

May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah Be Upon You

The University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society Committee hope that you are in the best of health, wealth and faith. Discover Islam Week 2015 has just closed, and the Committee thought you deserved an update of the activities the Society has held - in association with staff, students and external organisations - over the previous weeks.

So What Have We Been Up To?

The aim of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society has always been to encourage the University of Lincoln to fulfil the needs of Muslim – or indeed, Non-Muslim – students, by providing them with the benefits and facilities needed to improve themselves academically, spiritually, physically, financially and socially. This year, community cohesion has provided the drive for many of our activities; this has encouraged wider participation, which, we hope, has simultaneously helped dispel many misconceptions about Islam and helped bring people, places and ideas together.

Discover Islam Week 2015

Discover Islam Week is an annual campaign held by the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society – a voluntarily student-led organisation - to raise awareness about Islam. It holds guest speakers lectures and various activities and fundraising events to provide a foundation for people of many faiths to come together and celebrate their differences. This provides an opportunity for individuals of different faiths to build close relationships and widen their understanding of one another. The campaign also provides an opportunity for the different groups contributing and participating to work towards a collective good, of benefit to the local community. This year collective action focussed upon raising awareness about the charity St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice which included activities to raise funds for the organisation which supports those with terminal illness and their families.



Discover Islam Week

Join us for a week of events, raising money for the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice!

St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice Donation Collections
Mon 16th Feb – Mon 23rd Feb
University of Lincoln
Watch out for the Donation Buckets and Collection Tins Placed around the University of Lincoln – Be as generous as you like. There's also an opportunity to take a selfie with Elmo in exchange for a donation.

**Cake and Sweet Stall**
Tues 17th Feb 10:00 – 15:00
Atrium, Minerva Building, Brayford Pool
Try our Homemade Cakes & Cookies. Try the old playground favourites. All proceeds raised go to charity.

**Falconry Display**
Thurs 19th Feb 10:00 – 17:00
The Platform, University Square
Come down and see a fantastic Falconry Display held by SP Falconry. Find out more about how pets are frequently used in animal-assisted therapy for those challenged by terminal illness.

**High Street Collection**
Sat 21st Feb 09:00 – 17:00
High Street, Lincoln
Volunteers needed! Gather some volunteering hours by working with other staff and students to collect donations for the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice.

**St. Barnabas Cup**
Sat 28th Feb 11:00 – 16:00
University of Lincoln Sports Centre, Brayford Pool
Football Tournament with participation from the City of Lincoln Council, Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust and the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society. There's also an additional Youth Cup!

**Morrison's Check-Out Collection**
Sat 28th Feb 10:00 – 17:00
Morrison's, Tritton Road
Volunteers needed! Gather some volunteering hours by helping customers bag their groceries in return for donations towards the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice.





Listening

Preparations for Discover Islam Week began in November 2014. The prior organisation required for the week gave Members of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society Committee the opportunity to speak to people of other faiths. Listening to their ideas, their interests and taking on their opinions about what they would like the week to include. It provided a great opportunity to discuss the various possibilities suggested.

Cooperation

Once the events to include were decided, the staff at the University of Lincoln Students' Union were consulted. A big thank you to: Activities Support Worker, Jo Buckler; Activities Co-ordinator, Tracey Revill and Volunteer Co-ordinator Jane Kilby for their efforts in facilitating in the reams of administrative paper work and back-and-forth emails required to organise the week.

Sensitivity

Rizwaan Chothia, A Police Constable from the Lincolnshire Police Force was consulted in regards to the week's events to evaluate their suitability towards both the staff and students at the University of Lincoln and the local community. It gave the Islamic Society an awareness into sensitive issues and how best to implement the message of inter-faith harmony most effectively. A special thanks to Ben Atkinson, a Digital Media Officer at the University of Lincoln, who designed both artworks used to advertise the campaign through posters and leaflets at the University and through the implementation of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



Discover Islam Week
Join us for a week of events, and lectures as part of Discover Islam Week 2015.

