their work at an international level, the role of faith in the Armed Forces and to raise the perceptions that local communities may have of the Armed Forces.

This work is even more relevant given the murder of Lee Rigby and the subsequent backlash and threats to cohesion that took place after his murder. If anything,

we need to do more to foster greater understanding between our Armed Forces and our diverse communities.



## The Community Covenant

Building Our Futures Together has been funded by the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme. The Community Covenant Grant Scheme has allocated £30 million to support the Community Covenant and to fund local projects that bring together civilian and armed forces communities. The Community Covenant Grant Scheme supports projects not just in London, but nationally throughout the United Kingdom, and without it, Building Our Futures Together would not have been possible. Projects that the Community Covenant Grant Scheme has supported include: a play area for 'Little Rascals Crèche' in the Vale of South Glamorgan, funding places for school children in Gloucestershire to visit 'Go Ape' – a tree top assault course, a scheme to support the Armed Forces in the Asian Community in Southampton & a Film Making project in Ashcroft, amongst many others.

The Community Covenant Grant Scheme is therefore a real resource for communities to engage, learn and value the role of our Armed Forces.

For further details on the Community Covenant Grant Scheme, visit: [www.gov.uk/community-covenant-grant-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/community-covenant-grant-scheme).



Councillor Colin Lambert, Brigadier Nick Fitzgerald and Councillor Alan McCarthy at the signing of the Rochdale Armed Forces Community Covenant [Picture: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012]



# Building Our Futures Together



Building Our Futures Together is a London wide initiative that supports local communities to engage directly with the Armed Forces and to discuss together issues that are important to them. The project hopes to create positive relationships between members of the local community and the Armed Forces by breaking down stereotypes and allowing both Armed Forces representatives and local community members to better understand the experiences and values of each other.

The project is predominantly about bringing together military chaplains from a range of different faiths with local faith and non-faith communities. A military chaplain cares for all military personnel, their families as well as civilians working for the military. In addition to offering pastoral care to individuals, and supporting their religious rights and needs, military chaplains may also advise the executive on issues of religion, and ethics, morale and morals as affected by religion. They may also liaise with local religious leaders in an effort to understand the role of religion as both a factor in hostility and war and as a force for reconciliation and peace. Military Chaplains often have unique experiences and perspectives on life in the Armed Forces, and so through

this project we aim to facilitate communities and chaplains to come together to explore true life stories and personal accounts of life in the military for serving men and women of a variety of faiths.

We want to provide opportunities to increase understanding of the issues affecting the Armed Forces community and where our local communities can learn about the roles of our Armed Forces in both peace building and disaster relief. Our Chaplains can talk about the sacrifices that soldiers make and show our local communities that the soldiers wear many faces and undertake many duties from delivering disaster relief and aid, through to caring and airlifting people in real danger in war zones.

We hope our local communities will feel encouraged to engage with the Armed Forces and we are providing an environment whereby chaplains, serving soldiers and their families can engage with diverse communities in local areas.

# The British Armed Forces

It is important to remember that our Armed Forces are accountable to Parliament. This means that our Government and our politicians make the crucial decision to send our soldiers to war. Our Armed Forces therefore follow the will of Parliament and are held accountable by bodies such as the Armed Forces Sub Committee. They are also responsible for their actions under the Geneva Convention of 1949, with severe actions being taken if this is breached.

## The Different Faces of Our Armed Forces

Our Armed Forces have many faces – they are not simply soldiers that fight on the front line. Conflicts and natural disasters often lead to calls on the Armed Forces, from the UK and far-away locations, for military assistance and humanitarian aid. Earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan showed the harsh reality of the fragility of human existence and the role that the Armed Forces undertook in bringing help to populations in times of need. The British Army is not only called upon for the application of force, but to assist the civil community at home and overseas. This often happens in times of natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes but also in conflict zones where troops assist in large

numbers such as searching for missing persons. For example 100,000 troops were sent to Japan to help with the aftermath of the recent tsunami. Following the 2004 Christmas tsunami British troops spent five weeks conducting 1,090 missions including casualty evacuation, the relocation of displaced people and the movement of a huge 244,000lb of aid to stranded people on the Banda Aceh Coast of Indonesia.

