

SCMA Elections 2025 - Personal Statements

1. Suleman Ahmed

Position Applied For: Committee Member

Personal Statement: Assalaamu alaykum to all

My name is Suleman Ahmed and I am standing for general Committee Member for SCMA.

At 20 years old, I represent the younger generation of our community, bringing passion, energy and a fresh perspective.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the current and past committee/trustees. Their hard work has laid the foundation of our masjid, and my aim is to build upon their legacy with a focus on the next generation.

I am currently a Degree Apprentice Engineer at JLR, studying an engineering degree at Warwick University. On the side, I teach Islamic Studies and dedicate time to mentoring young people, offering advice on university and apprenticeships.

These experiences give me a strong understanding of the challenges our youth face and being close to their age allows me to connect and engage with them more effectively.

I am a regular attendee of Sutton Coldfield Masjid and have actively volunteered, particularly during Ramadan, where I dedicated many evenings to serving the community. I have also contributed to youth evenings focusing on the lives of the Sahaba, helping to support events that combined learning and inspiration.

I believe our masjid should be a welcoming home for all: elders, families, women, and especially our young people. While today's generation is important, it is the next generation who will carry our community forward. With humility and energy, I am ready to bear this responsibility towards my local community, as someone willing to learn, listen, and work hard for the benefit of all.

If elected, I aim to:

- Help our youth feel connected, valued, and empowered to take part in masjid life.
- Support youth education, development, and career pathways.
- Act as a bridge between elders and youth, ensuring that all voices in our community are heard and respected.
- Promote openness, sincerity, and accountability within committee/trustee work.

I humbly ask for your support to build a strong and united community.

JazakAllah Khair.

2. Dr Mariam Ahmed

Position Applied For: Committee Member

Personal Statement: My name is Mariam Ahmed and I am running for a working committee position. Having moved to Sutton Coldfield as a child in 2004, I have seen what it takes to build a Muslim community built on a foundation of faith and brotherhood and how the seeds of true sincerity/Ikhlaas can develop into something fruitful. 20 years later, by Allah's will, we see the fruits of this hard work with the continual flourishing of SCMA. Indeed, I saw first-hand how a small community of dedicated individuals grew into the impressive numbers we see today. Growing up inspired in this environment, important Islamic values were instilled in me from an early age, from strong Muslim leadership to serving the Deen and those around us.

As a well-known and regular attendee of the Masjid, I have a wide reach and familiar face. As a committee member I can be a voice and representative for those who often find themselves without one, with a particular focus on women and children. I am approachable and friendly and therefore confident I will carry this role out well. Navigating life as a young British Muslim, even more so as a female, is challenging. Having a supportive, strong community to lean on is of the utmost importance for both current and future generations and I feel I have the skills to contribute towards this. As one of the founders and leaders of the SCMA Girl's Youth Club, I have a good relationship with the younger generations, I know what resonates with them and more importantly what is needed to ground them in a solid Islamic faith that will be the foundation of SCMA's future.

In my spare time I also teach Tajweed and Arabic. Furthermore I regularly attend the Thursday ladies circle and volunteer at various Masjid activities, including the BIMA Lifesavers annual CPR medical training. I have also volunteered at multiple revert events, and continue to maintain a good relationship with many. One of my aims as a committee member will be to further support and integrate the local reverts.

As a Dentist I work well within a team while also demonstrating good leadership. It is a heavily public-facing job where I must tailor my approach to people's specific needs, including those with anxiety, which requires a high level of emotional intelligence and continual problem-solving. Moreover, it requires a calm, level head which is an essential skill for a masjid committee member.

I look forward to utilising my personal and professional skills, to work alongside our excellent and dedicated committee while also bringing something new.

SCMA is a community I hold dear to my heart, that I have grown up with and has very much shaped who I am as a person and Muslim. If I am blessed with the opportunity to be a committee member, I will do my utmost to give back to the community that has given me so much.

