



Annual Report 2025

MUSLIM WOMEN'S NETWORK UK

Muslim Women's Network UK (2025)
Charity Number: 1155092
Company Limited by Guarantee Number: 06597997
Any enquiries related to this publication should be sent to us at Muslim Women's Network UK



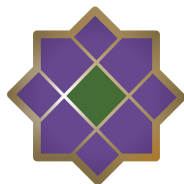
Research • Advocacy • Campaigning

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Birmingham B28 8AB

 **0121 236 9000**

 **contact@mwnuk.co.uk**

 **www.mwnuk.co.uk**



**MUSLIM
HERITAGE
MONTH**

The Ties That Unite Us

Celebrate
our stories

 **0121 236 9000**

 **mhm@muslimheritagemonth.org.uk**

 **www.muslimheritagemonth.org.uk**



Contribute • Explore • Network

Explore our
member platform

 **member@mwnhub.com**

 **www.mwnhub.com**



Information • Advice • Support

Available Monday-Friday
10am-4pm

 **0800 999 5786 (free)**

 **07415 206 936**

 **info@mwnhelpline.co.uk**

 **www.mwnhelpline.co.uk**



**MUSLIM
SAFETY NET**

Muslim Safety Matters

Report anti-Muslim hostility
to our helpline

 **0303 330 0288**

 **07311 876 378**

 **contact@muslimsafety.net.org.uk**

 **www.muslimsafety.net.org.uk**

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TRUSTEES

We continue to witness a rise in violence against women and girls, alongside persistent anti-Muslim hostility, trends that show no signs of abating. As trustees, we pledge to advocate for safer communities, amplify Muslim women's voices, and work with policymakers, institutions, and allies to dismantle the systems that disadvantage women.

In line with our commitment to respond proactively, we launched two new projects in 2025 to tackle these challenges directly. Muslim Safety Net seeks to improve the reporting and understanding of anti-Muslim hostility, ensuring incidents are recognised and addressed. Muslim Heritage Month challenges harmful misinformation and stereotypes while celebrating the positive contributions of Muslims to society. To make this a lasting national tradition, we invite you to join us—mark the month each March and encourage your employers, organisations, and communities to get involved.

In today's climate, it is more vital than ever to reach wider audiences with our messages and raise awareness of our work. We are therefore delighted to welcome our first Charity Ambassador, Muslim social media influencer and creator Sebina Hussain, who has also taken on the role of Chair of the new Muslim Creators Network, launched in December 2025. Through these initiatives and collaborations, we continue to build platforms that empower Muslim women, challenge prejudice, and celebrate the richness of Muslim contribution to society.



Dr Iram Sattar MBE
(Co-chair)



Nazmin Akthar
(Co-chair)



Faeza Vaid MBE



Sophie Garner



Ibtisam Belola



Angela Dainton

STAFF

- ✿ Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE
CEO
- ✿ Shameem Hussain
Operations Director
- ✿ Aida Zadran
Helpline Manager
- ✿ Neelam Rose
Advocacy Officer
- ✿ Rizwana Bi
Partnerships Manager
- ✿ Aaliyah Gohir
Communications / Executive Assistant
- ✿ Umma Rahima Begum
Communications / Helpline

Helpline

- ✿ Sumaira Mehmood (IDVA)
- ✿ Nasseam Akhtar
- ✿ Neelam Hussain
- ✿ Bibi Fatima Esakjee
- ✿ Farah Iqbal
- ✿ Jawaher Omer
- ✿ Ruksana Khatun
- ✿ Shazia Qureshi (and Projects)

We are also grateful for the support given by our regular volunteers, Faris Gohir (communications) and Mona Khan and welcome our new volunteers who have joined us towards the end of 2025.



ABOUT MWNUK

Muslim Women's Network UK (MWNUK) is a national membership charity based in Birmingham that works to improve social justice and equality for Muslim women and girls nationwide.

Vision

A society where Muslim women and girls fully utilise their rights, choices and voices.

Mission

To achieve equality and justice for Muslim women and girls through support, education, research and advocacy.

