

# Iram Woolley for Coop BAME NEC!

Discover why Iram Woolley is the ideal candidate for the Coop BAME NEC election.



by Iram Woolley



# Who is Iram Woolley?

## Experience

Looking for a candidate who truly represents the needs and aspirations of all members? Look no further than me. As a BAME individual and passionate Co-op supporter, I bring a unique perspective to the table. I believe that everyone deserves a voice and equal opportunities to participate and contribute to the movement.

I'm proud to sit on the National Women's Co-op Steering Committee and serve as a 50:50 Parliament coach. My experience and background align with the Co-op's values and goals, and I am committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within the movement.

**"Empowering diverse voices within the Co-op is not just a moral imperative, but a strategic one. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, we can build a stronger, more resilient movement that truly represents the needs and aspirations of all members."**

Let's work together towards a fairer and more just society. With me on the NEC, you can trust that your voice will be heard and your needs will be represented. I'm passionate about serving the Co-op and its members, and I hope to have the opportunity to do so.

## Background

She grew up in an ethnically diverse community in Oxford and is passionate about creating a more inclusive workplaces.

 [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)



## Qualifications

Iram has taken over 30 short courses as a School Governor and sits on the Ealing Schools Forum.

She is also a certified Train the Trainer



**GET MOVING**

She said: "Cycling helps you to get energised and it's also fun. It's a great exercise as more because being a mum with two under-fives could mean I would spend most of the time indoors, but cycling is a quick getaway. You can enjoy a ride to work, a local meeting, to the shops, on the school run or in a family outing. Councillor Britta Rio, cabinet member for health and adults' services, said: "Exercise has numerous proven benefits for physical and mental health and cycling is a wonderful way to get yourself a boost. It could just be a case of sweeping some of your shonky partners from A to B as you use a bike instead of a car; but it can also be an enjoyable social activity too. Why not take advantage of our free skills sessions and give it a try?"


Beginner and intermediate adult group sessions take place every Saturday at Gunnersbury Park and Southall Park. Bikes are available to borrow for free at both destinations, but booking is required. For more information visit [cyclinginweston.com/riding](http://cyclinginweston.com/riding) or call 0845 632 0421. Alternatively, email [rita.martin@cyclinginweston.com](mailto:rita.martin@cyclinginweston.com) with the subject title 'Taking cycle training'.

**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY**  
Try Before You Bike is supported by the club members the opportunity to take from £10 to most own the bike or return to the club or return to the club or return to the club.

**BIKE MAINTENANCE**  
To help you keep your bike in good condition we have free Dr Bike pre-ride inspections in the best locations in the borough. Our mechanics carry out the spot and give you a check after you have been to look after your bike.

[www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)

**Summer of cycling**



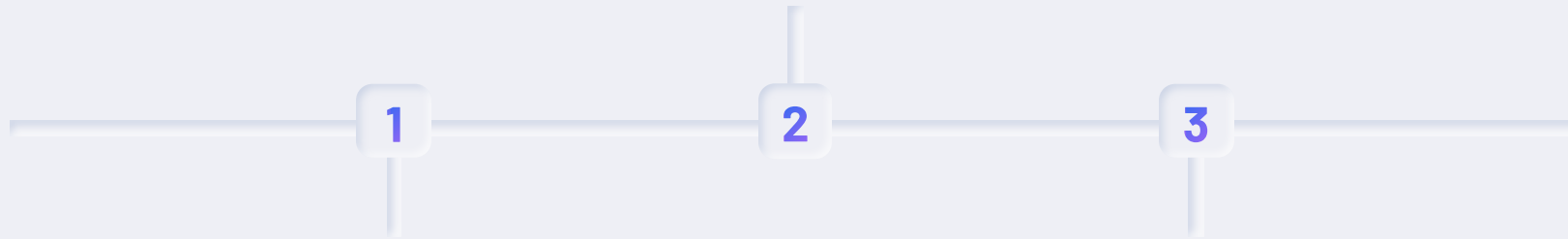
**"Empowering diverse voices within the Co-op is not just a moral imperative, but a strategic one. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, we can build a stronger, more resilient movement that truly represents the needs and aspirations of all members."**

**Iram**

# Coop BAME NEC Election

## Accountability

The members of the Co-op BAME NEC serve as advocates for BAME members and help to ensure that the Co-op values diversity and inclusivity.