**They also help at home;** in November 2009 the severe weather left Cumbrian towns devastated. Troops lent their support to local authorities and emergency services in bringing aid to the distraught communities, assisting thousands of people in their flooded homes.

## The Many Faces of our Armed Forces; Past & Present



### Sepoy Khudadad Khan VC

Khan was born in Punjab (Pakistan) in 1887. He fought in the First World War, defending the vital ports of Boulogne (France) and Nieuwpoort (Belgium), where British Soldiers were outnumbered five to one. Khan was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V in London – The first Indian to receive this honour.



### Colour Sergeant George Williams

Colour Sergeant George Williams, third Regiment Kings African Rifles, was a Sudanese soldier with an English name. He was awarded the KAR Distinguished Conduct Medal for reconnaissance work at Tsavo, East Africa on September 6 1914. The next year on January 18 1915 at Jassin in the Uмба Valley Colour Sergeant Williams under heavy enemy fire extricated the remainder of his platoon after one officer (Lieutenant GM Dean 1/3rd KAR) had been killed and the other seriously wounded. Colour Sergeant Williams also managed to personally carry away the platoon machine gun after the crew and supporting carriers had all been killed or wounded too. For this deed, the Divisional Commander Major MJ General Tighe, recommended him the Victoria Cross.

If this award had been approved, George Williams would have been the first soldier in the KAR to be so honoured. He did not receive the VC, but he was eventually awarded a bar to his DCM medal in recognition before he was killed later in July 1918.



### Lane Sergeant Johnson Gideon Beharry

VC of the 1st Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was in 2005 awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration for valour in the British and Commonwealth armed forces, for twice saving members of his unit from ambushes on 1 May and again on 11 June 2004 at Al-Amarah, Iraq. He is the first living recipient of the Victoria Cross in over 30 years. He has also been awarded the Kosovo, the Iraq Medal for service in Iraq, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



### Alice Ross King

Alice joined the war effort in 1914 as part of the Australian Army Nursing Service. She was also sent to Egypt, but worked as a nurse in France, nursing casualties from the Somme Offensive. She was awarded the military medal for her bravery and devotion to duty during a bombing attack. She was commissioned as a Major in WW2, where she had over 2,000 servicewomen under her command and was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal in 1949.



### **Esther Barnett**

Born in Brisbane in 1857, 'Ettie' was recruited into the nursing service in 1915. She was sent to Egypt to tend to the ANZAC (The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) casualties of the Gallipoli campaign. She worked tirelessly in a London hospital during the war and became known as 'Mother ANZAC' to the troops. Ettie was awarded a civil humanitarian medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace. She spent the last years of her life in New Zealand as a nurse to the Maories during the Spanish Flu Pandemic. She was known as much for her dedication to her work as for her wild and playful character.



### **Ethel Pritchard**

Ethel joined the nursing service in her early 20's. She was one of the first New Zealand Army Nurses to help the war effort. After being stationed in Alexandria, Egypt, where she tended to hundreds of injured soldiers every day, she returned to New Zealand in 1919 where she became involved in a number of women's rights and health organisations. She was awarded an MBE in 1949 and was renowned for her self-sacrifice in attending to those in need at any time of the day or night.



