



MUSLIMAH NETWORK

CHARITY NUMBER 1098607

Coordinating Support, Skills and Resources



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ABOUT MUSLIMAH NETWORK

ALLAAH, the Most High, says:

﴿من يشفع شفاعه حسنة يكن له نصيب منها﴾

Whosoever intercedes for a good cause will have the reward thereof. [4:85]

And Allaah's Messenger ﷺ said:

"...whoever remains in the service of his brother, Allaah remains in his service..."

[Recorded by Al-Bukhari no.2442, 6951, and Muslim no.2580]

Muslimah Network was established as a charity with the Charities Commission in March 2003. Our aims and objectives were to facilitate networking of Salafi sisters in providing opportunities and support for our fellow Salafi Muslim women and their families within the Lambeth and surrounding areas, in terms of education, recreation, health, and social care.

As of the charity's revival in 2015, the our aims and objectives essentially remain the same, but Muslimah Network can now legitimately extend its reach across London to Slough, Oxfordshire and Birmingham City.

AIMS OF MUSLIMAH NETWORK AS OUTLINED IN ITS CONSTITUTION

- To help address identified unmet needs of the Muslim communities (Salafees) of London, Birmingham City, Oxfordshire and Slough
- Provide practical and emotional outreach support to isolated Muslim women and their children
- To help improve the quality of life and reduce the suffering of Muslim women and their children, by providing home help and emotional support during sickness, pre/post-natal stage and convalescence
- To organize workshops and provide training to help address health, educational and recreational concerns
- Liaise and develop links with other Salafi groups and organizations with similar aims
- Recruit and train volunteers to help meet the objectives of Muslimah Network
- Create a database of relevant and appropriate information about local community resources and services
- Organize and/or host community activities/projects
- Establish a Community Centre in London

HISTORY OF THE CHARITY

MUSLIMAH Network began in 2002, in Lambeth, South London, with a core group of 5 sisters; two of which have remained: Umm Faruq (Director) & Umm Abdur-Rahman (Secretary, unofficial).

SOME OF THE CHARITY'S INITIAL PROJECTS

- Resource drop-in (for access to Islamic books ordered from Salafi Publications) with crèche facility
- Basic Counseling Skills training
- A Nutrition presentation
- Toddler & Child First Aid Training
- A TEFL course
- A sisters' and children's fun-day

In 2005 it was suggested that Muslimah Network should try to extend its reach to include the East London Salafi community. In this regard, advice was sought of Abu Khadeejah (at Salafi Publications) and he advised that Muslimah Network collaborate with the brothers at Al-Athariyyah. After some consultation in this regard, Muslimah Network was able to acquire the lease of a property in Forest Gate in 2006, enabling the charity to establish projects in East London.

INITIAL EAST LONDON PROJECTS

- Level 1 & 2 NCFE Childcare Training
- Beauty & Make-up Training
- An Eid celebration for sisters

Since funds ran out in 2007, however, Muslimah Network had been inactive as a charity until December 2015.

I congratulate the organisers for this initiative. We always had this need in our Salafi community, especially for our growing young people to have a platform and busy themselves. I'm in with all I have with me. May Allaah put much barakah in it, aameen.

TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Director	-	Umm Faruq Jamilah
Secretary	-	Umm Abdur-Rahman Camilah (unofficial)
Co-Secretary	-	Umm Yusuf Mumtaz
Chairperson	-	Umm Sabaa Amani (also Volunteer Coordinator)

VOLUNTEERS

There are currently 15 further volunteers on board, taking up the following roles:

- Services Coordinator
- PR & Marketing Support
- Creche Support
- Admin Support
- General Volunteering

SUPERVISOR

Since the recommencement of Muslimah Network's activities in 2015, Brother Abdul-Hakeem Mitchell has taken on a supervisory role. This is so that we can benefit from his Islamic knowledge, advice and insight, and bi`ithnillaah avoid falling into unnecessary errors etc. Allaah, the Most High, says:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَاطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَاطِيعُوا أُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ﴾

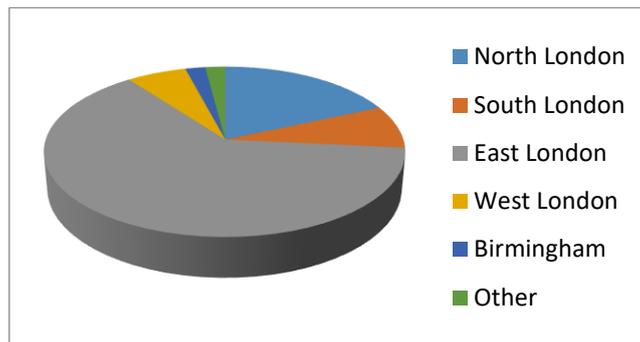
O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ), if you believe in Allaah and the Last Day. [4:59]

As such, Abdul-Hakeem is consulted on matters prior to initiation of Muslimah Network's projects, and he is kept well informed with regard to minutes of meetings, plans, proposals, etc.



