



Muslim Women's Network UK

*"We connect through our differences."*

# ANNUAL REPORT

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MWNUK

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Registered Company Number: 6597997

January – December

2012

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## **Tribute to Our Valued Colleague, Activist and Friend Cassandra Balchin (24 May 1962 - 12 July 2012)**



It is with the deepest sadness and sorrow that MWNUK announced on 12/06/12 the death of our friend, colleague and Chair of Muslim Women's Network UK, Cassandra Balchin. Cassandra lost her battle with cancer, leaving many of us grieving, but thankful to have known her. Cass was a founder member of MWNUK, as well as of many other organisations, and contributed to our vision and development.

Her wisdom and personality are sorely missed.

Cass worked tirelessly on advancing the rights of Muslim women. She was an expert in family laws, marriage, divorce, parallel legal systems /plural legal orders and religious fundamentalisms. She wrote and contributed to many publications.

No words can adequately express our sadness at Cass's death or our gratitude for the honour and privilege of working with her. MWNUK endeavours to honour Cass's memory by continuing to dedicate ourselves to the work she loved so much. We know that she will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her across the world.

## 2012 – AN OVERVIEW

2012 was a year of serious financial constraints for MWNUK, with only one member of staff, Faeza Vaid, in post part time as Executive Director for much of the year prior to commencing maternity leave in October 2012. Faeza is now the proud mother of twin girls.

Fawziyah Javed, a former volunteer, has been employed part time since the summer to help with administration tasks. Former Board member Fariha Thomas took over in October 2012 as Interim Executive Director until March 2013.

Due to the hard work of Board members, staff and volunteers, MWNUK continues to contribute much to Muslim women across the UK, and punches well above its weight for the size of the organisation – most people who have contact with us assume we have a large staff, but although we are small, we get things done. Thank you to all who have contributed

We particularly wish to thank the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for their continued support and funding to the Muslim Women's Network UK – they have agreed further funding for the next two years. Without their belief in our work, MWNUK would not have been able to achieve the work it has done over the past years.

We have been working hard trying to access wider funding and hope that our resources will increase in 2013.

## MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

### **Honorary President (and founder)** (Company Secretary)

Baroness Professor Haleh Afshar OBE

### **Board Members**

Cassandra Balchin (Chair to 2012)

Robina Iqbal (Vice Chair to Dec 2012)

Dr Iram Sattar (Treasurer)

Mussurut Zia (Secretary from December 2012)

Shaista Gohir MBE (Chair from December 2012)

Khursheed Wadia

Nazmin Akthar (Vice Chair from December 2012)

Fariha Thomas

(resigned October 2012)

Gemma Dua Ibrahim

(resigned October 2012)

Aisha Ali Khan

(resigned October 2012)

### **Executive Director**

Faeza Vaid - no voting powers (to October 2012)

### **Interim Executive Director**

Fariha Thomas (from October 2012)

### **Administration Assistant**

Fawziyah Javed (from August 2012)

## ABOUT MWNUK

Muslim Women's Network UK (MWNUK) is a UK wide network of women, which aims to share knowledge, connect the voices, and promote the needs of diverse Muslim women. MWNUK's vision is a society where Muslim women have an effective voice and opportunity to contribute equally to society. MWNUK registered as a community interest company in 2008 (company number 6597997), and is in the process of converting to a Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee.

### Values

MWNUK works within a framework of human rights, justice and Islamic feminism. We aim to be member focused, inclusive and accountable in all that we do. We are committed to gender equality and value diversity. We are independent from all established political, governmental and religious institutions. Organising as a network provides a mechanism for: sharing knowledge; raising the profile of individuals, organisations and issues; influencing policy and attitudes; and building a critical mass of voices.

