

CONFERENCE 2009

MUSLIM YOUTH

CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Date to be Announced

Organisers: AMSS UK

The modern world presents a series of complex, conflicting scenarios and possibilities for young people and in particular young Muslims. Many Muslim societies display a “youth bulge”, where more than half of their populations are under the age of 25, a demographic reality mirrored in Muslim communities living in the West. An increasingly globalised western culture is rapidly eroding traditional ideas about society, from the family to the state. At the same time, rampant materialism is creating a culture of spiritual emptiness in which demoralisation and pessimism easily find root. For young Muslims these challenges are compounded by a growing sense of alienation as they face competing ideologies and divergent lifestyles. Muslim youth are often idealised as the “future of Islam” or stigmatised as rebelling against their parental values and suffering “identity crises”. These experiences can produce both positive and negative reactions, from intellectual engagement, social interaction and increasing spiritual maturity to emotional rejectionism, immersion in narrow identity politics and violent extremism. However, it is clear that the optimism of most young Muslims is best nurtured in an environment of opportunity, where ambitions and aspirations can exist as an achievable reality. But at the social and political levels, opportunity crucially depends on the existence of both equality and inclusivity, as well as the vision and determination within the community and the establishment to tackle educational underachievement. This conference seeks to discuss the central issues currently facing young Muslims both locally and globally and seeks to engage with academics, educationalists, psychologists, social commentators, youth work practitioners and interested institutions and organisations at the national and international levels.

Further information will be posted on our website near the time.
Please visit: amssuk.com