Mon 16th Feb 18:00
Sharia Law: An Accurate Representation
Abdullah Al-Andalusi | CO-OP Lecture Theatre, Minerva Building

Tues 17th Feb 18:00
Beyond Borders: The Spread of Islam
Dr. Stef Keris | Cargill Lecture Theatre, Minerva Building

Wed 18th Feb 18:00
Scientific Facts: As Described in the Quran
Dr. Musharraf Hussain | Jackson Lecture Theatre, Minerva Building

Thurs 19th Feb 18:00
Rode Models: Women in Leadership
Zara Huda Faris | Cargill Lecture Theatre, Minerva Building

Friday 20th Feb 18:00
Legacy: The Life of Prophet Muhammed (PBUH)
Shaykh Omar Babar | CO-OP Lecture Theatre, Minerva Building

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STUDENTS' UNION

Communication

Once the posters were printed. Students helped display them around the University of Lincoln. The distribution email produced by the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society was sent out; the Committee was surprised by the feedback they received in replies. It seems that many individuals and organisations to which the email was sent forwarded it on to people who may be interested in the week. It really was an illustration of collective effort!



The leaflets were distributed towards worshippers attending the Islamic Association of Lincoln's Friday Afternoon Congregational Prayer in the city. Worshippers were encouraged to attend with neighbours and friends, by Tanvir Ahmed, the Chairman of the Islamic Association of Lincoln, who also donated 150 translations of the Qur'an towards the literature stands we had organised.



Global Week

A week before the week started the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society received an invitation from: Bradley Smith, an Internationalising the Student Experience Intern at the College of Social Science and Subash Chellaiah, the University of Lincoln Chaplain, to attend the Global Week they had organised, which preceded the Discover Islam Week. Committee Members from the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society Abdul-Rehman Chaudry, the Community & Welfare Officer and Jammil Ahmed, the President recognised this as a golden opportunity to implement the 'Love Thy Neighbour' principles promoted by all faiths. Despite their busy schedules they made an effort to attend many of the events.

GLOBAL WEEK

Day time activities

Evening activities

Thursday

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Games in the Global Lounge, 2-4pm, David Chiddick Atrium

Join us for some exercise in the Sports Hall: £2 **Badminton** from 5 to 6pm and £2 **Football** from 6 - 7pm.
Relax for **Movie Night & Popcorn** from 7pm in BL1101

Friday

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This is not only Global Week; it's Go Green Week too! Help to build the new **Peace Garden** by planting trees outside Witham House (next to the Sports Hall) from 2-4.30pm, and join us for refreshments afterwards. Hosted by the Environment Team, Chaplaincy and Students' Union

Come and hear the sounds of **African Drumming** 6-7pm in the David Chiddick Atrium, and stay for a **Global Debate**, hosted by the Lincoln Debating Society, 7-9pm in BL 1102 (Moot Court)
The Chinese Students and Scholars Association are hosting a **GALA EVENT** for the Spring Festival in the Engine Shed, 7-9pm. All welcome. Entrance costs £4.99. Entry

Saturday

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Are you up for the Challenge of Four Sports in Five Minutes? Or want to have a kick around with some new faces?: **Racquetathon & football**, 2-4pm

An evening hosted by the **International Student Group** from 8.30pm in The Platform

Sunday

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Try out your knowledge at the Swan **Global Quiz**, 6-9pm in the Swan pub on the Brayford.

Monday

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Be an Agent of Change! See how you can help our University keep ahead of the change game and in the process develop some great insights and experience. David Chiddick Atrium, 10am-2pm.

An **all-games night** in the Chiddick Building: The Lincoln Gaming Society hosts a Games Night in the Global Lounge, and the University's Juggling Society offers a **juggling taster session** in the Atrium. All from 6-9pm.