- ❖ **We are member focused** - We keep our members regularly informed and value their participation. We consult and listen to our members and learn from them. We base our planning on the needs identified by members and we articulate those needs to all relevant stakeholders.
- ❖ **We value equality** - Women's equality is our central focus and we strive to make this a reality for all women.
- ❖ **We value diversity** - We recognise that Muslim women as individuals and as organisations are not a homogenous group, and value and give voice to our differences.
- ❖ **We value networking** - We believe that by building a critical mass of voices, change is possible. MWNUK needs its members and our members rely on us.
- ❖ **We value knowledge sharing** - We seek, collect, synthesise and disseminate information.
- ❖ **We value positive role models** - We showcase individuals and organisations who contribute to the realisation of our vision for Muslim women.
- ❖ **We value collaboration** - We are keen to connect with all individuals, organisations or stakeholders, which share our values. We welcome non-Muslims whose work focuses on these objectives as members of the network and goals and of the Board.

## Membership

Our membership has steadily increased to 498 members, made up of individuals, Muslim women and organisations working with Muslim women. Members include young women, mothers, and grandmothers; housewives and women working in a range of fields: workers in voluntary sector support services; health professionals; experts in women's rights, diversity policy, disability, and immigration, asylum refugee issues; businesswomen; local government and law enforcement officers, and artists; students and academics etc. Membership is also diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and location.

Membership is open to all those who support the aims of MWNUK. In addition to members we have over a 100 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.

## MWNUK STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In late 2011 MWNUK conducted a strategic review of our work, identified needs and priorities, the goals we wish to achieve, and the activities we will carry out to achieve those goals.

The review and planning process involved both staff and board directors, taking account of network member and women's priorities and concerns gathered from participation in MWNUK events, enquiries received, and other interactions.

MWNUK's **strategic priorities** for the **period 2012 - 2014**:

1. Sharing understandings of gender in Islam from a human rights perspective
2. Sharing knowledge of UK family laws ; marriage and divorce
3. Changing attitudes to domestic violence against women
4. Changing attitudes to mental health
5. Changing attitudes to women's leadership
6. Supporting actions to address forced marriage
7. Supporting actions to address child sexual abuse



## OVERARCHING ACTIVITIES

A range of MWNUK's activities cut across and contribute to all our priorities

### Website and Social Media

The website serves as an information sharing opportunity with an online directory of organisations which we are currently expanding, a news feed about events and changes affecting Muslim women worldwide, an opportunity for member and partner organisations to publicise their work, and updates on MWNUK's work. There are a variety of downloadable resources including videos produced by MWNUK and links to other topical videos and resources via YouTube.

**Online Factsheets** – The 'factsheet' section of the website contains factsheets on Information and Advice on Muslim Marriage, Religious and belief discrimination in the workplace, Female Genital Mutilation, and Forced Marriage. There had been 1320 factsheet downloads by the end of 2012.

**Newsletters** – regular e-newsletters were distributed to members and supporters providing information on MWNUK activities and those of member or partner agencies.

**Facebook and twitter** – are used as a forum for those wishing to discuss and be kept up to date using social media. We have a growing Facebook and Twitter following, with two Facebook groups: Muslim Women's Network UK Group – 409 and MWNUK Member – 427; and 254 Twitter followers as at end December 2012.

**Signposting and responding to information requests** – MWNUK receives requests for support and information via the website, email and telephone. This currently averages 30 per month and ranges from marriage and domestic abuse issues, through women wanting to become involved in activities in their area, agencies looking for help in their work with Muslim women to requests from media for comments and inputs.

### Engaging with Media

MWNUK is regularly asked to comment and contribute to mainstream, international and niche broadcast and print media. Some media examples include: Radio 4, Huffington Post, Sky News, Economist, BBC Asian Network, Islam Channel, Eastern Eye and India's IBTL. The topics varied and included: Muslim women's involvement in party politics; child sexual exploitation; backlash faced by Asian female campaigners; gender in Islam; Muslim female Olympians; Afghan women; Malala Yusufzai; Pakistani and

Bangladeshi women's participation in the labour market; the importance of legal systems being able to deal adequately with rape; and Arab super models.

