

# **Big expose on Islamist Disinformation Network: Case against UK-IMC**

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Big expose on Islamist Disinformation Network: Case against UK-IMC

### Big expose on Islamist Disinformation Network: Case against UK-IMC

This investigative report shines a light on sprawling network of Islamist disinformation within the United Kingdom. Focusing on organizations and individuals that masquerade as advocacy, educational or charity groups, this study details how these entities are not just disseminating manipulated narratives but intricately connected in a system designed to mislead the British public about issues concerning Bharat and in particular Hindus around the world.

Central to our investigation is the role of UK-IMC, an entity within this network that purports to champion Muslim interests. Our analysis reveals that its activities extend far beyond advocacy, steering into the realm of misinformation and anti-Hindu, anti-India rhetoric.

The report explores strategic dissemination channels employed by these groups that are crafted to foster divisions and propagate biased agenda against Hindus and India. Through this exposé, we aim to unravel the deceptive tactics and highlight the need for vigilance and informed understanding among British populace and the world about such agenda driven Islamist disinformation organizations.

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#### **Executive Summary**

- 1. **Core Identity of UK-IMC**: United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC) presents itself as an advocacy group dedicated to combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim bias in India but its actions suggest a deeper engagement in spreading divisive anti-Hindu and anti-Bharat narratives.
- 2. **Network and Affiliations**: UK-IMC is deeply embedded in a complex network of organizations and individuals that are known for their anti-Hindu and anti-Bharat stances. This includes affiliations with controversial groups such as Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), Hindus for Human Rights, Maktoob Media and connections to radical Islamist entities like Jamaat-e-Islami.
- 3. **Questionable Funding and Support**: Finance, resources and operational support for UK-IMC and its associated activities is believed to be often sourced from radical ideologies including funds from organizations with history of supporting extremist agendas.
- 4. **Strategic Disinformation Campaigns**: UK-IMC's involvement in campaigns, such as 'Decoding Hindutva' workshops, strategically targets Hindus and Bharat, often using false, misleading information to foster discord and misrepresent Bharat globally.
- 5. **Impact on Community Relations**: The actions and rhetoric promoted by UK-IMC contribute to heightening community tensions within the UK, particularly affecting British Hindu community and undermining social cohesion.
- 6. **Misrepresentation of Legal and Political Issues**: The group has been actively involved in distorting the narrative around significant Bharat's legal, socio-economic developments such as Supreme Court judgement on Babari Structure, using several platforms to incite international criticism against Bharat.
- 7. **Influence on Public Perception and Policy**: By labelling themselves as rights advocates, UK-IMC and its affiliates influence public perception and policy discussions in the UK often swaying them with a biased and unbalanced portrayal of religious and political issues in India.
- 8. **Exploitation of Democratic Platforms**: Utilising democratic platforms and freedom available in UK, UK-IMC orchestrates and participates in protests and conferences that often spread misinformation and foster a negative image of Bharat and Hindus.
- 9. **Manipulative Use of Media and Academia**: Through strategic collaborations with media outlets and academic institutions, UK-IMC disseminates its narratives that are often laced with disinformation to lend an unwarranted credibility to its claims.
- 10. Need for Vigilant Response: This report underscores the necessity for vigilance and an informed response from policymakers, community leaders and people to critically assess and narratives and activities propagated by UK-IMC and similar organizations to preserve, community harmony and ensure a balanced understanding of issues pertaining to Hindus and Bharat.

#### Introduction

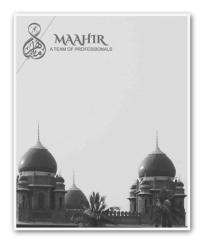
On January 31, 2023, an organization previously known as BIMSC-UK officially changed its name to the United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC) as per UK companies House. Founded on February 01, 2023 the United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC), a self-proclaimed advocacy group by British Muslims claiming to fight Islamophobia and anti-Muslim biases in India was born. UK-IMC is officially registered in the UK with the company number 14486365.



