

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MOSQUES IN BRITAIN 2025

A LANDMARK STUDY OF FAITH INFRASTRUCTURE

**BY JAHANGIR MOHAMMED, BEATRICE
BIANCHI AND UMAR HUSSAIN**



SUPPORTED BY
**MASJID
AID**

AI AYAAN
INSTITUTE



MOSQUES IN BRITAIN 2025

A LANDMARK STUDY OF FAITH INFRASTRUCTURE

BY JAHANGIR MOHAMMED, BEATRICE
BIANCHI AND UMAR HUSSAIN



UNITY | INDEPENDENCE | PROSPERITY | STRENGTH

The Ayaan Institute is an independent think tank based in London, UK.

Our vision is to see a Muslim world that is united, Independent, strong, prosperous, free of wars and conflict, and capable of resolving its own issues. Our mission is to stimulate thinking among Muslims to develop and formulate new and creative ideas, and policy proposals for solving the complex problems facing Muslims and their states globally.

© Copyright 2025 Ayaan Centre Ltd. All rights reserved.

Landmark Data Study Summary Report
July 2025

No part of this publication, including data, may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except as permitted by UK copyright law. Use of data/information in this report must reference Ayaan Institute. For permission requests, contact

Ayaan Institute, International House,
142 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4EF
Telephone: +44 (0) 333 012 4536
Email: info@ayaaninstitute.com
Website: www.ayaaninstitute.com

MOSQUES IN BRITAIN 2025: LANDMARK DATA STUDY PUBLISHED BY AYAAN INSTITUTE, JULY 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This landmark study by the Ayaan Institute provides the most comprehensive dataset to date on the financial, personnel, and legal status of mosques in the United Kingdom. Drawing on analysis of 1,179 registered charity mosques - representing 62.5% of the UK's estimated 1,884 mosques—the report offers valuable insights into the scale, role, and challenges of the British mosque sector from 2020 to 2023. No previous research has identified this number of mosques registered as charities. It was not possible to determine the legal structure of the remaining mosques from public sources; however, we believe many will also be registered charities.

KEY FINDINGS

1. MYTHS AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION

- Contrary to far-right and media narratives, mosques make up just 4% of all UK places of worship, while churches account for 89%. With Muslims constituting 6.5% of the UK population, mosques are underrepresented, not overrepresented.
- The idea of a "mosque takeover" of Britain is unfounded and contradicted by data.
- Another myth is that UK local councils and government fund mosques. In 2023, only 2% of the £271 million income generated by mosques (£5 million) came from government grants or contracted services. Mosques have been established and are maintained by Britain's Muslim community themselves.

2. SCALE AND STRUCTURE

- Total UK Mosques: The most accurate existing estimate of the number of mosques is 1884 (All Mosques). We identified 1179 as registered charities (Charity Mosques). We used the data from our sample and projected it for all mosques.

WORKFORCE INVOLVEMENT (CHARITY MOSQUES)

- Trustees: 6,337 (31%)
- Employees: 2,814 (14%)
- Volunteers: 11,269 (55%)
- Total personnel involved: 20,420 (projected for All Mosques 32,028).
- Annual Value of Volunteer Time: £54.87 million
- Most mosques are small-scale, volunteer-led institutions; only a minority have paid staff or professional management (86% of Charity Mosque workforce are volunteers).

3. FINANCIAL TRENDS (2020–2023)

- 2023 total Income for Charity Mosques: £271 million
- 2023 Total Expenditure for Charity Mosques: £210 million
- Projected annual Income for All Mosques: £450 million (almost £0.5 billion)
- Projected Expenditure for All Mosques: £343 million
- Total Income Charity Mosques (2020–2023): £941 million (almost a billion)
- Total Expenditure Charity Mosques (2020–2023): £701 million
- Government Income Charity Mosques (2023): Less than 2% (£4.98 million) of total mosque income; the majority comes from community donations.

ASSET VALUE (2023):

- Charity Mosques: £1.29 billion
- All Mosques: £1.49 billion (approx. £1.5 billion, but £2 billion is realistic)

ANNUAL INCOME GROWTH:

- Charity Mosques: from £195 million (2020) to £271 million (2023) – a 39% increase.
- Reflects strong post-COVID recovery and growing community support.

4. MOSQUE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Core Services: Daily prayers, children's education, funeral/marriage services.
- Advanced Services (offered by larger mosques): Youth programs, interfaith/community engagement, refugee support, food banks, counselling, and public outreach.
- Some major mosques also contract public services or host national events, conduct overseas humanitarian aid, and run educational institutions.

5. REGIONAL DISPARITIES

- Greater London: 280 mosques, £92 million income, £72 million expenditure, £495 million in assets (2023).
- Top Regions (by income/assets): Greater London, Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester.
- Regions with smaller Muslim populations show fewer mosques and significantly lower resources.

6. LARGEST MOSQUES (2023)

TOP BY INCOME:

- Faizan-e-Madina, (Head Office Bradford) – £16.96 million
- United Kingdom Islamic Mission (Head Office, London) – £13.56 million

TOP BY ASSETS:

- UKIM – £49.3 million
- Suleymaniye Mosque (London) – £45.7 million

TOP BY WORKFORCE:

- Faizan-e-Madina (Bradford) – 600 employees
- East London Mosque – 142 employees, 150 volunteers

7. KEY CHALLENGES

- Heavy reliance on unpaid trustees and volunteers.
- Vast disparity between large, well-funded mosques and small local ones.
- Limited professional staff: many mosques lack capacity for sustained community development or contemporary regulatory requirements and a hostile environment.
- Increasing threats from far right and nationalist groups and propaganda.

8. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Success: The Muslim community has built a robust physical infrastructure, with some impressive institutions and great voluntary effort and generosity in giving.
- Gap: Investment in people has lagged behind investment in buildings.
- Priority for the Next Decade:
 - Shift focus from investment construction to professionalisation.
 - Develop skilled and trained human resources—especially imams, administrators, educators.
 - Enhance transparency, governance, and community engagement.
 - Encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing among mosques to address common challenges.

This report serves as a vital tool for policymakers, community leaders, and researchers to understand the current mosque landscape and to develop strategies for a stronger, more resilient, and performance-driven mosque sector in Britain.

SUPPORTED BY
MASJID
AID



UNITY | INDEPENDENCE | PROSPERITY | STRENGTH

Ayaan Institute, International House,
142 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4EF
Telephone: +44 (0) 333 012 4536
Email: info@ayaaninstitute.com
Website: www.ayaaninstitute.com

SUPPORTED BY **MASJID AID**