Tuesday

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- Subash Chellaiah, University Chaplain, and volunteer Jane Kilby, will be available to talk about the upcoming South India Cultural Exploration trip in August, and **international volunteering opportunities** in South India. Chiddick Atrium, 10am-1pm.
- **Library Pop-Up**: Library games and more in Library 1.5 (Extension) with Hannah and Josh, 11am-2pm

There's more sport tonight in the Sports Hall: £2 **Volleyball** from 5-6pm and £2 **Racket night** 6-7pm.

Join us for a fantastic Irish music gig with **Gone to the Dogs** in the Chiddick Atrium from 7-9pm. (You can also buy their CD!)

Wednesday

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- It's **Pancake Day** in the UK! Get yours from the Minerva food court!
- **Whose phrase is it anyway?** Come and join us to share silly and odd sayings/expressions in your language, hosted by the English Language Centre. Chiddick Global Lounge, 12-4pm.
- **Library Pop-Up**: Library games and more in Library 1.5 (Extension) with Hannah and Josh, 11am-2pm
- Cultural Exchange Afternoon hosted by the International Student's Group, 4-6pm David Chiddick Atrium.

£2 **Basketball** in the Sports Hall, 5-6pm

Movie Night & popcorn in BL1101, from 6-8pm

Then head to **Global Quack** in the Engine Shed from 10pm

Thursday

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It's Chinese New Year!
Try your hand at creating new year messages in Chinese calligraphy, Chiddick Global Lounge, from 2.30pm. Play Chinese and other games in the Chiddick Atrium. The Lion Dancers arrive for a performance around 4.30pm, followed by a celebration with Chinese food. All welcome!

Continue eating and watch the streamed New Year Gala.

Peace Garden

Abdul, Zamira and Jammil attended the event held in order to create the University of Lincoln's first ever Peace Garden. It was a great opportunity for them to engage with green-fingered staff, students and local residents – young and old - of the Jewish, Christian and Hindu faiths. The students were joined by Subash Chellaiah and Bradley Smith. It was also a great opportunity to speak to Dan Clayton, the University of Lincoln's Environment Sustainability Manager about how the staff and students could work together to reduce the waste created by the University of Lincoln. There was no rain!







Fayre: Arabic School For All

On the weekend before Discover Islam Week was due to start we were invited by Samina Ahmed, Senior Administrator at the Arabic School For All - part of the City of Lincoln's Supplementary Schools Forum - to help them hold a charitable fun day aimed at members of their local community. The University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society used this as an opportunity to book a table at the fayre to earn funds for the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice Trust; by holding a Sweet Stall stocked with sweets donated by Members of the Islamic Society. It was a great opportunity to meet the pupils at the school and also their parents. Attendees were told about the Inter-Faith week we had planned ahead and encouraged to attend the activities the Islamic Society had arranged. It was a great opportunity to speak to the staff at the school and discuss possible collaborations for the future – watch this space!





BBC Radio Lincolnshire

On the Sunday before the start of the week Committee Members from the Islamic Society were invited to participate in the weekly faith-based show 'Faith Matters' broadcast by BBC Lincolnshire, presented by Rosie Duffield, who gave us the opportunity to ensure our invitation for the guest speakers lectures and fund raising activities reached out to a wider audience. Efforts were made to build community ties following the broadcast and public criticism towards topical news featuring the conflict in the Middle East.



Literature Stands

Monday started with Society Committee Members creating eye-catching literature stands around the University of Lincoln. Stands were displayed at the University of Lincoln's Inter-Faith Centre, the University of Lincoln Library and the University of Lincoln's Main Catering Department. Stands featured literature designed to introduce individuals to the: Concept of God, Benefits of Charity and further information about the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice and the volunteering opportunities that are available to students at the Hospice. The literature literally flew off the shelves and we were quickly contacted by University Librarian, Ian Snowley, who gave us the opportunity to re-stock depleted volumes of the Qur'an. This initial response from students was encouraging.



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Hi Jammil,

All the Korans and most of the leaflets have gone – if you can re-stock I'm happy for the table to stay in place for the rest of the week (or whilst stocks last).

