



Salam un Alaikum

Bism illah ir Rahm anir Raheem

I would like to begin by thanking Allah (SWT) for having given me the opportunity to serve Birmingham Jamaat. I consider myself blessed to be a part of this flourishing and vibrant community that has grown considerably in the last decade.

In 2014 I was elected as the Chair of the Ladies Committee, a position I currently hold. As the Chair, I have had the opportunity to get to know the people that make Birmingham what it is and there have been many facets that have surprised me.

I have learnt in my interactions with people of all ages and have always strongly believed in having direct contact with the members I represent.

Through this constant communication I have gradually come to understand the different sections of our community and developed an understanding of their needs, concerns and most importantly their expectations of me.

I have encouraged all committee members to broaden their horizons and embrace the wider community through overseeing sub committees that organise a wide range of programmes that engage both faith and inter faith organisations, not forgetting our own network nationally.

For the future, I strongly desire a transparent, efficient and effectively run committee that encompasses the vision of all our members. It is my heartfelt desire to ensure that even the voices of the young women who will be leaders tomorrow are heard.

Keeping all this in mind, I have also revisited my manifesto from 2014-2016 and indicated on each how far I have come along and what I have achieved in the space of 2 years.

I would much rather promise a few things, put my heart and soul into getting it right than make pledges that I cannot keep.

I am also honoured to present to you my manifesto for the next term. I hope for your support in the delivery of my manifesto as it was created with you in mind.

I am merely a servant of Allah swt and without his help & your support, I can't achieve anything worthwhile.

I do sincerely hope that you will continue supporting me in taking this community even further.

Please feel free to share your feedback and anything else you may wish to share.

With Salams and Duas,

Shenaz Najafi

Goals for the term 2016 -2018

1: Religious Advancement

Objectives: Encourage Islamic Style Education, Provide Facilities for Mothers & young children, Maintain Akhlaq & Attract Top Reciters.

I will:

- Continue to support and work together with Sis. Faiza Mawji, Principal of Muhammadi Madrasah by improving input and volunteering.
- Continue to arrange religious education classes for teenagers and ladies; and investigate the possibility of setting-up a suitable 'book club'.
- Continue to attract the best reciters and procure a 3-year advance booking policy for Muharram and Ramadhan.
- Arrange further sessions with reciters to cover Children's majalis and workshops.
- Arrange Q & A sessions with visiting reciters.
- Consider the operation of a 'creche' on certain nights
- Open a dialogue in EC for a resident Aalimah
- Set-up a dispute resolution procedure for internal use

2: Building Community Spirit

Objectives: Engage all members of the community, encourage women's representation in ALL matters.

I will:

- Organise joint events with other communities, both within Shia Faith and Interfaith.
- Arrange and provide assistance with external 'family' trips.
- to encourage more women to become voting members of the Jamaat and to lobby the EC to change the constitution to allow more women to serve on the EC.
- Encourage women to attend EGM, AGM.
- Lobby the EC to create integrated spaces for children with disabilities.
- Actively participate in EC meetings & take forward any issues.

3: Welfare

Objectives: Address all welfare issues and recognise when a community member needs help

I will:

- Identify cases in need of welfare assistance
- Provide assistance to elderly and those in need
- Work with seniors and other sub-committees to ensure there is nobody that has been missed out
- Create support groups for people with terminal illnesses

4: Accountability

Objectives: Transparency in all engagements

I will:

- Continue to maintain regular communication and feedback with the community
- Introduce Open sessions and call on regular meetings with different committees
- Encourage open conversations & less bureaucracy

5: Map Project

Objective: Ensure Fair Representation

I will:

- Work for Greater consultation with Ladies.
- Work at having our views heard
- Encourage participation by women into Buildings Committee
- Ensure 'MAP Shop' is supported and arrange further fund raising events.

Snippets of Feedback Received:

“As a mother, the mother & baby room has improved a lot. The tv was always switched on, Fateha would be served to us early on rather than last. The baby room was always clean & the new gate means we can let our children walk about freely inside.”

Ayman Najafi

“Shenaz aunty has done a lot for the mosque. People may not realise that because sometimes it’s the small things that matter. If you take a step back, you can see all the little changes that have made a big difference. I can tell she is the best person for this job. She is a people’s person and can handle anything and anyone. She’s a leader & she should continue leading... “

Sakina Sajan

I have found her to be very kind & have always seen her with a smile on her face. She has always in my opinion tried her best to fulfil the needs of the community.

Tatheer Rashid

“As long as I have known Shenaz Bai as chairlady, she has supported me thoroughly. Be it a small thing like mic system or a major thing like organising Tajweed classes for the ladies. I wish her all the best”

Nishat Hameer

“It was a pleasure as always to work with Shenaz Bai”

Zahra Bai

As a chair lady, Shenaz aunty has always been enthusiastic, welcoming & approachable. She went above & beyond her responsibilities designated for a chair lady.

Sukaina Hasnayn

“Shenaz has done an excellent job ensuring cleanliness is maintained especially the baby room & arranging things like lines for salam of taabut in muharram”

Ruksana Kurji