

WE ARE NEWHAM.

**LADY
PHYLL.**



ISSUE 3 CONTENTS.

04

COST OF LIVING

Find help to manage the Cost of Living Crisis



07

CLEAN STREETS

New measures to clean up Newham's streets



12

CIVIC AWARDS

Honouring the people of Newham

08

BUDGET

Putting residents at the heart of budget planning



14

LADY PHYLL

Mayor Fiaz interviews Lady Phyll, co-founder of UK Black Pride

11

LOCAL PLAN

Help us shape our planning policies for the borough



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www.newham.gov.uk

ROKHS MAYOR.



I am determinedly hurtling into 2023 addressing the challenges our residents face with the continuing Cost of Living crisis and an impending recession facing the country.

Working with my cabinet and councillors, we show our dedication to Newham

residents through our Building a Fairer Newham plans which we will be accelerating over the coming year.

That's why I am embracing 2023 with hope, optimism and determination through the actions we are taking and the investments we are making. To build a fairer Newham for all our people and the future of our borough.

We continue to put residents first, despite the economic climate, delivering and campaigning for fairer outcomes. Our work in response to the Cost of Living crisis has already been recognised by the pan-London Social Exclusion Data Group as a great example for the rest of the capital.

We know only too well the scale of the challenge we face and that's why we are taking action to help residents in Newham, including:

- Warm Havens launched across all our libraries, alongside a Warm Meals programme which we deliver in collaboration with our voluntary sector partners.
- A £4 million Household Support Fund.
- Newham Food Alliance, which distributes 50 tonnes of free food per week to families and a soon to be launched network of clothing banks across the borough.

- 3,706 families receiving immediate financial assistance with food and energy, and so far £523,925 in grants have been issued via Our Newham Money Emergency Support Team.
- 19,806 school children supported through Holiday Vouchers, which includes food.

This year, with my cabinet, we are going to double down to get stuff done and build on our progress. This includes vital work to protect renters' rights, provide affordable homes, invest in young people, deal with fly-tipping and keeping our beautiful borough clean, protect cherished green spaces including our award winning parks, and not losing sight of the biggest challenge of all - responding to the climate emergency.

This month, we have been holding a series of Budget Summits and sessions with residents to share our proposals for the coming year, and get feedback across our saving and investment plans.

Our plans place fairness at the centre of our approach, alongside driving improvements across the Council

to deliver the quality services our residents deserve. We will progress with the promises we have made with new homes, improved neighbourhoods, clean streets, and investment for our children and young people including those

“EMBRACING 2023 WITH HOPE, OPTIMISM AND DETERMINATION THROUGH THE ACTIONS WE ARE TAKING AND THE INVESTMENTS WE ARE MAKING.”

with special educational needs.

Finally, I hope you enjoy my interview with Phyllis Akua Opoku-Gyimah, aka Lady Phyll - the inspirational pioneer who founded UK Black Pride and built it into a movement that is going from strength to strength. We are proud to have hosted UK Black Pride's annual event at the Olympic Park last year and we continue to give our full support.

Recently released census data shows that Newham has, proportionally, the largest transgender community in the UK. It's another example of the fantastic diversity that defines our amazing borough.

Until the next issue, enjoy the read.

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham
🐦 @rokhsanafiaz

WE ARE SUPPORTING.



HELP TO MANAGE THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Many people are struggling with the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis and facing higher energy bills, price inflation. There is real concern about the prospect of a UK-wide recession that could mean household budgets are even more squeezed. To help our residents, our Cost of Living Task Force meets regularly to address these issues.

This is alongside the Building a Fairer Newham Draft Budget Plan 2023/24, which builds on the successful management of the Council's finances over the past four years, and sets out how we are going to protect frontline services, support residents and respond to growing demand.

It proposes £10 million of investments for frontline services to support residents during these hard times, including:

- Protecting the Council's annual £6m Eat for Free programme, so that every primary pupil is provided a healthy and nutritious meal every day at school, saving families £500 per child per year.
- Council Tax rates to remain amongst the lowest in London, with a below inflation rise of 4.99% equating to an average Band D property in Newham paying no more than an additional £1.09 per week.
- Support for eligible residents through our 90% Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

HELP AND ADVICE

As part of our Cost of Living Crisis Response we have produced leaflets and infographics providing advice to

residents, landlords and practitioners on ways to get free help and support if they are struggling financially or require extra support to reduce energy and food costs. These contain contact details for organisations including Our Newham Money, who can provide free urgent help for anyone affected. Everything is available to download at www.newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse as well as from libraries.

A new leaflet we've produced, called 'Help with living costs and staying well and healthy this winter' provides a whole range of simple tips and contact details for further information. This is headed by Our Newham Money, who are the first port of call for help if you're not able to afford heating, food or other essentials.

Tips to stay warm and healthy:

1. Heat/warm yourself first, wear several thin layers and make sure the room you're using most is at least 18 degrees.
2. Dress warmly if you go outside and wear shoes with good grip if it's getting icy.
3. Eat at least one warm meal a day, have regular warm drinks and stay active – this will keep your internal body temperature up.
4. Check on others, especially those who are on their own or at higher risk.
5. Stay safe when warming your home – don't use naked flames, ovens or barbeques to light or heat your home as they create a risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you're concerned about your health (physical or mental), or the health of someone else, call NHS 111. If it is an emergency call 999.

Visit www.newham.gov.uk/wellwinter or go to your local library for more information.

WE ARE HELPING.



ENERGY USE AT HOME

Worried about energy usage in your home? We've produced a handy guide to saving energy and keeping warm, as well as where to get help and advice on your gas and electricity bills. For instance, did you know that you can save around £80 a year by unplugging your TV and computers and not leaving them on standby mode? www.newham.gov.uk/council/cost-living-response/3

WARM HAVENS

Newham Warm Havens are safe, non-judgemental warm spaces where residents can go, free of charge, for whatever reason they like. There are now over thirty across Newham, including libraries and community centres, offering a range of activities, as well as a hot cuppa.

For more information, including a location map: www.newham.gov.uk/warmhavens

FOOD AND A WARM MEAL

If you need support accessing food and a warm meal, contact the Newham Food Alliance at www.newham.gov.uk/newhamfoodalliance, call on **07790 975 086** (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) or email frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org

If you have no heating or lighting in your home, contact the Council on **020 8430 2000**.

SUPPORT FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

If you see someone sleeping rough and are concerned for their immediate health, please ring 999. To report a rough sleeper for support, visit www.streetlink.org.uk or contact via telephone on **0300 500 0914**.