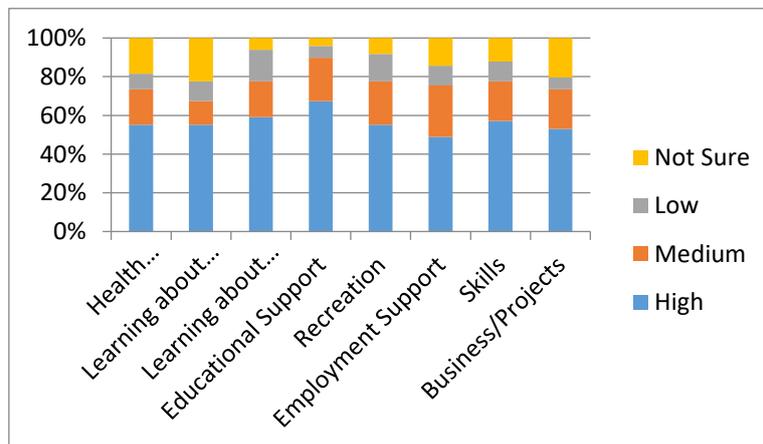
SALAFI COMMUNITY SURVEY

IN December 2015, Muslimah Network launched a community survey to ascertain the priority level of need for various services within its remit to provide – such as health and educational support, recreational activities, and skills training. Overwhelmingly, more than half of the total responses received were from the East London area.



GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF PARTICIPANTS

A total of 49 responses were received, and of these the vast majority indicate educational support as the highest priority. We aim to conduct another survey in early 2017 as our initial projects in the new Tooting Tuition Centre get underway, inshaAllaah.



OVERALL FEEDBACK RECEIVED



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OUR PLANS GOING FORWARD

AS the community has matured, sisters have recognised the growing needs of the community in terms of education, recreation and support, and have initiated many praiseworthy projects in order to begin to address some of these issues. Muslimah Network aims to facilitate, establish and support projects like these and more, providing legitimacy for those activities and fundraising under the umbrella of its charitable status.

SOME COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM OUR DECEMBER SURVEY

Adolescents need more attention in our community. Especially adults teaching them, giving them special lessons, workshops/lessons/ways of interaction. Also mothers in difficult situations. I have met so many sisters in difficult situations – depression, children with behavior problems, bereavement – and none there to give a hand.

Consistent support, hands-on ongoing groups for new Muslims and their families. Many new Muslims feel alone for some years after taking their Shahada; some deviate.

I would be really interested in parenting workshops.

We really need a Salafi school and activities for children in a halal environment. Also we need a place for sisters to get advice to help regarding health and employment. Also more halal jobs for sisters wearing niqab.

JazakAllaah khair for restarting this much needed initiative. Please let me know how I can help...

Based on feedback from the survey, Muslimah Network is now in the process of recruiting additional volunteers to help us to provide projects across London. We regularly hire two premises: in East London (Forest Lane Lodge, E7) and North London (Enterprise Centre, N17), and we have also opened up a new Tuition Centre (MN Tuition Centre, SW17) with the aim of hosting a wide range of educational, vocational and health related courses, workshops and projects.

Muslimah Network has not set up to be involved in the field of da'wah, however we understand that in catering for the Salafi community we must work closely with established and bonafide Salafi groups in the areas we intend to cover.

As regards collaboration, then Allaah, the Most High says:

﴿وتعاونوا على البر والتقوى ولا تعاونوا على الاثم والعدوان﴾

Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwa (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. [5:2]

CONCLUSION

WE acknowledge that there have been numerous efforts from sisters (as well as brothers) in our local Salafi community, where individuals have strived hard and initiated projects aimed at addressing some of these unmet needs. Unfortunately, some of these projects were not financially sustainable or fully legitimised which ultimately led to their cessation. Being a registered charity, Muslimah Network is in a position to aid collaboration and draw together community efforts by acting as an umbrella organisation, offering the required legal status for activities as well as working towards developing sustainable projects to benefit current and future generations, *bi`ithnillaah ta'aala*.

Alhamdulillah, Allaah has blessed us most recently with Masjid Abdul Aziz Bin Baz – the first Salafi masjid in East London – alleviating many of the difficulties we faced as a community in not having a place of our own to establish the correct worship of Allaah. The ultimate aim of Muslimah Network is, in partnership with our Salafi brothers and sisters, to begin to alleviate some of the more practical hardships faced by our Salafi sisters and their families.

﴿ ان مع العسر يسرا ﴾

Verily, with the hardship, there is relief (i.e. there is one hardship with two reliefs, so one hardship cannot overcome two reliefs). [94:6]

So, we ask Allaah to facilitate us in this and grant us success, and Allaah knows best and is Most Wise, and all praise and thanks are for Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Muslimah Network Team

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