

A large group of Muslim women, many wearing hijabs, are gathered in a room with wood-paneled walls and a patterned carpet. They are arranged in several rows, some sitting on the floor and others standing. The room has a warm, golden light. In the background, there is a sign that says "HELP US FEED BRADFORD'S MOST VULNERABLE". Overlaid on the image is a large, gold, sparkling number "10".

10

*A decade of empowering Muslim Womens' lives*

# FOREWORD

This report is my final report as Chair, and so I want to take this opportunity to share our journey so far, our ambitions for the future, and to celebrate our achievements.

It has been a great privilege and honour to have instigated the development of the MWC with like-minded visionaries, and then to have led the MWC as Director and Chair for a decade. When we began, we were concerned about the lack of representation of Muslim women in the mainstream, the social injustices experienced by Muslim women in the name of religion, and the lack of Muslim women's voices in the public arena. Over the course of the last 10 years, we have made significant contributions in each of these important areas.

MWC is unique in that its reach is both local and international. We deliver services to the most marginalised members of our communities; the homeless, the excluded and disadvantaged. Our initiatives have addressed community issues ranging from mental health, child sexual exploitation and food poverty.

At the other end of the spectrum, we provide thought leadership, influencing change locally, nationally and internationally. Some examples of our ability to influence and make a difference include the discourse on women's access to, presence in, and involvement in Mosques. When MWC announced the desire to create a Women Led Mosque, it was reported globally. MWC was the catalyst; it threw the pebble in the pond and the ripple effects continue to be felt nationally and internationally. Due to this, Muslim Council of Britain has since undertaken a consultation regarding women and mosques, and instigated leadership programmes for women wanting to join mosque management boards. Meanwhile, MWC continues with its vision to establish a Women Led Mosque.

Looking ahead, our priorities are set in a context of political turbulence and uncertainty. With this in mind, the key areas of work for MWC will include research into the social and economic impact of policy changes on the well-being of our communities, and our goal of a Women Led Building that is holistic in its approach and inclusive of everyone.

I would like to conclude by thanking the amazing MWC team, management committee members past and present, volunteers, supporters and well-wishers. With their unfaltering support, we have surpassed anything we could have imagined ten years ago.

I would especially like to mention a few individuals who have been on the journey throughout; Bana Gora, CEO: our 'core of steel', who has steered MWC through rocky times; Fatima Ayub, our 'Queen of engagement and contacts'; Nuzhat Ali, our 'Sage and knowledge bank' for her advocacy for women's scholarship; and Saadia Mushtaq, our 'Oasis' - her smiling, calm and reassuring presence has been a soothing balm for every eventuality we faced.

As outgoing Chair, I would like to welcome MWC's incoming Chair, Dr Shuruq Naquib, who has been both a committee member and a great supporter and enthusiast for the work of MWC. For any organisation to flourish, it is important that the leadership is relevant and refreshed. Shuruq is well known nationally and internationally for her research and career in academia.

Over the past decade, MWC has established a strong reputation as being professional, pertinent and pioneering. This was made possible by the MWC team's unwavering commitment and passion.



**'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has'.**

**(Margaret Mead)**



I am really proud of what we have achieved.

Selina Ullah

Chair

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# MEET OUR TEAM

The core team consists of eight Muslim women who have dedicated the past 10 years to empowering women. Their dedication and passion to our vision have been instrumental in the continued success of the Muslim Women's Council.