Best wishes, Ian



Monday Evening Lecture - Shariah Law: An Accurate Representation

Monday evening closed with an informative Guest Speakers Lecture – Shariah Law: An Accurate Representation delivered by Abdullah Al-Andalusi from the organisation Muslim Debate Initiative. The lecture attracted Journalism and International Relations students both undergraduate and post graduate. Members from the Boutham Residents Association who were interested in learning more about Islam and Muslims. This was in light of the City of Lincoln Council recently granting permission for the construction of the first purpose built mosque in the Boutham area to the Islamic Association of Lincoln. Efforts to sustain harmony between the worshippers and members of the host area continue.



Cake & Sweet Stall: St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice

Tuesday Morning was an extremely early morning for many members of the Committee.

Israa Mirgani Mohammad, the Sisters Representative, baked the cakes for the Cake Doughnut and Sweet Stall held in the Atrium of the Minerva Building at the University of Lincoln.



The stall provided a great opportunity for members of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society to talk to staff and students at the University about issues of faith. The stall was also held to raise funds for the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice. A BIG thank you to Abdul-Rehman Chaudry, Saffiyah Imam, Nabeela Razzaq, Danyal Khan, Hishaam Ashraf, Taaher Robanni and Yasmin Ali who all lent a hand and made the running of the stall over the course of the day much more easier than what was imagined.



Behind the Veil: Social Experiment

The Sisters from the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society also took the opportunity to run a 'Hijaab Workshop' alongside the Sweet display. Non-Muslims were given an insight into the implementation of the Hijaab or veil for Muslim Women. Jessie Bartholomew, a Committee Member of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Feminism Society and recently elected Womens Officer for the University of Lincoln Students' Union agreed to take part in a social study. The study invited a volunteer to wear the veil for a week and record their experience. Academic Research Officer, Safiyyah Imam explained the do's and don'ts of wearing the Hijaab. Jessie will be updating her blog in regards to her week's experience of wearing the Hijaab soon!



Tuesday Evening Lecture – Beyond Borders: The Spread of Islam

Tuesday ended with an evening Guest Speakers Lecture delivered by Historian Stef Keris who discussed the historical topic Beyond Borders: The Spread of Islam. The event attracted attention from local students which led to a lively debate which discussed aspects of preserving the accurate history of all faiths and how the study of history was important tool building an understanding between faiths.



University of Lincoln Applicant Day

On Wednesday the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society was invited to support the University of Lincoln Students' Union in holding a stand for the University of Lincoln's Applicant Day. It was great to spend the day in the company of the Students' Union's Activities Coordinator, Tracey Revill and promote many of the activities run by the clubs and societies at the Students' Union. It also gave us a great opportunity to discuss the University of Lincoln Chaplaincy to prospective students and discuss the number of facilities available at the University of Lincoln for people of faith, such as the new Interfaith Centre consisting of Male and Female Prayer Areas and a newly stocked Inter-Faith Library which gives students an opportunity to find research material and religious text from a range of faiths.



Working With the University of Lincoln Students' Union Musical Theatre Society

The Applicant Day was further supplemented by the University of Lincoln Students' Union Musical Theatre Society who gave the crowds of spectators a preview to their upcoming production Copacabana. The University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society took this as a great opportunity to distribute St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice balloons and encourage parents and children in the crowds visiting the university to make donations towards the charity. The atmosphere created by members of the Musical Theatre Society rehearsing their songs was fantastic with many positive feedback comments given.