## Representation

The Co-op BAME NEC is responsible for representing the views and interests of black, Asian, and minority ethnic members of the Co-op.

## Impact

The Co-op BAME NEC is instrumental in driving forward the BAME agenda and raising awareness of issues that affect BAME communities.

# Why Vote for Iram Woolley?



## Leadership Skills

Iram has a proven track record of leadership and advocacy for BAME communities.



## Experience

Iram's experience in the Co-op means she is ideally placed to hit the ground running if elected.



## Commitment to Diversity

Iram is passionate about diversity and has pledged to be a strong advocate for BAME members if elected.

# BAME Hustings Questions and Answers

## 1. **What inspired you to run for the Co-op BAME NEC, and what unique perspectives would you bring to the role?**

Answer: I was inspired to run for the Co-op BAME NEC because I believe that diversity and inclusion are vital for the success of any organisation. As a BAME individual and a passionate supporter of the Co-operative movement, I can bring a unique perspective and experience to the role. My background and experiences as a member of the BAME community give me a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges that our community faces. I want to use my platform to represent the voices of those who are often underrepresented in positions of power and to help shape the Co-op's policies and decisions in a way that reflects the needs and aspirations of all members, regardless of their background.

## 1. **What specific policies or initiatives do you think the Co-op should prioritize to promote diversity and inclusion within the organisation and the wider community?**

Answer: The Co-op should prioritise policies and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within the organisation and the wider community. This includes actively recruiting and promoting BAME individuals in leadership positions, implementing unconscious bias training, and establishing partnerships with BAME-led organisations to create opportunities for community engagement. The Co-op can also promote diversity and inclusion by creating a safe space for members to express themselves, and by supporting initiatives that celebrate the diversity of its members.

## 1. **How do you plan to work with other NEC members to ensure that the Co-op is representative and responsive to the needs of BAME members?**

Answer: As a member of the Co-op BAME NEC, I plan to work closely with other NEC members to ensure that the Co-op is representative and responsive to the needs of BAME members. This includes advocating for policies and initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by BAME members, promoting diversity and inclusion within the organisation, and creating opportunities for community engagement. I will also work to foster a culture of open communication and collaboration among NEC members to ensure that the needs and concerns of BAME members are always taken into consideration.

## 1. **How do you plan to engage and communicate with BAME members who may feel disconnected or underrepresented within the Co-op?**

Answer: I plan to engage and communicate with BAME members who may feel disconnected or underrepresented within the Co-op by actively reaching out to them, listening to their concerns, and advocating for their needs. This includes creating opportunities for dialogue and feedback, establishing partnerships with BAME-led organisations to create community engagement opportunities, and promoting diversity and inclusion within the organisation. I will also work to build a culture of trust and respect within the Co-op, so that all members feel valued and heard.

## 1. **What is your understanding of systemic racism, and how would you work to address it within the Co-op and the wider community?**

Answer: My understanding of systemic racism is that it is a deep-rooted and pervasive issue that affects every aspect of society. It is a system that perpetuates inequality and injustice, and it is our responsibility to dismantle it. Within the Co-op, I will work to address systemic racism by advocating for policies and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion, *advocate anti-black racism training, and implementing unconscious bias training.* I will also work to educate Co-op members about the realities of systemic racism and how we can all work together to create a more equitable and just society.

## 1. **How do you plan to advocate for policies that promote equal opportunities and fair treatment for all Co-op members, regardless of their background or identity?**

Answer: As an NEC member, I plan to advocate for policies that promote inclusivity and equity, such as:

7.1. Developing a diversity and inclusion strategy that outlines the Co-op's commitments to promoting equal opportunities and fair treatment for all members. 7.2. Working with BAME-led organisations to develop policies that address the specific needs and concerns of marginalised communities. 7.3. Advocating for policies that address pay disparities and provide opportunities for career advancement for all members. 7.4. Supporting initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within the Co-op and the wider community.

