

2017

# Annual Report Nottingham Muslim Women's Network



Author: Clive Foster

Equality Foss

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## Forward from the Chair

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Cllr Neghat Khan – Chair of NMWN

The work of the Nottingham Muslim Women's Network (NMWN) from its inception in 2014 has progressed to its present form in 2017 to take on many challenges faced by Muslim women. The network has campaigned and delivered workshops around a variety of issues with the support of our funders and partners. It has been a joy to be part this network that is positively transforming the lives of Muslim and non-Muslim women.

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It's exciting to reflect on the breath of work that the network has covered. We have tackled issues around domestic abuse and honour based abuse, raised awareness of grooming and child sexual exploitation organised Hate Crime Workshops and provided a counter narrative about Muslim women and oppression. We have partnered successfully with so many agencies that our work has gained both local and national influence. The Local Authority and Police are familiar partners in our work. We have also been consulted by national senior government ministers on our work on hate crime.

We are thankful to all our donors and partners for their valuable support and effort in taking our campaigns and events forward. It is this kind of partnership that brings real holistic change to the needs of the Muslim Community and beyond. It's just great to be part of a team that is transforming not only the lives of Muslim Women but women in general who face similar issues – let the work continue and in the words of our Women's International Day event lets be **#Bold for Change!**



# Management & Governance

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**Shazia Khan** is the **Executive Director of the NMWN** and founder established in 2014. Her experience over the last two decades has established her as one of the foremost and authentic advocates in pioneering and championing the voice of Muslim Women in Nottingham. Shazia Khan's experience in this field means she is sought out both locally and nationally for her insight on issues affecting Muslim Women. Shazia has been at the forefront of NMWN campaigns and advisory groups for 2017.



*"Grassroots organisations championing positive change for Muslim Women that's what we need today" - Shazia Khan Executive Director*



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**Cllr Neghat Khan** is the **Chair of NMWN** a founding member and visionary for the group. She has been a champion for equality and Muslim women issues.

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**Zaynab Asghar** is a **Project Coordinator** she started out as an outreach worker and has developed into a community activist and key administrator for NWMN. She brings an authentic voice of Muslim women to the organisation.

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## NMWN Support Staff

**Farzana Younus -Treasurer**

**Maxine Crockett & Jo Sarri – Support**

# About Nottingham Muslim Women Network (NMWN)

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The objective of NMWN is to organise events and forums to collect the views of Muslim Women, undertake community research and collaborating with partners and decision makers. The group also supports representation on relevant boards and decision making bodies, also to campaign for new services, service improvements and to develop and deliver appropriate training/workshops around the issues effecting Muslim Women.

The Nottingham Muslim Women's Network team have carried out a wide range of projects throughout the years for example Grooming and Sexual Exploitation, Forced Marriage, Interfaith Women's Group, Women United and Honour Based Abuse and the workshop MEN Leading for Change. Another key area of work is the regular legal support that is provided by our Free Drop Ins and Legal Surgeries. These sessions provide a confidential advocacy and signposting service over a range of issues for women such as welfare rights, housing and hate crime.

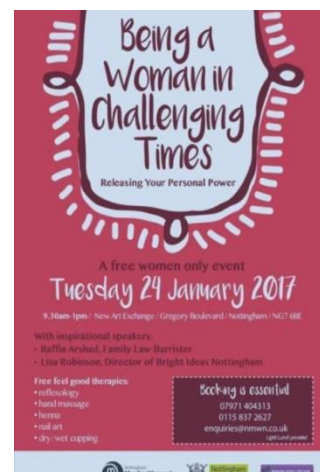
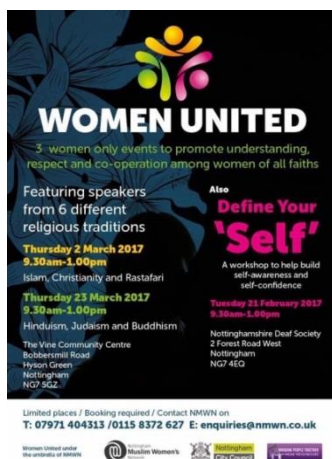
The important work NMWN has led to the formation of strong partnerships and participating on several advisory boards. Some of the board representations are as follows:

- TellMAMA East Midlands Advisory Group
- CPS East Midlands Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence panel
- CPS East Midlands Hate Crime Panel
- Central Locality /Domestic Abuse Group – Nottingham City Council
- Hate Crime Safer Nottinghamshire Board Advisory Group
- Community Cohesion Team – Nottingham City Council
- National Muslim Women Network UK

The range of work that NMWN has done led to further recognition nationally and consultation with government ministers on hate crime affecting Muslim women. Nottingham Muslim Women's Network is proud to work with the National UK Network and TellMAMA organisations specialising in this area of work.

