



ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/2017

MUSLIM WOMENS NETWORK UK

> OUR MISSION

A UK network of women and men to share knowledge, connect the voices, and promote the needs of diverse Muslim women.

> OUR VISION

A society where Muslim women can have an effective voice and the opportunity to exercise their rights to contribute equally.

> OUR AIM

To gather evidence about the experiences of Muslim women and girls on key issues affecting them and use the information to improve their rights through advocacy and campaigning.

> CONTACT US

> web: www.mwnuk.co.uk

> tel: 0121 236 9000

> email: contact@mwnuk.co.uk



Muslim Women's Network UK (2017)

Written By: Faeza Vaid and Risha Chauhan

Charity Number: 1155092

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MWNUK has had another busy 12 months. We have delivered campaigns and workshops, produced resources and helped women and girls in crisis. We managed to secure additional funding to increase operation hours of our national helpline from 5 half days a week to 5 full days a week. In the second year of the helpline we helped almost 600 individuals on 39 different issues and the top issues included domestic violence, divorce and mental health. To raise awareness and provide advice on some of the helpline issues we produced information booklets on discrimination, mental health, domestic violence and marriage/divorce. To add to our forced marriage presentation video in Urdu, we produced similar video presentations in Bengali, Arabic, Pushto and Gujarati. We hope others will use these resources to tackle forced marriage.

To protect children we attended schools to deliver workshops on forced marriage and female genital mutilation. We have also continued to partner with other third sector women's and faith organisations to deliver awareness raising events to challenge Islamophobia / stereotypes as well as female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Other partnership work has included supporting the Inclusive Mosque Project by acting as a grant partner.

Due to our Muslim Marriage and Divorce in Britain report, we have been invited to a number of events to share our findings and recommendations, which included giving oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Independent Government Inquiry on Shariah Councils. Our advocacy work has continued such as meeting with government officials and Ministers and responding to consultations. We have also raised our voice publicly on the issues we regularly deal with by commenting in national and niche media.

Although we evaluate our projects, this year we decided to also evaluate ourselves as an organisation. This was done independently, which included having honest conversations with a range of stakeholders. We now plan to act on these findings to strengthen MWNUK further. It is with mixed feelings that MWNUK said farewell to Shahin Ashraf, ex- MWNUK Helpline Manager and Project Manager, in August 2017. She has always been an integral member of the team and someone who went above and beyond her duties to support our mission. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role at Islamic Relief Worldwide.

However, we welcome a new trustee, Sophie Garner, who joined us shortly after our last AGM. She is a barrister, specialising in employment and discrimination law. Although not a Muslim herself, Sophie's professional and voluntary careers have given her a clear insight into the difficulties facing Muslim women in the UK today.

Finally, we are of course grateful to all of our donors past and present for supporting us and making all of our work possible.

Shaista Gohir OBE

Chair of MWNUK



MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

MWNUK is a registered charity (charity number 1155092)

Management Structure

Charity Board Members

Shaista Gohir OBE (Chair)
Nazmin Akthar (Vice Chair)
Dr Iram Sattar (Treasurer)
Khursheed Wadia
Sophie Garner (General Secretary)

Honorary President

Baroness Haleh Afshar (no voting powers)

Patron

Janie Frampton (no voting powers)

Staff (no voting powers)

Executive Director
Faeza Vaid

Independent Auditors

RUS Chartered Accountants (Registered Audi-
tors and Tax Advisors)
1190A-1192 Stratford Road
Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8AB

Administrator

Risha Chauhan

Helpline Manager

Nazia Fazal

Helpline Support Workers

Shaila Pervez
Iqra Sattar
Hannah Yafai

Outreach Workers

Zaheda Vaid - West Midlands
Ruksana Ali - Lancashire
Maham Sadiq - National

For full biographies of all our Board and Staff,
please see our website.

Governance

The Trustees convene face to face meetings quarterly, and electronic meetings are held regularly. Trustees are recruited in accordance with our Articles of Association. The selection is based on integrity and specific expertise required by the charity. The Chair and Executive Director are responsible for the trustee induction process. In accordance with our policies and procedures all Board, staff and volunteers have had DBS checks.

The Trustees ensure that: the charity's assets and resources are used only for the purposes of the charity; the charity is run in accordance with its governing document; and that charity law and all other laws and regulations that affect its activities are complied with. The Executive Director reports to the board of directors and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity and the implementation of strategy and policies. Project managers report directly to the Executive Director.

Charitable Objects

The charity's objects are:

- (1) The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit, in particular by advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity, and promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.
- (2) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sex, ethnic origin, religion, belief or creed (in particular, women in the Muslim community) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to achieve their potential and integrate into society, in particular by:
 - a. Providing forums that encourages and enables members of the Muslim community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
 - b. Increasing, or coordinating, opportunities for members of the Muslim community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet the needs of that community.
- (3) The promotion of religious and racial harmony for the benefit of the public by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious and racial groups.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. MWNUK's activities, which include project management, service delivery, research and advocacy and campaigning, all provide public benefits. Public benefit is also demonstrated throughout this report.



MWNUK (www.mwnuk.co.uk) is a UK wide network of women and men that shares knowledge, connects voices and promotes the needs of diverse Muslim women. MWNUK's vision is a society where Muslim women have an effective voice and opportunity to exercise their rights to contribute equally.

MWNUK works within a framework of human rights, justice and Islamic feminism.

Principles

We have five core principles that underpin our work and are at the heart of everything we do:

“ “Women's rights
Overcoming barriers
Multiple lived experiences
Effective change
NON-JUDGMENTAL” ”

Principle 1

We are an Islamic feminist movement that uses the Quran's spirit of equality and justice to challenge human interpretations (based on culture and tradition) that discriminate against women and girls, to achieve equal rights and opportunities for all.

Principle 2

We uncover and tackle uncomfortable truths fearlessly, honestly and independently by taking action, which is always in the interests of Muslim women and girls.

Principle 3

We are informed by the voices of Muslim women and girls by gathering evidence of their lived experiences.

Principle 4

We bring about real change through innovative thinking and doing, which positively affects the treatment of Muslim women and girls, resulting in a better society for all.

