

NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP THREATENS LABOUR'S GRIP ON KIRKLEES COUNCIL

A new independent group has vowed to threaten Labour's grip on power and field candidates at the local elections in May.

Candidates intending to stand aim to showcase the stance that the Tory and Labour parties have taken in relation to Gaza along with a list of local issues have now launched Independent Kirklees.

Zahid Kahut, (Batley West) Aziz Daji, (Batley East), Ali Arshad (Heckmondwike), Michael Wharton (Dewsbury East).

Also standing as Independent candidates in Dewsbury are Hanifa Darwen, (Dewsbury South) and Tanisha Bramwell, (Dewsbury West).

Aziz Daji, who will be running for the

Batley East seat has been involved in community and social work over the last 30 years.

Speaking at a public meeting at the PKWA Centre in Batley, he insisted the Labour Party and the Tories do not hold the best interests of the Muslim community at heart.

He said: "Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak are not taking issues of Islamophobia seriously like they do on anti-Semitism. During the Gaza bombing by Israel they have hardly spoken out when the Palestinian civilians and children were being killed.

"Muslims have woken up and are going to punish their parties for taking our votes for granted. They do not listen to us," said Mr Daji, who had

been a Labour member for many years but resigned because he said the party did not take his concerns seriously.

"The people of Batley are crying out for change. The Conservatives and the Labour Party has taken the vote of ordinary people for granted for too long. This year, candidates from Independent Kirklees will offer a viable alternative."

The Independent candidates are working closely with the Muslim vote, a dynamic coalition of organisations and individuals, each contributing various skills, expertise, and capabilities.

In 2024, it is envisaged, a long term strategy will be laid out for the Muslim community's political future.



Will Labour be made to pay for their failures?

Mr Daji is no stranger to taking on councillors and holding them to account. He made headlines during a passionate address during a council meeting at Huddersfield Town Hall, accused senior councillors of a lack of action over the poor state of roads in Batley Carr.

The community leader accused former Council Leader Shabir Pandor and Cabinet member Naheed Mather of making excuses and that their responses lacked accountability.

Zahid Kahut said the rationale behind his candidship was to represent local people in relation to issues that affect them as opposed to the Tory and Labour candidates.

He said: “You have legitimate expectations for people to speak up on your behalf, to express your sentiments and act in your best interests. Up until now, the silence since October the 7th has been deafening. Its profound how so many people in positions of power, do nothing.

“So many Labour and Conservative party members are hiding in the shadows hoping that all this blows over and that their silence and their lack of action goes unnoticed.

“Well its gone wrong for them because these problems are not going away. These problems are here to stay until someone takes a positive step. Their silence and their lack of activity has been exposed.”

Ali Arshad, a dedicated advocate for the local community, said will be standing for election in Heckmondwike due to the fact that local people were disenchanted with their current representatives.

He said: “We cannot let this go on, people are sick of being taken for granted and at the local elections we intend to

showcase just why Independent Kirklees are the people’s representatives.”

Tanisha Bramwell, who has worked within the community for years as a community activist, has been able to address some of the issues within her community, running a food bank in Dewsbury since 2020 along with a plethora of different campaigns and initiatives to support people in the community.

Tanisha said: “Over the past 10 years, I have been a tireless advocate for our community, championing important causes such as running a successful food bank and leading social campaigns against funding cuts & humanitarian issues. As I step forward to represent Dewsbury West, let’s spark a new era of progress and unity. Together, let’s build a brighter future, for the people, by the people!”

“My decision to stand is rooted in a deep-seated belief in the power of positive change and the urgent need for genuine representation. For too long, our community has been let down by the failures of traditional party politics. Both Labour and the Tories have neglected our needs, leaving our neighbours behind and our voices unheard.

“As an independent candidate, I offer a fresh perspective and a bold vision for Dewsbury West—one that prioritizes inclusivity, opportunity, and progress. My track record of grassroots activism and community service speaks volumes about my dedication to our collective well-being.

“From supporting our neighbours during times of need to advocating for essential resources and youth initiatives, I am committed to fighting for the change we so desperately need.”

“I pledge to be a voice for all residents

of Dewsbury West, representing our interests with integrity, transparency, and unwavering dedication. Together, let us build a community where every voice is heard, every individual is valued, and every resident thrives.”

Michael Wharton, an advocate of political independents and a strong voice of activism, said he intends to showcase why Independent Kirklees will replicate the Community wealth building initiatives akin to the scheme launched by Preston Council, creating a resilient and inclusive economy for the benefit of the local area.

“If elected, I am hoping to seriously look into the Community wealth building initiatives as a means to gain investment, secure jobs and help local businesses thrive.”



“So many Labour and Conservative party members are hiding in the shadows hoping that all this blows over and that their silence and their lack of action goes unnoticed.”
Zahid Kahut
Independent Kirklees Candidate

The Tory party has a very big problem with the Muslim Community

The Tory Party has an endemic problem with Islamophobia, and its failure to deal with it has enabled a culture of intolerance and hate against the country's Muslims.

Conservative politicians have posted anti-Muslim rhetoric on social media, prompting accusations that Islamophobia is prevalent at all levels, from local representatives to the top echelons of the party.

One such example is when Conservative Member of Parliament Lee Anderson caused outrage by asserting that "Islamists" had "got control" of Labour's London Mayor, Sadiq Khan.

However, prime minister. Rishi Sunak has declined to address accusations that the Conservative Party is inherently islamophobic. Many commentators say that Anderson's comments are indicative of a Conservative Party's penchant for anti Muslim bigotry. In August 2018, Boris Johnson, who had then recently quit as the UK's foreign secretary before becoming prime minister in July the following year, used his column in the right-wing newspaper, the Daily Telegraph, writing that Muslim women wearing full-face veils "look like letter boxes" while comparing their appearance to "bank robbers".

Four years later, Conservative MP Nusrat Ghani claimed a government whip had informed her that she had lost her job as a transport minister in early 2020 because her status as a "Muslim woman minister" was making colleagues "uncomfortable".