### **Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar Chauhan MBE**

Ashok was born in Kenya and arrived in the UK in 1970, joining the Army in 1977. He was first posted to Germany where he served with the Royal Artillery as a Gunner. He worked through the ranks to Regimental Training Warrant Officer. In 1998 he was awarded the Adjutant General's Commendations and the Goshan Medal for his achievements in sport and service in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. He was awarded an MBE in 1999 in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. In 2007/8 whilst on Operation Herrick he was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal and was NATO SNCO (Senior Non Commissioned Officer) of the year. Ashok received this commendation for his contribution to the community in these areas, where he worked directly with communities to build relationships with the Army, and convey their message of peace, support, aid and humanitarianism. His current role is Operations Warrant Officer Civil Engagement in Headquarters Support Command. Ashok has never forgotten his Indian culture, and devotes his spare time to his wife and daughter, and also actively volunteers within the local community.



### **Captain Naveed Muhammad**

Captain Naveed Muhammad moved to the UK from Kenya with his family in 1983. He was the first in his family to have experienced military life. As a young teenager, a friend persuaded him to join the Army Cadet Force which gave him a first look at military life albeit with a youth organisation which promotes personal development and resilience to name a couple of benefits.

He joined what is now the Army Reserve over 26 years ago; recently he served in a full time role as second in command of the Armed Forces Careers Office in Birmingham, encouraging applications for a career in the Army across all 144 trades as well as carrying out significant community engagement activity with the city's large BME communities. An example of his successful activities is taking groups of youngsters to Flanders in order to recognise the massive contribution of the British Indian Army during both world wars. He is now a career manager with a Royal Signals Reserve unit where he provides career advice and guidance to Reserve soldiers so that they are able to pursue a career in the Army Reserve. He is the Regimental Equality & Diversity adviser as well as a Welfare Officer. During his service, Capt Muhammad has served on operations in the Balkans, Iraq and more recently in Afghanistan.



### **Bombardier Zoe Savage**

“Being in the Army gives me stability and good career progression. I’ve been in for eight years, but I’ve taken two years out to have children. It can be difficult to combine work and family, but you soon get a system going. I can get the children to school and nursery and then do my job. I’ve been on operations as well. Leaving my family behind was tough, but it was still an amazing experience.”



### **Captain Amisha Thompson**

“I joined because I wanted to lead soldiers. The Army gives you all the training that you need for your job, and they trust you to get on with it. After I completed my training, I was responsible for a team of specialists. I’d make sure their training was up to date, take care of any welfare issues and check that we had the right people in the right roles to get the job done. It’s really rewarding.”

## Would you like to get involved?

We hope that the session has perhaps inspired you and made you think about the sort of events you and your community could hold and enjoy together. Here are some possible event ideas you may like to consider:

**Holding a coffee** morning and discussion at your local community centre or coffee shop – everyone loves home-made cake! Discussion could include eliciting people's views on the Armed Forces, breaking down stereotypes, discussing situations of humanitarian relief and the role the Armed Forces play. How about if your session has been youth centred, a quiz to see what people have learnt with fun prizes?

**Write a letter to your local newspaper** regarding your views, or the views of your local community. What would you like to change in your community? What events would you like to hold?

Your local media can help promote these events too! Why not ask if a poll can be placed in your local newspaper for the community to answer – questions could include “What do you feel most proud of about the British Armed Forces”?

**Try contacting your local school or University** in your community and suggest organizing an Armed Forces themed activity day, or arrange a school trip or even a speaker to come in and speak to young people. Perhaps a presentation about Chaplaincy in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). Or how about a discussion on the role of the Commonwealth soldier, past and present day.

**Produce an online survey** which participants can complete to give their feedback, or have an online forum or blog where participants can post comments and chat with other participants about their experiences of the project.

**If you belong to a women's group**, why not arrange a session where you can discuss topics such as the role of gender in the Armed Forces; people you know may be wives, mothers, sisters or serving men or women and you can discuss their experiences of their family members whilst being away on active service and how they have felt supported. Maybe these women could welcome support sessions or regular meetings where you can meet and talk – remember this can develop to be a monthly coffee meeting!

**Write an article for a blog** – we can help and accommodate your articles on our website and our blog! This could be about how you personally feel the Armed Forces are viewed in your community and how would like these views to perhaps change. Your community members can comment and discuss!

