

# a statement

## CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM FOSTERING CASE

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The Christian Muslim Forum was disappointed to see a front page report in the Times on 28 August headlined “Christian child forced into Muslim foster care.”

With a shortage of foster homes, not all children at risk can be looked after by temporary carers who match the background of the child. The report placed the focus firmly on the different religious identities of the child and foster carer, seeming to suggest that to place a Christian child in a Muslim home was peculiarly damaging. More worrying, perhaps, than a Muslim child being placed with a Christian carer.

The report did not draw attention to a shortage of culturally suitable foster homes affecting all communities, not just Christian families. Fifteen hundred Muslim children were placed in non-Muslim homes in 2015 <sup>[1]</sup>.

The suggestion of an unbridgeable divide between Muslim foster carers and Christian children is not borne out; responses to the article have included evidence of many successful placements of this kind <sup>[2]</sup>.

The Christian Muslim Forum regrets very much that an emergency placement has become an opportunity to put Christians and Muslims in opposition to each other rather than an occasion to work together to promote the interests of every child and to recruit more foster carers from all backgrounds.

[1] <https://www.pennyappeal.org/appeal/adoption-and-fostering>

[2] <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41085638>