And earlier this year, Suella Braverman, the UK's hard-right former home secretary, appeared to fan the flames of Muslim hate when she wrote in The Telegraph: "The truth is that the Islamists, the extremists, and the antisemites are in charge now." Conservative peer Sayeeda

Warsi has said she feels she is in a "toxic abusive relationship" with her party. Baroness Warsi, who became Britain's first Muslim to attend Cabinet, said the Conservatives were at risk of becoming like the Republican Party in the US, who she said operated in a world in which "you can talk all sorts of rubbish and not back it up with evidence".

She said: "We are presiding over a period in which public finances aren't under control and things don't work. How did we become the party that broke Britain?"

Over 400 imams and scholars across the UK have called on Muslims to back CAGE International, MEND and The Muslim Association of Britain, all of which were singled out during the launch of the government's new definition of extremism.

The new definition describes extremism as "the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance" that aims to "negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others" or "undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights".

The Imams pledged their support for CAGE, MEND and The Muslim Association of Britain in a joint statement.

"It is evident to us that individuals who prioritise the Israeli Zionist agenda above Britain's interests aim to stifle the political engagement of Muslims," the statement read.

"The hypocrisy of Mr Gove et al, who coercively apply "British values," which includes democracy, whilst simultaneously suppressing democratic participation that opposes their agenda, is glaringly obvious. Despite the Prime Minister's purported commitment to bridging gaps with the

Muslim community, his government's actions suggest a preference for divisive tactics over genuine dialogue and engagement.

"The ability of a select few to influence government decisions, including the alteration of laws and definitions to suit their agenda, raises serious concerns about the integrity and independence of our political system.

"The targeting of Muslim organisations also demonstrates how the politicised discourse of "extremism" undermines the rule of law, often at the expense of minorities. It is imperative that we, as Muslims, unite against such abuses of power and reject this new definition of extremism and its ideological assumptions."

It adds: "We call upon the Muslim community and supporters of political integrity and accountability to support organisations like MEND, CAGE and The Muslim Association of Britain for a fairer society.

"We also stand in solidarity with Imam Shakeel Begg, recognising his selfless service to his community, while firmly rejecting the ideological, legally flawed, and unscholarly characterisation of him as an "extremist".

"As Imams and scholars, we reaffirm our dedication to working towards a better, more just United Kingdom, free from corruption and injustice. The government's focus on extremism is a distraction for their failure to address pressing social issues, such as the living expenses crisis, housing crisis, and escalating incidents of violence and anti-Muslim hatred. We urge the public to remain vigilant in safeguarding against this Orwellian drift and holding our elected officials accountable."

Muslim organisations reject Tory definition of extremism

British Muslim organisations have lambasted the government's proposed definition of extremism as "desperate" after communities' secretary Michael Gove named a number of groups set to be assessed against the new outlines.

The definition says extremism is the advancement of a violent, hateful or intolerant ideology that aims to "negate or destroy" the rights of others, or which aims to "undermine, overturn or replace" the UK's democracy and democratic rights.

In addition, extremism is also defined as the promotion of an ideology that aims to "intentionally create a permissive environment" for others to achieve the same aims.

Mr Gove used his parliamentary privilege in the Commons, to tell MPs the views held by organisations such as the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), Cage and Mend "give rise to concern for their Islamist orientation and views".

He said the government would "take action as appropriate" if the allegations were substantiated.

However, Mend CEO Azhar Qayum accused Gove of using his parliamentary privilege to make claims he cannot substantiate.

He said: "We challenge Michael Gove to repeat his claims outside of parliament and without the protection of parliamentary privilege if he believes he can provide the evidence to back up his view that Mend has called for the establishment of an 'Islamic state governed by sharia law'."

He added that if the government goes on to list Mend as an extremist organisation, they will issue legal proceedings.

Following Mr Gove's accusations - Cage also said they would be exploring legal avenues as they said: "We reject the counter-extremism and counter-

terrorism powers that allow for arbitrary and authoritarian interventions against dissenting citizens."

The Muslim Council of Great Britain said the government's latest ill-conceived proposals on extremism are "undemocratic, divisive, and potentially illegal."

Zara Mohammed, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, said the proposals may involve defining established Muslim organisations as extremist.

"A broad cross-section of British society will see through the government's divisive extremism proposals. Extremism is a grave concern, and we all stand in opposition to it, despite the efforts of bigots to suggest otherwise through baseless accusations.

"As the government presses ahead with its flawed proposals, many of us are questioning: on what grounds are these groups being labelled as extremist, and will there be legal avenues to challenge such determinations imposed by the government? Furthermore, will the criteria for identifying extremism be uniformly applied irrespective of faith?

"Will vocal extremists who support the Conservative Party also be subject to these new measures? Lastly, will government ministers exploit parliamentary privilege to publicly name these groups, thus denying them the chance to defend themselves?

"In recent weeks, we've witnessed genuine extremism as leaders of the Conservative Party have smeared prominent Muslim politicians with the vague 'Islamist' label, perpetuating divisive narratives about Muslims purportedly plotting to seize control of the country. The smears are coupled with a disgraceful demonisation of thousands of protestors calling for peace in Gaza.

A joint statement was made by Mend

along with Cage, Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOA), Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), the Muslim Council of Britain and 5Pillars, which argued the new definition "politicises a concept that should be above party politics, attacks free speech, delegitimises lawful dissent, stifles public debate, avoids democratic oversight and scrutiny, and creates division and inflames tensions between communities".

When announcing his new definition, Mr Gove said: "The pervasiveness of extremist ideologies has become increasingly clear in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks and poses a real risk to the security of our citizens and our democracy."

The new definition has already faced criticism from three former home secretaries and Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, all of whom cautioned the government over the risk of politicising anti-extremism.