3. Naseem Waraich

Position Applied For: Committee Member

Personal Statement: Bismillah irrehman-e-rahim.

As a consultant surgeon in the NHS, I have had the privilege of being engaged in various managerial and leadership roles throughout my career. These responsibilities have not only allowed me to further develop my skills as a surgeon but have also provided me with valuable experience in effectively managing teams and collaborating with different organizations.

In addition to my professional work, I have actively taken part in various charitable organizations, assuming roles such as a trustee and committee/council member. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of the importance of community engagement and the impact that collaboration and dedication can have on improving the lives of individuals from diverse backgrounds.

One organization that has particularly caught my attention is SCMA. SCMA is doing an exceptional job of catering to the religious and brotherhood needs of Muslims from all walks of life. Their commitment to providing support, guidance, and a sense of community to individuals, regardless of their background, is truly inspiring.

4. Dr Sadath Ali Khan

Position Applied For: Vice Chairman

Personal Statement: I am a resident of Sutton Coldfield and have been a member of the mosque community since 2012. Having seen the impact, the mosque has on the community, I would be honoured to contribute to further enhance its growth and development. I am contesting for the position of Vice Chairman.

I am a practicing GP working in the NHS since 2003. I have held roles of clinical lead of GP practices and a walk-in centre in the past, which has taught me the importance of collaborative working, listening to diverse views and communicating effectively to ensure unity and resolve conflict to achieve shared goals.

Over the years, I have been involved in various events within the mosque, which has allowed me to develop a strong relationship with the community.

I have a strong faith, ethics and good understanding of Islamic teachings and values to guide committee decisions. I recognise the diverse cultural and social backgrounds of the mosque's congregation and will foster an inclusive environment.

If given the opportunity, I am committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of Vice Chairman with integrity, dedication, and a strong sense of duty. I look forward to contributing to the mosque's continued success and help to promote unity, spiritual growth, and the long-term vision and goals of the mosque, expanding its services, enhancing its facilities, and improving community engagement.

5. Syed Muhammad Amad Nasim

Position Applied For: Committee Member

Personal Statement: To the esteemed committee and community of the Sutton Coldfield Muslim Association,

It is with profound respect and a deep sense of commitment to our community that I submit this personal statement. My professional life has been built upon a foundation of diverse experience: as a Senior Manager of Cybersecurity at Canon, the CEO of the luxury brand The Cotton London, and the CEO of the technology firm Black Mirror Solutions Ltd. I believe this unique blend of skills, from technical excellence and digital security to a meticulous focus on quality and brand integrity, can be of great service to our masjid. My aspiration is to help guide our association towards becoming an institution that is not only spiritually fulfilling but also a beacon of modernity, cleanliness, and innovation.

My vision for our mosque rests on two key pillars, both of which are central to my professional expertise. The first is an unwavering commitment to cleanliness and a high standard of physical upkeep. I believe our place of worship should reflect that same dedication to excellence. A pristine and beautiful environment is not merely an aesthetic choice; it is a spiritual necessity. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Cleanliness is half of faith." (Sahih Muslim). By upholding the highest standards of cleanliness in every corner of our mosque, we honour this teaching and create an inviting space that instils tranquillity and respect, not only for those who pray, but also for any visitors we welcome.

The second pillar of my vision is to embrace the power of technology and AI to modernize our operations and enhance our community's experience. My experience at the intersection of cybersecurity at Canon and as a technology solutions provider at Black Mirror Solutions gives me a clear understanding of how to build robust, secure, and user-friendly digital systems. I envision a modern, accessible website that serves as a central hub for our community, offering real-time updates, event schedules, and educational resources. Furthermore, I believe we can leverage AI to streamline administrative tasks, improve communication, and even enhance our outreach efforts, all while ensuring the utmost data security for our members. My objective is to create a digital infrastructure that is as secure and sophisticated as the systems I manage professionally, making our association a true leader in the application of technology for communal good.

