# Charity fun run exposes ongoing gender discrimination disguised as cultural sensitivity



The recent charity fun run organized by the East London Mosque in Victoria Park has once again unveiled the disturbing influence of identity politics cloaked in cultural and religious justifications. Promoted as a "family-friendly" and "inclusive" event, the 5km race controversially excluded women and girls over the age of 12 — a blatant example of gender discrimination disguised as respecting cultural sensitivities. This exclusion sends a troubling message: adherence to certain religious-based customs is more important than promoting true equality and fairness.

Tower Hamlets' mayor, Lutfur Rahman, offered his support for the event, describing it as a "truly inspiring community effort." Yet, this supposed unity comes at the cost of marginalizing a significant portion of the population — women and teenage girls — effectively sidelining them from participation in public community events. Such justifications as “cultural practices” are often used to justify the erosion of women's rights, echoing broader patterns of societal regression that oppose reform and equality.

Despite claims of legality, the mosque’s selective approach to participation raises serious questions about genuine community cohesion. The legal defenses invoking the supposed necessity of single-gender sporting events underscore how legal frameworks are increasingly exploited to shield discriminatory practices rather than challenge them. While the Equality and Human Rights Commission reviews the event, it is clear that the institution’s deeply flawed approach to “cultural sensitivities” risks normalizing gender segregation and setting a precedent that could undermine hard-won rights.

This event — the 12th iteration of what was once called Run 4 Your Mosque — is a stark reminder of how some in Britain continue to normalize practices that restrict women’s participation and reinforce gender divides. The mosque’s justification for excluding women under the guise of legal compliance reflects a disturbing trend: using cultural exceptions to sideline equality, rather than advancing it.

The debate surrounding this charity run highlights the wider failure of authorities and community leaders to stand up against divisive cultural practices that threaten societal cohesion. While the mosque and local politicians claim community benefits, true inclusivity demands that no group be forced to accept discrimination in the name of tradition. The push for gender equality must override outdated prejudices, not be compromised by legal loopholes designed to uphold segregation.

Instead of fostering division, Britain should be championing reforms that eradicate gender discrimination and promote genuine integration. Allowing such segregated events to continue unchecked only weakens the social fabric and emboldens those opposed to change — a betrayal of the principles of equality and fairness that should underpin our society.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/cape-verde-world-cup-qualiication-b1252719.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/tower-hamlets-mayor-mosque-ban-women-charity-funrun-b1252693.html> - The mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, defended the East London Mosque's decision to exclude women and girls over 12 from participating in a charity fun run. The event, held in Victoria Park, was described as 'family friendly' and 'inclusive', yet restricted to men, boys of all ages, and girls under 12. Rahman praised the event as a 'truly inspiring community effort', despite criticism over the exclusion of women and girls. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is assessing whether the event breached the Equality Act.
3. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/london-news-tower-hamlets-fun-run-women-banned> - Tower Hamlets Mayor Lutfur Rahman praised a charity fun run organised by the East London Mosque, despite it excluding women and girls over 12. The event, held in Victoria Park, attracted over 1,600 participants and raised funds for 40 charities. Rahman referred to the event as a 'truly inspiring community effort'. When questioned about the exclusion of women, he stated, 'What is important is that they have brought communities together.' The Equality and Human Rights Commission is reviewing the case to determine if it violated the Equality Act.
4. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run> - The East London Mosque has faced criticism for banning women and girls over 12 from participating in its charity fun run, despite advertising the event as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly'. The 5km run, held in Victoria Park, was open to men and boys of all ages, as well as girls under 12. Critics, including human rights campaigner Aisha Ali-Khan, have described the exclusion as 'wrong' and 'unlawful'. The mosque defended its policy, citing legal provisions for single-gender sporting events under the Equality Act.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/islamist-movement-female-oppression-mosque-bans-women-girls-charity-run> - A human rights activist criticised the East London Mosque for excluding women and girls over 12 from its charity fun run, accusing the 'Islamist movement in Britain' of normalising female oppression. The event, held in Victoria Park, was described as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly', yet restricted participation to men, boys, and girls under 12. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is assessing whether the event breached the Equality Act.
6. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c1kwk1204jno> - A charity run organised by the East London Mosque Trust excluded women and girls aged 13 and over from participating. The event, held in Victoria Park, was advertised as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly', yet limited participation to men, boys, and girls under 12. The organisers have been contacted by BBC London for comment. The 3.1-mile (5km) event, previously known as Run 4 Your Mosque, was the 12th race to be held by organisers.
7. <https://notthebee.com/article/inclusive-muslim-charity-run-excludes-women> - The East London Mosque's 'inclusive' charity run excluded women and teenage girls, despite being advertised as 'inclusive' and 'family-friendly'. The event, held in Victoria Park, was open to men, boys, and girls under 12. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is assessing whether the event violated the Equality Act. The mosque defended its policy, citing legal provisions for single-gender sporting events under the Equality Act.