# Events & Outreach

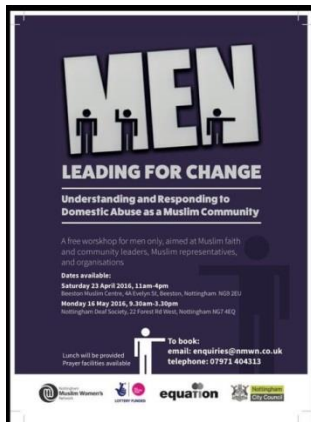
An exciting range of events and outreach programmes between January 2016 and December 2017 have tackled some uncomfortable truths that are faced by Muslim Women. We have brought a range of inspirational speakers and empowered Muslim Women to have a voice in the community. Tackling controversial subjects like grooming and child sexual exploitation (CSE) which can often be regarded as no go areas for debates were dealt with head on. The events gave women across the city the platform to share their stories of overcoming personal obstacles such as the 'Women United' & 'Being a Woman in Challenging Times' events reached over 80 attendees in these sessions.



The range of events included a workshop on domestic abuse which critically and sensitively dealt with this subject matter. A major achievement was to see a cross section of men attend this event. There was a major project lead by NMWN on Hate Crime. This comprised of four partnership community Hate Crime workshops and building a team of volunteers who were responsible for designing and producing a community based leaflet on Hate Crime for Muslim Women. Our events over the year also celebrated the contribution of women e.g. 'Women United' and the Women's International Day Event 'Be Bold For Change'. These events reached a diverse range of communities which was reflected in the diverse speakers at the events.



# Events & Outreach



The **MEN Leading for Change** workshop was of particular importance for the network. This workshop delivered training targeting primarily Muslim men and religious leaders on issues relating to violence and abuse and more specifically domestic violence and abuse. Taking a culturally competent approach to deliver course training was an important feature of the session.



The breath of events also included women from diverse backgrounds, faiths, beliefs and gender. This was reflected in the East Midlands CPS Faith Event which brought together religious traditions such as Christian, Jews, Muslim, Buddhist and

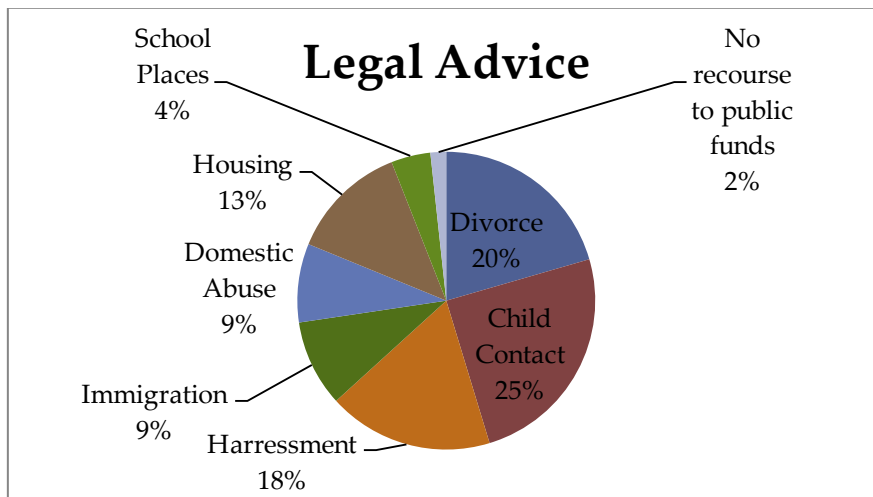


Rastafarism. This was also an opportune time to find out how the CPS is handling and dealing with assessing religious based hate crime. The inspiring 2 hour session also included a lively question and answer session for the attendees to participate in.