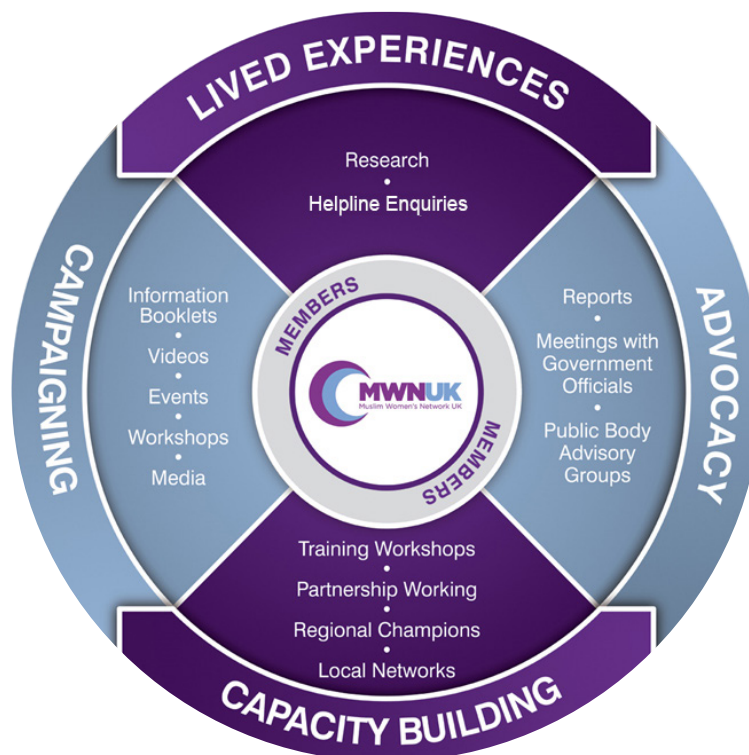
Principle 5

We demonstrate our inclusivity and non-judgmental stance throughout our policies, procedures and our work.

Priorities

Taking into account network member priorities and enquiries received through the MWN Helpline, the following priority areas will continue to be our focus.

1. Sharing understandings of gender in Islam from a human rights perspective.
2. Sharing knowledge of gender equality in UK family laws, marriage and divorce
3. Changing attitudes to abuse against women and girls
4. Challenging misconceptions about mental health
5. Encouraging women's leadership
6. Supporting actions to address Islamophobia and discrimination



MWNUK works to improve social justice and equality for Muslim women and girls by:

- 1) Finding out about the experiences of Muslim women and girls through research and our helpline enquiries.
- 2) Identifying policy and practice gaps and using this information to inform decision makers in government (including at Ministerial level) and other public bodies.
- 3) Using our knowledge about the issues faced by Muslim women and girls to inform our community campaigns.
- 4) Developing resources and training so women and girls are better informed about their rights and how to access support and help.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Janie Frampton

Janie Frampton has been invited by the Board of Trustees to become MWNUK's first Patron to help us broaden our work to include Sports and Wellbeing. Janie has been an active football referee for 26 years, and became the second woman to have operated within men's professional football. Janie is also the Owner and Managing Director of Sports Officials Consultancy, a development partner of Sport England, and an umbrella organisation which supports the education and development of sports officials across all sports.

Janie has worked with Muslim Women from Asian communities to engage them to take part in sport in a positive, safe, enjoyable environment without compromising their culture. Given Janie's knowledge, areas of specialism and experience, she is well placed to support MWNUK to develop a holistic Sports and Wellbeing programme.

Sports and Wellbeing Initiative

It is well documented that Muslim women face multiple barriers when trying to improve their physical health. Research also shows that there is a close relationship between physical health and mental health. Given the number of calls we receive on our helpline relating to isolation, low self-esteem, depression and self-harm, we know that counselling should not be the only solution to improve mental health and wellbeing. Through our Sports and Wellbeing initiative, we hope to:

- a) encourage more Muslim women and girls to take up sports including increasing the profile of those already participating at a competitive level
- b) improve physical wellbeing and mental health by encouraging sports and exercise
- c) use sports for empowerment and building confidence and leadership skills
- d) use sports as a conduit to address women's rights issues including challenging abuse
- e) use sports to promote integration and cohesion



MWNUK's first Sports and Wellbeing activity involved partnering with the England and Wales Cricket Board during the ICC Women's World Cup to give women and their families the opportunities to watch the live India v Pakistan match in Derby on the 2nd July 2017.

Organisation Evaluation and Review

MWNUK commissioned an independent evaluation and strategic review in 2017 to reflect on its first ten years of operation. The purpose of this endeavour was to assess its work overall, identify impact where this was possible to discern and most importantly provide analysis and insight to assist board and staff in formulating a refreshed strategic direction and plan for the future.

The evaluation was primarily qualitative and drew on in depth interviews with 49 internal and external stakeholders who knew MWNUK's work in some way as well as an extensive document review. The evaluation focused primarily on MWNUK's work since becoming a charity in 2013.

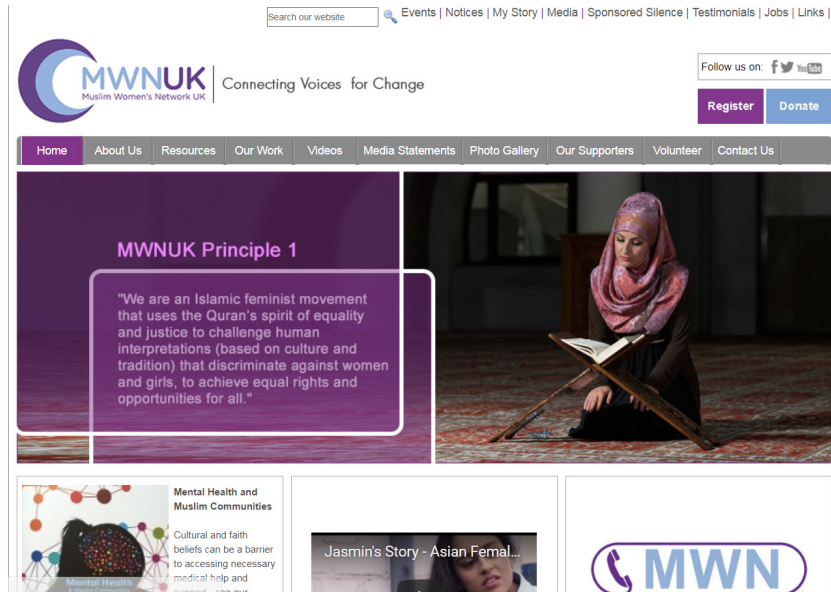
Outreach Workers

MWNUK now have two dedicated part-time outreach workers; one based in Lancashire and one working nationally. Their aims are to raise awareness of MWNUK and to disseminate our 'activist packs'- our series of information booklets on issues affecting Muslim women and girls in the UK.



OVERARCHING ACTIVITIES

A range of MWNUK's activities cut across and contribute to all our priorities.
MWNUK and MWN Helpline Websites



MWNUK manages two websites; the MWNUK organisational website (visited 47,232 times) and the MWN Helpline website (visited 15,991 times) (between January 2016 - September 2017).

www.mwnuk.co.uk
www.mwnhelpline.co.uk



MWNUK's website presents a vast array of information about MWNUK; who we are, our consultation reports, information booklets, videos produced by MWNUK and a gallery. It also provides members with the platform to publicise their work and events, and to keep abreast of Network news, and global news impacting Muslim women.