In conclusion, I am passionate about leveraging my unique background to serve the Sutton Coldfield Muslim Association. By combining a dedication to spiritual cleanliness with technical modernization, I believe we can create a masjid that is a source of immense pride---a truly clean and modern place of worship that stands as a model for communities everywhere.

JazakAllah Khair.

6. Mohammed Yasir Rafi

Position Applied For: Committee Member

Personal Statement: اسلام علیکم

I am honoured to put myself forward for the position of committee member at Sutton Coldfield Masjid. My family and I have been active members of the Masjid for many years, and we are deeply committed to supporting the mosque's mission and contributing to the growth and wellbeing of the community. As a father of four children who are actively involved in the Masjid's educational and youth programmes, and with my wife also engaged in the mosque's sister activities, we are blessed to be part of this vibrant community. The Masjid has always been at the heart of our lives, and I feel it is now the right time to contribute more directly to its continued growth and success.

Professionally, I have over 20 years of experience leading IT services and managing large-scale projects within the education sector. I have developed a strong skill set in strategic planning, team leadership, and financial oversight. Currently, I serve as a senior leader as Head of IT Services at Nottingham College, where I manage a large team of staff and oversee a budget exceeding £5 million. This experience has provided me with a solid foundation in managing large-scale projects and making data-driven decisions that align with long-term goals. These skills would be highly beneficial in supporting the Masjid's ongoing operations, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently, and projects are executed smoothly.

I have also played an integral role in several large new-build projects for universities and colleges, including overseeing planning, decision-making, risk management, IT infrastructure, and Audio-Visual design to ensure the execution of these projects while meeting both immediate needs and long-term goals. With the Masjid currently undergoing its renovation, I believe my experience in managing complex projects and optimising facility usage would be invaluable. I would be eager to offer my skills to help guide the renovation process and ensure that our Masjid's new facilities are designed and utilised in ways that best serve the community's needs.

As a committee member, and with the potential opportunity to serve as Treasurer, I would bring a strategic, values-driven approach to decision-making. I am committed to ensuring that the Masjid's operations and initiatives are carried out with transparency, inclusivity, and financial sustainability, all while prioritising the needs of the community. My leadership experience has taught me the importance of collaboration and listening to diverse viewpoints, and I would work

diligently to ensure that the Masjid continues to serve as a place of spiritual, social, and educational enrichment for all.

I am passionate about supporting the Masjid's mission and vision, and I believe I can contribute meaningfully to its future development. It would be an honour to offer my time, skills, and experience to help manage the Masjid's strategic direction and contribute to its continued success
إنشاء الله.

I appreciate your consideration of my nomination and would be truly honoured to serve on the committee and contribute to the continued growth of our Masjid.

If successful, I would be happy to comply with all safeguarding requirements, including completing an enhanced DBS check.

Thank you for your time and support.

جزاك الله خيراً

Sincerely,
Yasir Rafi

7. Muaysser Memon

Position Applied For: Chairman

Personal Statement: I wish to humbly express my sincere interest in the position of Chairman of SCMA. Alhamdulillah, as a long-standing member of our blessed Muslim community, I believe that my experience, commitment, and passion for service can be of benefit to our Masjid and its people.

By the grace of Allah ﷻ, I have been consistent in attending the daily prayers at the Masjid, and my involvement has extended beyond the obligatory acts of worship. I have supported the organisation of Jumu'ah prayers, facilitated Ramadan activities such as Iftaar and Taraweeh arrangements, and volunteered during Eid gatherings. These opportunities have strengthened my connection with the community and enabled me to serve in the spirit of khidmah (service) for the sake of Allah.

My contribution is not limited to attending events but also extends to volunteering in initiatives aimed at improving our Masjid facilities and strengthening community cohesion. Alhamdulillah, this active participation has helped me gain the respect and trust of many brothers and sisters within the congregation.