The archbishop said that the plans risk "disproportionately targeting Muslim communities". He added: "The new definition being proposed not only inadvertently threatens freedom of speech, but also the right to worship and peaceful protest - things that have been hard won and form the fabric of a civilised society."



IDF accused of sexually abusing and killing Palestinian women

Israeli Occupation Forces have been accused of raping Palestinian women during an ongoing raid in Al-Shifa Hospital, the largest health facility in the war-torn region.

Ever since the Israeli army raided the hospital - reports have emerged of unspeakable atrocities being made to the doctors, nurses, general staff as well as the thousands of displaced people there who took the hospital as their abode because they have nowhere to go.

Eyewitnesses have seen “credible allegations” that Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to sexual assaults, including rape, while in Israeli detention, with many executed shortly after and are calling for a full investigation.

Eyewitness Jamila al-hissi, who was trapped in a building near the health facility, in an interview with Al Jazeera reported that the IOF was, kidnapping, and killing women during their raid at the hospital.

“They raped women, kidnapped women, executed women, and pulled dead bodies from under the rubble to unleash their dogs on them,” she told Al Jazeera.

“Is there anything more horrifying than hearing women call for help?” she added, “when we try to reach them to provide

assistance, they shoot us.” Israel killed over 32,200 people since October 7, with the majority of victims being women and children. Several reports highlighted women’s suffering amid IOF’s ongoing relentless campaign.

“In severely overcrowded shelters, in the streets amid the rubble, women and girls are seeking safety from airstrikes under unspeakable conditions.

Yet, nowhere and no one is safe in Gaza,” one report from UN Women said this year. Women are also further disadvantaged by gender inequality in access to supplies, services, and resources, the report added.

Reported rape crimes against Palestinian women come a few days after a new forensic analysis debunked Israel’s rape claims against Hamas.

The analysis uncovered that all claims of the mass killing and beheading of babies as well as systematic rape are false. Such claims were the major viral allegations propagated by the IOF and Israeli officials following the October 7 attack.

Israeli soldiers have also been accused of killing doctors inside the hospital. Respected Dr Mohammed Zaher al-Nono refused to leave the hospital and insisted on continuing to treat the wounded. He was shot by the Israeli army forces in

front of his patients. Gaza is now one of the world’s most dangerous places to be a woman, with an average of seven deaths every two hours.

“Every day is a desperate struggle. This nightmare continues to drag on, leaving women and girls in Gaza wondering why the world has abandoned them,” said Riham Jafari, Coordinator of Advocacy and Communications for Action Aid Palestine.



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An Invitation to the Government for Dialogue with the Muslim Community

Further to the Government's recent extended definition of "Extremism", a number of representative grassroots Muslim Umbrella organisations have called upon the Government to reconsider their position and to engage in active and constructive dialogue with the Muslim community in order to promote peace, harmony and cohesion in our country.

The statement read: "We find it distressing and upsetting that a Government who continually fail to tackle Islamophobia within their own ranks and who fail to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia continue to play the politics of division and hate in a naked act of discrimination against the Muslim community.

"The labelling of well-known and reputable Muslim organisations in this way by exercising a flagrant act of abuse of Parliamentary Privilege, will only further marginalise the Muslim community in these sensitive times.

"Such actions by Ministers only seek to

repress any form of political opposition to Government policy.

"The right to challenge Government policy is a fundamental principle of our democracy and must be preserved at all costs otherwise we are on the slippery slope of being ruled by a totalitarian regime.

"This is an open invitation to the Government to engage with the Muslim community to work together on just and equitable policies nationally and internationally.

"As grassroots Umbrella organisations, we have a mandate from our communities to engage in this discourse.

"An engagement with ourselves is wholly different to the Government hand picking its own "Advisors" who have very little to no knowledge or connection with the Muslim community.

"We look forward to hearing from you in order to develop greater understanding.

Signed by Muslim Umbrella Organisations (Yorkshire)

Indian Muslim Welfare Society, Batley
Pakistan Muslim Welfare Society, Batley
Rabetah Al-Ulama Al-Islamiyyah, Batley
North Kirklees Council of Sunni Mosques
Bradford Council of Mosques
Jamiat-e-Ulema, Bradford branch
Leeds Council of Mosques
Huddersfield Council of Mosques



PKWA Director honoured with Award

A Director of the PKWA Centre - Fiaz Rashid has been honoured with the trade Union Congress Racial Justice award for his lifelong struggle for eradicating Societal inequalities.

Fiaz has been a lifelong active trade-unionist with NALGO, NATFHE, UCU, and the NEU, holding officer roles from shop steward to regional and national roles – most often with a race and equality focus.

Fiaz was the first Black regional officer for NALGO in the 1980s, covering race and all intersectional issues. Currently Fiaz takes an active role within the TUC & NEU national and regional committees, where he is tireless in his campaigning for inclusive practices are part of the bargaining agenda with employers, whilst also shaping change within the Unions

to ensure that equality embedded with integrity into every sphere of union activity.

In addition to his union work, Fiaz has always been a committed and active community activist: -championing the dispossessed, excluded and marginalised; and striving to ensure that neglected peoples have a voice.

As a founder and longtime director of the Pakistan and Kashmir Welfare Association in Batley, Fiaz's drive and energy have ensured that one of the most impoverished, disadvantaged and excluded communities in the UK has access to much needed social, welfare, health and education services, as well as a conduit for affecting change at the tables of policy makers.

Over the course of a long career, Fiaz has been instrumental in the founding and development of a variety of equality promoting services and initiatives, including the South Asian Consortium of Community Centres, Batley City Challenge, Awaaz Newspaper, and South Asian Arts.

On receiving the award Fiaz said: "I was delighted to be bestowed with the TUC Racial Justice award, so thank you to the TUC for awarding me; and to say how honoured I was that my union, the National Education Union (NEU), nominated me for it in the first place. No matter how worthy a person is, it is always humbling to be recognised for your work and your achievements. I know there are many across the union movement who are at least as deserving as me of receiving this award."

