

**Comfort Akinbobola**  
***Yorkshire & the Humber***

I believe I should be elected to the BAME Council because I am passionate about representing our community and making our voices heard.

As the BAME Group lead at my workplace, I have successfully advocated for diverse voices and worked on initiatives that promote equality and inclusion.

I am committed to promoting equality and social justice for everyone in the BAME community.

I am dedicated to promoting equality and fairness for all members of the BAME community. I believe in creating opportunities and empowerment.

I value the opinions of others and am committed to listening to their concerns. I want to work together to find solutions that benefit everyone.

I value teamwork and believe that working together is key to creating meaningful change. I am eager to engage with others and listen to their ideas.

I am very action oriented person and I will not just talk about issues; I will take action. My goal is to push for policies that support the BAME community and ensure that our needs are met.

I have a clear vision for a more inclusive and equitable future. I want to help build a community where everyone feels valued and empowered.

I would be honoured to be given this opportunity to work together to make a positive impact on our community. Thank you!

**Mohammad Arshad**  
***North West of England***

No statement provided.

**Zulqarnain Toy Aslam BEM**  
***East Midlands***

My name is Tony Aslam. I am currently an active councillor in Wellingborough Northamptonshire and have been since 2014. Through my role as a councillor, I have been able help many people through their hardship during covid19. Because of my ethnic background, I was able communicate effectively with the ethnic community, making them understand the importance of vaccination, I built up an understanding and trust and often attended the local mosques, for which I am a trustee now, to educate people the benefits of vaccination. I took time out to learn and administer injections to those who were apprehensive. My aim has always been to work for the people and support the less fortunate. Throughout the covid19 period I travelled many a mile to support and help people who could not leave their homes. For this effort and work, I was awarded a British Empire Medal. I was very honoured to receive this award. I have been constructively involved with football since 1996. I am a referee and over the years this has encouraged me to make vital decisions within the rules of the Football association. I am an advocate of fair play and always exercise this on the field of play. I am currently a chairman of local community centre.

I believe in equality and will challenge those who do not adhere to guidelines and rules. I have been working with communities for a long time and understand the needs and issues of the communities, especially the Asian community, of which I have inherent knowledge. People understand simple language and my aim has always been to communicate in a simple manner.

Tony Aslam BEM

07886534562

[tonyaslam@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyaslam@hotmail.com)

**Hilaria Asumu**  
***North West of England***

For over 20 years, I've worked where it matters, on the frontlines of our communities, in courtrooms, council chambers, and crisis meetings, standing up for people who are often overlooked, unheard, or ignored.

I'm a serving councillor. A school governor. A charity founder. A community advocate. And a woman who's never needed permission to lead.

I've worked with families navigating complex government systems. I've fought for better access to healthcare, especially around kidney disease and organ donation in Black communities. I've spoken in churches, mosques, community centres, not just raising awareness, but shifting outcomes.

And I've taken that same drive into the systems that shape people's lives. Whether it's reviewing adult health and social care in local government, lending my expertise to various local or national government initiatives, or holding senior leaders to account, I know how to work inside structures, and when to push from the outside.

That's what I'll bring to the BAME Council. I don't just represent communities. I serve them. I fight for them. I build with them.

I'm not here to sit quietly at the table. I'm here to speak up, to act, and to make sure the voices of our communities shape real, lasting change.

If you want someone who's proven, prepared, and ready, not just to show up, but to get to work, then I'm asking for your vote.

Let's make the space count. Vote me! Vote Hilaria Asumu!

**Tansaim Hussain-Gul**  
***Wales***

I am standing for election for the BAME Council because I believe passionately in the power of collective action to challenge injustice and drive real change. As a strong Black woman and an active trade unionist, I have seen first hand how structural racism continues to impact our workplaces and our communities and I am committed to being part of the solution.

I have consistently stood up for equality, fairness, and inclusion, both within my union and workplace. I bring lived experience, a strong voice, and a proven track record of speaking out and organising against discrimination, whether it's fighting for fair recruitment processes, challenging racist microaggressions, or ensuring BAME workers have a seat at the leadership table.

The BAME Council plays a crucial role in shaping our policies, priorities, and campaigns on racial justice. If elected, I will be a visible, vocal, and active member who listens to the concerns of our communities and takes them forward. I will work to ensure that anti-racism is embedded in everything we do, from collective bargaining to leadership development.

My vision is for a Co operative party where BAME members are not just included but empowered, supported, and represented at all levels. That means tackling barriers to progression, ensuring accountability for equality commitments, and amplifying the voices of our members who are too often unheard.

I am ready to bring energy, commitment, and a bold vision for racial justice to the BAME Council. I ask for your vote to help continue this important work because when we organise, we win and when we win we win for all.

