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A spiritual journey Muslims in Britain



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The photography exhibition titled 'Muslims in Britain' held at the British High Commission on Thursday evening showcased spiritual journey of renowned photographer of Islamic world Peter Sanders.

The photographer put on display a vibrant collection creating a striking record of Muslim societies in the UK portrayed with a diverse depiction of the multi-dimensional face of Islam. From cuisine to costumes, from institutions to individuals, Peter Sanders' journey encompasses more than a change of focus for his camera lens.

Using his creative genius to portray the message of Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) — "the whole world is a mosque" — in one of his unique and expressive photographs, he has captured a man praying in an open field with freshly prepared hay bales. A photograph shows Sami Yousuf, a popular musician, composer and singer with great hits all over Europe, in one of his contemplative moods. Other photographs show Soraya Syed Sanders with her calligraphic work in progress, a friendly face on the neighbourhood street in London, Prince Charles' visit to Islamia School, gathering of young Muslims, architectural sample of a graveyard established in 1915 for Muslims who lost their lives fighting for Britain in the Great War, St. Anne's Mosque with an interesting detail inscribed that when the St. Ann's Convent in North London was bought to be used as a Mosque and Islamic Centre a small corner was left untouched for the remaining nuns.

"The photographs are extremely, extraordinarily beautiful," said one of the visitors. Another student said, "He seems to have captured the spiritual beauty of creation itself". The photographs have been used as a backdrop for capturing wider spectrum of life.

Peter Sanders didn't capture Islam only through mosques and heritage sites, but he concentrated more on day-to-day lifestyles of people, making them a vibrant depiction of the ordinary face of Muslims in the UK.

Portraying photographic images of Britain as "a place where people of all faiths could live in harmony", Sanders' photographs on display illustrate the strong roots of Islam in Britain and the contribution it makes to a vibrant, diverse, multi-faith culture.