Batley Grammar: We can all work together to serve the community

The new head teacher at Batley Grammar School is intent on ensuring the school retains its status as a model of tolerant inclusiveness – and meets the needs of the diverse community of Batley and Birstall.

John Hughes, a well respected and articulate former student at the school, has also refuted a Government Adviser's claims about how the school handled protests against one of its teachers.

In her report, Dame Sara Khan criticised the Batley Multi-Academy Trust as well as Kirklees Council and West Yorkshire Police. However, Mr Hughes insists the Batley Multi Academy Trust that runs the school is “extremely proud of the school and of our community, and how both have moved forward together so positively from the very difficult period in 2021 – despite Batley and Spennings MP Kim Leadbeater insisting the report “makes for deeply disturbing reading.”

He said: “The fact is Batley High School has been around for over four hundred years and the reason why it has been around for so long is because it is adaptable, proactive and it makes sure it meets the needs of the community.

“Batley and Birstall has got some challenges but I think that those challenges, the best people to fix the challenges in any community and I mean this across any community is from those individuals from within. I just feel that actually, we can give something back and in doing so, we can make Batley and Birstall a better place with bright individuals and more opportunities.”

He is adamant, the school and the Trust is always looking to ensure that they are doing the right thing, at the right time, for everyone.

“We are equipping our learners with the skills necessary to put back into the community. We have to be a representation of what our community is so that our

students feel that can be involved and engaged in the school community because if they can do that they can be involved and engaged in the wider community, and it's about being able to give back because actually, the change has got to come from within.

“Parenting doesn't come with a guidebook we are all finding our way through it as a supportive network for parents and students. This school still carries a lot of prestige with it but I think it is important to recognise that this is a school that serves the community so the prestige is because people value the education that we provide for their child not because of its kind of dining out on its historical legacy.”

Mr Hughes believes the difference in terms of teaching in the current climate when compared to when he was a student is that the duty of care and the consideration and safeguarding that the school provides for students is far greater.

“There was a much greater emphasis on outcomes in the 80's for those students now it is very much about the whole student where we want our students to be successful but we recognise that to be successful you have to be happy and safe and feel a part of the community.

“Batley and Birstall covers a very diverse range of locations and I think we have to be able to demonstrate that we can all work together and actually be able to produce capable and enthusiastic and articulate individuals who can actually have an impact. We want to make sure that our school reflects the wider community so that we are creating individuals who can have a positive influence and positive impact in their everyday lives.”

Calm and composed, Mr Hughes insists he would like to see all children at Batley Grammar School leave with all the best GCSE results that they can achieve.

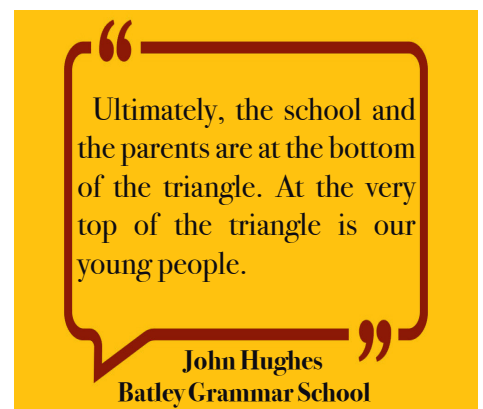
“I would like to see every student that's got an aspiration to go onto the next step in their learning is able to do so because of the quality of the education that they receive. A school is not just about educating a child.

“It is about ensuring that everybody feels welcome and actually parents that feel that they are welcome and understood and supported, I think is likely to be more successful. The reality is that I was just listening on the radio this morning about AI and the challenges we are facing.

“The world that we all face is one that none of us are prepared for. I mean that from a point of view of mobile phones, the way technology is going, the way jobs and businesses are actually going.”

“Ultimately, the school and the parents are at the bottom of the triangle. At the very top of the triangle is our young people. A school is ultimately not just about filling a child's brain with knowledge. It is about equipping a young person with the skills to be able to be resilient and adaptable in the world that they are going to have to face.

“Half the jobs that exist now did not exist when we went to school. We have to have the foresight to be able to say we can't tell you what job you will do but we will give you the initiative, the skill, the leadership, communication, all those generic skills that we talk about in school to be able to face the challenges that you will face in the world and that's really what we're all about.”



Health Page

Reducing your cancer risk

There is no way to completely guarantee you won't get cancer, but you can take steps to reduce your risk. Here are some tips on how to do just that.

Cancer risk

Many factors affect our cancer risk. Some we have a lot of control over, such as whether we smoke or maintain a healthy lifestyle, and others we can't change. Factors out of our control include family history and older age.

As many as 38% of cases in the UK are preventable, with smoking as the top cause. By making some of the lifestyle changes detailed on this page, you can reduce your overall risk. A cost in sugar. A 245 ml can of Red Bull Energy Drink has 27 grams of sugar (7 teaspoons), while the larger 473 ml can of Rockstar Energy Drink has a shocking 62 grams (15 teaspoons of sugar).

Fruit Juice

A 591 ml of Golden Circle Tropical Fruit Juice has 70 grams (17 teaspoons) of sugar. Snapple Lemon Iced Tea (473 ml) contains 46 grams (over 14 teaspoons) of sugar. Surprisingly, Orange Juice has 48 sugar grams (12 teaspoons) per 591 ml.

Milk Drinks

Even calcium rich milk carries sugars. Nesquik Chocolate Milk (473 ml) contains 58 grams of sugar (16 teaspoons).

Sugar is everywhere, so pay attention to what you're drinking. Choose healthy alternatives to sugary drinks.

Quitting smoking

The link between smoking and lung cancer is well known. However, many people aren't aware that smoking can affect your entire body and lead to various other types. Less-known cancers associated with smoking include mouth, oesophageal, throat, larynx (voice box), pancreatic, bladder and kidney. Exposure to second-hand smoke may also increase your risk.

