



## **A callout for artists interested in engaging with Muslim community groups in Birmingham and Bradford**

### **About Amal**

Amal grows opportunities for our Muslim communities to realise and express their full creative potential and to share and celebrate this creativity with others.

We do so because we believe that engagement in arts and cultural activity broadens horizons and forges common ground within and between communities. Amal means “hope” in Arabic. We offer a radical kind of hope that the UK, despite the divisions of recent times, can build ever more harmonious relations between its communities.

Our vision is of a Britain in which Muslims are fully and fairly represented, equally valued, and celebrated for their rich and diverse contribution to British life. In our work, we are guided by the values of compassion, conviviality and social justice.

### **Amal Connects – Visualising Creative Potential**

Having tested approaches for several years as a programme, Amal embarked in 2020 on an ambitious new future as a Muslim-led, independent charity committed to bringing about wider-reaching change and to working sustainably over the long term.

Based on our learning to date and on continuing consultation, we have now launched a new cornerstone programme, Amal Connects. With existing and new Amal partners, we will work with Muslim communities through co-created projects for greater Muslim participation in arts and cultural activities, richer creative encounters between communities, more authentic representation of Muslim lived experience and stories, and more opportunities for the celebration of our Muslim communities and their contributions to British society.

As we begin this work across our two hub locations, Bradford and Birmingham, it is important that we work with communities to understand not only what it is they want to say, but also how they want to express themselves creatively. In Bradford, 7 of the 10 most deprived wards across the district are over 50% Muslim, with three of those being over 70%. In Birmingham, 6 of the 10 most deprived wards across the city are over 50% Muslim with four of those being over 70%.

Communities that face multiple disadvantages are less likely to have exposure to and engagement with mainstream arts and cultural activity. To bridge that gap, we will provide opportunities for groups to engage in creative activities, giving them a better sense of the range of possibilities that is open to them.

## Opportunity:

Amal is looking for artists with strong connections to and understanding of the Muslim communities across the Bradford District or Birmingham to deliver one-off creative workshops from February 2022 onwards. We envisage that this work will take place in person, but we are open to suggestions for online activity. We are open to all art forms. The priority for this stream of work is to provide exposure to creative activity. Artists do not need to organise or have access to specific community groups – Amal can make these connections if required. If there is a particular community or demographic you would like to serve, you can include this information in your application.

## Deliverables:

- Creative participatory workshop – must be accessible to beginners/no experience required, any art form
- 60-90mins session are suggested
- We envisage each workshop being delivered twice (to two different groups), but we are open to working with artists around what is possible
- Each session to include feedback and a co-evaluation element which we can help design

## Fee:

The fee for these commissions will be £250. This is for two 60-90 minute sessions and includes planning time.

## Timeframes:

- Deadline for submission of proposals: 5.00pm, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 by email to [hello@amal.org.uk](mailto:hello@amal.org.uk)
- Decision and initiation of contracting process: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- Delivery of workshops from February 2022

## Application Process:

Please submit a proposal describing your practice and workshop plan by email to [hello@amal.org.uk](mailto:hello@amal.org.uk) by 5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December, including an indication of how the activity provides a useful introduction and engagement with cultural activity. Please ensure that your proposal covers the points listed below.

We welcome applicants from diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicities and invite applicants to let us know if they have any access requirements with regard to responding to this opportunity.

**Please include in your application, the following information:**

- Workshop lead and contact details - Name, email, telephone number
- Website URL (if applicable)
- Postal address
- You and/or your organisation - Describe yourself and/or your organisation. We would like to know who you are and what you do (300 words max).
- Experience and capability - Please include links to any relevant previous work that you have undertaken for reference, and a brief biography of any individuals who are likely to be fully involved in the process.
- Workshop delivery plan - Tell us about what you are going to do and how you will do it. Let us know what support you expect to need from the Amal team (including resources and breakdown of costs). Indicate whether this activity is suited to a particular demographic and what the workshop capacity is. Outline the key risks in delivery and your approach to managing them.
- Connection to community - Please let us know of any prior or current associations with any Muslim community groups that you may have