**Abdel Ibrahim**  
***South East of England***

Growing up in a working class household led by a single mother, as a migrant and person of color, I have witnessed firsthand the harsh realities of austerity and inequality. These experiences ignited my passion for social justice and advocacy for underrepresented communities. With over 17 years of experience in social justice and development, I have worked with the Japanese and Korean government aid agencies and NGOs, championing the rights of marginalised groups.

In 2011, I was selected by the Ford Foundation as a Social Change Leader—recognition of my dedication to creating meaningful impact. Later, I pursued a master's degree at the University of Birmingham, focusing on Poverty and Inequality, to further strengthen my skills to address social injustice.

Locally, I have brought that commitment to my role as a councillor, having successfully unseated a sitting Conservative in 2023—the only seat to change hands in Basingstoke, ending 17 years of Tory control. Shortly after, I was elected Labour Group Leader. I've held key roles within the party, including Policy Officer at Basingstoke CLP and currently serve as Vice Chair of Northwest Hampshire CLP.

As an active trade unionist, I am currently a member of UNISON Community Service Group Executive. I've also been serving on the UNISON Community and Voluntary Sector Branch Executive Committee as Equality Officer and International Relations Officer since 2021. During this time I supported the branch to ensure equality and diversity is taken into account in every decision and action. Most recently, I moved a widely supported motion at the UNISON Community and Voluntary Sector conference to address the underrepresentation of BAME leadership in the UK charity sector.

I've led successful global campaigns for healthcare rights and disability benefits in countries where campaigning can be challenging.

I believe these diverse experiences and commitment to equity and inclusion uniquely equips me with the knowledge and skills needed to support the important work of BAME Committee.

**Prabhakar Kaza**  
***East of England***

**1. Get Involved Locally**

- Join local support Afro-Asia groups and secure more BAME supports to increase our representation.
- Attend meetings: Listen, learn, and contribute in ways that elevate BAME voices.
- Volunteer: Offer help with events, campaigns, or administrative tasks.

**2. Advocate for Representation**

- Encourage and support BAME members to stand for positions in local Labour Party structures.
- Promote fair selection processes for candidates and internal roles. We have serious issues of misrepresentation of Candidates' achievements which is hampering their progress. Will make efforts to put an end to it.

**3. Amplify Their Work**

- Share their events and campaigns on social media.
- Invite BAME committee speakers to panel discussions, training events, and political forums.
- Support their motions or initiatives at party conferences or in local meetings.

**4. Engage in Policy and Dialogue**

- Help gather community input to inform Labour's policy development from a BAME perspective.
- Support initiatives around issues like institutional racism, policing, education inequality, and economic justice.

**5. Educate Myself and Others**

- Learn about the history of racial justice and the contributions of BAME communities to the Labour movement.
- Organize or attend workshops and cultural events that raise awareness.
- Encourage anti-racism training within your CLP.

**6. Donate or Fundraise**

- Some BAME committees or networks may need support to fund events, campaigns, or outreach efforts. If you're able, help out financially or with fundraising efforts.

**7. Stay Connected**

- Follow national Labour BAME organisations like BAME Labour, Labour Black Socialists, or Labour Muslim Network.
- Stay up to date with what they're campaigning for and how allies can help.

**8. Campaigning and Canvassing**

- . Secure the co-operation of BAME supporters for our political campaigns and ensure that they canvass along with experienced candidates, so that they can stand in the next elections.

**Marianne Kimani**  
***East Midlands***

I am currently the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, where I lead efforts to ensure our public services are inclusive, representative, and responsive to all communities. I have made it a personal and professional priority to ensure BAME communities are not left behind in our work to keep the county safe and sound.

As part of this commitment, I organised the first-ever Black Leaders Roundtable on behalf of the Commissioner's Office—a historic and successful event that fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration. I am collaborating in initiatives to increase the recruitment of BAME officers and staff across police and fire services and working to diversify scrutiny panels, so they reflect the communities they serve. Through the Safe and Sound Plan, I actively engage BAME communities, attend and organise targeted events, and working with our positive action teams to build long-term trust.

Alongside my commissioner duties, I am an active Labour and Co-operative Party member, deeply involved in CLP activity, door-knocking, national and local campaigns, BAME engagement workshops, membership recruitment, and motions at full council. I have also worked closely with local councillors at community surgeries and events focused on youth and women's empowerment.

Community service is at the core of who I am. I have served as a Special Constable and was a parliamentary candidate in the last general election. I lead with integrity, compassion, and a strong sense of justice, and I bring extensive experience in leadership, policy, campaign work, and engaging underrepresented voices.