Full details of media contributions can be found on the MWNUK website.

### Engagement with Policy Makers

MWNUK have responded to and participated in government consultations which have included written feedback and roundtable discussions:

- Roundtable discussion meeting with Lynne Featherstone MP - to discuss a wide range of issues affecting women including: legislative efforts to address violence against women, access to jobs, equality and political participation.
- Meeting at 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister David Cameron and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg – Faeza Vaid attended along with other women leaders from different sectors across the UK.
- MWNUK hosted a roundtable discussion with 15 Muslim women from Birmingham, Yvette Cooper MP and Shabana Mahmood MP.
- MWNUK responded to the government forced marriage consultation.

### Networking / Partnership Working

MWNUK are continuing to build linkages nationally with other organizations. Some have included:

- January 2012 - MWNUK ensured more Muslim women had the opportunity to visit the British Museum's exhibition: 'Hajj: journey to the heart of Islam' by securing free tickets from the Museum and offering to our members.
- Robina Iqbal participated in Migrant Voices in Birmingham, a migrant led organisation that is set up to develop skills, capacity and confidence of members of the migrant community.

### Speaking / Attending Events

MWNUK have spoken at a number of events in the UK throughout the year to ensure Muslim women's voices are heard. For example:

- January 2012 - AGM and networking event held at Houses of Parliament, Westminster, addressed by Shabana Mahmood MP (Shadow Minister of State for Higher Education), Lynne Featherstone MP (Equalities Minister) Helene Reardon-Bond (Head of Policy in the Government Equalities Office).
- February 2012 - Nazmin Akthar presented a lecture/workshop at Go Feminist Conference on law and feminism.
- February 2012 - Faeza Vaid represented MWNUK at London's 'Join me on the Bridge' event, part of Women for Women International's annual Join me on the Bridge campaign. . 215 events took place in 59 countries bringing together women and supporters, united to celebrate the strengths and achievements of women.
- March 2012 - Nazmin Akthar attended the 'Celebrating Womanhood' event organised by The Angelou Centre in Newcastle, an organisation, which has served the BME community for 17 years.
- March 2012 - Shaista Gohir was on the judging panel of the 'Migrant & Refugee Woman of the Year Award'. The award aims to recognize and celebrate women who having migrated or fled persecution have themselves found time to provide essential support and inspiring leadership at grassroots level to other new Londoners attempting to start a new life in the city.
- March 2012 - Khursheed Wadia at University of Warwick hosted a visit by Karachi-based feminist activist and scholar Afiya Zia, including a public lecture on "Secular and Islamic Feminisms: Product of the 'War on Terror'" - and its impact on the conflict on women and their political identities.
- March 2012 - Mussurut Zia attended the Million Women Rise march; a national demonstration against violence against women organized by the Million Women Rise (MWR) Coalition. MWR is a diverse group of individual women and women representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector who are united by outrage at the continued daily, hourly, minute-by-minute individual and institutionalised male violence enacted against women worldwide.
- March 2012 - Faeza Vaid attended Christian Muslim Forum event 'Come to the Edge'. The event brought together Christian and Muslim women from London, Birmingham, Leicester, Bradford to discuss and explore key areas that have emerged from listening exercises conducted in these areas. These topics include: Perception of the 'other', private/public space, stereotyping, young people, challenges and opportunities, etc.

