# East London Mosque's exclusion of women in charity run sparks legal and social controversy



Women and girls over the age of 12 were controversially barred from participating in a charity fun run organized by the East London Mosque, despite its claims to be an 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly' event. The 5km race held in Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, welcomed men and boys of all ages, yet explicitly excluded female teenagers and women—an alarming development that underscores the growing influence of sharia-influenced values overriding British norms of equality and fairness.

This controversy highlights the troubling encroachment of ideologies that seek to segregate and discriminate within our communities—values that have no place in a properly integrated Britain. The East London Mosque’s promotional materials described the event as a vibrant community gathering promoting health, unity, and charity, but the decision to exclude a significant segment of local women reveals its true priorities. Human rights advocates have rightfully condemned this move as 'regressively sexist' and plainly unlawful under our national equality laws. Such actions threaten to set a dangerous precedent, eroding the social fabric that holds our communities together.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission’s decision to assess the case signals the serious legal implications of allowing such gender-based discrimination to become normalized. It is yet another alarm bell ringing about the increasing prevalence of gender segregation in certain religious communities—practices that run counter to the principles of equal rights enshrined in British law. This incident is emblematic of a wider trend in Britain, where the influence of extreme interpretations of faith is undermining the very foundation of our social cohesion and gender equality.

Locally, political tensions are flaring as well. Tower Hamlets, governed by the Aspire Party—a political group with a history of controversial figures and questionable electoral practices—serves as a stark contrast to the diversity and progressive spirit of nearby Hackney. The mosque’s segregation policy stands in stark opposition to the open, inclusive values that should define our society. Instead of uniting communities, such policies sow division and fuel resentment, undermining efforts for national integration.

The public response has been predictably critical, with polls reflecting widespread disapproval of policies that discriminate on the basis of gender and cultural practices that do not adhere to British standards of equality. While the mosque has yet to respond to questions, the ongoing regulatory scrutiny indicates that this issue is far from being swept under the carpet. It is essential that authorities uphold our laws and principles—any attempt to justify gender segregation on religious grounds must be challenged robustly.

This case exposes the stark choices facing our country: either stand firm against practices that threaten our shared values of equality and fairness, or allow a selective cultural relativism to carve deeper divisions in our society. The rise of such segregationist policies must be resisted—those who seek to impose these values are undermining the very fabric of an integrated, fair Britain. The outcome of the EHRC’s review will be a crucial test—not just for the mosque or Tower Hamlets, but for our national commitment to uphold the principles that make Britain a fair and just society.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15185317/POLL-DAY-Sadiq-Khan-Muslim-charity-London-park-run-banned-women-girls-12.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run> - The East London Mosque has excluded women and girls over 12 from participating in its 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly' charity fun run. The event, held in Victoria Park, was open to men and boys of all ages but barred female teenagers and women. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is assessing the case, and campaigners have described the move as 'regressively sexist' and 'plainly unlawful'. ([gbnews.com](https://www.gbnews.com/news/mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c1kwk1204jno> - A charity run organised by the East London Mosque Trust has excluded women and girls aged 13 and over from participating. The event, held in Victoria Park, was described as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly', yet limited to men, boys, and girls under 12. The organisers have been contacted by BBC London for comment. ([feeds.bbci.co.uk](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c1kwk1204jno?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/islamist-movement-female-oppression-mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run> - A human rights activist has criticised the 'Islamist movement in Britain' for 'normalising' female oppression, following a mosque in East London banning women over 12 from taking part in a charity fun run. The event, organised by East London Mosque, was held in Victoria Park and excluded women from the 5km circuit. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is assessing the case. ([gbnews.com](https://www.gbnews.com/news/islamist-movement-female-oppression-mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/muslim-charity-run-east-london-mosque-b1252480.html> - The East London Mosque is facing criticism over entry rules for a charity fun run. The 5km run in Victoria Park, billed as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly', is only open to men and girls under the age of 12. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is considering the case, and campaigners have described the move as 'plainly unlawful' and 'regressively sexist'. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/muslim-charity-run-east-london-mosque-b1252480.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/muslim-charity-run-2025-stall> - Join us at the Muslim Charity Run on Sunday 12th October in Victoria Park, a vibrant community event promoting health, unity, and charitable giving. With hundreds of runners and families attending, this is a fantastic opportunity for stall holders to showcase products and services to a diverse audience, while supporting a noble cause. ([eastlondonmosque.org.uk](https://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/muslim-charity-run-2025-stall?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/news/mcr-2025> - Hundreds of runners and supporters gathered in Victoria Park this morning for the 12th Annual Muslim Charity Run, organised by the East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre. The 5K run began with a community warm-up at 10.00am and the race started at 10.30am, bringing together more than 40 charities and community groups in a vibrant celebration of fitness, unity, and giving. ([eastlondonmosque.org.uk](https://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/news/mcr-2025?utm_source=openai))