This year we have successfully trained and raised the awareness of Hate Crime to over 150 members of the community. We have brought Muslim women together in over 10 community events in a confidential space to share views. We have improved the confidence of Muslim Women to report hate crime. We have brought together inspirational speakers to empower Muslim Women.

# Events & Outreach

On going support and outreach is an important part of NMWN work. One key area of ongoing support is through our Free Legal Advice service. This service draws upon legal expertise that can deliver advice around family law, domestic abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and children. The fact that this service requires no appointment and that it can also be provided in Urdu and Punjabi is also welcoming for Muslim women.



In 2017 a total of 117 women made use of the service with percentage breakdown as shown above.


## Freedom Programme



Another ongoing support project is the delivery of the Freedom Programme. This programme is designed for women who are survivors of domestic violence and examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of survivors. This is a confidence boosting programme providing both knowledge and practical tools in dealing with domestic abuse. The programme is a free 11-12 week course which the network has been running for over 3 years and has supported around 30 women on this course. Many thanks to Comic Relief who funded the outreach programme.





# workshops

One of the most engaging means of sharing and learning throughout the year came in the variety workshops that NMWN did throughout the year. Below are some of workshops:

	<p>Empowered women boldly take stand on an issue to give voice to the Muslim Women.</p>	
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	<p>Showcasing a range of talent from musical skills to artistic flair.</p>	
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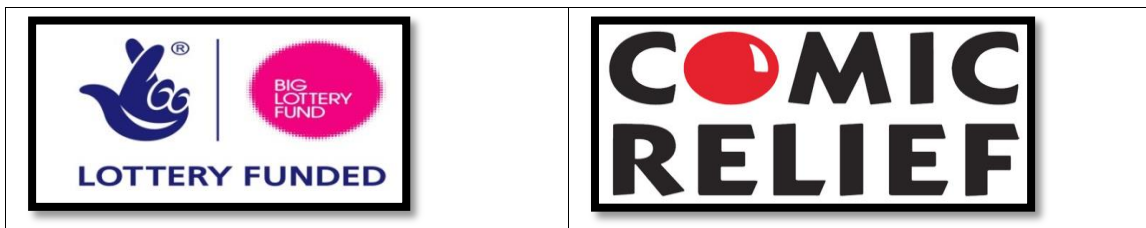
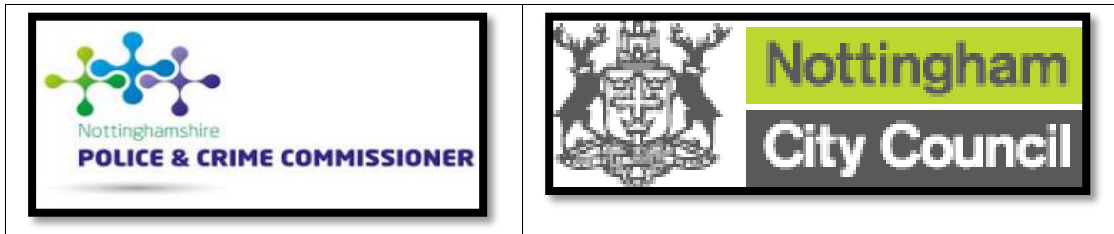
	<p>Community Radio interview &amp; Syrian refugees for Hate Crime workshop.</p>	
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	<p>Attendees at MEN Leading for Change course tackling domestic abuse and Forced Marriage and Honour Based violence workshops</p>	
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# Partnerships

Our partnerships have expanded and strengthened over the year giving our aims and objectives more reach and depth. Existing strong relationships with the Community Cohesion Team based at Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Police Crime Commissioner has enabled the NMWN to attract other partners for collaborative work. Examples included 'Dialogue Events' with *Communities Inc.*, a social community enterprise group which looked at Muslim women and public transport and also sharing with Bassetlaw Council the experiences of Muslim women. Partnerships have extended to many faith groups and communities working collaboratively on issues affecting Muslim women.