Strategic Objectives



Safety

Upholding the right of Muslim women and girls to be and feel safe



Inclusion

Upholding the right of Muslim women and girls to be and feel included



Solidarity

Building a solidarity movement for Muslim women and girls



Our First-Ever Charity Ambassador

SEBINA HUSSAIN

@sebinaah

We're thrilled to welcome Sebina Hussain as our first Ambassador. A dynamic content creator, digital marketing consultant, and mother of three, Sebina will be spearheading the Muslim Creators Network (MCN)—a new initiative bringing together social media influencers to collaborate, inspire, and amplify diverse voices.

Sebina's rise in the digital world wasn't planned. While studying for her postgraduate degree, she started sharing glimpses of her university life and personal style on Instagram. Within six months, she had 10,000 followers—and brands soon took notice. Today, her Instagram community has grown to over 400,000 followers, where she continues to create content that inspires, empowers, and challenges stereotypes.

"Faith guides me every step of the way. Platforms like mine come with privilege and responsibility, and I take that seriously,"

As a hijabi British Muslim woman, Sebina is passionate about reshaping the narrative around Muslim women today.

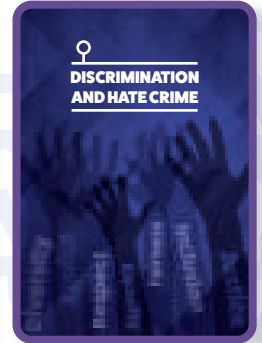
"Too often, we're misunderstood or defined by stereotypes. I want to amplify our stories, showcase leadership, and celebrate the agency of Muslim women everywhere."



MWNUK ONLINE

PUBLISHED JUNE 2025

UPDATED JAN 2025



DOWNLOADED



330 times since publication **350 times** since updated

TYPE OF MWNUK RESOURCE	DOWNLOADS UNTIL DECEMBER 2024	DOWNLOADS UNTIL DECEMBER 2025
Annual reports	26,124	33,250
Consultation reports	72,788	89,477
Evaluation reports	9,540	11,456
Information booklets*	126,925	131,264
Media statements	102,564	132,022
Research	39,665	46,011
Total	377,606	443,750

* includes downloads from the MWN Helpline website

A rise of 18%



Follow us on social media



@Muslim Women's Network UK

MWN HUB

www.mwnhub.com



The MWN Hub is a space for members to express their views and share notices of events or promote their own initiatives.



SPOTLIGHT



WATCH



READ



Q&A with Content Creator - Sebina Hussain

Influential Content Creator, Sebina Hussain is paving the way forward for a Muslim Creators Network that aims to connect and empower creatives in the social media industry.

MWNHub
Posted: 16/12/2025



In Conversation with Uzma Jalaluddin

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen, we spoke with Austen-inspired writer Uzma Jalaluddin exploring her journey in writing relatable love stories.

MWNHub
Posted: 04/11/2025



Burqa Ban - What do people say?

Reform MP Sarah Pochin and Conservative MP Suella Braverman are calling for a Burkha ban but what do people have to say about it?

MWN TV
Posted: 18/07/2025



Who are the Muslim Women Mayors of 2025-2026?

In an increasingly divisive political climate, meet the four Muslim women elected as Mayors for 2025-2026 wanting to make a difference.


MWNHub
Posted: 30/06/2025



Your Guide to Menopause Nutrition and Wellbeing

A guide for managing menopause symptoms with faith and care. Registered Dietitian Nishat Chowdhury provides tips on how to manage symptoms.

NishatC
Posted: 29/10/2025



Aleeza Asghar: the aspiring Footballer

Meet 15-year old Aleeza Asghar whose shambles into playing football has grown into a passion.


MWNHub
Posted: 04/04/2025



Khadjah Mollah: Muslim female Jockey

Khadjah Mollah is the first hijab-wearing jockey in competitive British race horse. In an interview with MWN Hub, Khadjah shares her remarkable journey on becoming a professional jockey rider.

MWNHub
Posted: 14/03/2025



SOCIAL JUSTICE

New Muslim Safety Net Helpline Launches

New helpline launched in October 2025 with billboard campaign supported by JC Decaux.

MWN TV
Posted: 13/10/2025



Equality / Social Justice

Digital Image Abuse – the new age of coercive control

Narratives from Muslim women highlight how online intimate image abuse goes beyond the digital realm - it has real-life consequences.