**NEWHAM
COST OF LIVING
CRISIS RESPONSE**

Homelessness Prevention and Advice Service (HPAS)

The help this can provide includes:

- Mediation between you and the person who has asked you to leave with the aim of keeping you in your home
- Advising you on your rights of occupation
- Referring you to someone who can give you work, debt and benefits advice
- Advising you on how to find somewhere else to live.

FINDING WORK

Our Newham Work has been designed to help Newham residents into work. Whatever your level of experience, it can provide support and advice about your next step. Call **020 3373 1101**, email ournewhamwork@newham.gov.uk, or visit www.ournewhamwork.co.uk for more information.



**OUR
NEWHAM
WORK**

HELP WITH COST OF LIVING

Contact Our Newham Money if you're not able to afford heating, food or other essentials. Please visit www.ournewhammoney.co.uk or call **020 8430 2041**

The Newham Food Alliance can help with food, call **07790 975086** or email frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org

Find out more about winter grants for fuel www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/staying-well-winter/6

Find out more about free grants to improve insulation in your home from GLA Warmer Homes, call **0300 555 0195** or email shine@islington.gov.uk

It is important to warm your home safely and reduce any risks. For more information visit www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home

MONEY



Our Newham Money

020 8430 2041
ournewhammoney@newham.gov.uk
www.ournewhammoney.co.uk

Money A+E

Money advice & education for Newham residents.
020 8616 3750
www.moneyaande.co.uk

Community links

For housing, debt, consumer and employment advice, free legal services from FreeLaw.
020 7473 2270
www.community-links.org

Bonny Downs

Welfare and welfare benefit checks for over 65s
020 8586 7070

HOUSING



Private landlord or letting agency problems

020 3373 1950
privatehousing@newham.gov.uk

Homeless, or risk of becoming homeless

Get support from our Homelessness Prevention service at www.newham.gov.uk/housing-homes-homelessness/homelessness-prevention-advice

Threatened with homelessness

If you're threatened with homelessness, call 020 8430 2000 ext. 57445
hpas@newham.gov.uk

MASH

Emergency help for families with children: 020 3373 4600 during office hours (Mon-Thu 9am-5.15pm or Fri 9am-5pm)
020 8430 2000 at any other time

Immediate help

If you're pregnant and need immediate help or you're clinically or physically vulnerable
Accessto.AdultsSocialCareTeam@newham.gov.uk

FUEL



Our Newham Money

020 8430 2041
East End Citizens Advice
020 8525 6379
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
10am-1pm

Mayor of London Warmer Homes Programme

Call 0300 555 0195 or email shine@islington.gov.uk

WORK



Our Newham Work

020 3373 1101
ournewhamwork@newham.gov.uk
www.ournewhamwork.co.uk

Employment Rights Hub

For free confidential support and advice if someone is having problems at work
020 3373 6494
Work Rights Centre
For help with employment rights, CV building and benefits
0300 4000 100 (EN) 07437 110951

contact@workrightscentre.org

FOOD



Newham Food Alliance

07790 975 086
frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org
www.newham.gov.uk/newhamfoodalliance

STRESS



Newham Talking Therapies

Free and confidential psychological support for adults.
www.newhamtalkingtherapies.nhs.uk
Children (under 18)
Talk to your doctor or the school.

School health support

020 3373 9983
www.newham.gov.uk/schoolhealth

Mental health crisis line for anyone

0800 073 0066 anytime

WE ARE IMPROVING.

LAST YEAR WE INTRODUCED SEVERAL NEW MEASURES TO CLEAN UP NEWHAM'S STREETS AS PART OF OUR CAMPAIGN TO TACKLE THE SCOURGE OF FLY-TIPPING IN THE BOROUGH.

Murals, planters, and herb gardens help reduce fly-tipping.

Responding to fly-tipping hotspots, identified through working with local residents and ward councillors, we have improved spaces that often attracted dumped waste. In Oakfield Road, we installed planters and herb gardens, and painted spaces with murals, which has seen a reduction in fly-tipping of 44%.



Our No Waste on Streets actions have had spectacular results in reducing fly tips.

Research from environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy, shows that rubbish left on streets and by bins on busy roads can encourage people to dump waste.

As part of our fly-tipping response, we place special waste storage facilities on streets for residents to use, rather than leaving their rubbish on the ground for collection.

In Vicarage Lane E15, we installed three storage facilities which have coded padlocks to ensure only residents of the road can use them.

This has resulted in a 72% reduction in fly tips and the number of major fly-tips (multiple bags and large items) also fell by 66%.

Councillor James Asser, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainable Transport



said: "Residents want us to take action to reduce fly-tipping and No Waste on Streets is one of the innovative ways we are doing so.

"On high streets with flats above shops, residents and businesses leave their bags of rubbish on the street for collection. This can sometimes signal that leaving waste on the street is acceptable.

"Using this innovative approach, whereby residents are provided with bespoke waste storage facilities that do not look like bins, we are reducing the levels of fly-tipping.

"Tackling fly-tipping is going to take a range of measures and new innovations working together with residents. As we have seen with this project those new measures, hand-in-hand with local community support, can make a big impact."



Cleaning up the chewing gum problem.

Newham is one of the first councils to be awarded funding from The Chewing Gum Task Force, who oversee the distribution of money to help clean chewing gum from streets across the UK's towns and cities.

The Council has used the funding to buy equipment to carry out deep cleaning to remove chewing gum stains from Newham's streets and install new signs to encourage people to put their chewing gum in a bin.

Our street cleaning team started the deep cleaning in East Ham and Stratford and cleaning will begin in other areas of Newham soon.



WE ARE BUDGETING.



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RESIDENTS AT THE HEART OF BUDGET PLANNING AS BUDGET SUMMITS TAKE PLACE

At a time of extraordinary financial challenge for all of local government, with world events like the Ukraine War and other pressures leading to a huge rise in inflation, alongside an unclear picture of Government finance – there is immense pressure on the Council to deliver our services on severely restricted budgets.

This makes it critical that we as a Council manage every penny we spend with robust budget management that ensures we can best meet the needs of our residents.

The 2023/24 budget proposals are designed to meet the challenges of the broader financial environment, and above all the needs of residents, as well as the Council's ambition for

the borough. Our budget plans all contribute to the delivery of our Building a Fairer Newham Corporate Plan.

We have placed resident engagement at the heart of how your budget will be set for 2023/24.

In December, the Cabinet approved the Council's Draft Budget 2023/24. Then a round of engagement with residents, partners and key stakeholders gave a chance to discuss how these decisions would affect everyone.

Two well attended Budget Summits in January, both virtually and in person offered a chance for residents to further feedback on our plans to protect critical services and invest in the future of the borough.

WE ARE FAIRER.