Bowel

As with most cancers, you can reduce your bowel cancer risk by staying physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, and diet is also key. If you have a diet low in fibre, your risk is higher.

In the UK, people between 50 (previously 60) to 74 are eligible for a screening kit called a faecal immunochemical test (FIT). The FIT looks for small amounts of blood in your poo, which could be an early sign of bowel cancer. The test kit is sent to your home, and you send it to a screening

centre for testing once you have added your sample.

Prostate

According to a 2014 meta-analysis, you may be able to reduce your prostate cancer risk by regularly drinking coffee. Further research in Norway found that boiled coffee specifically has more of a beneficial effect than filtered. It's important to remember that too much coffee can lead to health issues such as sleeping problems, anxiety, and digestive difficulties. Balance your caffeine intake so you're consuming a healthy amount.

Skin

UV radiation from the sun or sunbeds can damage skin cell DNA, increasing your risk of melanoma. If you want to increase your vitamin D intake - oily fish and egg yolks are also good sources of vitamin D.

If you are going to be in the sun, we recommend covering your arms and legs, wearing a hat and sunglasses, and regularly applying high-SPF sunscreen.

Vitamin C and ellagic acid in many fruits and vegetables may reduce your risk.

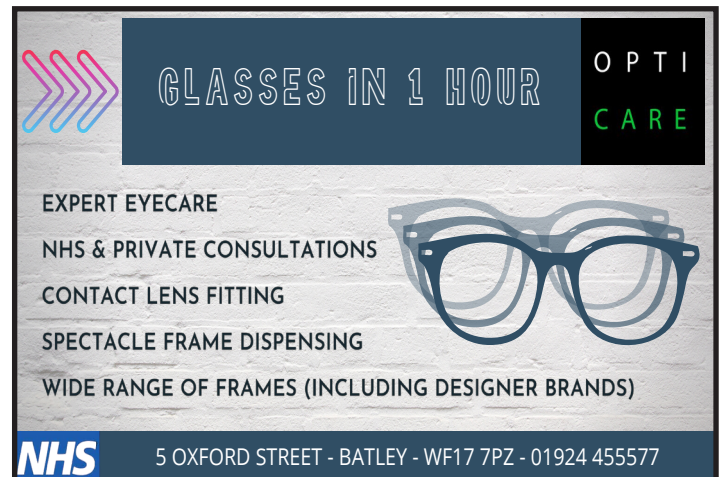


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Dewsbury Arcade



The Arcade Group students, residents and Dewsbury is looking for a future Arcade tenants. Heritage Link Worker to work with the community Attracting people during the refurbishment back to the town centre of Dewsbury Arcade. and organising events.

The worker will implement the activity plan agreed with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. **Contact: chris.hill@arcade-dewsbury.org to be sent the Brief.**

Applications close 16th April

Helping people to learn about their heritage when the Arcade re-opens. What the shops were and what they should be now. Involving



Job Title: Dewsbury Heritage Link Worker

Contractor: Arcade Group

Dewsbury (Community Benefit Society)

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Contract: Fixed term 14 months from April '24 to June '25

Jeremy Corbyn: 'US Military aid is causing the problems in Gaza'

Over 300,000 people have taken part in a demonstration, where crowds marched from Russell Square to Trafalgar Square in London, calling for the government to stop providing arms to Israel.

The demonstration, organised in part by Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Stop the War and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, heard speeches from former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and MP Dianne Abbott.

Ex labour leader and current Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn, who was introduced by organisers as “the people’s prime minister”, lambasted the Tory Government for their “grisly, ghastly arms trade with Israel”.

He said: “What we’re watching on real time global television is the destruction of life, wanton destruction of life in Gaza.

“And our governments still can’t bring themselves to utter the words permanent ceasefire, still can’t bring themselves to stop the grisly, ghastly arms trade with Israel and the supply of weapons that goes from factories in France, in Germany, in this country and the USA, which are killing people in Gaza.”

Mr Corbyn also called out the U.S Government. He addressed a diverse and

vibrant crowd in Trafalgar Square, many waving Palestinian flags and signs that read Stop Gaza Genocide, Stop The Killing and Free Palestine.

He cited reports claiming the U.S had provided record amounts of weapons to the Israeli regime.

The US has authorised the transfer of billions of dollars worth of bombs and fighter jets to Israel, whilst expressing concerns about an anticipated Israeli military offensive in Rafah.

The new arms packages include more than 1,800 MK-84 2,000lb bombs and 500 MK-82 500lb bombs.

Washington gives \$3.8bn in annual military assistance to Israel, its longtime ally.

The package comes as Israel faces strong international criticism over its continued bombing campaign and ground offensive in Gaza and as some members of Joe Biden’s party call for him to cut US military aid.

The package comes as Israel faces strong international criticism over its continued bombing campaign and ground offensive in Gaza and as some members of Joe Biden’s party call for him to cut US military aid.

Biden acknowledged “the pain being felt” by many Arab Americans over the war in Gaza and over US support for Israel and its military offensive. However, he has vowed continued support for Israel.

“And when (US) President Biden announces that he wants more aid to go into Gaza, well, President Biden, it’s your planes that are bombing the aid when it arrives in Gaza,” said Mr Corbyn.

“It is your military support that is causing so much of the problems.”

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, accused British politicians of “paying lip service” to a ceasefire.

She told the crowd: “We’ve heard British politicians talking about a ceasefire, but I would say if you really want a ceasefire now, call for a ceasefire in Parliament, vote for it.

“Vote to end arms sales to Israel, stop bombing Yemen, re-fund UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) and join in action in the international courts for the prosecution of war crimes.

“That is what British politicians would do if they weren’t just paying lip service to a ceasefire.”



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The Al-Ihsan Trust invites you to invest in your hereafter and make a generous donation towards building another Masjid in our town.

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Ramadan Food Parcels distributed by IMWS in GAZA

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society along with its affiliated Masjids recently launched food parcel appeals in order to provide much needed respite to the long suffering people of Gaza.