- March 2012 - Faeza Vaid chaired session on “Citizenship, belonging and identity in a global age” at the Christian Muslim Forum ‘Contextual Theology Workshop’ held at the Islamic Foundation, Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Leicester. Keynote speakers included: Right Reverend Bishop Tim Stevens and Professor Tariq Ramadan, explored contemporary challenges for Christians and Muslims as well as traditional religious frameworks.
- March 2012 - Nazmin Akthar attended Northumbria Student Union's International Women's Day celebrations.
- April 2012 - Faeza Vaid provided input on “Connecting women, inspiring futures through inspiration and motivation” at EIMAN, Change Through Women event, Northampton.
- May 2012 - Nazmin Akthar appeared as a panellist at Nottingham Law School's Legal Education debate, which included looking at issues faced by Muslim and BME women in trying to enter the legal profession and through legal education.
- May 2012 - Shaista Gohir, Iram Sattar, and Faeza Vaid attended the Muslim Women’s Sports Foundation’s Ambassador Awards designed to reward and promote women’s sport among Muslim communities.
- May 2012. Shaista Gohir spoke at the Urban Muslim Woman Show, London.
- August 2012 - Shaista Gohir presented on Gender and Islam at the Imaan International LGBT Conference, London.
- September 2012 - Robina Iqbal attended the Eid Celebrations at the US Embassy.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 1**

### **Sharing understandings of gender in Islam from a human rights perspective**

#### **'Qiwamah' and 'Wilayah' - Protection and Guardianship Project**

In 2012 MWNUK was invited to participate in a worldwide research project to take place during 2012 being coordinated by Musawah as part of a global Knowledge Building Initiative. **Musawah ([www.musawah.org](http://www.musawah.org))** is a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, calling for: equality, 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.

Musawah paid costs for the work with additional resourcing from in-kind donations from MWNUK members. The research, undertaken by MWNUK and supported by Practical Solutions, focuses on the Qur'anic concepts of 'Qiwamah' and 'Wilayah' - Protection and Guardianship, which underpin understandings of women's roles in Islam and of male authority, as interpreted and constructed in Muslim legal traditions, and as applied in modern laws and practices. The project seeks to discover the lived experiences of Muslim women and whether understandings of these Qur'anic concepts reflect the true justice of Islam in the way we live in the modern world.

Two MWNUK Board members, Aisha Ali Khan and Mussurut Zia, attended a methodology training workshop in Indonesia prior to the start of the project. Mussurut attending a mid-project follow up in Malaysia in December 2012, at which feminist scholars and academics such as Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Asma Lamrabet, Lena Larson, were present with Sa'diyya Shaikh joining by Skype. Mussurat had the pleasure of being a discussant on Lena Larson's paper, "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women - The Question of Economy and Gender Roles in Marriage".

The research methodology included in depth case studies with individual Muslim women in UK and 3 workshops: held in Accrington June 2012; Birmingham July 2012; and Glasgow, September 2012 jointly with Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre. The workshops were facilitated by Mussurut Zia supported by other MWNUK Board members and staff, and attended by Muslim women from a range of ethnic backgrounds and focused on discussing how the concepts of 'Qiwamah' and 'Wilayah' are played out in women's daily lives, both in relation to domestic and community expectations and norms, and the legal system in UK.

Lively discussion took place with participants recounting what the concepts mean in their lives and their cultures. While there were many views, partly stemming from different backgrounds, there was significant agreement that culture plays a large part in how these Islamic concepts are understood and lived across the world, and indeed in communities in UK. Individual case studies are being collected, and the report will be written up in 2013.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 2**

### **Sharing knowledge of UK family laws, marriage and divorce**

The following activities have been carried out to support this aim:

#### **Resources**

MWNUK has continued to receive enquiries on a wide range of issues, with marriage and divorce a recurring theme. We therefore produced an **Information and Advice Marriage booklet**, which was launched in January 2012, with hard copies distributed at AGM and events, and added to website with 282 downloads to date. Copies are also available on request. We would like to thank Dr. Ghayasuddin Siddiqui who has made a donation so we can reprint these booklets. We are in the process of producing / compiling a booklet on issues relating to **Divorce** for publication Spring 2013.

#### **Engagement with Policy makers**

MWNUK has participated on the **Ministry of Justice Muslim Marriage Working Group**, to: identify the problems experienced by Muslim women (and some men) as a result of not having legally registered marriages; the reasons why many Muslims do not register marriages; consider what means are available to address the problems encountered by Muslim women; and consider merits of possible legislative reforms to address these problems.