Its directors include Dr. Umar Khan who changed his name to Dr. Mohammed Umair Ullah Khan on August 14, 2023 according to companies register in UK. Khan resides in Scotland, UK, and is originally from Hyderabad, Bharat. Another director, Mohammed Owaise Kolia, resides in Leicester; is a Pharmacist and Islamic History enthusiast and lecturer at Leicestershire based Markfield Institute of Higher Education for Islamic higher education, both are British citizens.<sup>2</sup>

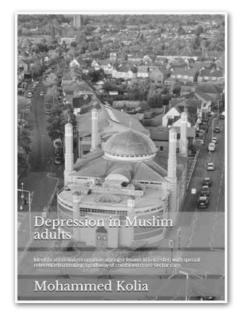


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GOV.UK (no date) UK-IMC Ltd Filing History - find and update company information - GOV.UK, UK. Available at: https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/14486365/filing-history (Accessed: 22 April 2024).



Dr. Mohammed Umair Ullah Khan a.k.a. Dr. Umar Khan also holds positions as Trustee and Secretary for two charities: NaariSamata (UK Charity number: 1194814) and MAAHIR (UK Charity number: 1193120) both based in London. NaariSamata claims to focus on gender, caste, and poverty issues while MAAHIR affirms that it assists Muslims originally from historical Nizam region in India (Hyderabad, Telangana region) assisting new migrants in the UK with programmes and career guidance.<sup>3</sup>

Mohammed Owaise Kolia, runs two companies in the UK namely Sequoia Publishing House Ltd. earlier recorded as Abu Zayd Publishers Ltd. (UK company number: 13021663) and Kolia Pharm Ltd. (UK company number: 09899279), a Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND) Volunteer, Kolia is author of "The 'Umayyads: Were they Islamic?" and "Depression in Muslim adults: Identification and recognition amongst Imams in Leicester with special reference to creating a pathway of combined cross-sector care." While activities and transformations of UK-IMC might appear as constructive toward addressing Islamophobia, a closer examination reveals a more intricate and less transparent narrative. The organisation's



history of constant name changes, identity alterations and strategic rebranding ahead of its launch suggests a calculated and long-term effort rather than well meaning advocacy. This raises questions about genuine intentions and operational transparency of UK-IMC.

This report delves into how UK-IMC has so far evolved, revealing how it presents biased viewpoints and fosters agenda-driven partnerships crafted not just for advocacy but to propagate a narrative that distorts the reality concerning India and Hindu communities. By shedding light on these practices, the report aims to provide a clearer understanding of UK-IMC's motives and potential consequences of its activities on communal harmony and inter-cultural relations in UK. This exploration highlights the need for a vigilant approach to discerning the motives and impacts of such organizations, ensuring that public perception and policy are informed by accurate and unbiased information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Maahir – a team of professionals (no date) MAAHIR. Available at: https://maahiruk.org/ (Accessed: 23 April 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Kolia MO, The 'Umayyads: Were They Islamic? (Abu Zayd books )

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kolia M, Depression in Muslim Adults Identification and Recognition of Amongst Imams in Leicester, with Special Reference to Creating a Pathway of Combined Cross-Sector Care (Independently Published)

#### Case Against UK-IMC



On April 22, 2024, the United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC), an organization that labels itself as an advocacy group, produced a portfolio report titled 'Portfolios of Hate'.6 In this report, UK-IMC levels serious accusations against various Indian politicians including the Prime Minister

alleging engagement in anti-Muslim bias and propagation of Islamophobia in India. This publication is part of a broader narrative attempted by UK-IMC and similar groups who present themselves as battling what they perceive as Hindutva or Hinduness through what UK-IMC director termed, a necessary endeavour to "reclaim the narrative" in Britain about Hindus and India.<sup>7</sup>

Claimed to have been officially launched on March 5, 2023, the United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC) came into public operation a little under four months after its initial registration

as BIMSC-UK LTD, and just over a month following its rebranding to UK-IMC LTD.8 The launch event was marked by the presence of several speakers and attendees known for their pronounced biases against Hindus and India.9 Among the speakers was Rasheed Ahmad, Executive Director of US-based, Anti-India and Anti-Hindu Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC). IAMC, infamous for its controversial affiliations, has been linked with banned Islamic terror organization, Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). Through its founder Shaik