**Selina Ullah**  
**Chair**

*Selina has extensive senior experience of working with policymakers & stakeholders at a regional and national level on high-profile issues such as community cohesion, diversity and counter-terrorism. Selina is Deputy Chair of Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust & previously worked for Bradford Council as Assistant Director – Safer and Stronger Communities. She also directs the work of the ICLS – the Inter Cultural Leadership School, which focuses on developing inter-cultural leaders and dialogue. Selina has also been an advisor to the Home Office, Communities and Government, and has a national portfolio of board level appointments.*



**Bana Gora**  
**Chief Executive**

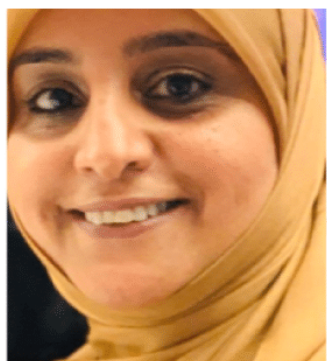
*With over twenty years of experience working in the charitable and not for profit sector such as domestic violence services in Keighley and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Bana Gora has been involved with social policy and community engagement on a local and national level.*

*Bana founded the Muslim Women's Council in 2009, with a group of like-minded women. Bana's aim is to ensure that Bradford excels at being a vibrant city and believes this is achievable by understanding and responding to the complexity of the problems facing the city, its inhabitants, and by helping to celebrate its strengths.*



Dr Shuruq Naguib  
Director

*Dr Shuruq Naguib is a lecturer in Islamic Studies at Lancaster University, UK. Dr Naguib's research covers two key strands: the classical and pre-modern intellectual and textual traditions, particularly Qur'an hermeneutics and ritual law; and Muslim responses to modernity, with a focus on how twentieth century and contemporary Muslim women scholars read the tradition to intellectually and socially develop their religious authority as knowers of the tradition. She led a research project on women's contemporary readings of Islamic texts in Egypt and the UK (2011-2012) and is currently the Co-investigator on the AHRC-funded project Representing Islam on Campus. Shuruq chairs the British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS).*



Fatima Ayub  
Director

*Fatima Ayub has been part of MWC since its inception sharing a common vision of empowering Muslim women. She feels over the years we have not only managed to bring this vision to reality but have also broadened our impact into the lives and the needs of others outside the Muslim women sector. Working at MWC has helped Fatima be part of the team empowering Muslim women through education and knowledge which instills confidence and aspirations. It gives her great satisfaction knowing we are making a difference in the lives of women through our different services and diverse skill sets.*



Shabnam Khan  
Board Member

*Shabnam Khan is a professional vocalist, and secondary school teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy. She holds a BA Hons and Masters in Philosophy. She has worked as a Programme Officer at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London and, subsequently, Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Bentley Wood High School for Girls. She currently works as Director of The Halifax Centre for Learning which she established in 2010. She joined MWC as a board member in 2019 and she looks forward to being a part of the positive changes MWC will accomplish.*



Dr Myriam François  
Board Member

*Dr Myriam François is a journalist, writer, broadcaster and academic on issues related to Islam, France and the Middle East. Her writing is featured widely in the British press, including the Guardian, the New Statesman, the Telegraph, CNN online and Middle East Eye, among others. In 2019, Myriam set up the website “weneedtotalkaboutwhiteness.com” to open up conversations in the UK around white racial identity and its impact.*

*Myriam completed her PhD (DPhil) at Oxford University, focusing on Islamic movements in Morocco in 2017. She holds an MA from Georgetown University (USA) and a BA from Cambridge University (UK).*



Nuzhat Ali  
Board Member

*Nuzhat Ali feels proud to have been a part of MWC since its inception. The last 10 years have been an inspirational journey, not without its challenges! MWC is still a one of a kind organisation, not afraid of working on multiple projects tackling grassroots community issues. Nuzhat has been very passionate about the Daughters of Eve conferences and seminars which encourage scholarship and knowledge amongst women. The Mosque Project and the Think Tank Pilot project will inshaAllah build on this and encourage high calibre scholarship amongst Muslim women.*



Saadia Mushtaq  
Office Manager

*Saadia Mushtaq joined MWC in 2013 after many years in the financial sector, and it's certainly opened her eyes to a whole new world! Through managing the office Saadia has gained new friendships, skills and knowledge on everything from the voluntary sector to issues faced by women in the real world. MWC has really expanded her interests and she has done things she never imagined she would, from climbing Mount Snowdon for charity to presenting in front of hundreds of students across lots of schools! Saadia has really enjoyed helping organise our various events over the years, on topics as diverse and fascinating as organ donation, headcoverings across different faiths, cancer awareness, a community iftar and our women led mosque project.*