The generous people of Batley and Dewsbury donated directly at our affiliated Masjids or either visiting the Al-Hikmah Centre and giving their donations to Munir Daji and the team.

In addition, a number of people donated via the IMWS web site. The generosity of the local community ensured many needy and deserving people were provided with aid by means of a number of food packs which were distributed to those in need.

The IMWS Charity sub-committee made a conscious decision to provide hot Iftar meals to thousands of people every day via our charity partner in Gaza, led by Jomah

El Najar, of Palestine Welfare House - which has seen its H.Q bombed by the Israeli occupation.

Despite having the H.Q bombed, along with his house - Jommah has still endeavoured to help as many people as possible. IMWS Chair, Aziz Daji thanked the affiliated and participating Masjids for working with IMWS in a meticulous and efficient manner.

“None of this would have been possible without the generous nature of our affiliated and participating Masjids. People kindly donated their hard-earned money so that some families who are under constant bombardment can atleast eat. This is something our community has been doing for many, many years and we hope and pray the Almighty keeps us in good health and wealth to continue helping our brothers and sisters in Gaza.”



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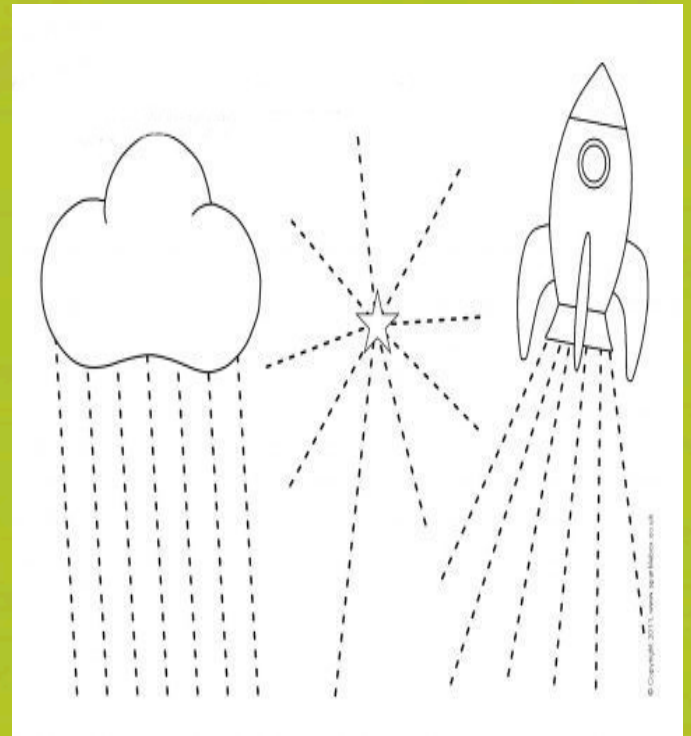
Please screen shot this page & highlight the
answers. Please send a screen shot via email to
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Kiddies Competition, Al-Hikmah Centre,
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire,
WF17 7AA

NUMBERS 1-100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
21									
31									
41									
51									
61									
71									
81									
91									

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Tel. No:

Local Cyclist, Irfan Mohmed, Embarks on 1200km Solo Cycling Challenge in Tunisia

Irfan Mohmed, a passionate local cyclist, is gearing up for a monumental solo cycling challenge covering 1200 kilometers across Tunisia to raise funds for World Care Foundation's orphanage projects, including the Pedlaz CC cycling club Embrace Orphanage.

This ambitious endeavour is set to be the most challenging feat Irfan has undertaken to date, offering him a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the beauty of Tunisia while championing a crucial cause.

Leaving in Mid April the journey will take Irfan through various towns and cities in Tunisia, including Sousse, Mahdia, Tunis, Bizerte, Nefza, Ayn Drahim, and more. Along with his bike and camping kit, which includes a tent, Irfan will navigate the diverse landscapes of Tunisia, camping wherever possible

or seeking shelter with local cyclists and families. Tunisia, known for its hospitality and growing cycling culture, provides a unique backdrop for this challenging adventure. One of the significant factors adding to the complexity of the ride is the varied weather conditions.

Irfan will face temperatures ranging from 6 degrees Celsius during the night to a challenging 24-28 degrees Celsius during the day. The unpredictable weather adds an extra layer of difficulty to this already demanding solo expedition. Added to this he will be leaving a couple of days after Ramadan having fasted for a month and with limited training opportunities.

Irfan expressed his excitement and determination, stating, "I was fortunate to spend a week in Tunisia with friends in November 2023, raising funds for Palestinians displaced in Gaza. Now, I

am returning for this solo challenge that will undoubtedly push me to my limits. Anticipating highs and lows, along with moments of both smiles and tears, I am ready for the journey."

The funds raised by Irfan's cycling challenge will contribute to World Care Foundation's orphanage projects, focusing on providing care and support to orphaned children. World Care Foundation expresses gratitude for Irfan's dedication to this cause and encourages local communities to support him on this remarkable journey.

Follow Irfan's adventure on social media with the hashtag #Solo4Orphans and stay updated on his progress as he pedals through the scenic landscapes of Tunisia for a cause close to his heart. You can follow his journey on his social media which is @irfanCycleogist.

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What's on at the Al-hikmah Centre

Spring	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
Mon	<p>Harmony ladies' social group (free) runs every 2 weeks-- open to all females 9.30am-11.30am Re-starts after Ramadhan/May</p> <p>Groovy Grannies – £2 Chair based exercises -open to all females 10.30am-11.30am Re-starts after Ramadhan/May</p> <p>Intro to computer skills (free) full suitable for beginners 9.30am-11.30am</p>	<p>Free Ladies <u>Tajweed/arabic</u> class Provided by IMWS 1pm-3pm Booking required New group, open to all females +16</p>		
Tues	<p>Life in the Uk preparation course 9.30am-11.30am Starts 25.4.23.</p>		<p>Free Ladies aerobics Provided by IMWS 5.00pm-6.00pm Please wear trainers. Re-starts after Ramadhan/May</p>	<p>Free Men's Circuit Training Provided by IMWS 7-8pm No booking required</p>
Wed	<p>Beginners ESOL class (Free) (1/2) 10am-12pm (Speaking Skills) Full</p> <p>ESOL Entry Level 1 Reading (Free) 9.30am-12pm spaces available</p>			
Thurs	<p>Beginners ESOL class (Free) (2/2) 10am-12pm (Speaking Skills) Full</p> <p>ESOL E3/L1 Speaking and Listening (Free) 9.30am-12pm Full</p>			

Other courses to start – please call to enquire: Visa Extension A2/ B1 /LIUK preparation courses – rolling start dates.