The helpline has its own website (www.mwnhelpline.co.uk) which provides information, downloadable resources, videos and an online directory of some support services available on a range of issues. It also features our web chat facility for those who cannot/do not want to talk but prefer to receive real-time advice via a messaging system instead.

TYPE OF MWNUK RESOURCE	TOTAL NO. OF DOWNLOADS Until Sept 2017
Research Reports	8,578
Information Booklets	11,768
Consultation Responses	11,057
Media Statements	17,997
Evaluation Reports	319
Other Reports	4,194
	TOTAL: 53,913

Social Media



Facebook

@Muslim Women's Network UK:
2,541 followers
(as of Oct 2017)

@MWNUK Member:
716 friends
(as of Oct 2017)



Twitter

@MuslimWomenUK:
5,129 followers
(as of Oct 2017).



Youtube

Muslim Women's Network UK:
Our videos have been viewed over 37,600
times in total
(as of Oct 2017).



Instagram

@MuslimWomensNetworkUK:
356 followers
(as of Oct 2017).

Membership

2017

- Extensive portfolio of work has developed.
- Over 800 members nationally.

MWNUK becomes a registered Charity.

2013

MWN-UK become a Community Interest Company (Not for Profit).
• Membership doubles

2008

2007

- Group becomes independent and renames as 'Muslim Women's Network-UK'
- 40 registered members

2005

30 women continue meeting and plan research roadshow across the UK

2003

6 Muslim women formally meet Women's Minister as 'Muslim Women's Network'



MWNUK is the only national Muslim women's organisation in the UK with over 800 members with a collective reach of tens of thousands of Muslim women.

Our members are mainly Muslim women living in the UK while our non-Muslim members work with or on behalf of Muslim women and girls, or are simply interested in supporting their rights. Our membership is diverse in terms of ethnicity, age, religious background (including religious sect), lifestyles, sexual orientation, geographic location and different employment sectors. Members also include men who wish to support and champion women's rights.

They are academics and students; voluntary sector and support services workers; health and legal professionals; experts in women's rights, diversity policy, disability and asylum; law enforcement officers and local government officials. Each of our members, whether individuals or organisations, are connected to other networks and audiences, thus multiplying our reach to thousands of women.

In addition to members we have over 300 individuals and agencies signed up to our mailing list. The majority of members have found us through our website, but as the profile of MWNUK increases more individuals are joining through word of mouth.

In 2017, MWNUK began work to deepen engagement with both current and future members. We look forward to building the mechanisms and tools to improving this aspect of our functioning.



UNDERSTANDING LIVED EXPERIENCES



These contacts have covered 39 different issues.

Abortion / Pregnancy
 Addiction – Alcohol
 Addiction – Drugs
 Addiction - Other
 Child Abuse (neglect / other)
 Children / Custody
 Child Sexual Abuse
 Child Sexual Exploitation
 Confidence / Self Esteem
 Disability Issues
 Discrimination / Islamophobia
 Eating Disorder (Self Harm)
 Education
 Elderly issues
 Extremism
 Employment / Work
 Forced Marriage
 Faith / Religion
 Female Genital Mutilation
 Honour Based Violence
 Health Issues
 Immigration
 Isolation / Loneliness
 LGBT
 Marriage
 Money / Finance / Debt
 Rape / Sexual Violence
 Revenge Porn
 Sexual Health
 Stalking / Harassment
 Sexual Exploitation (Adults)
 Suicide / Self Harm
 Trafficking
 Other issues

Our aim is to gather and share information relevant to the lives of Muslim women and girls in order to influence policy and public attitudes, to raise the profile of issues of concern to Muslim women and to strengthen Muslim women's ability to bring about effective changes in their lives.

Although we find out about the experiences of Muslim women and girls through in depth research, much of our information comes from helpline enquiries.

MWN Helpline

In January 2017, MWNUK celebrated the second anniversary of the MWN Helpline - a bespoke national specialist faith and culturally sensitive helpline that is confidential and non-judgmental, and offers information, support, guidance and referrals for those who are suffering from or at risk of abuse or facing problems.

The second independent evaluation of the helpline was conducted in 2016. The report can be found under the 'Reports' section of the MWNUK (www.mwnuk.co.uk) website.

The MWN Helpline is now open Mondays to Fridays between 10am - 4pm. During 2016, the Helpline team handled 1807 contacts from over 583 different individuals (beneficiaries).

“ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
Mental Health Feelings
 DIVORCE
 RELATIONSHIPS
 HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS ”

The five most frequent issues raised by beneficiaries breakdown as follows:

1. Domestic Violence - 37% of all issues raised
2. Mental Health Feelings - 23%
3. Divorce - 18%
4. Relationships - 14%
5. Housing/Homelessness - 13%

The percentages are based on whether they came up as primary, secondary, tertiary issues. Contacts to the helpline are often very complex. In 2016, 68% of calls had a secondary issue recorded and 28% had at least three issues discussed and recorded for the call.

This is a significant increase from 2015 where 51% of calls had an additional issue recorded and just 17% had three issues recorded. This could indicate increased complexity of the calls or it could indicate improved recording by the team. It is likely to be a mix of both.

Case Study - Aalia's Story

Aalia contacted the helpline because she was very depressed and had been feeling like this for a while. She had reached a point where she had started to feel suicidal and started cutting herself. She had been brought up in a very religiously strict household. She was constantly monitored by her parents and older brothers, which sometimes included verbal and physical abuse.