**Put up a notice board** in your community centre where participants can post comments about what they have been up to. Friends and community members can share ideas and invite each other to events.

Pin up photos of your fun events to share with everyone or even put them up on Pinterest!

**Armed Forces Day 2014 – Saturday 28th June 2014:** The perfect opportunity to arrange community events; discussions, meetings and fairs – these can be at your community centre, place of worship, schools or anywhere you choose. Big or small you decide! How about a fair where your local community groups can have stalls or tables or arrange this in your local schools field and hold sports events though everyone must come in their best camouflage, (including fun face painting for the little ones!).

All the local communities we are proud to work with are different and we know our participants in one community may have completely different ideas and interests to the next. This is why we value the mosaic of communities that make up our country.

If you want to keep an eye on your project it is easy to evaluate as you go along – from participant forms to simply having a chat with your participants and community members. Some sessions, for example a coffee morning discussion, will evaluate themselves! You can evaluate opinions changing, community members being influenced and the change that is taking place.

Use part of your sessions to see what difference you are making in your communities – film yourselves and take photos for lasting memories of your events – and remember to share them with us! Make displays to put up in your community centres to show everyone what you've been up to. Find out if anyone's views of the Armed Forces have changed and make a newsletter to send out with your updates!

## How can we help you?

Many of our suggestions will include little organization and provide maximum enjoyment and success. If you are inspired to plan a project which needs further organization or further help, example documents and advice can be found at our website:

[www.faith-matters.org/buildingourfuturestogether](http://www.faith-matters.org/buildingourfuturestogether)

Faith Matters would love to hear what you are up to and will always be keen to help in any way! We would love to meet with you and discuss your ideas and we would like to hear from you and about the events and projects you have organised/ We will help in any way we can; if this means helping to book a speaker for your event, connecting you to the Armed Forces or your local authority or perhaps just some advice for planning your events. We would also love to come to your events so keep us updated! Or if you simply have a blog post or comment you would like to share with us, please don't be shy. We can post your blog articles and comments on our website specifically dedicated to the project.



# Useful Contacts

## Faith Matters

Phone: 0207 935 5573

Email: [info@faith-matters.co.uk](mailto:info@faith-matters.co.uk)

Website: [www.faith-matters.org/buildingourfuturestogether](http://www.faith-matters.org/buildingourfuturestogether)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FaithMattersUK](http://www.facebook.com/FaithMattersUK)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/FaithMattersUK](http://www.twitter.com/FaithMattersUK)

## The Armed Forces & Our Partners

### Community Covenant

Website: [www.gov.uk/community-covenant-grant-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/community-covenant-grant-scheme)

Email: [covenant-grantscheme-london@mod.uk](mailto:covenant-grantscheme-london@mod.uk)

Address: HQ London District,

Horse Guards

Whitehall

London. SW1A 2AX

### Joining the Armed Forces:

1. [www.army.mod.uk/join](http://www.army.mod.uk/join)
2. [www.raf.mod.uk/careers](http://www.raf.mod.uk/careers)
3. [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Careers](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Careers)

**The Curzon Institute** (Faith Matters has worked with The Curzon Institute on a number of sessions)

Website: [www.curzoninstitute.org](http://www.curzoninstitute.org)

Email: [info@curzoninstitute.org](mailto:info@curzoninstitute.org)

### The Military Wives Choir

Website: [www.militarywiveschoirs.org](http://www.militarywiveschoirs.org)

## Your Local Contact Details

### Barnet

#### Barnet Council

Website: [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

Email: [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0208 359 2000

Address: North London Business Park

Oakleigh Road South

London. N11 1NP

#### Community Barnet

Website: [www.communitybarnet.org.uk](http://www.communitybarnet.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 8364 8400

## **Barnet Multi Faith Forum**

Website: [www.barnetmultifaithforum.org.uk](http://www.barnetmultifaithforum.org.uk)