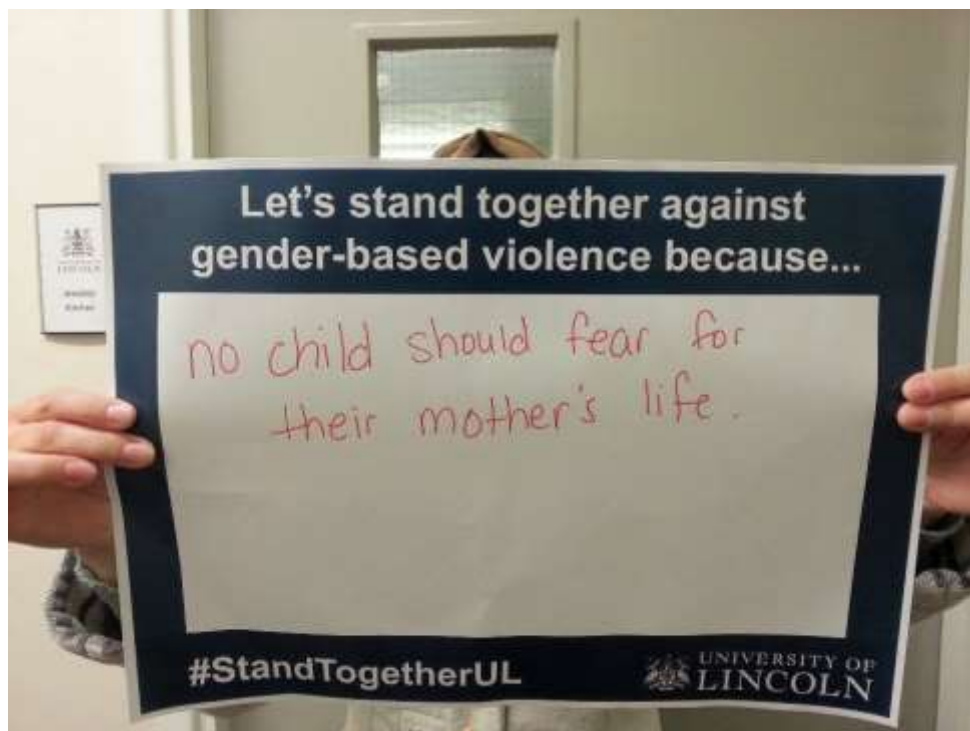
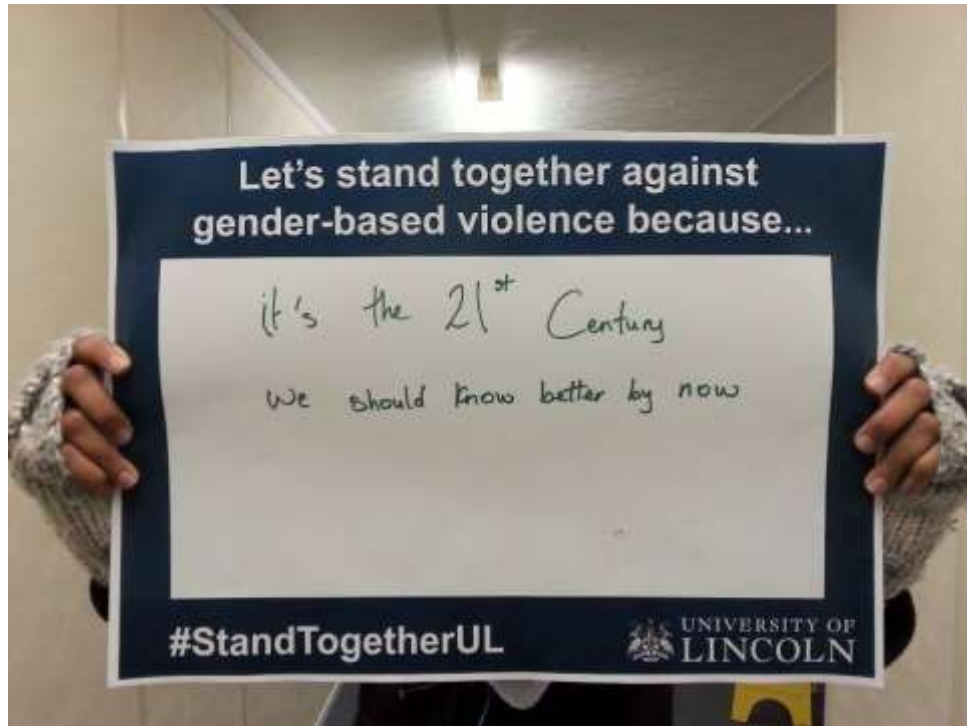
Wednesday Evening Lecture - Scientific Facts: As Described in the Qu'ran

