

# Coventry UK City of Culture 2021

How did programming and cultural leadership engage faith and community groups in Coventry and the region?

Dilwar Hussain, Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor,  
Dinesh Passi and Dan Range

Commissioned by the Coventry City of Culture Trust

# Background

- Special thanks to Jennifer Davis, Tim Hammerton and research participant
- Pandemic
- The 2021 Census also shows that the religious make up of Coventry is 43.9%  
Christian, 29.6% No religion, 10.4% Muslim, 5.0% Sikh, 4% Hindu, 0.4%  
Buddhist, 0.1% Jewish, 0.6% Other.
- Christian, Hindu, and Muslim groups studied
- Foleshill, St Michaels and Upper Stoke
- Interviews and focus groups

# Positive Perceptions

- Faith-Based Cultural Programming – Well Thought Out
- Breaking Down Barriers, Connecting People
- Celebration, Joy and Hope
- Accessible and Easy To Participate
- Inclusive, Meaningful and Well Thought Out
- High Quality, Powerful Performances from the RSC
- An Impetus For New Programmes, Leadership And Collaboration



# Learning points

- Location and Method of Publicity
- Activities Concentrated Around the City Centre
- Difficult for Smaller Groups to Avail Of Opportunities
- Diversity Within Faiths Not Always Recognised
- Capacity and Infrastructure
- Coventry's Own Talents Could be More Prominent
- A Challenge to Communities

# Lessons / Suggestions



- **FAITH AS AN IMPORTANT CONDUIT FOR CITIZENSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT**
- **TRUST**
- **RELATIONSHIPS**
- **RESOURCES AND CAPACITY**
- **SHARED SPACES**
- **SUSTAINABILITY**
- **SHARED LEARNING – Bradford**
- **FURTHER RESEARCH:**
  - i) Specific experience of different faith and cultural groups.
  - ii) More longitudinal work on the legacy of UK CoC 2021.

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[Working with faith communities – Coventry City Council](#)

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