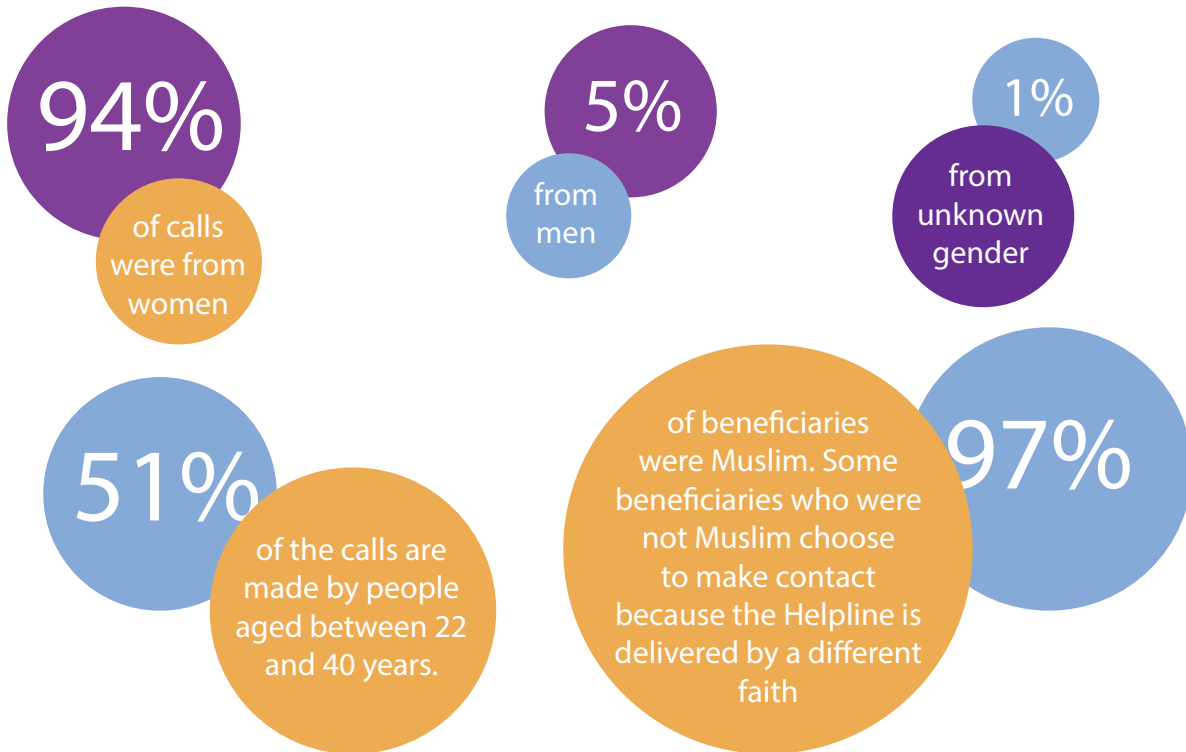
HOW WE HELPED

Aalia was provided with advice and options for support, including being moved to safe accommodation. However, Aalia did not want to leave her family or get the police involved and wanted to at first try and stand up to her family.

Local mental health support was contacted and Aalia was referred. However, she wanted faith-based counselling. She was therefore also referred to the helpline's internal counselling service, which allowed Aalia to receive telephone counselling.

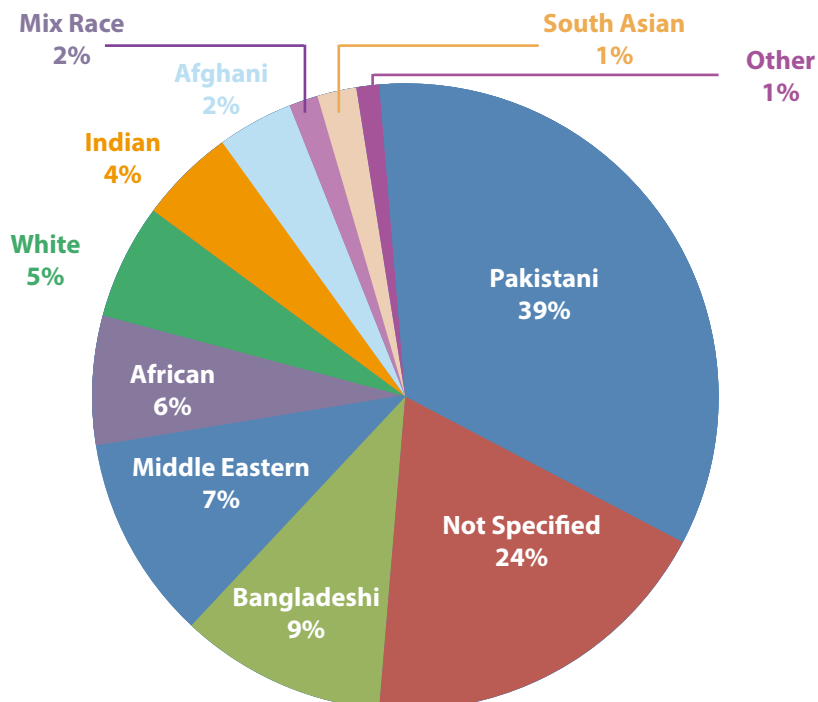


UNDERSTANDING LIVED EXPERIENCES



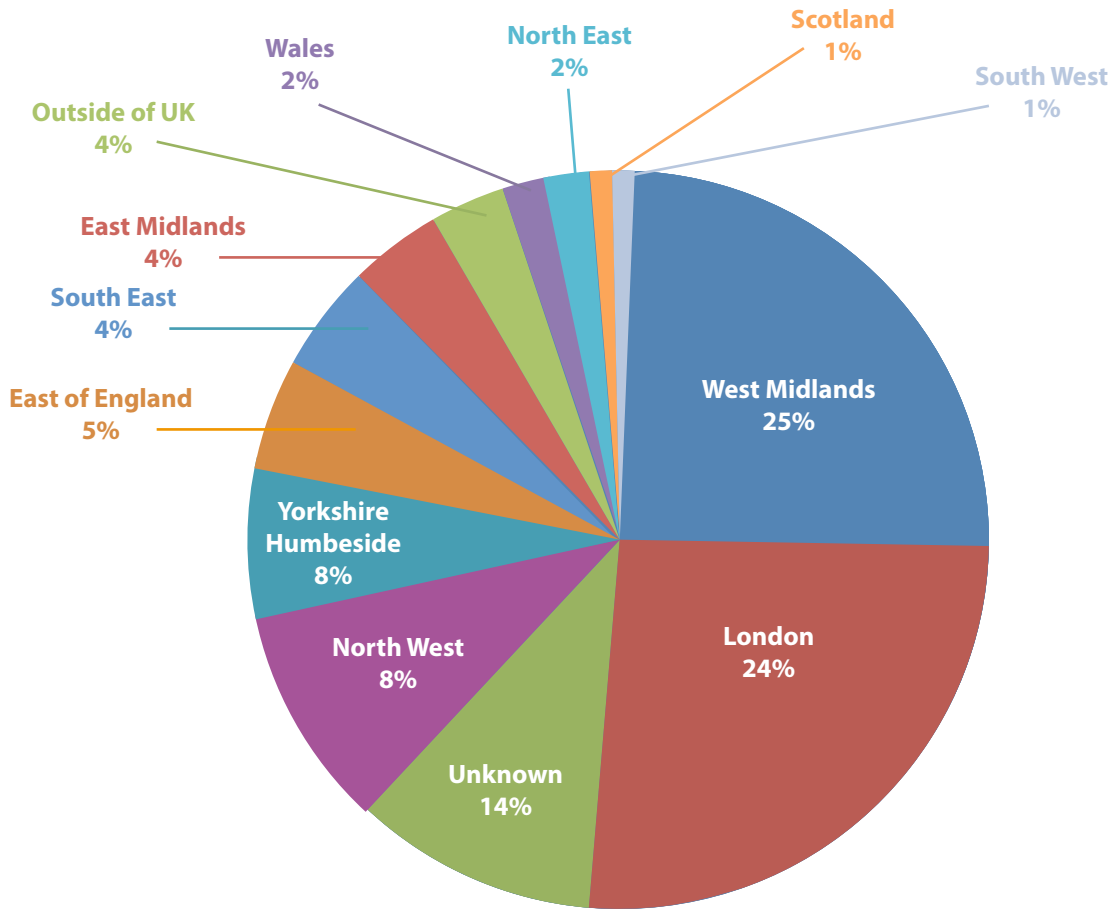
Ethnic Background of Beneficiaries

Where ethnicity is recorded the largest group within this are from a Pakistani origin (39%). There are a significant number of beneficiaries where ethnic background has not been stated (24%).



