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MEDIA STATEMENT

Meeting with Parliamentary Delegation from Morocco

A parliamentary delegation from Morocco is currently visiting the UK and is being officially hosted by the British Group Interparliamentary Union. The visiting cross-party delegation includes: Honourables; Mohamed Sabbari (First Deputy-Speaker), Mohamed Joudar, Nadia Touhami, Zaina Idhali, Abdelaziz Lachehab, Mohamed Boudrika and Ilham Saki. During the programme, Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE, CEO of Muslim Women's Network UK, held a meeting with the visiting delegation alongside, Ibtisam Belola, who is the charity trustee and of Moroccan heritage. The meeting was also attended by Liberal Democrat Peer Baroness Hussein-Ece.

The meeting allowed for in depth discussion on a range of issues such as women's political representation, Mudawana Family Code, education, women's labour market, climate change / green energy and the successes of Moroccan football. The hour-long meeting, which took place on 20th February at the Houses of Parliament, included learning about the crucial role played by King Mohammed VI in advancing progress across these various sectors.

Ibtisam Belola, Trustee of Muslim Women's Network UK said: *"The increased representation of Moroccan women within politics at national and local levels in recent years is impressive, reflecting the commitment towards strengthening women's voices in decision making across the Kingdom."*

Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE, CEO of Muslim Women's Network UK: *"Although the visit will no doubt help to deepen trade and business connections between the UK and Morocco, I hope to also see increased dialogue between female parliamentarians and women's groups across the two nations to exchange learning."*

Additional Information

- Media enquiries can be directed to: contact@mw nuk.co.uk or 0121 2369000
- Muslim Women's Network UK is a national charity and more information can be found on the website: www.mw nuk.co.uk
- MWN Helpline (national specialist faith and culturally sensitive helpline) can be contacted on: Tel: 0800 999 5786 / Email: info@mwnhelpline.co.uk / Text: 07415 206 936 and further information can be found at: www.mwnhelpline.co.uk