



Trustees standing for re-election

Jama Omar (Chair)

I have been a resident of Tower Hamlets for the past 35 years and have always been actively involved in community issues across the borough. I am currently the Managing Trustee of the Somali Senior Citizens Club (SSCC), an organisation that supports elderly residents in Tower Hamlets, particularly, though not exclusively, within the Somali community.

I have always been passionate about community engagement and have worked closely with people from diverse backgrounds throughout my career. From my college years to my children's schools and wider local initiatives, I have consistently supported activities and causes that directly or indirectly affect local residents and improve the wellbeing of our communities.

For the past nine years, I have been an active Trustee of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), and I currently serve as Chair. During this time, I have worked to the best of my ability to support THCVS in achieving its aims and serving all residents across the borough. I believe I have the experience, leadership skills, and community knowledge needed to address a wide range of local issues effectively.

In addition, I have participated in the BAME Leadership Programme, where I gained valuable experience and consistently played an active and constructive role in meetings and workshops organised by THCVS and council officers.

I strongly believe that organisations in Tower Hamlets should work more closely together, and I see myself as an ambassador for THCVS who can help promote its activities, programmes, and values. I would like to continue being part of a successful team that delivers excellent outcomes with measurable achievements for the community.

I am a reliable and hardworking individual with strong time management skills and the ability to work effectively under pressure, both independently and as part of a team. As Managing Trustee of SSCC, I regularly work with people who hold different views and opinions, and I always encourage respect and understanding through the principle of "agreeing to disagree."

As a community leader, I believe THCVS plays a vital role as an umbrella organisation representing voluntary organisations and the diverse communities of Tower Hamlets. I am committed to promoting inclusion and strengthening the voice of local community

organisations. I also want to continue contributing my expertise, experience, and skills to achieve even greater engagement across all communities within the borough.

Haydor Ali (Treasurer)

I am a qualified accountant with over 25 years of experience across a broad range of Finance disciplines. Over the course of my career, I have developed a strong track record of driving financial discipline, strengthening controls, and supporting organisations in achieving long-term sustainability and growth.

Since October 2022, I have been the Treasurer of THCVS. In this role, I have worked closely with fellow trustees and the executive team to enhance financial oversight, improve transparency, and embed robust governance across our processes. I have particularly valued the collaborative culture within the organisation and the commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.

During my tenure, the organisation has faced a number of significant challenges, including financial pressures and a rapidly evolving operating environment. Through careful stewardship and collective decision-making, we have successfully navigated these challenges. As a result, we have strengthened our financial position and ensured that THCVS is on a much more stable and resilient footing for the future.

My connection to Tower Hamlets is both personal and professional. I spent a large part of my childhood in the borough, and it has remained a constant presence throughout my life. In addition, for much of my professional career, I have worked in Tower Hamlets, giving me a deep understanding of its communities, its strengths, and its challenges. I have witnessed first-hand the transformation of the borough over the years. However, I am also acutely aware that, despite this progress, some of the fundamental challenges faced by local communities continue to persist. These include inequalities, access to opportunities, and the need for strong, community-focused support systems.

This is why my commitment to Tower Hamlets remains strong. I believe that organisations like THCVS play a vital role in addressing these challenges, supporting the voluntary and community sector, and ensuring that growth is inclusive and benefits all residents. I am passionate about continuing to contribute.

Trustees standing for election, having been co-opted in April 2026

Thahrima Ali

I have lived in Tower Hamlets my whole life, and I am very proud to call it my home. I am a soon-to-be graduate, having studied History and Political Economy at King's College London. Growing up here, I have seen both the community strength and diversity of Tower Hamlets, as well as the inequalities that continue to shape people's lives, particularly for young people.

A large part of why I wanted to join THCVS is that I believe the voluntary and community sector is one of the most vital means we have for tackling inequality, breaking down barriers to access and creating more opportunities for young people. I have volunteered for various youth initiatives, the most recent being at my cricket club, where I coach and lead the Women and Girls' Development Programme.

I am keen to bring my lived experience and passion for community work to my role as a trustee at THCVS, and to support its work to better understand, represent and respond to the needs of community-led organisations across Tower Hamlets.

Iryna Lavrenyuk

I have been a resident of Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets, for the past two years, having rebuilt my life here after leaving Ukraine due to the war. Though I arrived in London only recently, I have quickly come to feel the strength and diversity of this community, and I am deeply motivated to contribute to it.

I work as a People Operations Coordinator and have seven years of experience in HR and office management. My day-to-day work involves handling policies, communications, and process improvement - skills that translate directly to being an effective Trustee: clear communication, confidentiality, problem-solving, and careful decision-making.

Earlier in life I volunteered as a companion to elderly people, and that experience confirmed something I have always felt - I am naturally drawn to roles that support others.

I believe Tower Hamlets CVS is here to represent and serve all parts of our community, and I would like to contribute my experience and lived perspective to help it do that even better. I am reliable, a good team player, and committed to delivering real, meaningful outcomes for the people we serve.

Mohammed Nahid

I'm a proud lifelong Tower Hamlets resident, and I care deeply about the strength, diversity, and potential of our community. Living and working here, I've seen the real difference that community organisations make – creating opportunities, bringing people together, and giving a voice to those who might otherwise go unheard. That's what really motivates me. Through my professional experience working in Cybersecurity and Technology industry, across public, private, government and non-profit, I've developed the skills to navigate complex challenges, but more importantly, I've learned that real impact comes from collaboration, trust, and determination.

I am standing for election because I want to actively contribute to that impact. I want to help strengthen our organisation so it can do even more – supporting local groups, improving how we engage with members and the council, and ensuring we are transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking. I'm particularly passionate about using practical, accessible digital approaches to help widen participation and connect communities more effectively. I believe Tower Hamlets thrives when we work together and amplify each other's voices, and I look forward to playing an active role in helping us achieve that.