Location of Beneficiaries

MWNUK Helpline is a national service which is available for anyone in the UK. The proportion of callers from London has increased significantly, to match the number of calls from the West Midlands. Together, these two areas accounted for 49% of calls. Our reach in the North West region has also improved.



To access the helpline you can:

Call us:
0800 999 5786

(This is free to call from landlines and mobiles).

Text us: 07415 206 936

Email: info@mwnhelpline.co.uk

Chat: When you access our website www.mwnhelpline.co.uk there is a webchat facility available.

All messages and calls received outside of our opening hours will be responded to as soon as possible during our opening hours.

Remember, if you are in immediate danger always DIAL 999.

MWNUK'S SURVIVORS' FUND

The MWN Helpline's approach is to provide information and advice, and then refer callers on to specialist support services. However sometimes, such support is not available quick enough and therefore MWNUK continues to run the 'Survivors' Fund', which is used to support where possible, those in crisis situations.

The MWN Helpline staff assess the immediate needs of all individuals accessing the fund and quickly ensure emergency provision is made, if there is no other support available to that individual.

Azim Walimia raised over £1000 by running the Great Birmingham Run in 2016.



Visit our website to
donate online

mw nuk.co.uk

Case Study - Shanaz's Story

Shanaz was referred to the Survivors Fund by another third sector women's organisation because she was financially destitute and reliant on food banks after fleeing from her parents' home. Her parents had forced her into a marriage with a foreign national who lived abroad. She was living in refuge, suffering with mental health problems and unable to work or live independently at the time because she was a very vulnerable adult.

HOW WE HELPED

MWNUK gave Shanaz £100 in supermarket vouchers which allowed her to buy food whilst she waited for her benefits to be approved. The money she received ensured she had basic sustenance at a critical time in her life.

DONATE

Our advocacy work involves channeling views of Muslim women and girls to decision makers such as government and other public bodies. We do this in the following ways:

- By responding to government and public body consultations, which involves collecting views from our members and submitting a report that includes concerns and recommendations
- Attending government and other public round table meetings with Ministers, government and public body officials.
- Writing letters to policy influencers on reaching and responding to needs of Muslim women
- Holding workshops and collecting views that are then included in a report which is then shared with decision makers

All reports submitted, workshop details and photographs may be found on our website.

Below is an example of how the MWN Helpline directly informs our broader advocacy and campaigning

Challenging Charging Forced Marriage Victims Repatriation Fees

Foreign Office Private Letter December 2016

In November 2016, a frontline practitioner called the helpline about a young vulnerable Muslim woman in need of support. Whilst assisting her, the woman shared that part of her financial insecurity was due to the fact that she had an outstanding debt to pay the Foreign Office, and her passport was being seized until she paid.

This caller had been forced into marriage in Pakistan aged 16. At 17, she tried to get help from the British Embassy in Islamabad. Unable to pay for her return to the UK, the victim was made to sign, unbeknown to her, what was a loan agreement so she could return to the UK.

MWNUK were aghast that a victim of forced marriage was being re-victimised, and also questioned the legality of those who are under age being expected to sign loan agreements abroad. MWNUK felt that the FCO policy of charging victims of forced marriage the cost of their repatriation was wholly unfair and immoral. Therefore, MWNUK wrote to the FCO requesting an immediate policy change.

Policy Change

Following investigation, in March 2017 the FCO announced that they would no longer charge any under 18s the cost of their repatriation.

Victim Support

As a result of the press coverage in this case, donations were made to the MWNUK Survivors' Fund and her debt was paid off in full.

Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement
The House of Lords
Written Consultation
September 2017

The House of Lords Select Committee has been appointed to consider the issues of citizenship and civic engagement in the twenty-first century. Its aim was to understand the nature of the citizenship challenge for different parts of society; the aim being to identify new ways of building bridges within and between communities, and to support civic engagement. MWNUK responded to this consultation.

We said that ‘universal values’ should be used instead of the term ‘British values,’ and British citizenship should not mean imposing restrictions on individual liberties and human rights. We also highlighted that barriers to active citizenship of British Muslims in public life included Islamophobia / discrimination and issues of misogyny and patriarchal attitudes from within the Muslim community and its institutions.

These issues impacted on the ability of Muslim women to participate fully in public life. We provided two examples, one of mosques not allowing women on their governing boards and able and competent women blocked from becoming local councillors.

So-Called ‘Honour Based Violence’
Home Office
Roundtable Discussion
March 2017

A meeting was held on 15th March 2017 with a group of women’s rights activists and Sarah Newton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability. Nusrat Ghani MP and Naz Shah MP were also present. Shaista Gohir, represented MWNUK at the meeting.

Women’s rights activists rejected Nusrat Ghani MP’s proposed bill to ban the term ‘honour based violence,’ highlighting that it took many years to have term recognised and that it would undermine years of work and cause confusion. The women also raised concerns that the government was trying to make links between FGM and honour based violence with the extremism agenda and this should not be done.



Shariah Councils Inquiry Evidence Giving to MPs November 2016

The Home Affairs Committee is launching an inquiry into Sharia councils operating in the UK. The Committee will examine how Sharia councils operate in practice, their work resolving family and divorce disputes and their relationship with the British legal system. The evidence session was held at Portcullis House, Westminster on 1 November 2016. Chair, Shaista Gohir and MWNUK member Zlakha Ahmed (CEO of Apna Haq) gave evidence.

Shaista put forward a recommendation that the MPs also hold a private session with Muslim women who have used the services of Shariah Councils who have had good experiences and bad experiences to ensure they take balanced evidence. This was agreed to and in December 2016 a separate closed session was held and MWNUK provided women who had direct experiences of using Shariah Councils.

An unprecedented letter was also produced, signed by over 100 Muslim women who wanted the government to strengthen civil law and also want Shariah Councils held accountable but did not want them to be shut down.

