

Rooted in Faith, Rising for Justice: COP30,
Muslim Communities and the Climate Crisis – panel discussion with Islamic
Relief UK

18 November 2025

- In attendance: Afzal Khan MP (Chair), Uma Kumaran MP, Sofia Ali (Green Deen Tribe), Shazia Arshad (Islamic Relief), Thomas Pickford (The Nature Conservancy)
- Afzal Khan MP opened the discussion by pointing to how climate change is causing increasingly devastating floods in Pakistan.
- Uma Kumaran MP then reflected on the outcomes and discussions held at COP30 in Brazil, which she attended in-person. She reiterated that most Brits still say that climate change is the single biggest issue facing the UK and that, despite many other pressures that immigrant communities in the UK face, they do care about climate change. Shazia Arshad also pointed to how people living in the Global South play the biggest price of climate change despite being the least responsible. Both Shazia and Thomas Pickford outlined the importance of climate finance to help poor communities mitigate and adapt to the damages that climate change is causing. Thomas pointed to the need for the UK to commit to ICF4, which involves the UK making a renewed commitment in 2026 to financially support developing countries to adapt and tackle climate change challenges.
- Sofia Ali lamented that there is lots of grassroots activity taking place among Muslim communities and other faith groups to raise understanding of how protection of nature and the climate is intrinsically linked to religious values. She discussed how groups like Green Deen Tribe are working together with faith communities to reduce meat consumption and cut down food waste, especially during Ramadan.