Rasheed Ahmad Executive Director of US Based Anti-India and Anti-Hindu Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC)

Ubaid, IAMC is known to have connections with terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UK-IMC ('Portfolios of Hate' released, 22 April 2024) <a href="https://www.ukimc.org/">https://www.ukimc.org/</a> accessed 23 April 2024

<sup>7 &#</sup>x27;Mohammed Owaise - Inaugural Ukimc Conference' (YouTube, 3 May 2023) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNRuOmP\_SpA&t=119s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNRuOmP\_SpA&t=119s</a> accessed 23 April 2024

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<sup>9 &#</sup>x27;UK IMC Launches on the 5th March with Guest Speakers from across the Globe.' (Events) <a href="https://www.ukimc.org/events/">https://www.ukimc.org/events/</a> accessed 24 April 2024



radical Islamist entities like Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI).<sup>10</sup> Presenting itself as a rights advocacy group, IAMC has historically been a Jamat-e-Islami backed lobbyist organization. It has been involved in numerous activities aimed at influencing international opinion against India, including collaborations and financial exchanges with various groups in USA to advocate for India to be



blacklisted by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).<sup>11</sup> This link illustrates how UK-IMC might be more than just an advocacy group; it potentially serves as a cog in a larger web geared towards sowing discord and skewing perceptions, necessitating a more rigorous scrutiny of its activities and affiliations. Previously, Ajit Sahi, advocacy director of Indian American Muslim Council was also invited to an online event focused on the Babri structure. This event came under scrutiny for undermining judicial proceedings and judiciary in India. IAMC's actions in United States have been notorious for perpetuating fake news and engaging in agenda-driven lobbying consistently promoting an anti-Hindu and anti-India rhetoric. The

<sup>10</sup> Disinfo Labs (DisinfoLab, 26 July 2022) <a href="https://thedisinfolab.org/tag/iamc/">https://thedisinfolab.org/tag/iamc/</a> accessed 24 April 2024

<sup>11</sup> Joshi M and Gupta M, 'Anti-India Lobbying, Pak Terror Links: US Body on Int'l Religious Freedom's Relentless Efforts to Spoil India's Image' (News18, 25 April 2022) <a href="https://www.news18.com/news/world/anti-india-lobbying-pak-terror-links-us-body-on-intl-religious-freedoms-relentless-efforts-to-spoil-indias-image-5049391.html">https://www.news18.com/news/world/anti-india-lobbying-pak-terror-links-us-body-on-intl-religious-freedoms-relentless-efforts-to-spoil-indias-image-5049391.html</a> accessed 24 April 2024

involvement of such figures in launch of UK-IMC underscores the potentially deep-seated and orchestrated agenda beneath its operations, casting a long shadow on the council's proclaimed objectives and raising serious concerns about the authenticity and integrity of its mission in the UK.

Ritumbra Manuvie, another key figure featured at UK-IMC inaugural event serves as a lecturer at University of Groningen and is the controversial founder of Netherlands-based think tank, The London Story (TLS). 12 This organization emerged suspiciously in sync with protests against India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) which facilitates citizenship from persecuted religious minorities from Islamic nations like Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Claims to



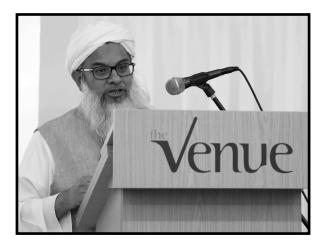
Ritumbra Manuvie Co-Founder and Executive Director, The London Story Professor at University of Groningen, the Netherlands

