

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - STORY

Name	Kiren Shafiq, Islamic Help
Details, area of experience	Kiren started as a volunteer and has been working with Islamic Help for a year (in December 2020)
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Food shortages during the pandemic
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input type="checkbox"/> class <input type="checkbox"/> faith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates mentioned	2020
Locations referenced	Birmingham
Campaigns, movements, protests	Running/suppling foodbanks during the pandemic
Historical context	Present history = Coronavirus pandemic 2020
Tactics	Creating flyers about the food packs that were sent out via family and friends and on social media , the response was bigger than they expected; making a list of other foodbanks in neighbouring counties in case people from out of Birmingham got in touch.
Key words	Local community Food bank Pandemic
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community action during the pandemic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fear of losing people but over coming that to help people in need ● Faith and non-faith groups working together
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Story summary	<p>Kiren Shafiq describes being part of Islamic Help in the summer of 2020. The group helped to deliver food and other basic supplies to people of all communities in Birmingham and other cities in the West Midlands in response to panic-buying at the start of the pandemic. During Ramadan, the group cooked so they could give out and deliver hot food to as many people as possible, and during Eid, 1000 volunteers joined Islamic Help to deliver boxes of sweets to the local community.</p> <hr/> <p>Panic buying led to people who were struggling being unable to get hold of certain food stuffs. Islamic Help decided to start delivering food packs to make sure that everyone had what they needed. At the start it was the organisation and its regular volunteers that were collecting food to give out to people. But as the lockdown continued more and more people and local shops from outside the organisation got involved with donating food to the group.</p> <p>During the month of Ramadan, the group also started to cook and give out hot food to as many people as possible. The small team started to take food packs home with them so that if anyone needed one, they could deliver at any time of the day, or night! Deliveries were made to people across Birmingham, including the elderly and medical staff who were struggling to get the things they needed due to panic buying. The small team were joined by volunteers to make up 1,000 sweet boxes for the local community and on Eid they went out, knocking on doors to give people the boxes and wish them Eid Mubarak. People were delighted with this personal touch.</p> <p>The food bank is still going, and they are expecting more people to use their service due to job losses and the general impact of the pandemic.</p>
Stand-out quotations	<p>“If I had the fear in me, I would be, like OK, I can’t do this myself because I am too scared ... but I still carried on good work. I thought, no we need to be there for others because we had loads of elderly people in the community that we have to help.”</p> <p>“Just go with being yourself because everyone has got it in them to help another human out.”</p>

	<p>“It has been a very tough year, but when I think about all that we have achieved and everything that we have done for others out there ... it was enough for us.”</p> <p>“It’s just about helping humanity, being human yourself.”</p>
Main themes for learners	<p>How to organise, run and fundraise a food bank in your local area</p> <p>How to communicate with people about your project</p> <p>Working collaboratively with organisations outside your own to raise awareness and receive donations</p> <p>Being proactive in your approach (here, getting out there and stocking up you own foodbank)</p>

<https://www.economicinjustice.org.uk>