

The East London Mosque was a founding member of TELCO in 1996, joined in 2004 by the London Muslim Centre and in 2009 by The Tower Hamlets Branch of the Islamic Forum Europe. All are thus active and responsible members of LONDON CITIZENS' diverse community alliance. This long term working relationship has meant we are in regular contact and has carried us through endless CITIZENS Assemblies, many campaign struggles and workshops.

Both institutions regularly send their young leaders on CITIZENS leadership training. They have worked amicably and respectfully over the last thirteen years with Buddhists, Christians, Trade Unionists and Community Associations under LONDON CITIZENS Umbrella and set a good example for other institutions as good and active neighbours.

I have visited and trained and worked alongside their key leaders for more than 15 years and can testify that they have been outstanding and loyal members of LONDON CITIZENS, joining hands with others to fight for better wages, better housing and a stronger and more cohesive society. The East London Mosque won CITIZENS 'Community of the Year' accolade in 2008 for its many efforts to promote the common good and ensure that its young people understand politics, vote and are sound and informed British Muslims.

We are delighted soon to welcome into membership the New North London Synagogue, which is part of the association of Masortis, who will be part of an alliance that includes the East London Mosque and 150 other civil society institutions. We are also glad that the Mayor's Fund, under Sir Trevor Chin's leadership, is investing in LONDON CITIZENS and our community building programme in East London.

It has been my experience of twenty years of community organizing that faith communities working, learning and acting together on social justice issues is a far better way of challenging totalitarianism and the BNP than negative and ill informed stereotyping. I wish we had more institutions in our neighborhoods like The East London Mosque and more outward looking associations like The Islamic Forum Europe.

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