MWNHub
Posted: 03/12/2025



Equality / Social Justice

The burden of rising living costs for Muslim women

Latest report from MWNUK provides insight on the scale and contributing factors to Muslim women's experiences of the cost of living crisis.

MWNHub
Posted: 05/02/2025



To receive updates from MWN UK, you can register on the platform www.mwnhub.com/register

MWN HELPLINE

📞 0800 999 5786

💬 07415 206 936

✉️ info@mwnhelpline.co.uk

🖥️ www.mwnhelpline.co.uk

Open Monday-Friday (10am-4pm)



The **Amal** safety app can be downloaded from the Apple Store

IN 2025

Contacted
4295
times

1547
individuals
helped

500
counselling sessions
provided to **71** service users

2025 also saw the helpline celebrate its 10 year anniversary - during which time it has helped

11,000

women



Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) provides intensive, long-term support to women who have experienced domestic violence.

Our help is life saving

"I was strangled and raped by my husband during the night and then dragged by my hair and left outside the house in my underwear."

"I was strangled while I was pregnant and told by my husband that I was carrying 'Satan' because I was expecting a girl."

"He put his hands around my neck and applied pressure. I felt paralysed and collapsed after being strangled."

"I was choked by my brother, who also held a knife to my throat and it happened in front of my family."

In 2025 we helped secure
£10,000 in emergency funds for
32 helpline service users
(£300 each)



MUSLIM SAFETY NET HELPLINE

On 15th October 2025 we launched a new helpline for reporting anti-Muslim hostility.

Speakers included: William Spencer (JC Decaux and campaign partners), Lionel Idan (CPS Hate Crime Lead), Alex Gent (President of the National Association of Muslim Police)



Our four campaign ambassadors also contributed: Sebina Hussain, Sahir Ahmed Evans, Bilal Shafiq and Ayan Aden

We thank JC Decaux for helping to raise awareness of the helpline by providing billboards in more than 250 locations across the UK.

YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

Tell us about incidents

- ★ In public spaces
- ★ On transport
- ★ In the workplace
- ★ When accessing services
- ★ Online



www.muslimsafety.net.org.uk
0303 330 0288
07311 876 378 (WhatsApp / text)
Online form
www.muslimsafety.net.org.uk/report

EVENTS

MWNUK Annual Event: Muslim Women in the Media (Feb 2025)

Speakers included Oruj Defoite (Deputy Editor at Good Morning Britain) and Anjum Peerbacos (Reporter at Sky News) who shared their career journeys.



Muslim Creators Network - Launch in Parliament (Dec 2025)

MWNUK brought together Muslim social media influencers to create the Muslim Creators Network to discuss how to reshape the portrayal of Muslims in Britain.

@atikahamalinaz



@shabazsays



West Midlands Combined Authority - Joint Event (Nov 2025)

MWNUK partnered with West Midlands Mayor, Richard Parker, to bring communities together to discuss the rising levels of hostility towards minority ethnic communities.

WAITS - Change the System Conference (Feb 2025)

MWNUK Staff participated in a discussion to address systemic issues in the justice system, housing and social services, to better support domestic abuse victims.



Women's Resource Centre (June 2025)

Trustee Faeza Vaid - on the role of the women's sector in creating political and social change.



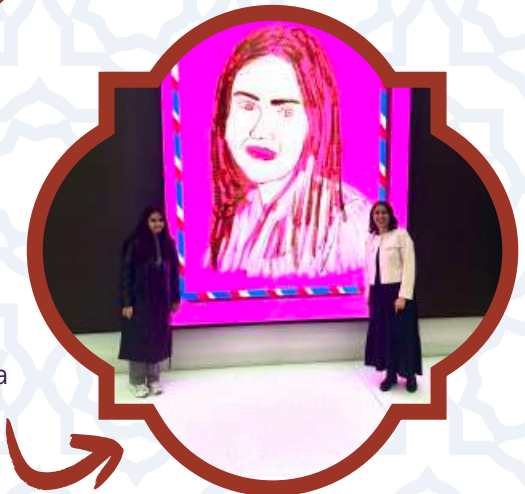
Southall Black Sisters - Vigil (Nov 2025)

SBS gathered minority ethnic women's organisation to highlight the higher femicide rates of minority ethnic women. Baroness Gohir spoke at event.