The key proposals from the Draft Budget 2023/24 proposals are:

- Council Tax rates in Newham to remain amongst the lowest in London, with a below inflation rise of 4.99 percent equating to an average Band D property in Newham paying no more than an additional £1.09 per week.
- £10 million of investments for frontline services to support residents during challenging times.
- £19 million of savings and efficiencies across the Council so that every penny and pound is spent well.
- £3 million per year into the Council's General Fund Reserves in addition to a £4m contingency budget.
- £256 million of investments as part of our Building a Fairer Newham plans.
- A commitment to maintain the Council's Eat for Free programme so that every primary school pupil has a daily healthy and nutritious meal which saves families £500 per child per year.
- Retaining the London Living Wage and the Council's 90 percent Council Tax Reduction Scheme which supports eligible residents on benefits.



Mayor Fiaz said: “Residents facing the unprecedented challenge of the Cost of Living rightly look to the Council to support them in these hard times. While the impact of soaring inflation, energy costs and increased demand are also placing pressures on the Council, we are showing how we will continue to stand by them through our Budget plans. It’s a plan that places fairness at the centre of our approach, alongside driving improvements across Council services through transformation plans that sustain the quality of services that our residents deserve. We will progress with the promises we have made.”

“New homes, improved neighbourhoods, clean streets, investment in our children and young people including those with special educational needs.”

A final Budget for 2023/24 will be published in February for approval by the Cabinet and then ratification by councillors at a Full Council meeting later that month.

The Council will continue to lobby the Government for a fair funding deal for areas like Newham which reflect the reality of our demand for services and pressures.

WE ARE **AMBITIOUS.**

INVESTING TO BUILD A FAIRER NEWHAM

In 2021, the Council applied for Levelling Up funding from the Government for two major inclusive growth programmes that Mayor Fiaz and her administration have been driving in Newham since 2018. Newham Council was awarded £40 million – the highest amount from the total £65 million allocated to London.

The Council is now investing this money directly into an exciting range of projects that will accelerate achieving ambitious improvement across the borough including delivery of the Building a Fairer Newham plans. The projects will all be designed to create opportunities for residents and local businesses whether chances to learn new skills, access new jobs and benefit from growth in the wider economy.

They will be implemented as part of the Council's '15 Minute Neighbourhood' and 'Connected Neighbourhoods' programmes that will contribute to meeting our strategic objectives for social integration, inclusive growth and climate emergency response. Progress and highlights include:

MANOR PARK ROAD Manor Park Road reopened in December 2022 with an improved road, landscaping enhancements and improvements to pavements to encourage more walking and cycling as part of our sustainable transport plans.

MITCHELL WALK, BECKTON

Mitchell Walk is now a more accessible and safer pathway for residents to walk, cycle and enjoy. Surrounded by greenery and separated from road traffic, the previous steep steps have been replaced with accessible ramps, improved crossing and new LED lighting and CCTV cameras are being installed. The stretch of Mitchell Walk by Ellen Wilkinson Primary School is the current phase of improvements underway.

CYCLING MADE EASIER WITH BROMPTON BIKES

Brompton Bike hire docking stations have now been installed in Beckton, Canning Town, Custom House, Cyprus and Gallions Reach for residents to access the British design classic, famous for being foldable so they can be taken on public transport.

Our partnership with Brompton is just one example of how we are using Government money to accelerate our ambitious plans for the borough, working strategically with partners to make walking, cycling and using public transport easier and to help people to be more active. Bikes are available to hire at just £5 for 24 hours.



WE ARE PLANNING.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF NEWHAM: HAVE YOUR SAY
WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON HOW NEWHAM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS THROUGH OUR LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION. SO HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP US SHAPE OUR PLANNING POLICIES FOR THE BOROUGH.

The Local Plan decides where homes, shops, health centres and much more will be built across the borough, as well as setting out:

- The location, amount and type of development in the borough.
- The standards that development should meet.
- What development should look like.
- What services and infrastructure are needed and where.
- How all residents will benefit from the growth and development.

Mayor Fiaz said: "It is vital such plans about the future of our borough are made with residents at the heart of decision making. I want to make sure our plans for the next 15 years are truly people powered.

"Residents know best what it is like to live, grow up and work in Newham, which is why the Local Plan Review needs their expertise on the issues that are important and their ideas on how to solve them."

To take part in the consultation visit www.newhamco-create.co.uk Queries can also be made via email to localplan@newham.gov.uk or by post to: Local Plan

Review, Newham Docks, 1000 Docks Road, E16 2QU.

This is the second stage of consultation, following resident feedback in 2021 which led to new policies being drafted.



WE ARE CIVIC AWARD

On Wednesday 7 December at the Old Town Hall Stratford, we celebrated some of those who have been instrumental in building a better Newham at our Civic Awards. There are so many people across our communities that dedicate their time to helping others, and it was wonderful to be able to recognise some of that work.

The awards honour people from right across the community who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the borough.

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH AND ALDERPERSON

Following open nominations, and consideration by the Civic Awards Panel, which included Newham residents, three people were awarded the Freedom of the Borough.

MR JOHN BARBER DL, MRICS
– REPRESENTATIVE DEPUTY LIEUTENANT FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM



MRS LORNA JACKSON MBE – HEADTEACHER OF MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



MS ANTHEA HARE – FOUNDER OF RICHARD HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



MRS PATRICIA HOLLAND, A FORMER NEWHAM COUNCILLOR
 was awarded the title of Alderperson.



CREATE AND THRIVE AWARD WINNER – PAUL ARCHER

Paul is recognised for his work in providing children and young people with disabilities opportunities to participate in a variety of sports.



The awards panel also commended Ms Sonia Quintero, founder of the Newham Poetry Group and the Rosetta Arts organisation, for her inclusive approach to delivering arts in the borough.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARD WINNER – VIOLET WHITE

Violet is a long-term advocate of older people's rights, having joined the Age UK East London's Group for Older People 20 years ago. Since then, the group has developed into the Newham Older People's Reference Group (OPRG), which Violet has co-chaired for many years.



WINNERS.



STRONGER & UNITED TOGETHER AWARD WINNER – BORN EVERYWHERE: MADE IN NEWHAM

This community organisation has over 300 members from diverse backgrounds. Promoting environmental improvements locally, as well as social and cultural activities, the organisation identifies neglected public spaces to transform them into accessible places for local residents to enjoy.

HEALTH EQUITY 50 STEPS AWARD WINNER – COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINIC HOSTS

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, community groups across Newham hosted vaccination sessions, helping drive engagement and promoting vaccination uptake. Since February 2021, the groups helped deliver over 10,250 vaccinations at more than 440 pop-up clinics.

The groups were:

Bonny Downs/NewWay, Ramgarhia Community Centre, Sri Murugan Temple, RCCG Stratford, Keir Hardie Church, East London Rugby Club, UKIM, Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre, Minhaj Ul Quran, Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Anchor House, UEL, Newham College and Sheringham School.



YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER – HARIS KIANI

Haris is dedicated to championing social mobility opportunities for young people from low-income backgrounds. He works with leading organisations, community leaders and local government, mainly at the Greater London level. He is active in various groups concerned with the needs of young people.



2023 CIVIC AWARD LOOK OUT LATER THIS YEAR FOR YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE YOUR LOCAL HERO IN THE 2023 NEWHAM CIVIC AWARDS.

WE ARE

EXTRAORDINARY

LADY PHYLL.

LADY PHYLL – FULL NAME PHYLLIS AKUA OPOKU-GYIMAH – IS KNOWN FOR HER PIONEERING WORK ON RACIAL EQUALITY AND QUEER ACTIVISM. SHE IS CO-FOUNDER OF UK BLACK PRIDE, THE LARGEST LGBT+ EVENT FOR PEOPLE OF COLOUR. IN 2022 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK WAS THE PROUD HOST OF UK BLACK PRIDE AND IN THIS INTERVIEW LADY PHYLL TALKS TO MAYOR FIAZ ABOUT HER LIFE, HER ACTIVISM, AND HOW TO BE A LEADER IN A TIME OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL UPHEAVAL.

In 2022, UK Black Pride took place at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for the first time. What has been your role in leading and driving forward UK Black Pride to make it the most significant Black Pride event in the world?

Last year's UK Black Pride meant so much to so many people, and it really resonated with our communities

UK Black Pride was founded in 2005. It was born out of frustration and necessity. If you recall, in 2004-5, there were political jostlings with the BNP and other far right groups looking to take seats in places like Havering and Barking & Dagenham. We decided the time for waiting was over. We weren't just dealing with homophobia and transphobia,

we were dealing with structural and systemic racism. So UK Black Pride emerged from that but also because we didn't see ourselves reflected in wider mainstream LGBT+ activities.

Myself and a group of Black women went to Southend-on-Sea – to Shoeburyness – for the very first UK Black Pride. It was liberating, it was our space, we made history and her-story. We just enjoyed ourselves and enjoyed not feeling judged. And that's what UK Black Pride was born out of – frustration but also out of love, hope, caring, and concern for one other.

Fast forward to now and our being situated within the wider Pride family, we take what I would say is a very 'intersectional' lens to our work. We seek to understand

different forms of oppression, different communities and backgrounds, how poverty plays out, the impact of policing, racism, violence, and other hate crimes. All of this culminates in what we challenge – but we do it in a way that also celebrates who we are.

For me UK Black Pride has been a labour of love. I've had every proverbial slap in face you can get. Hate mail, death threats, being told there should never be a Black Pride in this country. Even from within LGBT+ community, people have said this is a separatist thing why don't you just join 'normal Pride'. This made me and others even more determined to keep going because people find home in UK Black Pride, and that's what happened in 2022 – people found home.

ARY.



WE ARE PROUD.



You said that some people, including from within the LGBT+ community, accused you of being separatist.

What do you think was driving that?

What drives hate and vitriol is fear. Fear of the unknown and fear of their own privilege being challenged. When privilege is challenged people feel that they are going to lose something. When certain groups have historically had the dominant powerbase, and they can go where they want to go and occupy what spaces they want, and you challenge and occupy that space for yourself, they get scared.

In the early days we asked the GLA for support and guidance. We walked into a meeting and there were 13 people around the table. I told them we wanted to set up a UK Black Pride and I was laughed and jeered at. One person around that table told me to “go back to where I came from.” It wasn’t a GLA person, but these people had been classed as leaders, they were fighting Section 28. This tells you something about any time that marginalised groups start to rise up and speak up, there will always be people who fear the unknown. Even people who come from marginalised groups themselves have to address their own issues of how they have marginalised other underrepresented groups.

What has the UK Black Pride journey from 2004 to now required of you in terms of leadership? Could you have ever imagined occupying the role you have now when you were a child?

I don’t want to sound arrogant or pompous but in my culture we have something called a naming ceremony and I am named after my great-great grandma. I truly believe my ancestors are guiding me and I’ve always known I would find my purpose. My dad always said you are going to be someone, just make sure you are aware of who you’re surrounding yourself with. So when I sat in that room and was told to go back to where I came from, I knew I had to take a stand, to make sure we found a way to be seen 365 days of the year. I think I took up that

position with ease because I always recognised those that had come before me.

What did it take from me? An enormous amount of courage because I knew there would be a backlash. It took commitment and it took sacrifice. Even when it came to my daughter, there were things I pushed to one side and I wasn’t there for. I was so focused on ensuring we had the space, resources and funding we needed to have a Black Pride because I’d been told I wasn’t going to get anything from those that held the purse strings.

You refer to incidents that happened when you started UK Black Pride in 2004/5. Is race still an issue within LGBT+ communities?

Yes, it’s still happening now. For example, we know through our survey results that our Muslim and East Asian siblings still face an enormous amount of hate crime and additional marginalisation.

What UK Black Pride has taught me is that just because you’re from marginalised group it doesn’t make you exempt from being a bigot. I’ve gone into spaces where I’m not welcomed. I’m an out, Black, lesbian woman but I’ve not been widely accepted by others in the LGBT+ community who have historically held power and privilege.

We need to call out or ‘call in’ the racism when we see it. And we’ve seen it through our interactions with other Pride organisers who’ve wanted to invalidate who we are.

Clearly they didn’t succeed, as was acknowledged when the 2022 UK Black Pride in Newham was the largest in the world. How did you feel in that moment when you were about to announce it on stage?

I got on that stage and I felt joy. Our community is what makes UK Black Pride as it’s by us, for us. If you go back 18 years we could just about afford a marquee; now we’re the largest and we’ve got corporates and big brands wanting to be part of it. I thought we’ve done this, but we’ve kept ourselves grassroots.

WE ARE ALLIES.



How do you navigate the corporate world trying to tap into UK Black Pride, just because they recognise the importance of the Black LGBT+ pound to their own bottom line?

I am really strict about the due diligence we undertake. Certain brands will never be allowed to sponsor UK Black Pride. I don't care if they came with a million pounds. Because until they understand how to treat their workers, especially their Black and brown workers, we couldn't take their money. It would be an insult to the work we're doing. Some Pride organisations will accept money from absolutely anywhere but not every company's policies are supportive of our communities.

UK Black Pride has the power to drive social change. How do you track and evaluate the social change you are bringing about?

We have a list of the organisations we want to approach for support but we ask them about their Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy, the

demographic make-up of their workforce, what they do to support their Black and brown workers. If we're not satisfied with what they tell us we might say let's start partnership working with you but we don't want you to sponsor us. So there is a pathway of opportunity for a potential sponsor and we offer to work with them to help get them to the baseline we expect.