tackle 'misinformation', 'disinformation' and 'hate speech' notwithstanding, TLS has notably aligned itself with individuals and institutions notorious for propagating these very issues. Manuvie herself has been implicated in crafting and spreading inflammatory content through anti-government digital platforms in Bharat. She played a central role in orchestrating anti-CAA protests outside Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Her portrayal of CAA as 'homeland purification' reflects a deep-seated bias and her efforts to draw the European Parliament into India's internal affairs reveal a disturbing agenda to internationalise domestic policies under false pretenses, particularly mischaracterising the situation around Assam's detention camps. Her disinformation campaign about CAA and NRC found platforms at institutions like Oxford Law Faculty and through Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) persisting until late 2020. Manuvie has been seen endorsing discredited activists like Teesta Setalvad, who is infamous for her attempts to entangle former Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 Gujarat riots.<sup>13</sup> Manuvie's activities and associations cast a shadow over her credibility and highlight a pattern of manipulative behaviour aligned with a broader disinformation network operating at UK-IMC inaugural event.

Moulana Mahmood Madani, as President of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, adheres to Deobandi school of Sunni Islam following Hanafi jurisprudence. His tenure has been marked by a series of vehemently

<sup>12 &#</sup>x27;The London Story' (The London Story, 24 November 2022) <a href="https://thelondonstory.org/">https://thelondonstory.org/</a> accessed 24 April 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Dutta D, 'The London Story and Founder Ritumbra Manuvie: Connections to Meer Faisal, Islamist Orgs, Leftists and Their Anti-Hindu Propaganda' (OpIndia, 2 September 2023) <a href="https://www.opindia.com/2023/09/exclusive-london-story-ritumbra-meer-faisal-iamc-nuh-violence-anti-hindu-narratives-delhi-riots-manipur-conflict/">https://www.opindia.com/2023/09/exclusive-london-story-ritumbra-meer-faisal-iamc-nuh-violence-anti-hindu-narratives-delhi-riots-manipur-conflict/</a> accessed 23 April 2024



Moulana Mahmood Madani President of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind from Deobandi school of thought (Sunni Islam that adheres to the Hanafi school of law).

anti-Hindu, anti-India, and anti-Modi government pronouncements. Madani's discourse frequently polarises on religious lines often casting the Indian state and its Hindu majority in a contentious, adversarial light. His participation in campaigns and his public statements have not only sown seeds of discord but have been accused of fostering communal unrest. For example, Madani has been a vocal opponent of several policies introduced by Modi government which he characterises as oppressive or discriminatory against Muslims often

without substantial evidence or by amplifying narratives that lack balance. <sup>15</sup> Inclusion of Madani as a speaker at UK-IMC inaugural event is particularly alarming. It raises critical concerns about motives and message that UK-IMC wishes to propagate. Featuring a speaker with such a divisive reputation suggests a deliberate alignment with radical and extremist ideologies under the guise of advocacy. This choice undermines the credibility of UK-IMC, casting doubt on its commitment to fostering a constructive dialogue about Islamophobia and the rights of Muslims in India. Instead, it appears to endorse a confrontational and inflammatory approach, which could exacerbate communal tensions rather than help bridge them.

UK-IMC recently promoted a series of 'Decoding Hindutva' workshops across UK with an upcoming session announced in Leicester. This city recently experienced tensions marked by acts of Islamic aggression against British Hindus including an incident where a temple flag was desecrated and Hindus were subjected to violence. During these workshops, a documentary by Maktoob Media was featured. Maktoob Media, 16 managed by Aslah Kayyalakkath, is known for disseminating anti-Hindu and anti-India narratives. Aslah has connections with



Event poster for UK-IMC's event advertising the screening of Maktoob Media's propaganda piece.