Ratifying the Istanbul Convention November/December 2016

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive legal framework that exists, outlining minimum standards for a State's response to violence against women and girls. It would guarantee urgently needed change to prevent and tackle violence against women.

MWNUK took part in the campaign to ratify the Change Herstory on social media and our former Helpline Manager and Muslim Chaplain, Shahin Ashraf, attended a reception of Faith Leaders at the House of Lords in a public call for the need to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

In June 2017, following calls from individuals and organisations across the UK, the government announced that it will be taking the final step to enable ratification of the Istanbul Convention..

Government Independent review into Shariah Councils / Law Home Office Evidence Giving to Panel of Experts August 2016

On the 10th August the panel of experts investigating the application of Shariah law and Shariah Council practices visited the MWNUK offices to gather evidence from staff and the Chair. The experts included: Professor Mona Siddiqui, Anne Marie Hutchinson OBE QC, retired high court judge Sir Mark Hedley, and family law barrister Sam Momtaz. The panel was advised by two religious and theological experts, Imam Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi and Imam Qari Asim; they also attended.

- Ongoing - National Inquiry into CSE in the Family Environment by the Children's Commission
- Ongoing - Preventing Violence Against Vulnerable People in the West Midlands
- Ongoing - West Midlands FGM Taskforce
- Ongoing - West Midlands FM Taskforce
- Ongoing - Scotland Yard's FM Taskforce
- Ongoing - Forced Marriage Unit Taskforce
- Ongoing - Agenda Alliance for Women and Girls at Risk National Steering Group

CAMPAIGNING

Resource Production

We produce a range of resources to help raise awareness. Key examples of resources include:

Information Booklets



Muslim Marriage and Divorce (Nov 2016)

The information in this booklet helps inform Muslim women about their rights and practices in relation to marriage and divorce. It highlights the consequences of being in marriages that are not legally recognised under laws in the UK and provides advice on the steps that can be taken to ensure women are in a legally valid marriage. There is also advice to help women going through a divorce to navigate the process and to identify and challenge any discrimination.

Domestic Abuse Can Kill (April 2017)

This booklet is about the importance of speaking out on domestic violence and the consequences of not seeking help. The resource also provides information on different types of abuse so it can be recognised, support available (including protection from the law) and safety advice.

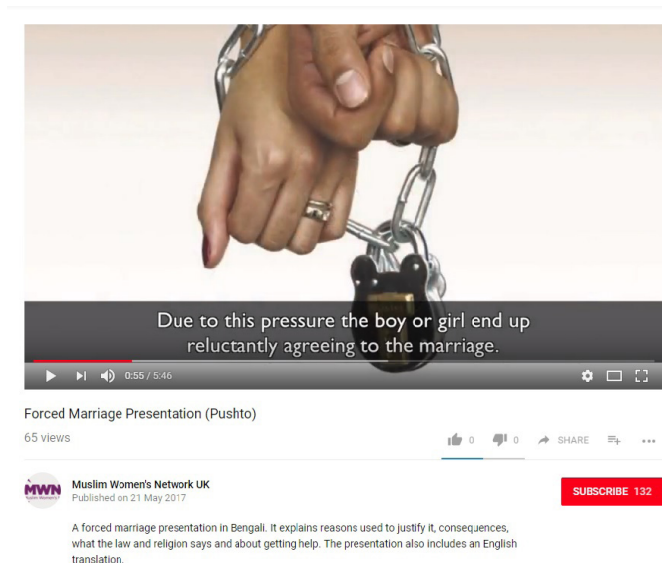
Mental Health & Muslim Communities (April 2017)

This booklet is designed to highlight mental health issues but also how cultural and faith beliefs can be a barrier to accessing necessary medical help and support. The resource also provides information on identifying signs to recognise mental health illnesses and treatments available.

Videos

Forced Marriage Presentation (Updated - now in 5 languages) (May 2017)

Our forced marriage presentation was updated to include narration in four new languages as well as Urdu – Pushto, Bengali, Gujarati and Arabic. The video explains reasons used to justify forced marriage, the consequences, what the law and religion says and ways to get help. The presentations also include English subtitles. It is an expansion of useful resource for awareness raising for South Asian women.



“ Urdu
Gujarati
PUSHTO
BENGALI
Arabic ”

Engaging With Media

MWNUK is regularly asked to comment and contribute to mainstream, international and niche broadcast and print media, on a range of issues affecting Muslim communities in Britain. This year that included the Casey Report and Sharia Council Inquiries. Over the last year MWNUK’s contributions have included:



Sharia Councils Inquiries

Following widespread coverage of two Shariah Council Inquiries in November 2016, MWNUK issued an open letter on the Shariah Council Inquires in November 2016, which was signed by over 100 Muslim women from across the UK. The letter received widespread media coverage:

- 01/11/2016 - The BBC News website published article on MWNUK's Open Letter.
- 01/11/2016 - Chair Shaista Gohir was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.
- 01/11/2016- Chair Shaista Gohir was interviewed on the Victoria Derbyshire Show.
- 01/11/2016 - Live Recording as Chair Shaista Gohir and MWNUK Member Zlakha Ahmed gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee Shariah Inquiry.
- 01/11/2016- The BBC News website published article on evidence received on Home Affairs Select Committee.
- 01/11/2016 - The Independent newspaper published article.
- 01/11/2016- The Guardian newspaper published a comment piece written by Shaista Gohir.
- 01/11/2016 - Chair Shaista Gohir was interviewed by Al Jazeera News.
- 01/11/2016 - The online website News Week published an article.
- 01/11/2016 - The online website Middle East Eye published an article.
- 02/11/2016 - The online website Reuters published an article.
- 06/11/2016 - Executive Director Faeza Vaid was interviewed on the Sunday Morning Live Show.
- 06/11/2016 - Chair Shaista Gohir was interviewed on BBC Radio Newcastle, Humberside, Kent Derby, Northampton, Shropshire, Lancashire and Guernsey.