# The Daughters of Eve Conference

2011/2015/2016/2017

Daughters of Eve is a unique conference hosted by Muslim Women's Council focusing on enabling women to learn and share experiences and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to do more in both their lives and community. The conference which is open to women from all backgrounds addresses contemporary issues faced by Muslims in Britain and encourages interfaith dialogue. The day programme consists of topical debates, guest speakers, art based activities and seminars followed by entertainment such as spoken word, song and dance in the evening. The four conferences have yielded exceptional success and brought together hundreds of women from all walks of life.

**784**

ATTENDEES

**50**

GUEST SPEAKERS

**4**

EVENTS





# The Daughters of Eve Conference 2011

The inaugural *Daughters of Eve* Conference was held in partnership with Islamic Society of Britain from 6th to 8th May 2011, entitled 'Muslim Women: Critically Thinking the Past, Present Future'. Speakers included Dr Riffat Hassan (Professor Emerita at the University of Louisville, USA), Sarah Joseph (CEO Emel Magazine), Ustaad Ahtsham Ali (National Muslim Advisor to HM Prison Service), Shahien Taj (Executive Director of Henna Foundation), Julie Siddiqi (Executive Director of Islamic Society of Britain), Henna Szovati (Founder of Barefoot Institute) and Farkhanda Chaudhry (Scotland's first Muslim woman Justice of the Peace).



## The Daughters of Eve Conference 2015

*Daughters of Eve* held in May 2015 was entitled 'Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Muslim Women creating a new narrative'. Our workshops featured topics such as Sharia and family law, & political Islam in the UK. The attendees from all over the UK also enjoyed a bazaar, beauty rooms and an evening of entertainment, featuring the female hip hop duo 'Poetic Pilgrimage' and a karaoke/quiz night.

# The Daughters of Eve Conference 2016

The Daughters of Eve 2016 conference was held in partnership with Rawiya Foundation, based in the USA. The programme consisted of high calibre internationally renowned speakers participating in panel discussions and intensive workshops. There was also a chance to relax and unwind with stand-up comedy and a glamour night featuring live musical entertainment as well as a bazaar. Discussion topics included 'Status of Women in Islam', 'Muslim Women and Religious Authority', 'Purpose of the Human Being', 'The Challenges facing Muslim Women in the 21st Century'.



# The Daughters of Eve Conference 2017

The 2017 conference was held in the heart of Bradford at the Mercure Bankfield Hotel. The first day of this year's conference was also opened up to men in order to get a variety of perspectives on a range of topics. The day's themes included; Muslim responses to extremism alongside the Legitimation of Islamophobia in the Mainstream. The second day's panel discussions were on topics such as Connecting Divided Worlds, Shared Heritage: Reimagining Our World and a post play panel discussion. The final day's intensive teach in with Dr. Riffat Hassan and Dr Shuruq Naguib explored the following themes: Muslim Women; a paradigm shift and Muslim Women; Sacred Texts & Religious Authority.

# Shared Heritage of Daughters of Eve - Book Launch

2016



Shared Heritage of Daughters of Eve was a year-long interfaith project on head coverings. Head coverings are perceived as solely belonging to the Islamic faith, however, this is far from the reality as the majority of faiths promote female head coverings. MWC used this book as a tool to challenge this perception and as a celebration of the shared heritage of head coverings.

MWC led the project and involved women from Christian, Judaic and Muslim faiths. These women met frequently over the course of 12 months to share their experiences, stories and journeys through their respective faiths and how head coverings have played a part in their lives.





# Women's Building

One of the largest ventures Muslim Women's Council is currently undertaking is "the Women's Building" project. The vision for the project is to create a safe space in Bradford, which provides the necessary tools and resources to create better lives for Muslim women, their families and their communities.