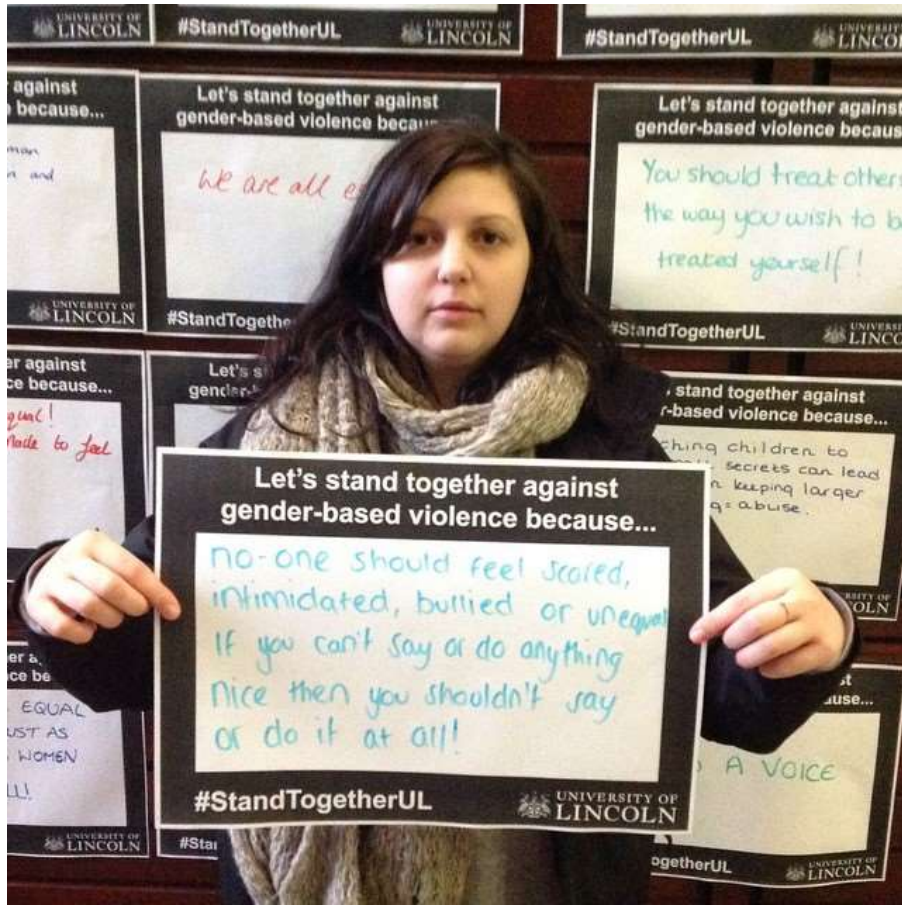
Wednesday evening ended with a Guest Speakers Lecture delivered by Dr. Musharraf Hussein on the topic Scientific Facts: As Described in the Qur'an. The talk had an exceptional turn-out attracting many of the students from the Schools of Science and Pharmacy. There was also attendance from Committee Members of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Christian Society who used the opportunity to ask a broader range of questions.



Stand Together: Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence

On Thursday Members of the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society agreed to be featured in a campaign called Stand Together. Stand together is an action research project that is taking place at the University of Lincoln to tackle the issue of gender-based violence. The Islamic Society was invited by Sundari Anitha, a Criminology Lecturer at the University of Lincoln to work in partnership with other third sector organisations and Students' Union Societies and Clubs to roll out a university-wide prevention education programme, one of the first of its kind in the UK.





It was a great opportunity to dispel any deep-rooted misconceptions about Islam or indeed other faiths finding gender-based violence towards women acceptable. It was emphasised that it has always been unacceptable. The campaign also included participation by Hayley Jayne Wilkinson who has recently been elected as President of the University of Lincoln Students' Union for the following Academic year.