Media Statements

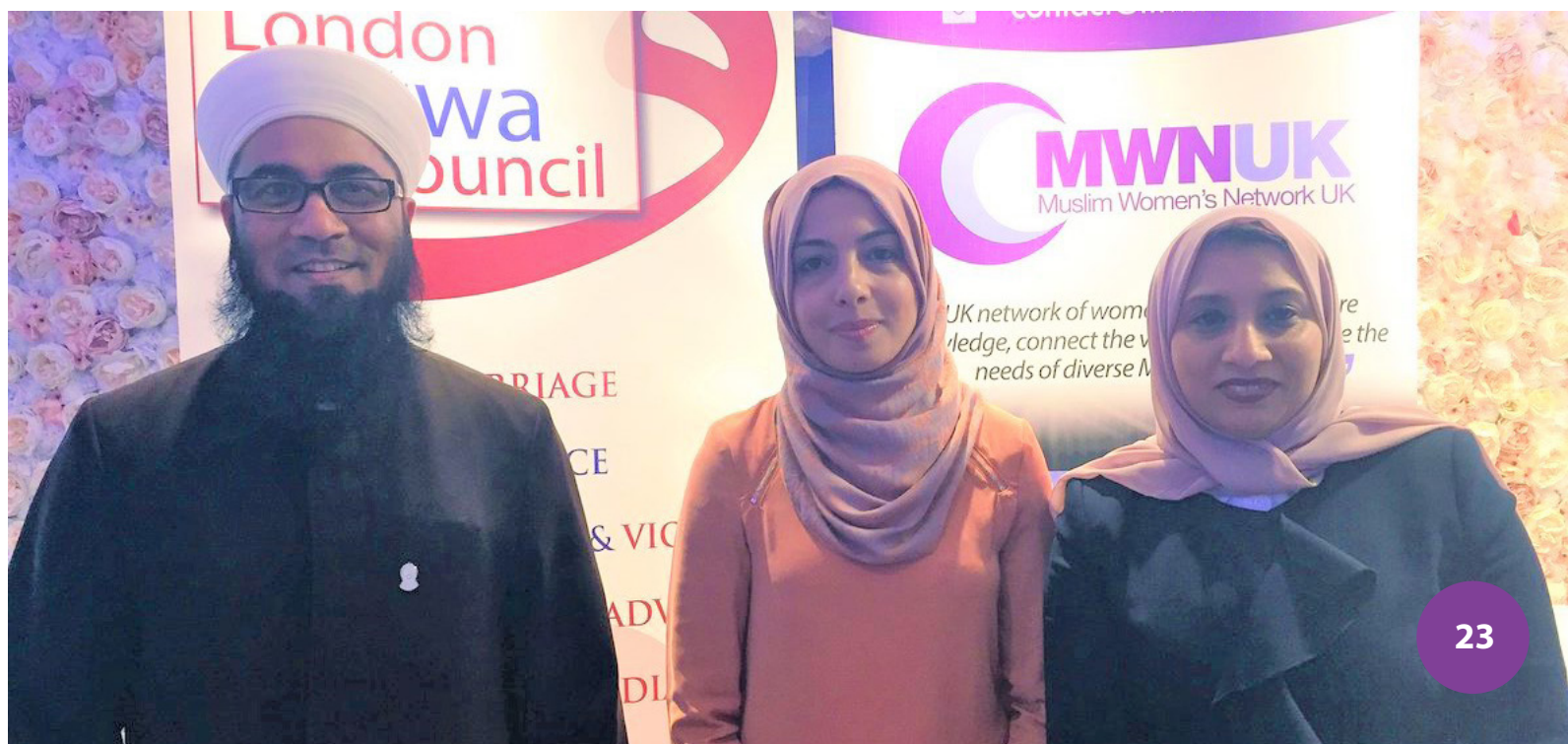
MWNUK also actively respond publicly to topical issues where possible. All our media statements are available to download from our website. This year, this included:

- Oct 2016: Women of Strength, Women of Compassion, Women of Influence - #AndMuslim
- Oct 2016: Over 100 Muslim Women Tell Shariah Inquiries Why Their Voices Must be Prioritised
- Dec 2016: Casey Report on Integration - We Must Discuss the Findings About Muslim Communities Responsibly
- Mar 2017: European Court of Justice Guidance on Wearing of Political, Philosophical or Religious Symbols
- May 2017: Manchester - An Attack on the Most Vulnerable and on Fundamental Human Values
- June 2017: Grenfell Tower: Community Stands Together in Face of Tragedy
- June 2017: London: Terror Attack on Worshippers Outside Mosque
- June 2017: MWNUK Launches New Sports and Wellbeing Initiative
- August 2017: Newcastle Upon Tyne - Grooming Convictions



MWNUK have actively worked in partnership with other organisations on various projects to continue to strategically build linkages nationally with other organisations.

Organisation	Project Name	Date	Funded By	
	FORWARD	The DFE Schools Programme	October 2016- March 2018	Department of Education
	London Fatwa Council	Challenging Attitudes to Forced Marriages	May 2017	Foreign & Commonwealth Office
	Pakistan Muslim Centre and the Federation of Mosques Sheffield	Challenging Attitudes to Forced Marriages	April 2017	Foreign & Common- wealth Office
	WEN Wales	Islamophobia and Discrim- ination- Challenging Stere- otypes of Muslim Women	November 2016	European Network Against Racism



Speaking Engagements

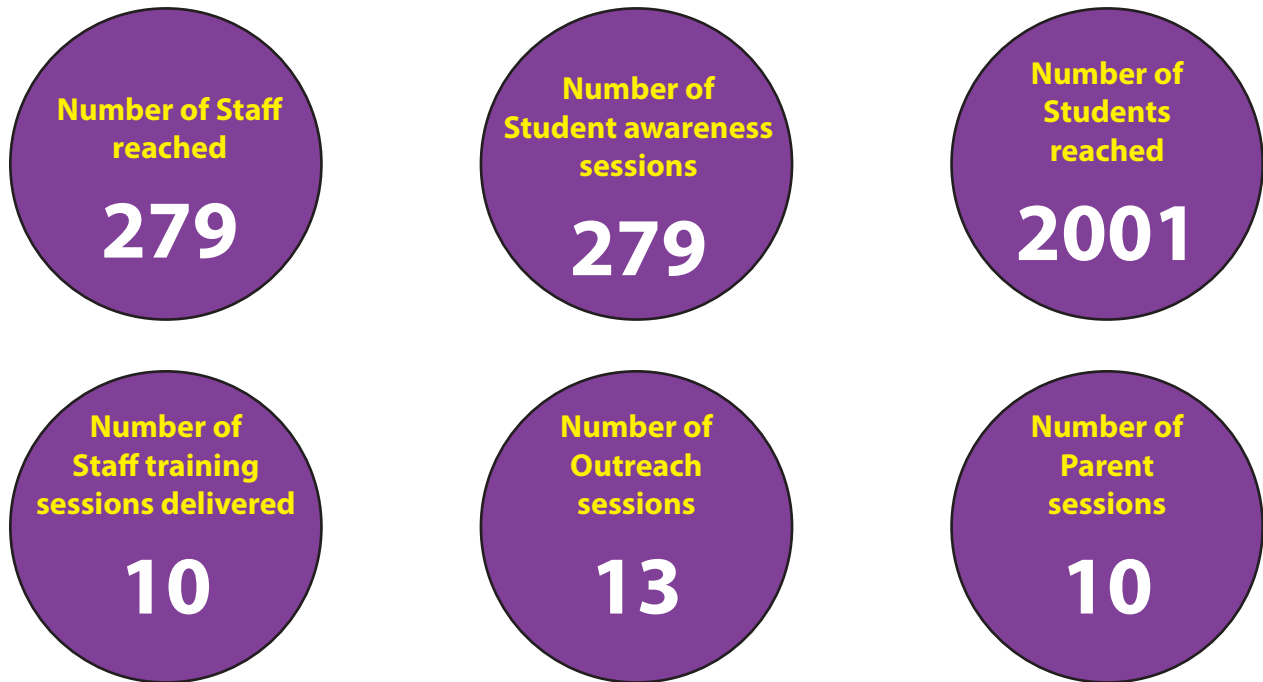
MWNUK regularly hold our own events and Board and staff receive diverse requests to speak at events by a diverse range of organisations which included:

