## **Islamophobia Awareness Month**

Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) was co-founded by MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development) with other British organisations in 2012 to deconstruct and challenge the stereotypes about Islam and Muslims. The campaign, held every November, aims to work with regional and national partners including local councils, journalists, MSPs, mosques, universities, others to raise awareness of the threat of Islamophobia and encourage better knowledge and understanding.

To do this we hold a range of internal and external events across the month with our partners to raise awareness of islamophobia.

Our list of events include the Scotland IAM launch hosted by MEND which will include our keynote speaker Anas Sarwar MSP and our notable panel including Isobel Ingraham-Barrow Head of policy MEND, Omar Afzal community leader and activist and Prof Peter Hopkins lead author of the Scotlish Government CpG report on Tackling Islamophobia.

IAM raises awareness within society of how Muslims are discriminated against in various spheres, along with providing information on the positive contributions of British Muslims to the UK. It helps break down barriers and challenge incorrect stereotypes people may hold about Muslims, as well as providing an avenue for people of other backgrounds to engage with Muslims. IAM also highlights why it is crucial for Muslims to report Islamophobic hate crimes to authorities, for accurate data to be collected and for policy changes to be enacted accordingly.

Please see our IAM website to see our list of events and how you can get involved in IAM.