<sup>14 &#</sup>x27;Complaint against Muslim Leader, His Nephew for "Hurting Religious Sentiments" (India Today, 13 February 2023) <a href="https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/maulana-mahmood-madani-arshad-madani-hindu-remarks-jamiat-ulema-e-hind-hindu-parishad-2334255-2023-02-13">https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/maulana-mahmood-madani-arshad-madani-hindu-remarks-jamiat-ulema-e-hind-hindu-parishad-2334255-2023-02-13</a> accessed 23 April 2024

<sup>15</sup> TNN / Updated: Apr 13 2022, 'Muslims Have Got Raw Deal, Says Maulana: Mumbai News - Times of India' (The Times of India) <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/muslims-have-got-raw-deal-says-maulana/articleshow/90808727.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/muslims-have-got-raw-deal-says-maulana/articleshow/90808727.cms</a> accessed 23 April 2024

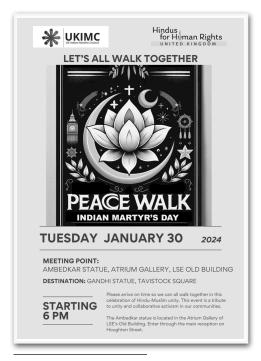
<sup>16 &#</sup>x27;Home' (Maktoob media, 20 April 2024) <a href="https://maktoobmedia.com/">https://maktoobmedia.com/</a> accessed 23 April 2024

significant funding sources, including Qatar government-owned Aljazeera and IPSMF-funded The Caravan and is an active member of The Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), the student wing of the radical Islamic group Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. Aslah's involvement with these organizations extends internationally; in August 2016, he shared a photo with Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Secretary General Arif Ali Thottanchery alongside Turkish President Erdogan. He then spent time in Turkey from September 2017 to February



Jamaat-e-Islami Hind backed SIO active member and Maktoob Media founder Aslah Kayyalakkath.

2018 for training during which he registered Maktoob Media in January 2018. Following this, in March 2018, Aslah traveled to Qatar for further training at Aljazeera headquarters, returning again in July 2018. After completing his training stints in Turkey and Qatar, Aslah began working with Human Welfare Foundation in September 2018. Notably, this foundation is linked to Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and receives funding from Turkish government-owned NGO IHH and Qatar government-owned NGO Qatar Charity. Both IHH and Qatar Charity have controversial histories. IHH has been declared a terrorist organization by Israel due to its alleged support for ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and similar groups including purported arms supply activities. Additionally, Qatar Charity, linked to the radical Muslim Brotherhood, has drawn scrutiny for its extensive funding activities. 17



UK-IMC has recently partnered with newly established UK branch of Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR UK), ostensibly for an interfaith peace walk. But, the collaboration raises eyebrows considering the controversial background of the organizations involved. Hindus for Human Rights, despite its ostensibly inclusive name has been criticised for promoting an anti-Hindu and anti-India agenda. Founded in 2019 by Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI), HfHR has consistently been part of a wider anti-India nexus in the United States. This group, along with another affiliate called Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA), led protests

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Desk W, 'Decoding the Anti-Bharat, Islamist-Funded Media Cartel' (HinduPost, 8 April 2023) <a href="https://hindupost.in/crime/expose-decoding-the-anti-india-and-radical-islamist-connected-and-funded-cartel/#">https://hindupost.in/crime/expose-decoding-the-anti-india-and-radical-islamist-connected-and-funded-cartel/#</a> accessed 23 April 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Kalal, D. (2024, January 29). PRESS RELEASE: Walking Together - Unity in Times of Division — Hindus for Human Rights. Hindus for Human Rights. https://www.hindusforhumanrights.org/en/blog/8augfw9itxxx8nbtkc3bpmljjyyzh5

during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Houston in September 2019, indicating a pattern of targeted political activism. HfHR has also been implicated in disseminating controversial material aimed at undermining Indian governmental policies such as National Register of Citizens (NRC), thereby stirring unnecessary panic among Indian Muslims. The organization further engaged in the 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' conference which was widely criticised for its anti-Hindu rhetoric and developed a "special toolkit" to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to



Sunita Vishwanath, co-founder of HfHR

US in June 2023. Sunita Vishwanath, co-founder of HfHR, has links to organizations with questionable affiliations including Women for Afghan Women, funded by George Soros' Open Society Foundations. The interconnections between HfHR and organizations like ICNA, JFA, IAMC, and CAIR, which have alleged links to Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim Brotherhood and actively contest India's rightful on its Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, further complicate the image of an organization committed to broader human rights.<sup>19</sup> Given this context, the interfaith peace walk held by UK-IMC and HfHR UK appears more as strategic facade rather than a genuine effort towards promoting

peace and human rights. The involvement of these organizations known for their biased activism under guise of human rights, suggests an ulterior motive that prioritises specific religious rights over others, contradicting the very essence of universal human rights. This reveals a hypocritical stance where the claimed advocacy for human rights is selectively applied overshadowing the genuine issues and contributing to communal divisions rather than bridging them.