Logos	Date	Event
	Nov 2016	Yemeni Community Association event on "Women's participation and its importance in society"
	Nov 2016	'Birmingham's Women in Leadership' event at Birmingham Council House
	Feb 2017	Birmingham Against FGM Event hosted by West Midlands Police, to mark International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM
	Mar 2017	The Board of Deputies of British Jews Women's Group and Social Action Group (BoDSA) & Jewish Women's Aid's International Women's Day event, "Domestic abuse: do faith communities help or hinder victims?"
	Mar 2017	Save the Children's International Women's Day event, "The Women's Movement – What Next?"
	Mar 2017	Nisa-Nashim Conference
	Mar 2017	Women's Equality Party Panel at the WOW Festival
	Jan 2017	The European Forum of Muslim Women and Kobiety Wiary event at East London Mosque
	Feb 2017	Gwent Police event
	Feb 2017	BRAP event, 'Too Scared to Ask?'
	Sept 2017	Rule of Law Conference organized by the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law in The Hague
	Sept 2017	Public Policy Exchange conference, 'Working in Partnership to End Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence'

Workshops in Schools

By raising awareness of different issues affecting Muslim women in the UK, MWNUK actively provide information and resources to effectively campaign on issues at local, regional and national level. All our training is highly interactive, informative and practical, and staff are regularly hired to deliver training sessions.

In partnership with the organisation Forward, MWNUK received funding from the Department of Education to deliver awareness raising sessions on FGM to schools in Birmingham. By engaging with 19 schools and 7 community centers, MWNUK delivered the follow sessions:



Promotional Out reach

MWNUK strives to also participate strategically in other community events to raise awareness of MWNUK and the MWN Helpline. For example:

- Birmingham Christmas Market (Dec 2016)
- Manchester Mega Mela (Jul 2017)
- MWN Helpline Conference (May 2017)

MWNUK held a conference aimed at other service-providers in the West Midlands, to promote the MWN Helpline. The conference was chaired by our Executive Director Faeza Vaid. It presented statistics from the 2017 evaluation of the helpline and featured talks about the various elements that make up the service.

As well as members of MWNUK staff, speakers included the Lord Mayor of Birmingham - Councillor Carl Rice, Judge Jinder Boora, Councillor Paulette Hamilton and a young woman who was personally helped by the MWN Helpline.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Young Woman Award

This year, to mark International Women's Day, MWNUK partnered with 12 schools in Birmingham to hold a 'Young Woman Award' in each school. The award recognised inspirational young girls who work hard, lead by example, and are role models for those around them. Some schools also raised money for MWNUK's Survivors' Fund.



IWD Leadership Workshop

MWNUK partnered with 'Heartsmart' coach Henrietta Szovati in March to deliver leadership training for local female leaders on authentic leadership, presence and emotional intelligence. The workshop also focused on building meaningful networks and empowering women to meet the challenges of gender justice issues.



ICC Women's World Cup Ticket Giveaway

In partnership with the England and Wales Cricket Board, MWNUK gave away 200 free tickets to the ICC Women's World Cup match between India and Pakistan to encourage female participation in sport. This was undertaken as a part of MWNUK's new Sports and Wellbeing Initiative. By removing some of the barriers to access, women and girls had the chance to see role models demonstrating skill and strength on the cricket pitch.



International

MWNUK believes that it is important to share knowledge, experience, best practice and opinions with Muslim women from different contexts.



MWNUK has been involved with 'Musawah' (www.musawah.org), the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, since its inception. It also calls for: non-discrimination, justice and dignity as the basis of all human relations; full and equal citizenship for every individual; and marriage and family relations based on principles of equality and justice, with men and women sharing equal rights and responsibilities.

The overall income from April 2016 to March 2017 was.

The majority of expenditure was on core costs and project costs. A summary of these accounts is provided below and full sets of accounts are available upon request.

Statement of Financial Activities year ended 31 March 2017

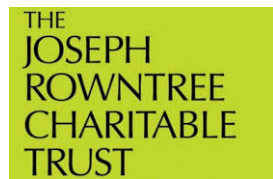
INCOME	2017 (£)	2016 (£)
Voluntary Income (grants and donations)*	201,517	158,777
Activities Generating Funds	1,568	4,206
Investment Income (Interest Receivable)	63	89
Total Income	203,148	163,072
EXPENDITURE		
Cost of Running Charitable Activities	192,403	152,446
Governance Costs	13	18
Other Resources Expended	0	100
Total Expenditure	192,416	152,464
RESERVES		
Retained Surplus for the Financial Year	10,732	10,608
Total Reserves Brought Forward	31,760	21,152
Total Reserves Carried Forward	42,492	31,760

*Of the £201, 517 voluntary income, £8604 is donations of which £2018.38 is restricted.

RECOGNITION AND THANKS

Thank You!

MWNUK would like to thank all those who have supported our work. This year funders included:



We also received private donations and generated income through providing services connected to our charitable objectives such as facilitating workshops and conducting focus groups, and through fundraising.

We are grateful for the in kind support provided to us through the government's 'Building A Stronger Britain Together' programme. Through this partnership we receive capacity building support across a number of different areas including developing communications strategy and campaign development.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the members of the Board of MWNUK, the hardworking staff who go above and beyond, volunteers, network members and our generous donors.

Winners of a Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Award (GBCC)

In March 2017, the GBCC presented MWNUK with the 'Excellence in Contribution to the Community' award, which highlighted the incredible difference that MWNUK has made in advocating for the rights of women and girls in the West Midlands and nationally.

Final Word

MWNUK are committed to creating a society where Muslim women can have an effective voice and the opportunity to exercise their rights to contribute equally. We reaffirm our dedication to this task and look forward to the coming year and the opportunities it will bring to raise and connect voices for change.



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