To check for class availability or for bookings please call: 01924 500555



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Inayat Nadat, our principal Solicitor is a Resolution Accredited Specialist and The Law Society Accredited Family Law Advanced panel member in the areas of Children (Private Law) and Domestic



IMWS Muslim Burial Services

The IMWS Muslim Burial Service is continuing as normal. Our services are open to everyone.

During office hours burial van keys can be collected from the main office. Out of hours can be collected from Ebrahim Chopdat.

Kirklees Council Burial fee (including chamber) is £3,315. Donations towards the running costs of the funeral van would be most appreciated.

Burial Contact Numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat
07980381197
Yusuf Patel (Paliya)
07590019315
Munir Daji
07739142988



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યુ.કે. ખાતે ઈન્ડીપેન્ડન્ટ ઉમેદવારોની પસંદગી

૮મી ઓક્ટોબર ૨૦૨૩માં પેલેસ્ટાઈન, ગાઝા ઉપર ઈઝરાઈલના હુમલા અને બોમ્બમારારથી ગાઝામાં જે તબાહી થઈ છે અને હજુ પણ થઈ રહી છે તેમાં વિશ્વની મહાસત્તા યુ.કે. અમેરિકા અને ફ્રાન્સ વગેરે દેશો ઈઝરાઈલને સંપૂર્ણ સહકાર આપી રહ્યા છે. તથા લડાઈનો સામાન પણ તેને પહોંચાડી રહ્યા છે. ઈઝરાઈલ તરફી તેમના વલણથી યુધ્ધવિરામ થવાનું નામ પણ નથી. અનેક દેશોમાં મહારેલીઓ, દેખાવો થઈ રહ્યા છે પરંતુ તેની કોઈ અસર ઈઝરાઈલ ઉપર જોવા મળતી નથી. તથા ઉપરોક્ત દેશો ઈઝરાઈલ ઉપર યુધ્ધવિરામ કરવાનું દબાણ પણ લાવી રહ્યા નથી. બલ્કે આ દેશોની સરકાર તેમની પાર્લામેન્ટમાં પણ ઈઝરાઈલ તરફ સહાનુભૂતિ દર્શાવી ખુલ્લે આમ સપોર્ટ કરી રહ્યા છે. જ્યારે કે પેલેસ્ટીનીયનો ઉપર અસહ્ય જુલમ થઈ રહ્યા છે. હ્યુમેનીટેરીયન કાયદાઓની પણ ધજજી ઉડાડવામાં આવી રહી છે. ગાઝાના મુસલમાનો, જીવન જરૂરિયાતની સામગ્રી, ખોરાક, મેડીકલ સહાય વગેરેની અછતનો ભાગ બની રહ્યા છે. જેથી આ લોકોનું જીવન કફોડું બન્યું છે.

યુ.કે.ની લેબર અને કન્ઝર્વેટીવ પાર્ટીઓ અને તેના વડાઓનું વલણ ઈઝરાઈલના આ યુધ્ધને સપોર્ટ કરી રહ્યું છે. આ દેશની પ્રજાને સાંભળવા પણ માંગતી નથી અને પરિણામે પેલેસ્ટીનીયનોને અન્યાયનો સામનો કરવો પડી રહ્યો છે. યુ.કે.ના વડા પ્રધાન રૂશી સુનાક અને લેબર પાર્ટીના વડા સ્ટામરના અનેક વ્યક્તિઓ ઈઝરાઈલ તરફી જોવા મળે છે. તેવામાં યુ.કે.ના મુસલમાનો અને બીજા અનેક કોમ્યુનિટી એકસાથે મળી મે મહિનામાં આવી રહેલ લોકલ ઈલેક્શનમાં ઈન્ડીપેન્ડન્ટ ઉમેદવારો ઊભા કરી રહી છે. અને આ પ્રથા યુ.કે.ના અનેક શહેરોમાં ચાલી રહી છે. ઉપરાંત આ બન્ને રાષ્ટ્રીય પાર્ટીને સપોર્ટ ન કરવાની મુહિમ પણ ચાલતી જોવા મળે છે. બન્ને પાર્ટીના લીડરોને ભય છે અને જો જનરલ ઈલેક્શનમાં પણ આવું જ રહ્યું તો રાજકીય હાલાત કેવા હશે તે કેવું મુશ્કેલ છે.

