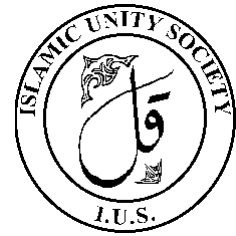


# Islamic Unity Society

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Registered Charity No. 1066910  
[www.ius.org.uk](http://www.ius.org.uk)

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## **Young Muslims from London give blood to commemorate Muharram**

Young British Muslims are showing their support for the National Blood Service tomorrow by giving blood in London, as part of a national campaign conceived three years ago.

The National Imam Hussain Blood Donation campaign was launched back in 2006 by the Islamic Unity Society (IUS), a national organisation for Muslim students and young professionals. The idea was to inspire those of ethnic minorities to give blood in the holy month of Muharram, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

Since then the campaign has become more successful each year, and is now a national annual event. Last year over 100 people donated in seven major cities across the country, and this year hundreds have signed up to donate nationwide including London.

Dr Marwan Al-Dawoud, founder of the campaign said, "In my line of work I see the results and benefits that giving blood has on patients' lives. It is so simple, yet its implications are vast and can really make a difference. An important part of our faith as Muslims is to contribute to society and mankind as a whole, so it is very encouraging that this event is becoming more successful every year. We feel the Muslim community is taking positive steps towards social integration for the benefit of the public."

A single donation can be broken down into three component parts - red cells, plasma and platelets. Each can then go on to help three different people; red cells can be used for anaemia; platelets for cancer patients having chemotherapy and plasma for burns victims.

Rachel Hollingworth, spokeswoman for the NBS said "We are delighted to be working with the local Muslim Community in promoting blood donation at this special time and thank them for their support.

Certain rare blood groups are more common in certain ethnic groups, so encouraging people with rarer blood types to donate is a constant challenge for the NBS.”

**-Ends-**

For further information please contact:

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For more information on the Islamic Unity Society campaign, visit [www.ius.org.uk/giveblood](http://www.ius.org.uk/giveblood)

### **Notes to Editor**

- The IUS is holding blood donation events at eight locations across the country including Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London and Manchester.
- The NBS is a part of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). NHSBT is a Special Health Authority within the NHS, responsible for managing the Bio Products Laboratory, National Blood Service and UK Transplant. NHSBT is responsible for optimising the supply of blood, organs, plasma and tissues and raising the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of blood and transplant services.
- The NBS collects approximately 2 million units of blood each year from 1.3 million blood donors
- The NHS needs 8,000 voluntary donations of blood daily
- Only 4% of the eligible population are active blood donors
- A unit of blood is measured as 470mls (or just under a pint )
- Anyone in general good health over the age of 17 can give blood every 16 weeks, that's three times per year
- There are 4 main blood groups - O, A, B and AB. Group O is the most common and therefore the most in demand. Over 95 per cent of the blood collected is processed into its main components - red cells, platelets and plasma. A regular supply of blood is vital - red cells last only 35 days and platelets only 5 days.

### **Islamic Unity Society / The National Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign**

The Islamic Unity Society (IUS) is an independent registered charity set up in 1995, run solely by volunteer students and young professionals. Nationwide, it has a 500-strong membership. The IUS aims to promote social and cultural cohesion within a multi-cultural Britain based on Islamic principles (in accordance with the Shia school of thought), through empowering young people. The National Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign is an initiative set up in January 2006 which aims to encourage more Muslims become blood donors. For more information, please visit [www.ius.org.uk/giveblood](http://www.ius.org.uk/giveblood).

## **National Blood Service**

The National Blood Service is a part of the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), a Special Health Authority within the NHS responsible for managing the National Blood Service, Bio Products Laboratory, and UK Transplant. NHSBT is responsible for optimising the supply of blood, organs, plasma and tissue and raising the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of blood and transplant services.