Short synopsis for fundraising for Research on:

"Discrimination and Polarisation" of the Muslim community

Research Proposal – The Radicalization of Young Muslims in Britain – Polarisation away from the social context as a marker for radicalisation

Introduction
This short synopsis is for applications for funding for social research on discrimination and polarisation of the Muslim community. The research is to be carried out in order to identify the velocity of radicalisation within the Muslim community, and the extent of polarisation away from the social context. This is to be done in order to use polarisation as a marker for extremist radicalisation.

What the research is about?
The research is set in 2 stages. Stage 1 (the questionnaire) is designed to investigate the levels of polarisation away from the social context as a marker of extremist radicalisation. Stage 2 (the semi-structured inquiry groups) is designed to establish the reasons for people displaying a high level of polarisation away from the social context.

What is the significance of the research?
The research is significant in highlighting how the problem of extremism is spreading in Britain and what can be done to tackle it. It examines whether the level of religious practice has been stable over an extended period or whether it has changed. If it has changed, it examines the precipitating factors in that change. It also examines whether people self-identify through religious practice, and maps how the level of practice expresses itself.

We know from the questionnaire (Stage 1) whether the responder has a high or a low level of experience of discrimination and injustice. We wish to place this in the context of their experience of living as a Muslim in British society.

The group discussions aim to produce qualitative material around the issue of polarisation and an indication of the consequences of polarisation for behaviour.

If the trust part-funds the research project, then can we justify its sustainability?
If the trust part-funds it, we can justify the project's sustainability because it maps the extent of radicalisation and how fast it is happening by examining self-identification in religious practice and the life-experiences of Muslims in Britain. The study group is based in Britain and the information that is gathered will not be divulged to any third party. The organisation will be involved in educational programmes targeted at these people, in order to turn them away from extremism. Funding applications are currently in place for these educational programmes and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets has approved the development of the programme in all 19 schools in Tower Hamlets.

What is its relevance to the British Nation?
The relevance to the British Nation is integral. Extremism is a problem that affects people worldwide. The UK is a target for terrorist groups. Some people are being drawn into extremist teachings.

Will it have benefit for the whole community?
The benefit will be for Muslims, in that people will be turned away from extremist teachings. It will also be of benefit to all community and cultural groups in society, because the educational programme 'Embracing Tolerance' hits a target audience of young people and engages them and allows them to think of how to behave in a more tolerant way. The research informs this educational programme.

Is there any urgency/ importance relevance to it?
The case is of utmost urgency. On May 1st 2007, survivors of the July 7 terror attacks and relatives of those killed took their calls for a public inquiry to the Home Office in a letter addressed to John Reid. They called for a wide-ranging inquiry in order to establish what steps, if any could have been taken to prevent the 2005 attacks.

Funding Proposal
The cost for the entire project is £85,000. Please find below a segmentation of the budget that covers funding for £7268. This is in appreciation of the fact that an organisation could not be asked to fund the whole cost of £85,000. A full and detailed budget can be supplied.

Budget
Budget information will be furnished upon request