#### **Partnership working**

MWNUK is a member of the **Muslim Marriage Contract Advisory Group** that meets from time to time to discuss how the muslim marriage contract that MWNUK helped to develop and it's website **muslimmarriagecontract.org** can be promoted, and to share experience of the types of enquiries received. Participants of this group include Usama Hassan, Ghayasuddin Siddiqui and Mufti Baraktullah.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 3**

### **Changing attitudes to domestic violence against women**

The following activities have been carried out to support the above aim:

#### **Website and social media**

A short video highlighting key facts from the FGM factsheet was produced and uploaded onto the MWNUK Youtube channel to mark the “International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM/C” on 6th February 2012. The day has been designated by the United Nations to raise awareness amongst the general public about this traditional practice, which severely violates the human rights of women and girls.

#### **Engagement with policy makers**

MWNUK attended a roundtable discussion with Vera Baird QC and other frontline Domestic Violence staff to discuss the ‘Women Safe Everywhere’ Labour Party consultation.

#### **Campaigns**

November 2012 - 16 days of action to end Violence Against Women. MWNUK organised the white scarf online campaign to raise awareness and photos were sent from men and women, mostly from UK but also from as far afield as Mauritius and Bangladesh.

#### **Networking / Partnership Working**

Faeza Vaid went the distance by taking part in Islamic Help's Snowdon Challenge to raise money for Islamic Help's Smiles Better Campaign, which aims to help restore the lives of survivors of acid attacks.

#### **Speaking at /attending events**

MWNUK attended the following events to keep abreast of current concerns on violence against women to ensure organisational learning in order to feed in to our strategic plans and activities; and to contribute to discussions and debates.



- March 2012 - Faeza Vaid attended a reception on the occasion of International Women's Day to mark efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls at home and abroad hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street.
- September 2012 - Nazmin Akthar participated in a Domestic Violence Event at the Angelou Centre, Newcastle.
- October 2012 - Nazmin Akthar attended Emma Humphreys "Women Talk Activism" Seminar & Awards Ceremony (Nazmin Akthar nominated for the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize for writings on honour killings etc)
- October 2012 - Nazmin Akthar attended 14th annual WAVE Conference organised by Imkaan and Women's Aid federations in London. WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organisations working in the field of combating violence against women and children.
- November 2012 - MWNUK organised a meeting in Birmingham with Monira Rahman - Acid survivors campaigner from Bangladesh attended by women from a range of organisations including: Bangladesh Women's Association, Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid, Islamic Help, and the Refuge
- December 2012 - Shaista Gohir participated in a DFID organised high level event on FGM attended by international NGOs. Ways of sharing research and best practice were discussed. Shaista also ran an informal workshop on connecting national FGM discourse with international contexts.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 4**

### **Changing attitudes to mental health**

We have not been involved in as many activities supporting this objective as we had planned. However, plans are already underway to be more involved in this very important area of work and we aim to develop a project that addresses stigma on mental health issues in 2013.

However:

- In September 2012, Board member, Robina Iqbal attended the Sikh Mental Health Conference in Birmingham on behalf of MWNUK, to identify partnership opportunities
- A significant percentage of calls to MWNUK have required listening skills and referral to counselling resources
- We have added information on organisations that provide Islamic counselling on our online directory.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 5**

### **Changing attitudes to women's leadership**

Muslim women across UK, including many of MWNUK members make an impact in a wide range of work. It is important that their contributions are recognized.