By offering direct access to personal scholarship and leadership opportunities in this building, MWC aims to uplift and empower Muslim women and girls. The building will be women led and governed; housing four distinct areas of service:

A PLACE OF  
WORSHIP

CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE

A NON -PROFIT  
HUB FOR WOMEN  
SERVING  
ORGANISATIONS

CHILDREN'S  
HOSPICE



To donate please visit: <https://www.womenledmosque.co.uk/ways-to-donate/>



# MWC Community Events

One of the key goals of the Muslim Women's council is to host events that increase skills and knowledge which will benefit the wider community.

These events discuss contemporary issues affecting the Muslim community including; homosexuality, organ donation, breast cancer, mental health and Islamophobia/hate crimes. These events have opened up much needed dialogue in the local Muslim community and received commendation from attendees.

RAMADAN SEMINARS 2018  
(4)

**409**

ATTENDEES

ISLAM AND  
HOMOSEXUALITY  
2019

**120**

ATTENDEES

ORGAN DONATION  
AWARENESS SEMINAR  
2018

**107**

ATTENDEES

HOW TO CHALLENGE  
EXTREMIST THOUGHT  
2014

**110**

ATTENDEES



# The Curry Circle

*In response to the national food poverty crisis affecting an increasing number of people in the UK, Muslim Women's Council launched the Curry Circle initiative in 2013 aimed to alleviate local hunger crisis. The Curry Circle provides a free hot curry, hot drinks, and a clean warm environment on a weekly basis for homeless/destitute people. Since its launch, the Curry Circle has provided over 40,000 meals to an average of 100 weekly service users. The backbone of this service is the hundreds of volunteers who through their commitment and dedication ensure the Curry Circle is a success. Along with the volunteers, the weekly service has been sustained through many sponsors including local businesses, individuals and community fundraisers.*

**500+**

registered volunteers

**35000**

meals served so far

**100**

weekly service users

## Meet The Manager



Parvaze Ghani

"The Curry Circle has always been close to my heart. Supporting those less fortunate and hearing their stories has put my life into perspective. I feel blessed knowing that I am part of a service that is making an ongoing difference to peoples' lives."





Curry Circle Valentines Dinner 2017 at MyLahore Bradford



Curry Circle 2016 Christmas Party



Snowdon Fundraiser for Curry Circle 2014



Service users enjoying a hot meal



Christmas Gifts for Service Users



Service users enjoying the Valentines Dinner at MyLahore



# MWC EQUALITY & JUSTICE

*Aunties Network   ROM Campaign   Think Tank Pilot   Free Legal Advice*



# Aunties Network

One of the more recent projects established by MWC in February 2019 is The Aunties Network. The network is a group of women who are provided with the training and skills needed to become mentors and make real differences in our communities.

- 1) We train mentors on how to identify signs of Child Sexual Exploitation
- 2) The mentors will then use their own informal networks to raise awareness within the homes of Muslim families
- 3) The mentors will capture and log information, which will be shared with the appropriate agencies when necessary.



The network visits public organisations (schools, community centres etc) to offer support, insight and knowledge and utilises informal networks to raise awareness within Muslim homes, informing and enabling mothers and daughters to benefit from greater awareness of signs, dangers and to empower them with a voice that can be heard.



## Free Legal Advice

Over the years Muslim Womens' Council have constantly received calls/emails from women in desperate need of legal advice but unable to afford it. To help solve this issue MWC partnered with Ameet Patel from Stachiw Bashir Green to provide a free legal advice drop-in for women. This weekly drop is confidential and encompasses many areas:

**CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE PROVIDED:  
MATRIMONIAL LAW · FORCED MARRIAGE  
CHILDREN · DOMESTIC VIOLENCE · RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN**

# Register Our Marriage (ROM) Campaign

Following our growing national profile we were invited and contracted by ROM to partner on designing and developing their two phase campaign: helping Muslim communities better understand the importance of registering their marriage and understanding the legal protections available. MWC were contracted by MHCLG to design and develop a campaign approach, develop ROM as a standalone organisation, development plan, research framework, recruit leads and steering groups in 3 Cities and deliver campaign training to leads and steering groups.