## 1. **How do you plan to address concerns around Islamophobia and xenophobia within the Co-op and the wider community?**

Answer: As an NEC member, I plan to address these concerns by:

8.1. Ensuring that the Co-op's policies and practices do not discriminate against members of any faith or culture. 8.2. Advocating for training programmes that raise awareness of Islamophobia and xenophobia and provide tools to combat discrimination and prejudice. 8.3. Developing partnerships with BAME-led organisations to promote understanding and dialogue between different communities. 8.4. Supporting initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within the Co-op and the wider community.

## 1. **What specific actions do you plan to take to address the needs and concerns of the Windrush generation and their descendants?**

Answer: As an NEC member, I plan to take the following actions:

9.1. Advocating for policies that provide support and compensation for those who have been affected by the Windrush scandal. 9.2. Developing initiatives that help those affected by the scandal to access the support and services they need. 9.3. Working with BAME-led organisations to promote awareness of the issues facing the Windrush generation and their descendants. 9.4. Supporting initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within the Co-op and the wider community.

## 1. **How do you plan to work with other BAME-led organisations and communities to promote social justice and equity within the Co-op and beyond?**

Answer: As an NEC member, I plan to work with other BAME-led organisations and communities by:

10.1. Developing partnerships with BAME-led organisations to promote awareness and understanding of the issues facing marginalised communities. 10.2. Supporting initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within the Co-op and the wider community. 10.3. Advocating for policies that address the specific needs and concerns of marginalised communities. 10.4. Encouraging the participation of BAME members and its committee in the decision-making processes within the Co-op.

## **What campaigns have you been involved in recently?**

I attended and promoted the Syrian Turkish Appeal at Oxford University, I have helped my sister do a segment for ITV Meridian News on Food Bank crisis, I have been meeting with Naz Shah to discuss the issues BAME women face, and the report that was commissioned by APPG Muslim Women about the lack of care and Pain relief for women giving birth. I have been on facilitators team meeting discussing the local issues BAME face and All Party BAME women face. I co-hosted Coop Women WHM on global coop women and the misogyny within the world we face right now.

# Candidate Statement

## Details

**Name:** Iram Woolley

**Gender:** Female

**Region or Nation:** London



YouTube

NEC Elections 2023: Iram Woolley Video Statement

01:45

## Co-operative Party activity and experience

I get frustrated when hear about bureaucratic barriers and whilst members implement risk management in Social Care and High St case studies, and so I supported members in our weekend zoom conference.

As a delegate and Executive committee member, I attend borough meetings and continue to contribute to promote long-term social responsibility.

I encourage councillors to become Labour and Cooperative, and sign up new members within my 50:50 Parliament network, and undertake training specifically BAME voices and within the Labour Party networks.

I truly believe in the transformative power of co-ops to make a genuine difference, for people and communities.

## Other co-operative movement activity and experience

**I get angry and feel sad when I see deep inequalities BAME communities are facing.**

From NHS wait times to get an appointment being no 20 in the phone queue at 8am.

I've channelled my energy to engage with our members I have led the T-shirt competition for our coop women. Many are fearful of going online and reporting abuse, for standing up for what's right. I provided training. I supported Stella Creasy campaign against the treatment of child Q.

**As an Olioer we're ending food hunger campaign, demonstrates my commitment to ending food poverty.**

Vote for Iram Woolley

## Governance or finance experience or qualifications

For nearly 4 years, I have served as a School Governor, sitting on the Finance and General Purposes committee.

Additionally, I am an active member of the Ealing Schools Forum, where I contribute on the discussions of finances of schools in the area. Our recent OFSTED visit resulted in a "good" rating, we are confident that with a graded inspection, we would achieve "outstanding".

As Lead for UNICEF RSSA, I am proud to share that we have been awarded the silver award. I have completed topics such as GDPR, sexual harassment awareness, equality diversity and inclusion, and unconscious bias training.

