

Call for evidence

how social cohesion initiatives led by community and faith groups are contributing to strengthening London's resilience to shocks

If you are doing work in London building strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and circumstances, we want to hear from you.

Background

[Protection Approaches](#) has been commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to undertake new research into how social cohesion initiatives led by community and faith groups are contributing to strengthening London's resilience to shocks and stresses.

London has faced recent challenging situations, including the cost-of-living crisis, terror attacks, heatwaves and fires, flood events, and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the effects of international crisis such as conflicts and natural disasters.

As the climate and other risks increase over the next decade and beyond, understanding what works in building connections between communities in London, and how this is contributing to the city's resilience, is vital.

What do we want to know from you?

We want to hear from community and faith groups across the capital on:

- Effective approaches that contribute to more connected and cohesive communities – what work are you doing that is building strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and circumstances or building cohesion in an area or London?
- If and how this work contributes to strengthening London's resilience to shocks – does the work you are doing mean that communities in London are more prepared or able to support each other during shocks and chronic stresses?
- What community and faith organisations need to deliver more of this work effectively – what stops you from being able to do more of the work that you know is working?

We will be highlighting your work, case studies and key learnings through a report intended to influence the work of the GLA City Resilience Team, London Communities Emergencies Partnership, Faith and Belief Sector Panel and wider work of the London Resilience Partnership.

How to tell us about your work

If you are involved in a community or faith group, a project, network, or movement which you feel has effectively contributed to connectedness and cohesion in London you can tell us about that work in the way that is easiest for you:

- **Questionnaire:** the simplest way to tell us about your work is to take 10 minutes to fill out our simple online questionnaire and attach any relevant documents you have ([link](#))
- **Share your work over email:** Completing a questionnaire may not be the best format for you. If you have produced something that you feel best captures your project, we would love to see it. This could be a project website, a research report, a video or other piece of media. You can send us your contributions or links to them on education@protectionapproaches.org

- **Participate in an interview:** We plan to interview at least 20 practitioners, activists and leaders from community and faith organisations about their work and experiences in the fields of cohesion and resilience. If you would be willing to spend 60-90 minutes chatting with us about these topics, let us know through one of the two means above .
- **Workshops:** Organisations who contribute in any of the ways above will be invited to participate in a workshop in the summer, so that we can explore key questions about the relationship between cohesion and resilience together.

Barriers to participating

We know that there will be people who would like to contribute to this research but may face barriers to getting involved in one or more of the ways above. Perhaps you work at a voluntary organisation who can't afford to pay for your time to participate in an interview; perhaps you need interpretation at a workshop; perhaps you have caring responsibilities that make committing to specific times difficult.

We have a specific budget to overcome such barriers. If you feel you have valuable insights to contribute to this research, but there are barriers preventing you from getting involved in any way, please contact us through email (derek.oakley@protectionapproaches.org) or by phone 020 3859 9509 and we will work with you to ensure you are able to be involved.

Why take part?

We understand that community organisations have limited time and resources and rightly want to know the purpose and impact of the research they participate in and how data provided will be used.

This research is commissioned by the Greater London Authority City Resilience Team to inform their work and priorities in the future.

The data you provide will be used by Protection Approaches to produce a research report highlighting the work of community and faith groups across the capital. It will share evidence on what is working to build community cohesion, how that work contributes to strengthening London's resilience to shocks, and what communities and faith organisations need to deliver more of this work effectively.

We will present this report and its key findings to the GLA City Resilience Team in September 2024 and hope to be able to publish it publicly soon after.

We are committed to ensuring that you know the impact of the data you provide. Six months after publication we will follow up with the GLA Resilience Team and their partners to understand how the report has impacted their work and priorities and will feed this information back to all who contributed.

Who are we?

Protection Approaches is a London based charity working to change the way identity-based violence is understood, and by so doing change the way we respond to and prevent it. We work to support and champion community-led approaches to building connected and cohesive communities; to communicate the evidence of what works to local and national government to strengthen state-led system transformation; and to foster greater engagement between community and policy experts.

For more info: please contact project lead Derek Oakley on derek.oakley@protectionapproaches.org or 020 3859 9509