

# Press Release

**Name of Event: UNITY: Loving the difference**

**Venue: Chamberlain Square**

**Date: Saturday 29th October**

**Time: 12 noon - 4pm**

**Phone: Rev. Andi Smith 07553371127**

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## **Bio:**

Following the riots of August 2011 and aware of the proposed EDL march this Saturday, faith leaders across Birmingham are coordinating an event to celebrate the diversity of this City. *'UNITY: Loving the difference'* is a free event and is aimed at people of all ages, there will be stalls and activities as well as a stage with contributions from local bands, DJ's and performing artists. The event will also host a variety of fringe activities including face painting, mendhi painting, prayer space, bollywood dance workshops and turban tying workshops and much much more.

"The Council of Black Led Churches is a strategic agency that serves the church and wider communities for transformation. We recognise and celebrate the rich diversity of our city. "UNITY ; loving the difference" will promote peace and unity for families and communities in this current difficult climate. We support this event"

Rev Peter. Pennant. Council Black Led Churches

'We are incredibly proud as a Muslim community to contribute to Birmingham's diversity, vibrancy and economy. 'Unity: Loving the Difference' is all about coming together to celebrate Birmingham. It's going to be a showcase of how communities of all backgrounds are living and working together. It's going to be a great family day out'.

Muhammad Sarfraz Madni - UK Islamic Mission

'Birmingham is a wonderful diverse city, with people of many different faiths. Saturday's community celebration will see the coming together of all these different traditions as a real demonstration that we can and do work together'

Mr. Azar Quyam Muslim Association of Britain

"I am delighted that faith communities in Birmingham are able and willing to come together at very short notice to demonstrate to the world that our relationships are strong and trusting. We appreciate each other, have a generous understanding of our diverse cultures and stand together against misrepresentation, divisiveness and incitement to hatred.

'Unity: Loving the Difference', is a creative response that has turned a challenge into an opportunity. We are celebrating our city's resilient and pragmatic spirit that enables us to flourish in neighborhoods that are moving beyond mere respect and

tolerance to the fullest appreciation and participation." Rev David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

'As modern citizens we're often good at stating our opposition to all kinds of things, 'UNITY: Loving the difference' is our opportunity to state what we are for. The day's events aim to celebrate our diversity and affirm our need for one another. We're looking forward to a positive party celebration right at the heart of the city'

Mrs Sajida Madni and Rev. Andi Smith (Joint Chairs of UNITY Prganising Committee)

"The Birmingham and West Midlands Jewish Community stands together with this demonstration of unity in our city, which is most welcome. It is only a few months ago that the city's diverse communities came together in sympathy and solidarity which reflects the spirit of the city, for those killed during the recent riots, . The strength and stability of British society is that it is a mixture of many diverse cultures established over centuries. Birmingham has a unique record of tolerance to those who have come here to create their homes, and in many cases a new life of hope and freedom. The Jewish community will not support those who seek to destroy the tolerance built up in Birmingham by so many generations of well meaning people, and is pleased to associate itself with this effort to bring people together whilst respecting and appreciating their differences ."

Jewish Representative Council

## **Press conference**

Press conference 7pm Friday 28th @ Saltley Methodist Church, 140 Alum Rock Rd

### **Event sponsors include:**

Jewish Representative Council

Muslim Council of Great Britain

Council of Black led Churches

Methodist Church

Church of England

Catholic Church

The HUB Saltley

Sri Dasmesh Sikh Temple

UAF

Birmingham Citizens

UK Islamic Mission

Muslim Association of Britain

Islamic Forum of Europe

PCS

SWU

Unite

NUT

Hindu Council of Birmingham