



# Facts about Islam

- ① One in five people in the world is a Muslim and just under two million Muslims live in the UK.
- ② Muslims have lived in Europe for nearly 1300 years. The earliest documented evidence of Muslim communities in Britain dates to the sixteenth century. But artefacts with Islamic inscriptions have been found in the British Isles dating to the tenth century.
- ③ The majority of today's community was born in the UK. The present Muslim community formed as a result of invited migration to assist in the reconstruction of post-war Britain.
- ④ In the United States, women converts outnumber men by four to one, and in Britain make up the bulk of the estimated 10,000-20,000 converts.
- ⑤ Islamic law guaranteed women the right to vote, own property and operate business before European and American law.
- ⑥ Muslims believe in the continuity of Revelation through the Prophets, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.
- ⑦ Muslims consider Islam to be a comprehensive way of life. It embraces the personal, the community, the environment and the political domains.

Islam Awareness Week is  
from 21 – 27 November 2005

For more details call: 07092 359611  
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[www.iaw.org.uk](http://www.iaw.org.uk)

# Glossary of Terms

**Allah:** is Arabic for God and is the same word used by many Christian Arabs. Allah is the same God worshipped by Christians and Jews.

**Fatwa:** a legal edict or opinion.

**Haram:** means forbidden.

**Hijab:** relates to the dress code of both men and women. The outer dress meant to be a reflection of inner modesty.

**Islam:** an Arabic word meaning 'peace'.

**Jihad:** means 'to exert ones utmost'. Muslims consider that the greatest Jihad is to struggle for inner growth in their daily lives.

**Mujahid:** literally means someone who is engaged in 'jihad'.

**Shaheed:** literally means 'witness' – but refers to one who gives their life in pursuit of a just cause.

The Islamic Foundation offers training on Cultural Awareness and Diversity issues:

[www.i-training.org.uk](http://www.i-training.org.uk)

The Muslim Council of Britain is the largest umbrella group of Muslims in the UK with over 300 affiliates.

[www.mcb.org.uk](http://www.mcb.org.uk)