Apple Store - International Day of a Girl (Oct 2025)

We marked the occasion by learning digital art with Maliha Abidi at the Apple Store, Regent Street London.



MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH

www.muslimheritagemonth.org.uk



Muslim Heritage Month has been established to celebrate Muslims in Britain.

The MHM website contains resources spanning the history of Muslims from the past to the present, particularly about Muslim history in Britain.



More than 20 organisations took part to mark Muslim Heritage Month including Premier League, Tik Tok, SheerLuxe, Janus Henderson Investors, Premier League, Muslim at Amazon, the British Film Institute, UK Muslim Film, Crystal FC Charity, Womble Bond Dickinson, ECB, RCGP, British Islamic Medical Association, Brentford FC and Ikon Gallery and many more.

**Ikon
Gallery**

Tik Tok Launch
11 March 2025





Royal College of General Practitioners



Amazon



Crystal Palace Football Club



The Premier League

Brentford FC



THE TIES

THAT UNITE

US!



Sheerluxe

English Cricket Board

RESEARCH & PROJECTS

Health Focus Group

We conducted a series of health focus groups with Muslim women to inform the government's 10 year Health Plan to ensure their concerns were heard.

On Community Services

"During COVID, mosques became vaccination centres, and it worked. Why can't we do the same for diagnostic services?"

On Care at home

"Not everyone has a stable internet connection. What happens if the Wi-Fi cuts out? Or the equipment stops working? Who checks in then?"

On Technology

"What happens to elderly patients who don't know how to use apps? Or people who don't even have a smartphone? Will they just get worse care?"

Muslim Family Law Info Project

www.muslimfamilylawinfo.org.uk

MWNUK continued building resources for this project with Dr. Rajnaara Akhtar from the University of Warwick (lead partner). The new website contains information to support Muslim families in navigating marriage and divorce, empowering them to make informed decisions.



Dr Rajnaara Akhtar

ADVOCACY

Gendered Islamophobia Inquiry (Jan 2025)

MWNUK CEO Baroness Gohir gave evidence to the Women and Equalities Committee for its Gendered Islamophobia Inquiry. She provided insights on the impact of hate crime and discrimination on Muslim women.



Social Mobility Commission Meeting (Feb 2025)

We offered insights on social mobility from the perspective of Muslim communities, which included barriers and good practice.

Community Cohesion Inquiry (June 2025)

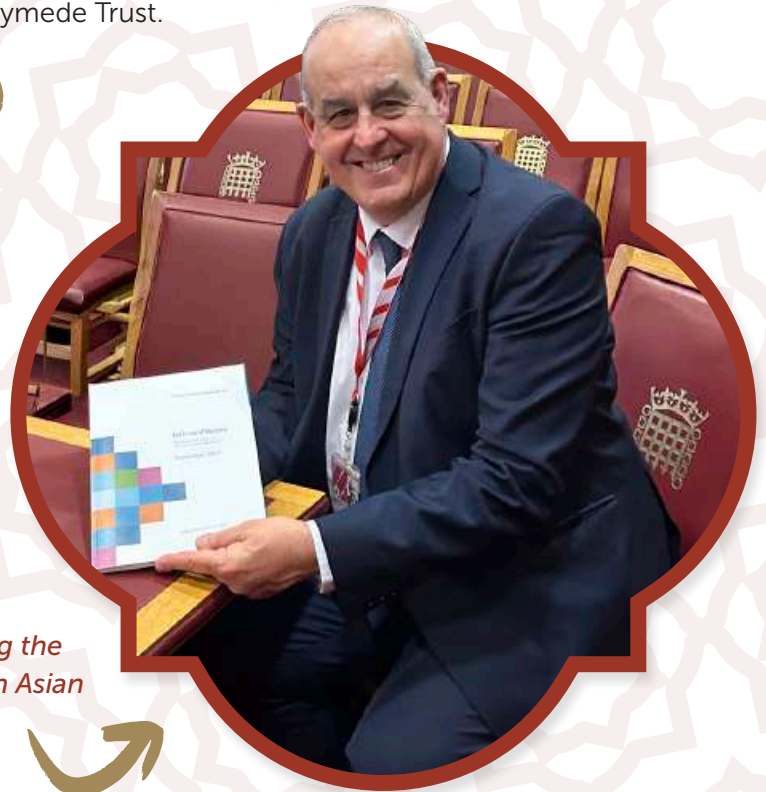
MWNUK CEO Baroness Gohir gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee for its Community Cohesion report. She provided insights on the causes of the summer riots that took place in 2024, their impact on Muslim communities and what the government could be doing to strengthen community cohesion and combat Islamophobia.