When we first started out corporates and brands wouldn't touch us. They thought UK Black Pride was controversial. Only Trade Unions and some grass roots organisations were interested. Now everyone is falling over themselves to give us money but I do often say no, as much as we need it.

That's why we love working with Newham. Mayor Fiaz comes from a place of putting people before profit. Of wanting to understand the nuances and complexities of our communities. That sticks with me and is very powerful. Coming from a place of social activism and understanding that it's about solidarity, getting your hands dirty, being with the people, and doing things which might go against grain.

We are at an interesting time culturally. From the 'woke' generation, to controversy in gender recognition and many other issues. How do you lead on these types of issues that have a knock on effect on wider society?

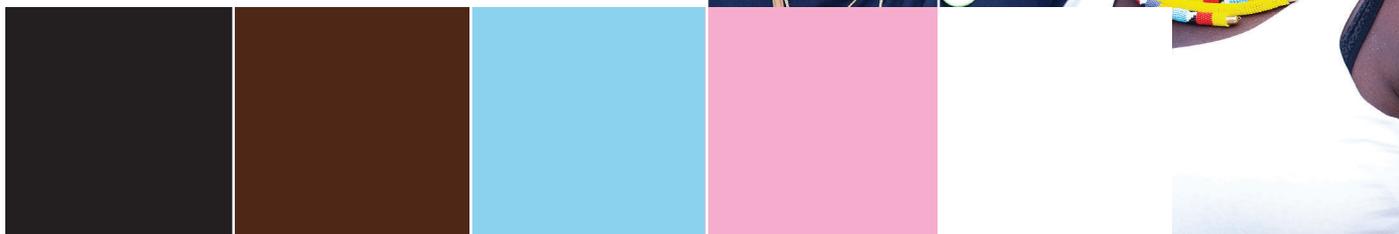
Where we are at with issues like gender recognition and culture wars is that we are going through a trying time. We're not out of Covid, we're still trying to get back to a place of some sort of normality that makes us feel we can survive. Those who have used us as political pawns during this time will continue to scapegoat particular communities because they can.

Look at the propaganda and vitriol towards our trans siblings. Scotland has passed the Gender Recognition Reform Bill but the UK has not done anything to look at conversion therapy.

Then there's the race and class elements – kids going to school with no breakfast. I think all these things are highly interconnected and it's hard to divorce one from the other. If we don't have adequate representation in positions of leadership, influence and power, we won't be able to challenge what has historically always been done to us. Lived experience is an important aspect of leadership when it comes to being a social activist and an advocate for change.



WE ARE FAIR.



As a leader you can work to create a ripple effect, to see change happening at a local, regional, national, and global level. I work both internationally and locally with grass roots activists, making connections to people who have come from communities where they are facing the most harm because of their sexual orientation and sexuality.

Do you think leaders from underrepresented groups have to strive harder than others? Do they have additional challenges to face?

I remember seeing you on TV when you were elected Mayor Fiaz, we were whooping and celebrating. But the first thing that someone said to me was ‘they are going to be gunning for her’. Look at Diane Abbot and Dawn Butler and other women of colour that hold similar positions – they are attacked. When we know this is going to happen so we have to, as a community, hold you up. We have to show up and show out for you.

Added to this, some of the people you are serving and supporting will come for you as they will believe you’ve changed. But leadership requires change and requires you to whip out a PHD in diplomacy sometimes. In her book *Your Silence Will Not Protect You*, Audrey Lorde talks about ‘code switching’. For example, if I’m speaking to parliamentarian, I have to code switch so they understand the point I’m trying to get across. Trying to not be angry, even though I am inside, about their policies and the things that are harming our communities, I have to let them hear it in a way they understand.

What I’ve learned most is I that can’t be everything to everyone. It’s only in last three or four years that I’ve stepped back learned to say no. I’ve wanted to be everywhere, do everything I possibly can. It comes from a good place. I’ve come from migrant parents, my dad got beaten up by teddy boys, I’ve come from living on a

council estate. I’ve come from what I call realness.

But I’m trying to draw a balance of “I will work on these top three things” and if other things don’t align with that I have to say no. And if it upsets people and they take to Twitter or they take to Facebook, I have to suck it up. With leadership comes that responsibility.

Of course I cry, or get angry, and want to lash out. But now I’ve realised that people are looking at me as a role model and as a figurehead. As a Black woman we’re watched 24-7 so I also have to be quite careful in what I say. I’m not going take to my social media and cuss everyone as much as I might want to. I have my inner circle where I can get messy, but when I know I’m serving the community or when I have to make particular decisions, I’m going to code switch and I’m going to edit myself. Not in a way that’s harmful to me, but in a way that means I can speak to those who have the power to make change on behalf of people who need that change.

I’ve heard you use the term Misogynoir. Can you explain what that means?

Misogynoir is sexism and discrimination towards Black women and women of colour, specifically. It was coined because there was such a difference between the issues of misogyny faced by white women and Black women. You can take the same from the term intersectionality which was coined by Professor Kimberle Crenshaw, specifically about Black women and women of colour, not necessarily about any of the other social categorisations. Because Black women and women of colour experience the workplace, schools, universities, hospital treatment, very differently to white women. And it’s not to invalidate what white women go through in terms of sexism and all of those deep-rooted issues. But our experience of how society has treated us hasn’t changed. If anything some things have gotten worse.



What would be your message to LGBT+ Black women, women of colour and women from the trans community, in terms of how to navigate that?

We're in a space within the LGBT+ community where the T (transgender) is excluded. We're in a space where other queer identities are frowned upon. Even if you're B (bisexual), you're often erased. So right now I don't think the collectivism that's required is there.

So what I want to say to people is understand that you cannot have liberation for our communities if you're not standing or sitting shoulder to shoulder with all aspects and spectrums of our community. It's achievable and I'm hopeful. Even if not in my lifetime, it will happen with others because I always think about that next generation and what we're handing them and the seeds we're planting to make it easier for them to navigate, just like we talk about the shoulders of the giants on which we stand. I've been given space by people like Doreen Lawrence who has made it possible for me to speak up and speak out. A woman who has fought doggedly for justice for Stephen Lawrence. This allows people like us to hold the positions we do.

A lot of what you've talked about is grounded in politics. Could you imagine yourself in politics?

Absolutely not! Years ago I nearly stood for election in Lewisham East. I pulled out for a number of different reasons, including family ones. Being in politics and having to align with certain values of those who are leading would be very difficult for me. Although I'm a Labour Party member through and through, I could not be an MP because I would lose some of that ability to be unapologetic in my thinking. It would take me away from being the activist I've always been.