## Think Tank Pilot

Muslim Women's Council launched the "Think Tank Pilot Project" in July 2019. This new and innovative project's aim is to deliver a year-long programme that includes leadership training to Muslim women on issues such as domestic violence, hate crime, Islamophobia, and polygamy—with the ultimate goal of establishing a think-tank and empowering participants to become community influencers and produce new relevant research. The aim is to build trust between communities and research institutes. This exciting unique project will provide evidence, recommendations and solutions to guide government, donor institutions and private sector on how to create conditions that allow Muslim women to thrive.

*Audience with Jon Snow    Trojan Horse    Bradford's Great*

*Thought    Audience with Ed Miliband*

# THE BRADFORD CIRCLE

*Get together and Big Iftar Evening of Comedy*

*Audience with Sayeeda Warsi    How to Challenge Extremist*



# The Big Iftar

In June 2017, hundreds of Bradfordians from all walks of life gathered together to share a meal at "Iftar in the Park". This event was a joint initiative with the Jo Cox Foundation celebrating the legacy of Jo Cox who was murdered June 2016, whilst simultaneously marking the holy month of Ramadan.

With over 500 attendees, the atmosphere at the event was electric and full of warmth. People came together and listened to the recitation of devotional prayers, speakers fondly reminisced about Bradford and finished with sharing a meal together as the sun set over Bradford.

The Muslim Women's Council worked with a range of local partners including Bradford Council, Martin House Hospice, Bradford Council for Mosques, Bradford Reform Synagogue, Touchstone Bradford, Wellsprings Together Bradford, Carlisle Business Centre, Noor Ul Islam Mosque, Saveco Cash & Carry. The food was generously donated by MyLahore, Akbar's Restaurant, and Aziz Catering to ensure the event was a success.



# Audience With Jon Snow

2015



The program consisted of a variety of different topics; Firstly, Jon discussed his international reporting experience covering topics from global to domestic events. Jon was also joined on stage by Bana Gora, Chief Executive of MWC and Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford OBE. Jon Snow was presented with questions ranging from his documentary on experimenting with Cannibas, to his charity work with homeless young people. The evening ended with questions from the audience on issues such as Muslim representation in the media and career advice for budding journalists.



*"I shall never forget my amazing evening with the Muslim Women's Council at the National Media Museum. The audience was one of the most stimulating, engaged, energised, inspiring groups I have ever addressed. The questions and the discourse were informed, interesting and rewarding. It was wonderful that there were so many students and young people present. Who knew that Bradford was the centre of such intellect, such compassion, such commitment. The range in our conversation covered the world. I pay tribute to Bana Gora and her team for organising an event that drew not only Muslim women, but a good few men and people from other communities. My only regret is that I live and work so far from Bradford. But be warned, I shall be back!"*

**Jon Snow**

2009

2010

2011

2012

2019

2013

# OUR EVENTS OVER THE YEARS

2018

2014

2017

2016

2015

# 2009-2011



Focus Groups

2009

As part of our consultation phase we consulted with both men and women across the UK gaining an insight into what the most pertinent issues were that the Muslim community were facing. Both individual interviews and focus groups took place during this initial phase.

Our Stories Our Lives presents the stories of 20 women from Bradford between the ages of 14 and 80, from their own points of view. The book belongs to a long tradition of oral history where practical knowledge is passed from generation to generation. It offers an intricate mosaic of the experiences, views and hopes of these women and gives voice to an important and often marginalised group.