Thursday Evening Lecture - Role Models: Women in Leadership

Appropriately, Thursday evening ended with a Guest Speakers Lecture delivered by Zara Huda Faris from the Muslim Debate Initiative. She discussed the subject Role Models: Women in Leadership. The lecture was attended by many female Psychology students and attracted some debate as to how to address issues of inequality which continue to exist between the sexes.



Friday Afternoon Congregational Prayer: Conviction in Belief

On Friday, the Brothers held the Weekly Friday Afternoon Congregational Prayer. The sermon delivered by Shaykh Omar Babar discussed the conviction in belief a person of faith holds. It encouraged students to be confident when discussing faith explaining free discussion often helps people widen their knowledge and bridge the gap faced by isolated communities. It recognised that the open discussion of faith was conducive to flourishing self-expression. It also reminded staff and students to discuss issues of faith with dignity and respect.



Friday Evening Lecture – Legacy: The Life of the Prophet (PBUH)

Friday Evening finished with the final instalment of Discover Islam Week's Guest Speakers Lectures, which was delivered by Shaykh Omar Babar and discussed Legacy: The Life of the Prophet (PBUH). It was a great opportunity to raise several issues in regards to the violent acts caused by the Charlie Hebdo affair. It reminded those who do not follow any particular faith to empathise with people of all faiths who hold their Lord(s) and Prophet(s) in great esteem. It reminded people that discussions and criticism are commensurate with the teaching of all faiths, raising awareness of the responsibility one has carry to ensure the respect of the other.

High Street Collection: St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice

Saturday was spent making full use of the Street Licence granted by the City of Lincoln Licensing Department by holding a High Street Collection on behalf of the St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice. It was a great way to publicly illustrate how members of two or more faiths can work together for a common good. The distributed balloons ensured that children left with smiles and helped raise awareness about the Hospice and the Inter-Faith work which supports it.



The St. Barnabas Cup & Youth Tournament

On Saturday the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society held the St. Barnabas Cup and Youth Tournament.

It was a great day with many friends and families visiting the University of Lincoln on one of its most memorable Open Days.

The Islamic Society used this as an opportunity to reach out to other sections of the wider community in particular the public services such as the Lincolnshire Police, Royal Air Force Waddington and the Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Service as well as other statutory bodies such as the City of Lincoln Council, NHS Service and the Probation Service. It was also a great opportunity to invite students from our neighbouring Bishop Grosseteste University.

Elmo made a fleeting appearance before sprinting to the supermarket.

Well done to everybody who participated. Well done to the Brothers from the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society who won the tournament. A special thank you to: Paul Carrick, the Neighbourhood Manager for the City of Lincoln Council; Abdul-Rehman Chaudry, the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society's Welfare and Community officer and Rizwaan Chotia, the Prevent Officer from the Lincolnshire Police Force who contributed their time and efforts to organise such a fantastic event. There's already discussion of plans to hold another tournament in summer!









Supermarket Checkout Collection: St. Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice

The week ended by holding a Supermarket Checkout Collection at the local Morrisons store.

A big thank you to Tina Davis, the Community Champion at the Tritton Road Branch of Morrisons who arranged for the collection. A big thank you to the staff at the branch who provided Elmo with regular drinks of water and a resting place to take a break.





The Barriers Fall & Friendships Grow!

The University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society have received incredibly strong positive feedback from the week. It has given us an opportunity to work with many new individuals and organisations and meet people from all backgrounds. The University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society appreciates everybody's contribution and participation over the week and welcomes new ideas for the future.

Inter-Faith Closing Message

"O mankind! We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know and honour each other. Indeed the most honourable of you in the sight of God is the most righteous."

Chapter 49, Verse 13

The Qur'an

Peace Be Upon You

For further information about the University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society contact:



www.facebook.com/groups/ULIsoc



islamic@lincolnsu.com



<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-jnmLxovtj4ZG8cGZ8YTg?feature=watch>



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