What about Mayor of London?

Definitely not! The hate that Sadiq faces on a daily basis – can you imagine what that would be like for a Black woman, who happens to be queer, who's come

from a working class background? They would dig up every little thing and slate me.

I believe you can make change from outside, in. Like when I rejected the MBE. I don't believe in those kinds of structures, I think they're very toxic and unhealthy and also not transparent. But I managed to do just as much, if not more, than someone who accepted their MBE, OBE or CBE.

UK Black Pride 2023 – plans?

Plans are in motion for our 18th birthday this year. 18 years UK Black Pride has been in existence and this year we're looking for it to be even bigger and better. We made history and her-story and their-story at the Olympic Park last year with 25,000 people. We want to come back. It's exciting because so many people are talking about it and want to get involved.

We've done so many surveys and so much work with communities and the word that always springs up is home. Our theme in 2017 was home and that resonated with so many people. When you walk into UK Black Pride, firstly you are greeted by volunteers, two, any judgement or drama is left outside, and three, when you're there you're met with different languages cultures, heritage, backgrounds, ages and foods. You're met with what you can call your home. As I said, UK Black Pride is run by us and for us. If you are going to enter into our home, understand you have to live by our values because that space isn't yours, it's ours, but we want you to enjoy it with us. So home is what UK Black Pride is all about. Also, safety and the biggest thing for us is about bravery. Because you are met with people who don't conform to societal norms about how they should live their lives. They are unapologetically bold, brave and beautiful in all their finery. No one is looking or judging or telling you that you can't dress like that and you can't be who you are. That's what UK Black Pride has retained – it's a grassroots, community vibe event.

WE ARE HELPING.



NEWHAM STAY SAFE APP

WE'VE LAUNCHED A NEW REPORTING APP TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S SAFETY IN THE BOROUGH.

The Newham Stay Safe app makes it easy to report street harassment – and safety concerns. Users of the app can upload evidence in the form of photos, videos and audio.

Through the app there is access to specialist support and people can report incidents for investigation by the Police or Council anonymously. It also provides direct access to the 24/7 Stop Hate UK Helpline.

The app is designed to be reassuring and give a sense of safety and security whilst travelling out at night. It aims to empower women and girls and encourage reporting of any incidents where they feel unsafe in public spaces.

It will help gather useful information which can be used to deal with those carrying out harmful behaviour and bring them to justice, as well as helping us to target our resources to make streets safer.

We are committed to tackling violence against women and girls. The Newham Stay Safe app is part of our commitment to make women and girls feel safer in Newham and send a clear message that street harassment will not be tolerated.

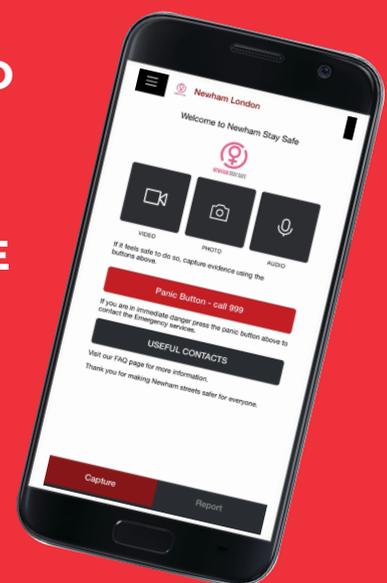
LOVE & LOSS

Mayor Fiaz and Councillor Carlene Lee-Phakoe joined Ayse Hussein at the moving 'Table of Love and Loss' event held at East Ham Town Hall in December last year.

In loving memory of special and loved individuals whose lives were taken by violent circumstances, the event was organised by Ayse because her cousin, 38-year-old Jan Mustafa who was a mother of three children, was murdered by a man with a history of convictions for assaulting girls and women.

The Table of Love and Loss event is now set to take place every year, to help us reflect and always focus our efforts to tackle violence against women and girls.

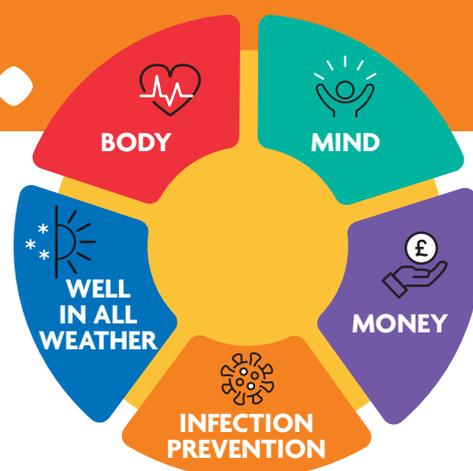
DOWNLOAD THE APP FROM THE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY – SEARCH 'NEWHAM STAY SAFE'



WE ARE HEALTHY.

FIVE WAYS TO A HEALTHIER LIFE

Did you know there are lots of things you can do to improve your health and over 60 free services in Newham to help you along the way? Read more here: www.newham.gov.uk/healthylife



GET YOUR VACCINES



- COVID-19 vaccines: everyone over five years old is eligible. Most people are eligible for two vaccines, a booster and some seasonal boosters
www.newham.gov.uk/covidvaccine
- Flu: anyone 50 and over; anyone who is pregnant, people with specific health conditions
www.newham.gov.uk/flu
- Polio, MMR and other childhood immunisations: children can catch up on their vaccines at any time see www.newham.gov.uk/childhoodimmunisations for more information

KEEP SAFE

- Keep yourself safe from COVID-19, flu and winter viruses
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors or meet outside
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or flu, try to avoid contact with others, especially vulnerable people, until you feel better
- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap



STAY HEALTHY

- Eat fresh fruit and vegetables as much as you can and aim for one hot meal a day
- Try and get 20 minutes of exercise every day (e.g. go for a walk in your local area, exercise at home or join a local free physical activity)
www.newham.gov.uk/keepactive

- Stay connected and try to talk to at least one other person every day. Get in touch with connect Newham for a friendly conversation
www.ageuk.org.uk/eastlondon/our-services/connect-newham-befriending or your local Community Neighbourhood Link Workers
www.newham.gov.uk/cnlw
cnlw@newham.gov.uk
- Stock up your medicine cabinet early and ask your pharmacist or GP about repeat prescriptions
- Collect your free vitamins. If you're 65 or older, find out more at www.newham.gov.uk/vitamind or call **020 8981 7124**
- If you're pregnant or have a child under four, find out more at www.newham.gov.uk/healthystart



IF YOU FEEL UNWELL

- Contact your pharmacist who can give advice and over-the-counter medicines for coughs, colds, sore throats and general aches and pains. They can also tell you if you need to see a GP, nurse or other healthcare professional
- Contact your GP or NHS 111 or visit www.nhs.uk if things are more serious
- If you have a medical emergency call 999 or go to your nearest A&E department
- If you want to talk to someone about your mental health call: Newham Talking Therapies **020 8175 1770**



WE ARE CELEBRATING.