I am proud to stand on a platform of fairness, equality, and empowerment—and I would be honoured to bring my experience and passion to the BAME Co-operators Committee, ensuring our movement continues to reflect and uplift the communities it represents.



**Swatantra Nandanwar**  
***East of England***

I'm part of the Windrush Era and permanently settled in the UK.

I came to Britain at the age of 4 with my parents. And this April I celebrated my 81st birthday. Yes, I have my BRP and share code at long last. So I have seen the many ups and downs of Race Relations and Community tensions over the span of over 80 years.

When I retired as a teacher I became a voluntary advisor with Basildon Citizens Advice and Victim Support. That experience led me into becoming more politically aware and active. Also I had joined the Labour Party and Coop Party previously.

When in 1997 Labour were swept into power , I suddenly found myself elected on Essex County Council and in the following year on Basildon Council.

I have also been Chair of the Essex Racial Equality Council. I was also fortunate to serve on the ECC Police Committee as Chair of its Diversity subcommittee.

I was also active in the Coop Group and served on their Essex Area Committee and was a Member of the Group's Diversity Committee.

So, it's now left to the Coop Party to nudge our Labour Government in the correct direction with more cooperative solutions to today's challenging problems.

I was fortunate to continue to serve on ECC until 2005 and BDC until 2011.

As I approached 70, I decided to take a break from politics, and spend more time in my birthplace India and tend to a small farm that my father had left us.

My desire has always been to empower and enable the disadvantaged and to make a contribution to what 'Compass' call a Good Society.

I believe that if we can all work together more cooperatively then we can achieve that Good Society.

Swatantra Nandanwar

**Karine Nzang**  
***North West of England***

Good morning,

As a member of the Cooperative Party and the Socialist Party since last year, I have participated in numerous campaigns.

As a member of the Socialist Party, I endorsed Julie Jarman so that she could represent the Socialist party in the Beswick and Ancoats constituency and then campaigned for her during the May 2024 local elections to seek election as a councillor.

I also participated in James Frith's campaign in Bury to regain his MP seat, which he had lost four years earlier.

I endorsed Lucy Powell and actively led her campaign in Manchester, Failsworth, and Cheetham Hill, which saw her re-election as MP.

I participated in Connor Rand's campaign in Withenshaw and Altrincham and Sale to elect a Labour MP in a constituency that has always been Conservative, and he won. Recently, I went campaigning and distributing leaflets for the Failsworth East Ward Councillor.

Every year since 2010, I have volunteered for Africa Oyé, an annual festival held in Liverpool. It is the largest celebration of live African music and culture in the UK, and I am responsible for fundraising and conducting satisfaction surveys.

I participate in events organized by minority women entrepreneurs.

Every Saturday, I lead a group of five people preparing meals for 150 people in financial difficulty on behalf of Feed My City, an emergency food aid charity in Manchester, Salford, and Trafford. The Sikh community owns it.

I have 14 years' experience in accounting and finance, including four years as a customs consultant. I run a small business in Manchester. I trained young people as part of the government's Kickstart program, which provides vocational training for young people.

I have an online platform that provides free soft skills training to young people.

I am the best fit for this role.

Thank you,

Karine

**Damilola Ojuri**  
***East Midlands***

My name is Damilola Ojuri. I am currently a Town Councillor in Ashby de la Zouch, the BAME Officer for Northwest Leicestershire CLP, and Labour's County Council Candidate for the upcoming May elections.

I am also the Deputy Mayor-Elect for Ashby de la Zouch and am looking forward to being selected as the next Mayor in May 2025.

Since being appointed as BAME Officer for NWL CLP in December 2023, I have been an active advocate for the BAME community in a number of ways:

- Provided guidance to resolve a toxic workplace situation, which was successfully addressed
- Assisted employees in contacting HMRC to prevent tax extortion by their employer
- Offered advice on resolving workplace discrimination

In this role, I've also taken every opportunity to engage the BAME community with the Labour Party. I spoke at several community events during the last general election, where I promoted our MP Amanda Hack and helped share Labour's vision.

If selected, I will bring determination, passion, and a strong sense of purpose to ensure BAME voices are heard within the Co-operative Party and beyond. I am especially committed to supporting and promoting BAME candidates and building pathways for wider engagement.

Through my work in the community, I've developed skills in rallying people around shared goals, navigating challenges, and creating meaningful change. I believe these experiences can enrich our discussions, ground our work in lived realities, and help us find practical, innovative solutions to the issues BAME communities face.

I am a team player who will bring energy, empathy, and commitment to the BAME Co-operators Committee, and I am ready to fully align with its values and expectations.

**Muhammad Rahman**  
***North West of England***

My name is Muhammad Zuhedur Rahman and I am a proud British Bangladeshi.

