

Religious Studies Topic of the Month

April 2023

How might environmental responsibility extend to religious communities?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article and factsheet, which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



Disclaimer:

This topic relates to an article, written by Noorzehra Zaidi for the RNS (Religion News Service)* entitled "Calls for a 'green' Ramadan revive Islam's long tradition of sustainability and care for the planet". It is supported by a factsheet, provided by the Religion Media Centre*, which focuses on Ramadan.

Introduction

Article one refers to the actions taken by some mosques around the world, to dispense with single use plastics, during communal iftars.

Link to article 1 (RNS): <https://bit.ly/43xaVGo>

Link to article 2 (Religion Media Centre): <https://bit.ly/3zZwCS0>

Discussion prompts

- Why is caring for the environment and social justice, particularly important, during Ramadan?
- Are the environmental concerns discussed here, driven by religious or social drivers?
- To what extent are the 'five categories of ethical action', applicable to the complex situations encountered in the modern day?
- How does the removal of single use plastic from the mosques at the daily iftar, during Ramadan, fulfil the teachings of Muhammad and the Qur'an?
- How does environmental awareness link with the focus on charity, action and protection of the poor, during Ramadan?

Links to topics on the syllabus:

- Living the Muslim life
- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Practices that shape and express religious identity
- Social and historical developments
- Matters of life and death
- Environmental Issues