

Job Description

Head of Partnerships and Systemic Change

- **Job Title:** Head of Partnerships and Systemic Change
- **Location:** London, SE1
- **Hours:** Full-time, 35 hours per week (4 days office-based, 1 day hybrid/remote)
- **Reporting to:** Chief Executive Officer
- **Contract:** Fixed Term Contract, 3 years
- **Salary:** £42,500 - £45,000 per annum

About Muslim Charities Forum (MCF)

Muslim Charities Forum (MCF) is the UK's leading network for Muslim-led charities, strengthening the capacity, voice and impact of nearly 300 organisations. Guided by our pillars of Support, Connect and Represent, we champion excellence, transparency and social justice through resources, capacity-building, research and advocacy.

We work to tackle structural and funding barriers, influence government, policymakers and the wider sector, and build a more sustainable, equitable Muslim-led charitable landscape. Through strategic partnerships and collaborations, we drive systemic change and amplify the contributions of Muslim-led organisations across society.

Role Purpose

The **Head of Partnerships and Systemic Change** will lead MCF's efforts to build strategic partnerships, drive systemic change, and influence policy to enable Muslim-led charities to thrive in a more equitable, inclusive, and impactful civil society.

The postholder will work closely with key stakeholders, including policymakers, government departments, funders, infrastructure bodies, and sector leaders, to address structural inequalities, unlock resources, and elevate the recognition of Muslim-led charities in British society. This role will involve both coalition-building and strategic campaigning to create lasting change within the sector.

Working in collaboration with MCF's policy, communications, advocacy, and research teams, the Head of Partnerships and Systemic Change will ensure a coordinated approach that drives long-term, sector-wide capacity improvement and sustainable impact.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership & Systemic Change

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy focused on driving systemic change that enhances the impact and sustainability of Muslim-led charities.
- Identify and dismantle structural, institutional, and policy barriers that hinder the growth and success of Muslim-led organisations.
- Lead efforts to address disparities in funding, representation, and support for Muslim-led charities, advocating for more equitable resource allocation.
- Champion inclusive policies that promote equity in representation and resource distribution for Muslim-led organisations across the charity sector.

External Engagement & Partnerships

- Build and maintain impactful relationships with key stakeholders, including policymakers, funders, government officials, and sector leaders.
- Work with funders and mainstream sector partners to unlock resources and support for Muslim-led organisations, ensuring equitable access to funding and opportunities.
- Develop strategic alliances and coalitions with infrastructure and umbrella organisations across the charity sector to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and systemic change.
- Collaborate with civil society partners to advance inclusive policy frameworks and advocate for equitable funding practices.
- Position MCF as a key voice in coalition-building efforts and as a strategic campaigner on issues affecting the Muslim charitable sector.

Policy, Advocacy & Communications

- Collaborate closely with MCF's policy, communications, and advocacy teams to design and implement integrated strategies for policy influence.

- Contribute to the development of evidence-based policy briefings, consultation responses, and advocacy campaigns aimed at driving systemic reform and addressing sectoral inequalities.
- Lead strategic campaigns that amplify MCF's core messages and policy priorities to diverse audiences, including decision-makers and key influencers.
- Represent MCF at parliamentary, sectoral, and public events to advocate for policy change and elevate the profile of Muslim-led charities.

Research & Insight

- Work with MCF's research team to generate insights and data that inform systemic change and strengthen advocacy efforts.
- Translate research findings into actionable recommendations for funders, policymakers, and other influential stakeholders.
- Use research to identify emerging trends and challenges within the Muslim charitable sector, developing proactive solutions to address these issues.

Collaboration & Representation

- Represent MCF externally with professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to the organisation's values of inclusion, collaboration, and faith sensitivity.
- Act as a thought leader and advocate for Muslim-led charities in both public and private sector forums, driving change through advocacy and coalition-building.

Management

- Lead designated members of the team, overseeing work and line management where appropriate.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Significant experience (minimum 5 years) in driving systemic change within the charity, public, or civil society sectors.
- In-depth understanding of the UK charity landscape, particularly the challenges faced by minority or faith-based organisations.
- Proven track record of building and nurturing strategic partnerships with policymakers, funders, and senior stakeholders.

- Expertise in policy development, advocacy, and influencing key stakeholders to achieve long-term change.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and relationship-building skills.
- Strong strategic thinking capabilities with the ability to connect research, policy, and advocacy to drive meaningful outcomes.
- A commitment to MCF's mission, values, and principles of equity, inclusion, and collaboration.

Desirable:

- Experience in coalition-building or cross-sector partnership development.
- Understanding of frameworks for systemic change (e.g., systems thinking, collective impact).
- Familiarity with the British Muslim charitable ecosystem and its role in social change.

What We Offer:

- The opportunity to lead impactful change within one of the UK's most dynamic faith-based networks.
- A collaborative, inclusive, and supportive working environment.
- Opportunities for professional growth, leadership, and innovation.

Application Information:

To apply, please send a CV (no more than 2 pages) and a covering letter (max 1,000 words) explaining how you meet the essential criteria and your motivation and suitability for the post. Please include two referees (one of whom should be a recent manager). Please email your application to: info@muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk by the closing date.

We are an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and are particularly keen to hear from candidates with lived experience of marginalisation and an understanding of Islamic ethos. Reasonable adjustments are available on request throughout the recruitment process.

We reserve the right to withdraw this role once a suitable candidate is identified.

If you have not heard from us concerning your application within 6 weeks, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.

Interviews: Initial online short interview (stage 1), face-to-face in-office interview (stage 2).

**No agencies. UK residents only. Sponsorship is not possible for this post.
References will be taken up prior to appointment including relevant ID checks.**