This comprehensive analysis underscores that United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC), while posing as a benign advocacy group, is entrenched in a complex network of entities promoting biased and detrimental narrative against Hindus and India. From its inception, the UK-IMC has engaged in activities that do not merely seek to address perceived injustices but rather propagate a divisive and misleading representation of Hindus and India. Its launch, marked by presence of speakers with well-documented anti-Hindu and anti-India stances signal deep-seated ideological agenda rather than genuine commitment to advocacy. Speakers affiliated with UK-IMC have consistently utilised platforms to amplify controversial and often unsubstantiated claims that undermine fabric of Indian democratic processes and communal harmony. The involvement of individuals linked to groups like IAMC, known for its contentious actions and affiliations with entities that have faced serious allegations, further discredits the UK-IMC's purported objectives.

<sup>19</sup> Disinfusr. (2023, April 27). HFHR: Hindus for hire. DisinfoLab. https://thedisinfolab.org/hfhr-hindus-for-hire/

These affiliations and the nature of the campaigns they support—ranging from discrediting legal frameworks like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to engaging in globally criticised conferences—highlight a pattern of behaviour that is unconstructive and inflammatory. The UK-IMC's collaboration with Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR) in the UK, an organization whose very name belies its biased operations against Hindus, only adds layers of hypocrisy to its actions.

Such collaborations reveal a selective approach to human rights that prioritises ideological battles over genuine human rights advocacy. These activities collectively aim to skew public perception in UK, misleading the British public about nature of Hindus and Indian state. The extensive ties and consistent patterns among these organizations and their key figures illustrate not just an anti-Hindu and anti-India bias but a strategic operation designed to misinform and manipulate public opinion in the UK and beyond. This warrants a vigilant, informed response from all stakeholders to ensure that such misleading campaigns do not achieve their divisive aims and that advocacy remains true to principles of fairness and genuine human rights.

#### **Concluding Observations**

This investigative report has meticulously exposed operations of United Kingdom Indian Muslim Council (UK-IMC) and its affiliates, revealing a disconcerting pattern of disinformation and bias. UK-IMC, despite its self-styled image as an advocacy group, is deeply embedded within a network that actively promotes divisive and misleading narratives against Hindus and India. The analysis underscores that UK-IMC's activities extend beyond mere advocacy, delving into realms of misinformation that systematically distort perceptions and sow discord. The presence of figures like Rasheed Ahmad and entities such as Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), the London Story at UK-IMC's events, known for their contentious activities and links to organizations with questionable intents, underscores a deliberate strategy rather than a commitment to true advocacy. The organization's use of inflammatory rhetoric and engagement in events that undermine democratic processes and communal harmony in India indicates a clear bias, reflecting an agenda that is far removed from the principles of genuine human rights advocacy. Association with IAMC, Maktoob Media and Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR) in the UK, an organization that has propagated anti-Hindu sentiments under the guise of human rights, highlights a hypocritical stance that prioritises ideological propaganda over true human rights issues. This selective advocacy erodes credibility of UK-IMC and similar entities, suggesting that their purported mission to fight discrimination is marred by the very prejudice they claim to oppose. Therefore, it is imperative for the public and relevant stakeholders to approach the narratives and activities of groups like UK-IMC with heightened scrutiny and informed skepticism. By unmasking the mechanisms of disinformation and biased agendas at play, this report aims to foster a more informed understanding among the British populace, ensuring that advocacy remains anchored in fairness and genuine pursuit of community welfare and human rights.

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