## Some of our main Partners:



# NMWN in numbers

## Main Funding donors



6

Hate Crime Workshops

Nottingham Women's Centre

20+

Engaged with organisations

15+

Community Events

3000

Hate Crime Leaflets



NMWN Team

People trained in Hate Crime workshops



Community Events



Campaigns & Activists Groups



Inspirational Speakers



Community Development



Empowering



Visionary Speakers

Thank you to all our donors for their support over the year



Partnership - Hate Crime Training with Police & Local Authority



Connecting - Bringing together women from different backgrounds. Building teams for projects



Challenging - Sharing and discussing issues concerning women and unfying



Reaching over

500+

Community members

# Campaigning & Empowering

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Throughout the year NMWN set out to reach as many Muslim women as possible across Nottinghamshire. Our campaigns have been *broad, bold and engaging*. A specific area of concern was around Hate Crime. Support on these workshops was provided by Nottinghamshire Police Community Inspector and City Council Hate Crime Project Officer.

The workshops highlighted the range of options available to report hate crime and the support available from services. NMWN plays a positive role in educating Muslim women about their rights with regard to Hate Crime, Forced Marriage & Honour based violence and just as important is the role of informing public services of the specific issues faced by Muslim Women. The partnership work with the City Council, Transport Services and the Police has been invaluable for informing policy development affecting Muslim women. One of the successful series of workshops designed was to enhance, inspire and unlock the hidden talents. The topics included Daring to Dream, Up Stand Be a Hero, Healthy Relationships and Leading in your Community. The results of the workshops are varied in terms of personal impact and influencing policy changes. This year NMWN was nominated for several awards for the work they have completed over the past year.



The workshops this year can be summarised in the International Women's Day workshop entitled *Be Bold for Change*. This was a great opportunity for extraordinary inspirational women in their field of work to come together and share their inspirational stories. The workshops created a safe space for Muslim women to speak and debate over a range of issues pertinent to the Muslim community.

# Campaigning & Empowering

An encouraging aspect of our campaigning and empowerment was the engagement of volunteers and young people to take a lead in various projects. The Hate Crime Project involved the formation of a volunteer group which carried out research and successfully designed hate crime flyers in various languages. Also one of the most rewarding campaigns was the successful hike of the highest mountain in Wales Mount Snowdon in September. This was a challenge to climb a 3000ft summit to raise vital funds for women with no recourse to public funds. There was a set target of £2000 and this was reached by over 50 contributors. The fund was set up to help women who have escaped domestic abuse and with no access to public funds. As a result of the funding NMWN is able to provide emergency funding towards the accommodation for women with no recourse to Public Funds.



The year was filled with inspirational and powerful women speakers who shared their stories of challenge, hope and change. These reflections and stories resonated with attendees and made a lasting impression on all who attended – women from faith, business and the voluntary sector all provided wonderful insights to empower Muslim Women.

Below are just some of the amazing contributors from across the business, public, voluntary, community and faith sectors:



## Other Notable Highlights

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**Awarded certificate of Partnership Award by Celebrating Services for Witnesses**



**Nominated for the special Hate Crime Award by the CPS**



**Asked to participate in a special meeting by government ministers on Hate Crime 2017**



**Maintaining strong stakeholder relationships with Police (Inspector Gurmit Kaur) and Police Crime Commissioner (Paddy Tipping) and building new ones like with Nottingham Net Tram Service**

# Thanks

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NMWN would like to say special thanks to all our funders, donors, partners and contributors who have worked with us to fulfil many of our objects for 2017.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Mandy Pride – Community Cohesion Team Nottingham City Council, Inspector Gurmit Kaur MBE - Nottinghamshire Police, Grace Monofolu - CPS East Midlands, and Clive Foster - Hate Crime Project Consultant Equality Foss.

We would like to say a special thank you to Muslim Hands Nottingham – International Aid agency- for all their kind support for the use of their facilities for many of our events.

This has been an exciting and progressive year and you have all helped improve the lives and confidence of Muslim Women across Nottinghamshire in some way – thank you!

## *Our Mission*

*To continue to have a diverse network of Muslim women, sharing knowledge and voicing the needs of Muslim Women in Nottingham.*

Contact Us :

Tel : 0115 8372627 mob : 07825 464722

Email: [enquires@nmwn.co.uk](mailto:enquires@nmwn.co.uk) or [Zaynab.asghar@nmwn.co.uk](mailto:Zaynab.asghar@nmwn.co.uk)

Twitter: @NottinghamMWN