## **Camden**

### **Camden Council**

Website: [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0207 974 4444

Address: Camden Town Hall Extension  
Argyle Street  
London. WC1H 8NJ

### **Voluntary Action Camden**

Website: [www.vac.org.uk](http://www.vac.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 7284 6550

Email: [vac@vac.org.uk](mailto:vac@vac.org.uk)

### **Camden Faith Communities Partnership**

Telephone: 020 7193 7943

Fax: 020 7147 1383

E-mail: [enquiries@cfcp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cfcp.org.uk)

Address: 7 Wakefield Street  
London. WC1N 1PG

## **Ealing**

### **Ealing Council**

Website: [www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0208 825 5000

Address: Ealing Council  
Perceval House, 14/16 Uxbridge Road  
Ealing. W5 2HL

### **Ealing Community & Voluntary Service**

Website: [www.ealingcvs.org.uk](http://www.ealingcvs.org.uk)

Address: Lido centre, 63 Mattock Lane  
London. W13 9LA

## **Enfield**

### **Enfield Council**

Website: [www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0208 379 4998

Address: London Borough of Enfield  
Civic Centre, Silver Street  
Enfield, EN1 3XA

### **Enfield Voluntary Action**

Telephone: 020 8373 6268

Website: [www.enfieldva.org.uk](http://www.enfieldva.org.uk)  
Address: Community House, 311 Fore Street  
Edmonton. N9 0PZ

## Hackney

### Hackney Council

Website: [www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0208 356 3000  
Email: [info@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:info@hackney.gov.uk)  
Address: Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street  
London, E8 1DY

### Hackney Community & Voluntary Society

Telephone: 020 7923 1962  
Email: [reception@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:reception@hcvs.org.uk)  
Address: 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street  
London E8 2LY

## Haringey

### Haringey Council

Website: [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0208 489 0000  
Address: Haringey Council, Civic Centre, High Road  
Wood Green. N22 8LE

### HAVCO (Haringey Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations)

Telephone: 020 8880 4046  
Email: [info@havcoharingey.org.uk](mailto:info@havcoharingey.org.uk)

## Hounslow

### Hounslow Council

Website: [www.hounslow.gov.uk](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0208 583 2000  
Address: London Borough of Hounslow  
Civic Centre, Lampton Road  
Hounslow. TW3 4DN

### Hounslow Voluntary Sector Support Service

Website: [www.hounslownetwork.org.uk/hounslow-voluntary-support-service/](http://www.hounslownetwork.org.uk/hounslow-voluntary-support-service/)  
Telephone: 020 7871 4970  
Email: [laura@vcshounslow.org.uk](mailto:laura@vcshounslow.org.uk)

### Community Partnerships Unit

Telephone: 020 8583 2450  
Fax: 020 8583 2466  
E-mail: [community.development@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:community.development@hounslow.gov.uk)

## **Westminster**

### **Westminster Council**

Website: [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

Email: [info@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:info@westminster.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0207 641 6000

Address: Westminster City Council  
64 Victoria Street  
London. SW1E 6QP

### **Westminster Faith Exchange**

Telephone: 020 7641 5294

Email: [faithexchange@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:faithexchange@westminster.gov.uk).

### **Voluntary Action Westminster**

Telephone: 020 7723 1216

Fax: 020 7723 8929

Email: [general@vawcvs.org](mailto:general@vawcvs.org)

Address: 37 Chapel Street  
London. NW1 5DP



**COVER**

**TOP:**  
Sikhs in the British Army Meet School children at Book Launch [Crown Copyright/MOD]

**MIDDLE:**  
Supporters and signatories of the Armed Forces Community Covenant pose with the signed document at Barnsley Town Hall [Picture: Corporal Gabriel Moreno, Crown Copyright/MOD 2012]

**BOTTOM:**  
Members of the Armed Forces and the Sikh community gathered at Amport House for the sixth annual Armed Forces Sikh Conference [Picture: Shane Wilkinson, Crown Copyright/MOD 2012]