ભારત ખાતે ૨૦૨૪ની લોકસભાની ચૂંટણીની જાહેરાત

ભારત ખાતે ૨૦૨૪ની લોકસભાની ચૂંટણીની તારીખો જાહેર થઈ છે. લોકસભાની સાથે ૪ અન્ય વિધાનસભાની ચૂંટણી પણ આજ સમય દરમિયાન આવરી લેવામાં આવશે. જે મુજબ આ ચૂંટણીમાં પૂરા દેશમાં ૧૯ એપ્રિલ થી ૧લી જુન સુધી ૭ તબક્કામાં મતદાન થશે. અને બધાજ પરિણામો ૪થી જૂનના રોજ જાહેર થશે. બીજેપી પાર્ટી છેલ્લા ૧૦વર્ષથી શાસન કરી રહી છે. અને આ વખતે ફરીથી હેટ્રીક સર્જી “અબકી બાર ૪૦૦ પાર” ના નારા સાથે ૪૦૦ સીટ જીતવા તમામ તૈયારીઓ શરૂ કરી દીધી છે. બીજેપી પાર્ટીને મળી રહેલ જંગી ડોનેશનના કારણે ચૂંટણીમાં પૈસાની રેલમછેલ થઈ રહી છે અને કોઈ પણ ભોગે ફરીથી સત્તામાં આવવાના તમામ પ્રયત્નો તેણે શરૂ કર્યા છે. પાર્ટીએ વિરોધપક્ષને તો પાંગળો જ કરી દીધો છે અને બીજા ક્ષેત્રીય પાર્ટીનો પણ દબદબો જોવા મળતો નથી. છતાં કોંગ્રેસના લીડર રાહુલ ગાંધી એકલા હાથે તેમને જવાબ આપી રહ્યા છે અને પ્રજાના મુદ્દાઓને સામે મૂકી રહ્યા છે. જેમાં

લોકોનો કંઈક સહકાર જોવા મળે છે. પરંતુ તે વોટમાં કેટલું તબદીલ થાય છે તે જોવું રહ્યું. હાલમાં જ પાર્ટીઓને અપાતા ડોનેશન જેમાં ઈલેક્ટોરલ બોન્ડની ખરીદી તથા અન્ય ચેનલથી મળતા ડોનેશનના પરિણામો બહાર આવ્યા છે. જેમાં સૌથી વધુ બીજેપીને ડોનેશન મળી રહ્યું છે અને તેમાં પણ ભ્રષ્ટાચાર જોવા મળ્યો છે. પરંતુ તેના નેતાઓને આની કંઈ પડી નથી. ફરીથી હિન્દુ-મુસ્લિમ વચ્ચે ઝઘડાઓ, મસ્જિદો, મુસલમાનો ઉપર હુમલાઓ વગેરેનું પ્રમાણ વધ્યું છે. અને મુસલમાનોની હાલત કફોડી બની છે. બીજેપીને કોર્પોરેટરો તરફથી અને અન્ય રીતે અઢળક સંપત્તિ મળી રહી છે અને તેનો ઉપયોગ કરી પાર્ટીએ મીડિયાને પણ પોતાના અનુકૂળ બનાવી લીધું છે. જ્યારે વિરોધ પક્ષોનું કોઈપણ પ્રસારણ મેઈન સ્ટ્રીમ મીડિયામાં જોવા મળતું નથી. દેશના સળગતા પ્રશ્નો જેમાં બેકારી, મોંઘવારી, સ્ત્રીઓ ઉપર બળાત્કાર, કિસાનોને ઉપજના પૂરા દામ ન મળવા વગેરેને સાઈડે કરી પ્રજાને મોટા મોટા સપનાઓ બતાવવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે. વિરોધપક્ષો તરફ જુઠાણું ફેલાવી તેમને બદનામ કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે.

હાલમાંજ દિલ્હીના મુખ્યપ્રધાન કેજરીવાલને પણ ઈડી વિભાગે ગીરફતાર કરી જેલમાં પૂર્યા છે. આમ આદમી પાર્ટીના કેટલાક મુખ્ય નેતાઓ પહેલેથીજ જેલમાં છે. ઉપરાંત કોંગ્રેસના બેન્ક ખાતાઓને સીલ કરવામાં આવ્યા છે અને પૈસા વગર કોંગ્રેસ કેમ ચૂંટણી લડશે તે પણ એક સવાલ છે. આવા સરમુખ્યારશાહી બીજેપીના વલણથી વિરોધપક્ષના કેટલાક નેતાઓનું માનવું છે કે જો આ ચૂંટણીમાં સત્તા પાર્ટી બીજેપી જીત મેળવી ફરીથી શાસનમાં આવશે તો ભવિષ્યમાં ફરીથી ઈલેક્શન થશેજ નહીં અને સંવિધાન તથા લોકશાહી ખતરામાં મૂકાશે.

સદકએ ફીટ કોના ઉપર વાજબ છે ?

જેના ઉપર ઝકાત ફર્જ છે તેના ઉપર સદકએ ફીટ આપવું વાજબ છે. અને એ ખાસ યાદ રાખવું જોઈએ કે, સદકએ ફીટ પોતાના નાબાલીગ બાળકો તરફથી પણ આપવું જરૂરી છે.

સદકએ ફીટ વિષે :

સદકએ ફીટ વિષે એક અગત્યની વાત છે કે, જે દેશમાં તમે રહો છો ત્યાંના હિસાબે સદકએ ફીટની રકમ અદા કરવું જરૂરી છે. આપ સૌ જાણો છો કે, આપણે આ દેશમાં સદકએ ફીટની રકમ જે કાઢીએ છીએ તેને ખાસ કરીને હકદારને પહોંચાડવા ગરીબ દેશોમાં વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવે છે. અને આપણી ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી પણ દર વર્ષે કયા દેશમાં આ રકમ મોકલવી તે માટે હંમેશાં મશ્વરો કરે છે. જે મુજબ ચાલુ સાલે આ સદકતુલ ફીટની રકમ ઈથોપિયા કન્ટ્રીમાં ગરીબોને મોકલવામાં આવશે. સોસાયટી તરફથી એ પણ વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવે છે કે તે રકમ ઈદના દિવસે ઉપરોક્ત દેશમાં પહોંચાડવામાં આવે. તો આ બાબતે ધ્યાન આપી તમારી ફીટની રકમ જે આ વર્ષે ૪પાઉન્ડ નક્કી થઈ છે તે અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટરની ઓફિસે, અથવા એરિયાની મસ્જિદોમાં તારીખ ૮મી એપ્રિલ સુધીમાં પહોંચાડવાની કોશિશ કરશો. બેન્ક ટાન્સફરથી પણ તમે રકમ આપી શકો છો.

બેન્ક ટ્રાન્સફરની વિગત :

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