2009

Our Stories Our Lives



Hijab Play

2010

In 2010, open recruitment events were organised across the Bradford District to recruit the MWC Steering group. Independent observers and facilitators were recruited to assist in the selection process. 10 women were selected to start the movement. We toured with a play titled The Hijab which opened up stimulating debates.



The inaugural Daughters of Eve Conference was held in partnership with Islamic Society of Britain in May 2011, entitled 'Muslim Women: Critically Thinking the Past, Present & Future'. A total of 300 women participated in the first national residential conference organised by Muslim women in Bradford.

The three-day Conference programme featured inspiring talks, informative exhibitions, challenging discussions, dynamic workshops, a theatrical production by Arakan Creative and a performance by the female hip hop duo Poetic Pilgrimage. Saturday's session culminated in a beautiful musical performance by Lebanese operatic soprano & composer Hiba Al-Kawas.

2011

Daughters of Eve



# 2012



Muslim Women's Council organised a sit down with Baroness Sayeeda Warsi at the Carlisle Business Centre. Over 50 women attended this event where the topics discussed ranged from; the economy, Islamophobia and education. This event provided the opportunity for discussion on female leadership and enabled women to discuss issues impacting them.

07/12

An Audience with Ed Miliband

06/12

Ex-Labour leader Ed Miliband took part in a question and answer session at the Bradford Media Museum organised by the Muslim Women's Council. With approximately 80 women attendees, Ed answered questions regarding concerns around a variety of issues- the impact of austerity on the vulnerable; the greed of the bankers; the coalition's socially unjust policies in relation to education, legal aid cuts and the National Health Service.



An Audience with Sayeeda Warsi



Evening of Comedy with Azhar Usman

10/12

Muslim Women's Council hosted a fantastic night of comedy with America's Funniest Muslim at The New Bradford Playhouse, in order to raise funds for The Cambridge Mosque Project. Over 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of fun, laughter and thought provoking discussions.





# 2013

The Bradford Women for Peace network and Muslim Women's Council were brought together in October 2013 when news of the EDL's latest demonstration in Bradford was announced. Women from Bradford's diverse communities came together in solidarity and unity to spread the message of peace and unity.

As a mark of our strength and resilience we invited women to stand alongside us to create a giant web of solidarity made from green ribbon to show that the lives of the women of Bradford District are woven together.



Tony Reeves  
Q&A

## 10/13

Tony Reeves, the previous CEO of Bradford Council, took part in a question and answer session at the Carlisle Business Centre hosted by Muslim Women's Council. There were over 100 attendees and the evening consisted of an open debate, discussion about issues that affect Bradford and a Q&A session.

## 10/13

Women for Peace



Curry Circle Bradford  
Launch

## 12/13

We launched the Curry Circle in December 2013 after seeing the need for this service. Curry Circle provides a free hot curry, hot drinks and a clean warm environment on a weekly basis for homeless/destitute people. We have arranged for MyLahore to provide the food every week for approximately 90 people (numbers are monitored on a week to week basis).



# 2014



Curry Circle  
Eid Party

07/14

We hosted our first Eid party for Curry Circle service users. Over 250 people celebrated together at this event, which was attended by service users, faith representatives, volunteers and business owners. This included representatives from the Hindu, Muslim, Baha'i, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist and Christian communities. The food was sponsored by MyLahore and Aziz Catering.

Through our Bradford Circle initiative, we hosted 'Trojan Horse - A Muslim Witch-Hunt?', to discuss and debate the Trojan Horse controversy. The aim of the event was to address issues related to the educational underachievement of children across the district. The event was attended by over 100 people. Speakers included Imam and Broadcaster, Ajmal Masroor and Bradford Councillor and Education Activist, Faisal Khan.

09/14

Trojan Horse - A Muslim  
Witch-Hunt?



Hajj Exhibition

09/14

The Hajj Exhibition was held on 30th September 2014 as part of our Bradford Circle initiative. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness about Hajj and promote a greater understanding and confidence between Muslims and the wider society.