Professionally, I am a Chartered Civil/Structural Engineer with 25 years of experience in the construction industry. Allah ﷻ has blessed me with analytical and problem-solving skills that I

believe will be valuable for the upcoming refurbishment projects of our Masjid, as well as for navigating strategic decisions for the community.

I am deeply passionate about serving the House of Allah and fostering a strong, welcoming environment where families, youth, and elders alike feel connected. As a family man, I strive to instil Islamic values within my home and support the next generation to grow in faith and character, insha'Allah.

Our Masjid is more than a building; it is a beacon of guidance, a sanctuary for worship, a hub of education, and a centre for social unity. I firmly believe that the role of chairman carries a great responsibility, an Amanah, to safeguard and develop this institution for future generations. With Allah's help, and by working collaboratively with fellow Trustees, I am committed to ensuring the Masjid continues to thrive as a source of strength, unity, and barakah for our entire community.

May Allah accept our efforts and grant us sincerity in serving His deen. آمين.

8. Dr Mujahid Khan

Position Applied For: General Secretary

Personal Statement: Moving from Sheffield to Sutton Coldfield was a big journey for our family, but we felt at peace knowing that Sutton Coldfield Mosque was there at the heart of the community. It was close to my son's school and near my workplace, which made our transition even easier.

With joy, my children attend the mosque during Ramadan, I dedicate my time to serving others. I feel privileged to have worked in the mosque in any capacity --- whether through community service, helping during events, or even cleaning and removing rubbish. Every small act feels like a blessing.

The mosque has also been a meeting point with both new and long-established Sutton families, bringing us together in unity and friendship. On top of this, I have been involved in organising Basic Life Support courses for the past few years in the mosque. This has been another gift of the mosque to our area, as it connects us with hundreds of other mosques across the UK, all training people in life-saving skills on the same day.

I truly believe the mosque is central to our hearts, and we should strive for this blessed place to flourish.

With this intention, I will be asking my friends, colleagues, and the wider community to support me so that together we can sustain its environment in the best possible way.

I pray to Allah to help me in this work. JazakAllah khair.

9. Yasir Jawed

Position Applied For: Treasurer

Personal Statement: I am seeking re-election as Treasurer of SCMA. Over the past ten years, I have had the privilege of managing the charity's finances, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and compliance. My experience has allowed me to implement robust financial controls and support strategic decision-making, all of which have strengthened the charity's financial health and sustainability.

As a chartered accountant by profession, I bring not only technical expertise in accounting and finance but also a commitment to ethical stewardship and accountability.

I am passionate about the mission of SCMA and remain dedicated to ensuring that every pound is used effectively to make the greatest impact. I would be honoured to continue serving as Treasurer, supporting the charity in achieving its objectives and maintaining the trust of its stakeholders.

10. Muhammad Asif Malik

Position Applied For: Chairman

Personal Statement: Dear respected brothers, sisters, elders, and youth of Sutton Coldfield,

As-salamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

My name is Muhammad Asif Malik, I am honoured to stand as a candidate for the position of Chairman in the upcoming SCMA Committee Elections 2025.

I have proudly called the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield my home since 2001. Over the past 25 years I have been an active member of the Sutton community. I have successfully managed several businesses and I hold a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) with a specialisation in Marketing and Finance.

Serving our community and our masjid is not just a duty, it is a privilege and a form of gratitude to Allah (SWT) for the countless blessings bestowed upon us. Alhamdulillah, throughout my life, I have always strived to remain focused, honest and dedicated. I now wish to bring these values into service for our masjid and the wider community.

With your support, I aim to use my knowledge, leadership experience and strategic thinking to help develop, strengthen and unite our community. My vision is for our masjid to continue thriving as a beacon of faith, education and unity, In'sha'Allah.

I hold deep respect for the efforts of all past and present committee members and volunteers. My goal is to build upon their foundation and lead our community forward with transparency,

consultation and collaboration guiding every decision.

Since 2001, I've witnessed our local Muslim community grow from just a few households into a strong, respected and vibrant presence. Alhamdulillah, this growth comes with increased responsibilities. It is essential that we plan wisely, use resources effectively and prepare for the needs of future generations, especially our children and grandchildren.