PUTTING CULTURE AT THE HEART OUR COMMUNITIES

Culture is at the heart of Newham's commitment to inclusion and participation. Through culture we celebrate who we are as a borough, support wellbeing, unlock creative opportunities, and encourage collaboration and partnerships.

You can find out what cultural events are coming up at www.newham.gov.uk/events

Some key highlights for the next few months are:

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH 1-28 FEBRUARY Venues and dates: various

LGBT+ History Month is the celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

achievements throughout history. In collaboration with partners, we will be celebrating the month with a range of free events throughout February, responding to the theme of 'The Arc is Long' inspired by a Martin Luther King quote: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." The quote is thought to mean that although it is taking a long time, we are curving/moving towards social justice and fairness.

For information about the programme and how to book visit www.newhamlgbthistory.org/

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION 21 MARCH

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination is observed annually on the day when police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid 'pass laws' in 1960.

More details about the event will be available at www.newham.gov.uk/events

EID AL-FITR 21-22 APRIL

Eid al-Fitr is on the first day of the month of Shawwal (Islamic Calendar) and marks the end of Ramadan (month-long fasting), and the beginning of a feast that breaks the fast.

More details about the event will be available at www.newham.gov.uk/events



YEAR OF FAITH.

2023

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAITHS

YEAR OF FAITH

At a meeting of the Council this month, Mayor Fiaz and councillors agreed to declare 2023 the 'Year of Faith'. This will commit the Council to celebrate all major religious festivals with our faith communities in Newham in partnership with schools, colleges and all educational settings. Working with our Newham Forum of Faiths, the Commissioner for Interfaith and Inter-Religious Dialogue will champion interfaith dialogue through council events and public celebrations, including our annual Holocaust Memorial Day, held at East Ham Town Hall on 27 January.

Please note the calendar is shown for illustrative purposes only. You can see the calendar with all the major faith dates for 2023 by visiting www.newham.gov.uk/faithcalendar