Labour Party Conference - Fringe Event (Sept 2025)

MWNUK CEO Baroness Gohir facilitated a discussion on the structural impacts of Islamophobia amongst stakeholders that included the organisers of the event - Islamic Relief and Runnymede Trust.



Meeting with Ministers

During 2025, we have engaged with Ministers and civil servants across government departments such as the Home Office, MHCLG, Ministry of Justice, Department of Education and the Department of Health, to raise concerns about the inequalities experienced by Muslim women.

Pictured: Home Office Minister Lord Hanson holding the report, Unheard Voices, Sexual Exploitation of South Asian Women and Girls published by MWNUK in 2013.

Advisory Groups

MWNUK is a member of several advisory groups on maternity, hate crime and VAWG. Two new groups we joined in 2025 included:

- ✿ Hate Crime and VAWG Transport Taskforce (The Transport for London)
- ✿ Honour Based Abuse Advisory Group (Home Office)

IN PARLIAMENT

- Honour based abuse (Crime and Policing Bill) Dec 2025
- Spiritual abuse (Crime and Policing Bill) Dec 2025
- VAWG strategy (questions) Dec 2025
- Sexually explicit audio abuse (Crime and Policing Bill) Dec 2025
- Non-fatal strangulation (Crime and Policing Bill) Dec 2025
- Non-hate crime incidents (question) Nov 2025
- Maternity Report (question) Oct 2025
- Perinatal mental health (question) June 2025



INTERNATIONAL

Visits to The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

MWNUK CEO Baroness Gohir visited Saudi Arabia in April and November 2025 to build relationships with the NGO sector to exchange learning and cultural dialogue. The visit included visiting the Human Rights Commission, Family Affairs Council, King Abdul Aziz Centre for Cultural Communication, Muwaddah and the Islamic Development Bank. The trip was funded from external sources.



Visit to King Abdul Aziz Centre for Cultural Communication

Women's NGO, Mawaddah Association for Family Development Chaired by Princess Lolowa bint Nawaf



UK Embassy in Riyadh

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Muslim Women's Network UK and King Abdul Aziz Centre for Cultural Communication to work on joint initiatives to strengthen cultural understanding starting with online events.

We would like to thank the British Embassy in Riyadh for organising the meetings and hosting an event.



MEDIA STATEMENTS

We issued 21 statements in 2025, which can be downloaded from our website www.mwnuk.co.uk/media-statements

- Statement in solidarity with Jess Phillips MP (Jan 2025)
- MWN Helpline marks 10 year anniversary (Jan 2025)
- Welcome of plans to ban Mohamed Hoblos (Feb 2025)
- Muslim Heritage Month (Mar 2025)
- Muslim Heritage Month launched (Mar 2025)
- Islamophobia Definition Working Group (Mar 2025)
- Spring Budget – Government welfare cuts (Mar 2025)
- Reform MP Sarah Pochin - Anti-Muslim Rhetoric (June 2025)
- Audit on group-based child sexual exploitation (June 2025)
- 7/7 London Bombings - Reflections (July 2025)
- Southport Anniversary (July 2025)
- Misleading claims made by Richard Tice MP (July 2025)
- Legal definition of honour-based abuse (Aug 2025)
- Letter to Home Secretary about anti-Muslim hatred (Sept 2025)
- Standing in solidarity with Jewish communities (Oct 2025)
- Racism and sexism by MET police (Oct 2025)
- Arson at Peacehaven mosque (Oct 2025)
- Muslim Safety Net to report hate crime (Oct 2025)
- Clarification of position on Muslim charity run (Oct 2025)
- Anti-Muslim Hostility Definition (Dec 2025)
- Response to the government's VAWG strategy (Dec 2025)



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

MWNUK were mentioned or quoted in the media more than 30 times
Here are a few examples media mentions in 2025

Guardian (7 Jan 2025)

Robert Jenrick negative views about Pakistani communities - MWNUK challenged them and described them as being against the very British values he claims to uphold.

