

# WHAT IS ALEVISM?

**Many people argue for and aspire to equality and fair treatment of one another, but the ideas of these people don't live up to their actions.**

Alevism. What is it? What does it stand for? Where did it originate? How many Alevis do you know?

Alevism (a religion which is argued to be a denomination of Islam) just like all other religions, should be in the national curriculum for religious education lessons. There is an increasing population of Alevi citizens in all areas of London, Manchester, Doncaster, Newcastle and other cities. Therefore no objections should be made to this. If equality, as people claim, is aspired to and important it is only right and just for people to be aware of one another's backgrounds.

There are children who are afraid to tell their friends that they're Alevi, simply because their friends may laugh and ask them what that is. Why should these innocent children be bullied? Why should these children hide their cultures and beliefs? Why can't everyone learn about Alevism in the same way that they learn about Christianity, Hinduism or Sikhism?

In May 2014, a conference took place in the House of Commons in the Grand Committee room on behalf of these Alevi children and the rights they claim. The conference included Hackney Councillor Meg Hiller, Andy Love, Isfrail Erbil from the London Alevi Cultural Centre and other people. Being the youngest person in the conference, I gave a speech alongside people from the Alevi Cultural Centre and the decision to put Alevism forward for religious education was made. However, not enough has been done since but we are on the way to success; this can evidently be seen due to Alevism lessons being taught in schools such as Prince of Wales Primary School in Enfield. Deputy headmaster Julie Clarke says, "It is important for a teacher to know equally about every student and where they originate from, in order to avoid making misconceptions".

Every child has the right to know where they come from and their religious beliefs so it is important for a growing population's religion to be put across to people so that these children don't hide when it comes to talking about religion. Everyone should be proud of their beliefs and shouldn't be prejudged or stereotyped. This, again, explains why Alevism should be taught in Religious Studies lessons.

It is also interesting how the word "Alevism" came in red, throughout the experience of writing this article, unlike Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Christianity and many other religions which could be stated. The practise and perspective of these people should be delivered to pupils who go to a school in a diverse society. The question is, if we live in a multicultural and diverse society, shouldn't we all know about one another as much as each other?

The conclusion I draw to is: for a growing population of Alevis in the last 40 years in the United Kingdom, it is only fair for people to know about their Alevi neighbours.