- Our Muslim Women Role Model and Big Sister exhibitions have been borrowed by partner organisations throughout the year. They can be previewed on our website: [www.mwnuk.co.uk](http://www.mwnuk.co.uk) (resources section). We also produced a short video highlighting British Muslim female role models
- Partnership work with Mosaic, West Midlands - a youth mentoring organisation. MWNUK has attended and spoken at their events and shared resources such as posters and booklets and the role model exhibition.
- MWNUK website featured member Fozia Parveen and her inspiring story. She is currently working on an exciting new Muslim youth lifestyle magazine called Fifteen21. The magazine was launched in March 2012 for teenagers to educate, inspire and engage the future generation of British Muslim society and is available to view free at [www.fifteen21.com](http://www.fifteen21.com)
- Nazmin Akthar was nominated to become an Olympic torchbearer for all the work she had undertaken to promote equality and diversity and for how she had gone out of her way to help vulnerable members of society.
- April 2012 - Robina Iqbal received the Muslim Asian Communities Achievement Award.
- May 2012 - Robina Iqbal received the Ambassador for Peace Award from the Women's Federation for World Peace.
- November 2012 - Former Board member (now interim Executive Director) Fariha Thomas, who was elected in May as one of two Muslim female councillors on Glasgow City Council, was filmed for Iqraa TV as part of a series on inspirational Muslim women.
- Muslim Women Contribution Awards - MWNUK worked with Human Appeal International planning to host a 'Muslim Women Contribution Awards'. However, due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of MWNUK, the awards had to be cancelled. We hope to be able to run the awards some time in the future.
- November 2012 - MWNUK co-hosted a Poetry workshop, with Nimah Ismail Nawwab a noted female poet from Saudi Arabia, at the Drum, Birmingham.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 6**

### **Supporting actions to address forced marriage**

In early 2012, the Home Office was seeking views on whether forcing someone to marry should be made a criminal offence or whether current arrangements provide adequate protection. They were also interested in views on what more could be done to prevent forced marriages. MWNUK submitted a response after consulting with members, which can be viewed on the MWNUK website (reports section).

We continue to receive forced marriage enquiries and we signpost women and girls to specialist services. The forced marriage factsheet on the MWNUK website continues to be downloaded.

## **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING PRIORITY 7**

### **Supporting actions to address child sexual abuse**

#### **Partnership working**

MWNUK is a member of the Member of NSPCC National Advisory Group on Safeguarding and Muslim Children and has led a presentation on issues around child sexual abuse

#### **Speaking/Attending events**

- June 2012 - Fariha Thomas attended Roshni event in Glasgow on 'Child Grooming and Sexual Exploitation', and has held follow up meeting with Roshni to discuss partnership working.
- December 2012 - Mussurut Zia attended NSPCC Roundtable: Child Sexual Exploitation and Race, hosted by Greater Manchester Police.

#### **Research**

From October 2011 MWNUK has been undertaking a **pilot research project** around sexual exploitation of Asian girls to highlight hidden victims – to be published in Spring 2013.

MWNUK, along with partners and members are increasingly concerned that several recent heavily publicized cases of sexual exploitation of white girls by Asian men have created a perception amongst media, public and policy makers that the motivation behind these cases of abuse is race, faith and ethnic culture. We hope our case studies and findings will: provide evidence that sexual exploitation is about vulnerability and access and not race or faith; demonstrate the particular vulnerabilities of Asian girls; ensure policies, resources do not neglect the needs to of Asian victims; raise awareness amongst Asian communities about pedophilia in their communities; and heighten awareness amongst service providers and professionals that Asian girls are also victims.

By carrying out this research MWNUK, wants to not only highlight that Asian female victims exist but also explore barriers to reporting and seeking help as well as what can be done to help them.

## **INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

MWNUK believes that it is important to share knowledge, experience, best practice and opinions with Muslim women from different contexts. MWNUK has therefore been involved in a number of international initiatives and any travel expenses have been covered by the host organization.

### **Musawah**

MWNUK has been involved with Musawah ([www.musawah.org](http://www.musawah.org)), the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, since its inception, initially via our Chair, Cassandra Balchin, who was a founder member of Musawah. Shaista Gohir was asked by Musawah to represent them at Marburg University in July 2012, to give a presentation to academics about Musawah and their framework for action for reform which includes: use of Islamic sources, Islamic human rights standards, national laws and lived realities of men and women. The input also explored whether there is a polarity between religious and secular feminism. In February 2013, Shaista was asked to join the 15 member International Advisory Group for Musawah.