I was a BAME officer of Stalybridge and Hyde CLP(23-24).

I am proud member of Unite the Union(North West Region).

It was my honor to stand for Labor and Co-op Party candidate in the last 2023 council elections of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council.

I want to represent and make sure our voices, our fears, our concerns are heard. I want to help build a fair society not just for the few but for the many. We all know how hard it has been over the past few years and I feel strongly that our community has been neglected, so please vote for me.

Regards

Muhammad Rahman

**Parveen Rani**  
***East of England***

As a British Asian woman and an elected councillor in Hertsmere, I have seen first-hand the challenges facing BAME communities across local and national levels. I am standing for the BAME Co-operators Committee because I am passionate about creating meaningful representation and lasting change. We need more diverse voices in decision-making spaces — voices that reflect the communities we live in and serve.

My journey in public service has always been rooted in purpose. I currently serve as Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere and have worked tirelessly to support underrepresented voices in my borough. From tackling inequalities in healthcare access and SEND provision to empowering BAME women to enter public life, I understand the importance of inclusive policy and grassroots engagement. If elected, I will prioritise three things: supporting the growth and retention of BAME members in the Co-operative Party; championing campaigns that speak to our lived experiences; and helping to mentor and uplift the next generation of BAME leaders into public office.

Representation is about more than ticking boxes — it's about building trust, visibility, and influence. I will bring energy, lived experience, and a proven track record of delivery to the Committee's work. I also have strong links with local communities, charities, and co-operative groups, and would use these networks to promote co-operative values and policies that uplift our communities.

I believe passionately in the power of co-operation, and I would be honoured to contribute to building a movement where every BAME member feels empowered, included, and heard. Thank you for considering me for this important role.

**Shabaan Saleem**  
***Yorkshire & the Humber***

My name is Shabaan Saleem, and I am requesting your support to put myself forward for the BAME Council. I have always been a passionate advocate for equality, diversity, and inclusion, not just locally, but at regional and national levels whenever possible. As a frontline NHS worker, I have witnessed firsthand how disparities in health impact ethnic minority individuals. However, my commitment goes beyond standing for BAME equality; it encompasses advocating for fairness and representation for all.

As one of the youngest councillors of diverse heritage in Wakefield District, I am proud to have broken barriers and shown people from all walks of life that achieving such milestones is possible. I will continue to champion fair representation across the Cooperative Party, ensuring that all members, including those from BAME backgrounds, are actively involved and heard.

I am a strong trade unionist who has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with colleagues in the fight for better pay and working conditions. Currently, I serve as Chair of a local equality network and as the Yorkshire and Humber Cooperative Party Equality Officer. These roles have given me the privilege of being a voice for many, but joining the BAME Council will allow me to amplify this work further, reaching new heights and making an even greater impact.

By electing me to the BAME Council, you are choosing someone who is deeply committed to driving change, fostering inclusion, and ensuring that every voice is represented.

**Baiju Thittala**  
***East of England***

No statement provided.

**Elif Toker-Turnalar**  
***East of England***

Championing Equity, Empowering Voices: Meet Elif Toker-Turnalar

Elif is a proud Londoner, born and raised in the heart of the inner city to immigrant parents. The first in her family to attend university, Elif's journey is rooted in resilience, representation, and a deep commitment to creating inclusive spaces—both in education and society at large.

A dynamic academic, public speaker, and thought leader, Elif specialises in Political Communication, Digital Literacy, Diaspora Media, Turkish Politics, and Global Public Relations. She was awarded a prestigious European Union Jean Monnet Scholarship to research political communication in late-developing countries at Westminster University. Her academic voice is amplified through her role as a lecturer at Regent's University London and her collaborative research, including widely cited work on how emerging adults engage with news and politics on social media platforms like Facebook. [Read more here](#)

Elif is not only a scholar but also a committed community advocate. She has served as a local school governor and volunteers with various grassroots organisations that support underrepresented voices. Politically active, she has campaigned tirelessly in historically Conservative constituencies to champion progressive change—celebrating the election of Labour & Co-operative MPs in both her previous and current local areas.

Her lived experience as a mother to an autistic son has fuelled her passion for equitable access to education. She has fought for inclusive mainstream schooling, and now aspires to influence national education policy—ensuring every child across the UK, regardless of background or ability, receives the quality education they deserve.

Elif represents a bold, inclusive, and visionary leadership style—one that embraces diversity, demands equity, and builds bridges across communities. She is ready to lead and ready to serve.

Connect and join the movement for positive change. @elftok on Facebook, Instagram, X, and BlueSky  
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/eliftt](https://www.linkedin.com/in/eliftt)