If elected, and entrusted with this responsibility, I will prioritise:

- Advancing the ongoing building and extension projects
- Developing our Maktab to the next level of excellence
- Establishing our masjid as a true community hub, where everyone, young and old, benefits from its facilities and services.

Dear brothers and sisters, I sincerely and humbly ask for your support and your vote in this important election. Together, with unity, sincerity and shared vision we can take SCMA to even greater heights, In'sha'Allah.

May Allah (SWT) guide us all, bless our masjid, and grant us the ability to serve with wisdom, compassion and sincerity.

Ameen.

With prayers and respect,
Muhammad Asif Malik

11. Muhammad Umer Khan

Position Applied For: General Secretary

Personal Statement: "Experience, Transparency, and a Vision for a Better-Connected Community"

My name is Muhammad Umer Khan, and I am putting myself forward for the position of General Secretary of the Sutton Coldfield Muslim Association (SCMA).

As a long-standing member of this community and with over 20 years of professional experience leading major Programmes, I have a deep understanding of how to run effective organisations and a passion for serving our community. I believe my skills in leadership, process improvement, and technology can help build upon the great work of our current volunteers and prepare our Masjid for the future.

My vision is based on three core principles:

1. **Improving Transparency & Governance** Running a community organisation requires trust. I will work with the trustees and the new elected members to establish clear, simple, and

transparent processes for all key decisions and financial reporting. My goal is to ensure that every member of the community can easily understand how the SCMA is managed, fostering greater confidence and encouraging more people to get involved.

2. Enhancing Communication Effective communication is vital for a thriving community. I plan to develop a robust communication strategy to ensure everyone is kept informed. This includes:

- Creating regular, professional newsletters.
- Ensuring minutes of meetings are accessible.
- Establishing clear channels for community members to raise concerns and provide feedback, ensuring every voice is heard.

3. Upgrading our IT Infrastructure In today's digital world, our Masjid's technology needs to be efficient and user-friendly. Drawing on my extensive experience in the IT sector, I will lead the effort to:

- Modernise the SCMA website to make it a central hub for information, bookings, and donations.
- Streamline our back-office processes to reduce the administrative burden on our dedicated volunteers.
- Introduce simple, effective tools to improve how we manage events and communications.

The SCMA is the heart of our community, built on the hard work of volunteers. My commitment is to bring my professional experience to support these efforts, enhance our organisation, and ensure we have a strong, connected, and transparent Masjid for generations to come.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote.

Muhammad Umer Khan

12. Salim Akhtar

Position Applied For: Vice-Chairman

Personal Statement: My name is Salim Akhtar. I am standing for the post of Vice-Chairman for the SCMA elections.

I have lived in Sutton Coldfield for over 35 years. I am a recently retired Asst Headteacher and I am currently a Magistrate and a Mathematics tutor.

I have had the privilege of serving on the mosque committee for two terms. I strongly believe that it is a privilege to serve on the SCMA committee and whoever is lucky enough to be elected to serve our community must have time to be an active member and be able to participate in mosque activities as well as lead new initiatives. In particular:

I would like to see the Committee and Trustees work together to achieve the best possible provision for our community. I would like to see more community run activities, such as the recent BBQ as well as those organised by the SCMA. At the moment the mosque does offer Janaza prayers but I would endeavour to improve on this and provide further funeral facilities. I would like to enhance our activities involving our youth.

During my previous terms in office I've taken a leading role in various activities and I would like to continue with and enhance these. This includes:

- Fundraising for Iftari provision during Ramadhan
- Supervising the Iftari provision on a daily basis
- Attending and facilitating janaza prayers
- Assisting with various initiatives such as the replacement of Windows
- Volunteering every Friday for assistance with orderly conduct
- Collecting funds for the mosque

May Allah guide who ever is elected to do their best for our mosque and for our community.