### **Women's Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE)**

Faeza Vaid was actively involved in supporting the work of Women's Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) - its core mission: to build a cohesive, global movement of Muslim that will reclaim women's rights in Islam, enabling them to make dignified choices and fully participate in creating just and flourishing societies. Further details about their work can be found at: [www.wisemuslimwomen.org](http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org).

### **United Nations Human Rights Forum on Minority Issues**

Shaista Gohir was invited to attend the United Nations Human Rights Forum on Minority Issues on 27th to 28th Nov 2012 (including a special session on 26th) to give a presentation on 'strengthening draft recommendations.' Shaista examined the key recommendations applicable to Muslim women in the UK context and made suggestions on how these could be improved. She also raised concerns that most minorities including minority NGOs were unaware of the recommendations and therefore were not using them as an advocacy tool when engaging with the British government, who in turn were not raising awareness of their existence.

### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

Robina Iqbal is involved with the UK CEDAW Working Group, facilitated by the Women's Resource Centre and ensures that Muslim women's voices are included on the Shadow CEDAW report. This report shows where the UK Government needs to improve law, policies and practice to ensure women can fully enjoy their human rights. The Women's Resource Centre will send this shadow report to the UN CEDAW Committee outlining where the UK is not meeting the standards and international obligations required. The UK examination by the UN CEDAW Committee is scheduled for July 2013.

### **Fundamental Rights Agency, Europe**

Robina Iqbal is part of this network of Civil Society Organisations dealing with human rights issues at a national, European and International level. In April she was shortlisted to stand for election for the Advisory Panel.

### **UN European Leadership Conference UN European Leadership Conference**

July 2012 Robina Iqbal attended the UN European Leadership Conference in Geneva on the Development of Families for Peace and Prosperity.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTS

The overall budget from April 2011 to March 2012 was £35 215 and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust was the main funder with a small donation received from Gulam Noon Foundation. The majority of expenditure was on core costs. A summary of accounts is provided on the next page and a full set of accounts is available upon request.

The accountants are:

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

With the current recession, like other organisations in the third sector, MWNUK is also feeling the impact. MWNUK has submitted an application to become a charity and are waiting to hear the outcome. We are continuing to apply for funding from a range of charitable sources, and also examining ways to raise a stable source of income to support core costs while ensuring that MWNUK guarantee its political and institutional independence.



## Detailed trading income and expenditure account for year ended 31 March 2012

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<i>Voluntary Income</i>				
Grants receivable		35,195		67,143
		<u>35,195</u>		<u>67,143</u>
<i>Investment Income</i>				
Bank interest receivable		20		27
		<u>20</u>		<u>27</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>35,215</u>		<u>67,170</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Costs of running Community Interest activities:				
<i>Grants</i>				
Grants – Staff - Wages & Salaries	21,747		35,880	
Grants – Staff - Employer’s NIC	1,812		3,374	
Grants – Establishment – Rent & Services	3,250		5,000	
Grants – Establishment – Insurance	294		292	
Grants – Bank Charges	8		14	
Grants – Printing, Postage & Stationery	584		1,150	
Grants – Professional – Accountancy Fees	1,633		2,198	
Grants – Professional – Auditor Remuneration	-		1,200	
Grants – Professional – Legal Fees	51		2,830	
Grants – Resource Production (Exhibition, Booklets)	1,650		11,907	
Grants – Office Expenses – Telephone	269		465	
Grants – Website & Upgrades	95		3,841	
Grants – Depreciation of Computer	110		164	
Grants – Travelling & Accommodation	2,776		3,425	
Grants – Subsistence	172		162	
		<u>34,451</u>		<u>71,902</u>
<b>Total Costs of running Community Interest Activities</b>		<u>34,451</u>		<u>71,902</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Taxation		4		6
<b>Total governance costs</b>		<u>4</u>		<u>6</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>		<u>760</u>		<u>(4,738)</u>