Hyphen (May 2025)

Domestic violence services – MWNUK criticise government for focusing on headline issues like female genital mutilation and forced marriage, while overlooking intimate partner abuse.

Guardian (June 2025)

Reform stoking hostility – MWNUK share concern on how some MPs use coded language to normalise hostility towards Muslims.

Independent (June 2025)

Burqa ban – Baroness Gohir writes opinion piece on how politicians are stirring up fear around the burqa or the veil and are not defending public safety but are inflaming prejudice for political gain.

Independent (June 2025)

Grooming gangs - Baroness Gohir writes opinion piece on how class-based prejudice towards white girls didn't just enable grooming gangs – it emboldened them.

Guardian (Oct 2025)

Anti-Muslim hate crime - MWNUK share their deep concerns about the unprecedented levels of anxiety in Muslim communities due to rising level of hate crime and criticised Ministerial silence on the issue.

Telegraph (Oct 2025)

Islamophobia definition - Baroness Gohir commented that those opposed to the definition will be pleasantly surprised and will want Ministers to adopt it otherwise existing ones will continue to be used

Hyphen (Nov 2025)

Counter terrorism scheme – MWNUK expressed shock at the referrals of children aged three or under since 2016 to Prevent and shared concerns about the life long implications of this.

BBC News (Dec 2025)

Islamophobia definition – Baroness Gohir commented that the proposal achieves the right balance by “safeguarding individuals while avoiding overreach and that it recognises that Muslims are frequently targeted for appearance, race, ethnicity, or other characteristics.”



Grooming Gangs - Andrew Marr LBC
 (Oct 2025)

Baroness Gohir discussed the contributing factors to grooming gangs crimes, why the crime went unchallenged and South Asian female victims

VJ Day - Good Morning Britain
 (Aug 2025)

Baroness Gohir joined Kwasi Kwarteng and discussed the contribution of Muslim soldiers and current conflicts such as Gaza and Ukraine.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
INCOME		
Voluntary Income (grants and donations)*	403,409	414,948
Activities Generating Funds	1,200	840
Total Income	404,609	415,788

EXPENDITURE		
Cost of Running Charitable Activities	373,552	407,046
Total Expenditure	373,552	407,046

RESERVES		
Retained Surplus for the Financial Year	31,507	8,742
Total Reserves Brought Forward	233,384	224,642
Total Reserves Carried Forward**	264,442	233,384

* Of the £414,948 voluntary income, £14,979 is donations

** Of the £264,442 reserves, £15,295 is assets (already spent), £122,430 are restricted leaving £126,717 unrestricted

HELP US

There are many different ways you can **support MWNUK** so we can continue to help women and girls, and achieve an equal and just society.

Donate

As a registered national charity (1155092) your donations go a long way. You can:

- Donate via our website
Go to www.mwnuk.co.uk and click DONATE.

- Donate by cheque, made payable to: **Muslim Women's Network UK**, and send to:
MWNUK, First Floor
1190- 1192 Stratford Road
Birmingham B28 8AB

Fundraise

There are many ways you could fundraise for MWNUK, the MWN Helpline, or the MWN Hardship Fund:

Organise an Event

You could raise funds by organising a local charity dinner, bake sale, or show.

Do a Sponsored Activity

You could try something new, have fun and carry out a range of activities such as marathons, fun runs, cycle races, mountain climbing, sky diving etc. and get people to sponsor you!

Spread the Word

Help spread the word about our work:

- MWNUK
- The MWN Helpline
- The MWN Hub
- Muslim Safety Net Helpline
- Muslim Heritage Month

You can raise awareness through:

- Sharing and using our work
- Disseminating our resources
- Inviting others to join in
- Connecting and sharing on social media

If you are interested in supporting us please email contact@mwnuk.co.uk



MUSLIM
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The ties that unite us

MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all of the organisations that have provided grants and the individuals who have made donations which make our work possible.



THANK YOU!



Research • Advocacy • Campaigning

1190-1192 Stratford Road,
Birmingham B28 8AB

 0121 236 9000

 contact@mwnuk.co.uk

 www.mwnuk.co.uk



faithfully
feminist

 #FaithfullyFeminist

Connecting Voices for Change