## Election Statement

I will be a fierce advocate for BAME communities, with my track record of success in advancing social justice and equality, and a deep commitment to making a positive difference in people's lives.

In addition to being an anti-racist campaigner, I have a unique superpower: I can speak four languages fluently.

If selected to NEC Cooperative Party, I will focus on three key priorities:

**Fighting discrimination and prejudice:** I am committed to ensuring all our events have genuinely diverse speakers and we use our platforms to amplify diverse voices, as 70% who identify as BAME were surveyed in 2020 and felt they were represented at Conference, compared with 70% attendees with disability and 77% of women.

I will work to promote and deepen Cooperation in BAME communities, and that everyone should have the chance to achieve their full potential. There was at least 'one BAME' speaker everyday, in conference in 2020. I accept the challenge of increasing this number.

We have to become truly reflective of the communities we serve.

**Supporting education and skills development:** I understand as a woman of colour the importance of focussed on Black History Month, by providing training mentoring inspiring BAME and report back to members, amplifying how coop BAME can overcome 26 common barriers within politics and increase seats at the table as I do in 50:50 Parliament.

In conclusion, we will ensure our BAME active membership are encouraged and inspired in our Cooperative Party. If selected, I'll be accessible and transparent.

Thank you







## Benefits of Voting for Iram Woolley

### **Experience & Knowledge**

Iram has a deep understanding of the Co-op and its values, as well as a wealth of experience in advocating for BAME communities.

### **Vision & Leadership**

Iram's vision for the Co-op BAME NEC is bold and inclusive, and she has the leadership skills to make it a reality.

### **Commitment & Passion**

Iram is deeply committed to diversity and inclusivity and is truly passionate about advocating for BAME members.

# How to Vote for Iram Woolley

1. The ballot will open on 3 April 2023 and eligible members will receive a link by email to cast their vote on line. Only members for whom the Party does not have an email address for will receive a postal vote.
2. On the email Select "Election Candidates"
3. Find Iram Woolley in the Co-op BAME NEC election
4. Click "Vote"!
5. To be eligible to vote, members must be current (not lapsed) and have applied to join the Party on or before 26 November 2022. To vote for the BAME, you must have been a member of the relevant network on 13 March 2023.
6. If you are a member of one or more networks, please look out for separate emails for each ballot.

Voting closes midday on Friday 5 May.

# Testimonials:



**Lord Wajid**

**Burnley**



**Onkar Sahota**

**GLA Chair London Assembly @ City Hall**



**Aysha Raza**

**Cabinet Inequalities and Cllr @ Ealing Council**



**Hanif Khan**

**Coop Party Chair Hounslow @ Coop**



**Cllr Faisal Rana**

**Rochdale Labour & Co-operative Party Councilor**



**Mukesh Malhotra**

**Thamesbank Credit Union Chair Hounslow**



**Cllr Nanda Manley**

**Cabinet Lambeth Diversity Director 50:50 Parliament**



**Cllr Grace Akuba**

**Councillor Ealing**



**Moshorroff**

**BAME Officer rep Coventry South CLP**



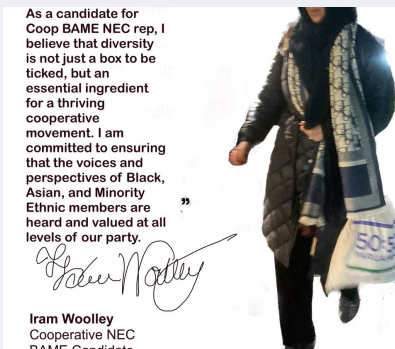
**Hina Mir**

**Area Forum Chair Bedford Feltham and Hanworth**



**Cllr Salma Mumtaz**

**Councillor at Nottingham City Council**



 Twitter



**Iram Woolley**

I'm running for Coop NEC BAME Rep to ensure our organisation embraces diversity...

**Thank  
You for  
Your  
Support!**

Your vote can make a real difference in creating a more inclusive and supportive Co-op community.