

# Immigration, faith and cohesion

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## Aims

The research examined the factors that contribute to or undermine community cohesion in local areas with significant numbers of recent Muslim migrants and established Muslim residents.

## Methodology

The report is based on semi-structured interviews with 319 Muslim and non-Muslim migrants and longer-term established residents in Birmingham, Newham and Bradford; and qualitative interviews with policy-makers and service providers in each of the local areas and at a national level undertaken between January 2006 and June 2007.

## Key issues

The research examines findings from interviewees who included people from 40 countries with a range of immigration statuses; 72% were Muslim; and 112 were from Bradford. Issues covered include inequality [unemployment, occupation and religious and race discrimination]; places of interaction [length of residence, perception of neighbourhoods, space and interaction and support and kinship networks]; participation in the public sphere [political and civic engagement, perceptions of influence on decision-making], and belonging [transnational involvement, integration, perceptions of belonging in Britain]. The report also presents findings from local and national policy-makers and service providers on understandings of community cohesion.

## Conclusions

Conclusions are offered to each of the key study areas, which include the importance of family ties or work for choice of locality; the significance of colleges, workplaces and family responsibilities for fostering social interaction; the need for English classes to be considered in community cohesion work, and that transnational attachment does not need to be a barrier to integration in the UK.

## Recommendations

Suggestions for improving community cohesion work and policy are included throughout the text.

Migrant Group

Non-EU migrants

Refugees

Topic

Community and society

Community cohesion

Faith

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Bradford

West Yorkshire

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2008

Resource Type

Report

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