2023 FAITH CALENDAR

BAHAI
BUDHISM
CHRISTIANITY
HINDUISM
ISLAM
JAINISM
JUDASIM
PAGANISM
KASTAFARIANISM
SHINTO
SIKH
ZORASTRIANISM

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p>1 Ganesh Start of three-day celebrations to mark the New Year.</p> <p>2 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Tenth Sikh Guru and the last one in human form, founded the Brotherhood of the Pure (Bhais).</p> <p>5 Epiphany Celebrates the visit of the Three Wise Men (Magi) to the infant Jesus.</p> <p>6 Christmas Day (celebrated in Ethiopia) Celebrated on this day to coincide with Christmas in Ethiopia.</p> <p>7 Christmas Day (Eastern Orthodox) Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians.</p> <p>12 Birthdays of Swami Vivekananda Celebrates the birth of one of the most celebrated spiritual leaders of India.</p> <p>13 Mughal/Chalukya Celebrates the sacrifice of the 40 Sikhs who fought for Guru Gobind & is celebrated by both.</p> <p>14 Pongal Multi-day Hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamils in India and Sri Lanka.</p> <p>15 Chinese New Year - Year of the Rabbit Most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.</p> <p>22 Saraswati Puja Celebrating the Goddess Saraswati - the goddess of knowledge.</p> <p>26 Yaxsim-Ha Inter-religious day.</p>	<p>1 Inbekt Honours the goddess Brigid and marks the return of Spring.</p> <p>2 Carliniensis Commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple and the purification of his mother, after giving birth.</p> <p>3 Setabudun Part of the Spring festival with special ritual to ward off evil.</p> <p>5 1st Shivaratri Marks the beginning of the 'new year' for trees.</p> <p>15 Pavaneer Celebration to mark the final passing of the Buddha.</p> <p>18 Maha Shivaratri Festival celebrated in reverence of Lord Shiva.</p> <p>21 Birthdays of Sri Ramakrishna Celebrating the birth of the Hindu incarnation of God.</p> <p>21 Shrove Tuesday The day of preparation for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) traditionally marked by eating pancakes.</p> <p>22 Ash Wednesday First day of Lent. Many Christians receive a cross of ash on their foreheads which is a symbol of mortality and penance.</p> <p>26 Yaxsim-Ha Inter-religious day.</p> <p>28 Ira and Mithra Commemorates the Prophet Gobad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and the ascent into heaven.</p>	<p>1 St David's Day Commemorates the patron saint of Wales.</p> <p>1 Nineteen Day Fast Adults fast from sunrise to sunset for 19 days, important time for prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal.</p> <p>3 Purim Celebration of Jewish deliverance as told in the Book of Esther.</p> <p>6 Mughal Puja Takes place on the full moon day commemorating the life of the Buddha. Also known as Sangha Day.</p> <p>7 Birthdays of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Celebrating the birth of the Hindu mystic and saint.</p> <p>8 Mela Festival of Colour marking the end of winter.</p> <p>17 St Patrick's Day Commemorates the patron saint of Ireland.</p> <p>17 New-Ril End of the Nineteen Day Fast and the beginning of the Bahá'í New Year.</p> <p>20 Spring Equinox Celebration of Spring.</p> <p>22 Ramadan Starts the most significant month for Muslims. Marks a period of daily fasting from dawn to sunset.</p> <p>26 Yaxsim-Ha Celebrating the birth date of Zoroaster.</p> <p>30 Ram Navami Celebrates the Founding of the Khalsa, the Brotherhood of the Pure by Guru Gobind Singh.</p>	<p>2 Palm Sunday The first day of Holy Week, commemorating Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem before his arrest and death.</p> <p>4 Mahavajra Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, the last Tirthankar (Jainist).</p> <p>5 Pasover Celebrates the Exodus, the freedom from slavery of the Children of Israel from ancient Egypt that followed the Ten Plagues.</p> <p>5 Hamavim Jewish. Celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman.</p> <p>6 Kaundy Thursday Commemorates the Last Supper.</p> <p>7 Good Friday Commemorates the death of Jesus by crucifixion.</p> <p>7 Harvest Festival Celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni, whose teachings form the basis of Buddhism.</p> <p>8 Easter Sunday Celebrating the resurrection from the dead. The Easter season lasts for 50 days to Pentecost.</p> <p>9 Easter Sunday Celebrating the resurrection from the dead. The Easter season lasts for 50 days to Pentecost.</p> <p>14 Vaisakhi Marks the creation of Sikhism and the foundation of the Khalsa.</p> <p>16 Easter Day (Orthodox Christianity) Based on the Julian calendar.</p> <p>16 Laylat al-Qadr Marks the night in which the Quran was first revealed.</p> <p>18 10th Anniversary Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, serves as a day of remembrance for those who perished in the Shoah (Holocaust).</p>
<p>1 Bahá'í Celebration of Febrity marking the beginning of Summer.</p> <p>2 Twelfth Day of Rivden Close of the festival.</p> <p>8 Lag B'Omer Occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot.</p> <p>18 Ascension Day Marks the ascension of Jesus Christ to Heaven after he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.</p> <p>23 Ascension of the Bab Celebrates the Bab's declaration of his mission as the messenger of God.</p> <p>25 Shavuot Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Ten Books of Moses), the first harvest, and the ripening of the first fruits.</p> <p>25 100th Anniversary Marks the appearance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>28 Ascension of Bahá'í Celebrates the death of Bahá'í.</p>	<p>5 Week Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment.</p> <p>16 Martyrdom of the Guru Arjan Dev Commemorates the 10th Sikh Guru and first Sikh martyr.</p> <p>20 Jagmohan Nath Vais Public procession and chhatra festival.</p> <p>24 Midsummer's Day A celebration of the sun's power on the longest day of the year.</p> <p>26 The Hajj Once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca, is the largest gathering of Muslims anywhere in the world.</p> <p>27 Yaxim Avelar 2nd day of Hajj, day of repentance and acceptance of applications, many non-pilgrims fast on this holiday day in Islam.</p> <p>28 Ed al-Kalbi Marks the sacrifice made by Prophet Abraham.</p> <p>29 The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul Honours the martyrdom of the two saints.</p>	<p>3 Guru Purmas Day An Indian and Nepalese festival dedicated to spiritual and academic faculties.</p> <p>3 Aashla Dharma Day Commemorates Buddha's first teaching to the five ascetics in the Deer Park near Benares, India.</p> <p>10 Martyrdom of the Bab Commemorates the Bab's execution in 1850, after which his teachings continued to spread.</p> <p>18 10th Anniversary The Bahá'í New Year, first day of Muharram. Start of Islamic year 1443.</p> <p>23 Birthdays of Kingpin Haki Zakaria I A holy day of commemoration for Azerbaijan.</p> <p>26 Tisha B'Shvat Anniversary of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon by Nebuchadnezzar and of the Second Temple by Titus.</p> <p>27 Ashura Marks the tenth day of Muharram as the day Allah used Miras from the Pleiades and the martyrdom of Hussein, Prophet Muhammad's grandson, in the Battle of Karbala.</p>	<p>1 Lughnasadh Marks the first day of harvest.</p> <p>15 The Blessed Virgin Mary Celebration of the mother Jesus. Catholic Christians keep the day as Mary's Assumption into heaven before dawn.</p> <p>19 Ganesh Chaturthi Festival that commemorates God Ganesh's birthday.</p> <p>19 Samarovet The day of forgiveness.</p> <p>30 Rakha Bandhan Celebrates the love and duty between sisters and brothers.</p>
<p>1 First Reading of Guru Granth Sahib The Sikh scripture is installed at the Golden Temple for the first time.</p> <p>6 Jamaat-e-Islami Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to have shown himself in human form 5000 years ago.</p> <p>11 Eritrean The Eritrean New Year, celebrations of prayer and colourful processions.</p> <p>13 Okon Festival of the souls.</p> <p>13 Rosh Hashanah The Jewish New Year, marks the start of ten days of repentance, ending on Yom Kippur.</p> <p>21 International Day of Peace A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace among and within all nations.</p> <p>23 Autumn Equinox Ritual of thanksgiving.</p> <p>24 Yom Kippur Holiest day of the Jewish calendar marked by a 25-hour fast and solemn prayer to repent for the previous year's sins.</p> <p>26 Mawlid al-Nabi Observance of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.</p> <p>29 Sikhon Tabernacle or Feast of Booths.</p>	<p>6 Jamaat-e-Islami The eighth day of Salween Assembly.</p> <p>7 Sinchar Torah Celebrates and marks the completion of the annual cycle of public Torah reading.</p> <p>14 Shanku Chaur Divali Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings and princes by sixth Sikh Guru (Guru Hargobind).</p> <p>14 Mahavajra Marks the beginning of Navratri and Durga Puja.</p> <p>15 Navratri Nine nights of ceremonies.</p> <p>20 Sri Guru Gobind Sahib Ji Celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji (the 10th Guru) joining the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures.</p> <p>24 Durga Puja Dussehra End of Navratri.</p> <p>26 Birth of the Bab Celebrates the birthday of the Bab, forerunner, who prepared the way for Bahá'í.</p> <p>27 Birth of Bahá'í One of the twin founders of the Bahá'í Faith, who was born in 1817.</p> <p>31 Sankranti Marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.</p>	<p>1 All Saints Day Honours all Saints in Christian history.</p> <p>2 All Souls Day Commemorates the faithful departed, family members and friends, who have died.</p> <p>12 Dussehra Festival of lights symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.</p> <p>12-19 Inter Faith Week A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation.</p> <p>14 Lakshmi Puja Most important day of Diwali devoted to Goddess Lakshmi.</p> <p>15 Shukla-Graha Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children.</p> <p>24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Commemorates the 9th Sikh Guru who sacrificed the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed.</p> <p>25 Day of the Covenant When Bahá'í celebrates the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Bahá'í Faith.</p> <p>27 Guru Nanak Gurpur Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru.</p> <p>30 Saint Andrew's Day Feast day of the patron saint of Scotland.</p>	<p>1 Lughnasadh Marks the first day of harvest.</p> <p>15 The Blessed Virgin Mary Celebration of the mother Jesus. Catholic Christians keep the day as Mary's Assumption into heaven before dawn.</p> <p>19 Ganesh Chaturthi Festival that commemorates God Ganesh's birthday.</p> <p>19 Samarovet The day of forgiveness.</p> <p>30 Rakha Bandhan Celebrates the love and duty between sisters and brothers.</p>
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Dates used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar calendar. Some may be subject to confirmation of sighting of the crescent moon. Some may begin the evening before the listed date. Sikh dates are based on Harak Bhain calendar.

WE ARE NEWHAM.



**YOU CANNOT HAVE LIBERATION
FOR OUR COMMUNITIES
IF YOU'RE NOT STANDING
OR SITTING SHOULDER TO
SHOULDER WITH ALL ASPECTS
AND SPECTRUMS OF OUR
COMMUNITY. IT'S ACHIEVABLE
AND I'M HOPEFUL.**

LADY PHYLL.



www.newham.gov.uk

BUILDING A
FAIRER
NEWHAM