Mount Snowdon  
Challenge

10/14

Our volunteers and staff members took on Wales' highest point, Snowdon in order to raise funds for our weekly food initiative, the Curry Circle. Adam Raja was one of two walk leaders on the day. He said: "Each person who did the climb raised enough money to feed 100 people. Everyone who took part did a fantastic job and I am really proud of them for taking on this challenge for the Curry Circle."

The Muslim Women's Council through its Bradford Circle initiative, held an event regarding extremism. The purpose of the event was to dispel some of the myths around how extremism is justified in the name of Islam through the misinterpretation of verses of the Holy Quran. There were over 100 attendees and the speaker was Ahtsham Ali, the Muslim Advisor for Her Majesty's Prison Service.

11/14

How to challenge  
extremist thought?



Curry Circle Christmas  
Party

12/14

We hosted our annual Christmas party for Curry Circle service users on 18th December at the Carlisle Business Centre, coinciding with their 2 year anniversary. Over 200 people came together at this event, which was attended by service users, faith representatives, volunteers and business owners. The Christmas meal was sponsored by Mercure Bankfield Hotel, who ensured their staff were on hand to provide a fantastic service, and singer Janet Jaye performed lively musical entertainment.



# 2015



The Muslim Women's Council held a women's only consultation on our proposal for a Women-Led place of worship and Centre of Excellence, followed by a seminar on Ramadan (including Q&A). Both sessions were led by Dr Shuruq Naguib, lecturer in Islamic Studies at Lancaster University, and co-chair of the British Association of Islamic Studies.

06/15

Women-led mosque consultation

Daughters of Eve Conference

05/15

Daughters of Eve held in May 2015 was entitled 'Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Muslim Women creating a new narrative'. Our workshops featured topics such as Sharia and family law, & political Islam in the UK. The attendees from all over the UK also enjoyed a bazaar, beauty rooms and an evening of entertainment, featuring the female hip hop duo 'Poetic Pilgrimage' and a karaoke/quiz night.



Eid Qawwali Night

07/15

The Muslim Women's Council held an Eid Qawwali night at National Science and Media Museum. The Qawwali was performed by the Hussain brothers, a popular group of Qawwali musicians; the performance featured instruments like the dholak and tabla. There was also a Nasheed performance by Kamal Uddin.



Curry Circle Keighley Launch

08/15

The Curry Circle launched in Keighley in August 2015, following its success in Bradford. The Keighley Curry Circle helped tackle rising food poverty levels in the area by providing a hot two course meal to people who are homeless or struggling to feed themselves.

Hosted by the Muslim Women's Council, Jon discussed the different parts of the world he has reported from and covered topics from global events to domestic issues, and advice for budding journalists.

10/15

An Audience with Jon Snow



# 2016

The Daughters of Eve 2016 conference was held in partnership with Rawiya Foundation, based in the USA, and featured a number of Shaykhas (Female Scholars) as part of the Rawiya Foundation's Shaykha Fest. The programme consisted of high calibre internationally renowned speakers participating in panel discussions and intensive workshops. There was also a chance to relax and unwind with stand-up comedy and a glamour night featuring live musical entertainment as well as a bazaar. Discussion topics included 'Status of Women in Islam', 'Muslim Women and Religious Authority', 'Purpose of the Human Being', 'The Challenges facing Muslim Women in the 21st Century'.



05/16

Daughters of Eve



On 22nd November 2016, the Muslim Women's Council held an event titled "Women's Islamic Faith Circle" as part of their Women's Faith Circle initiative. The event was led by PhD candidate, Sofia Rehman, and consisted of a talk on spirituality and connecting with the divine, group discussions and a Q&A session.

11/16

Women's Faith Circle



The Shared Heritage of Daughters of Eve book was a result of a year-long interfaith project on head coverings. The project was led by Muslim Women's Council and involved women from Christian, Judaic and Muslim faiths, who met frequently over the course of 12 months to share their experiences, stories and journeys through their respective faiths and how head coverings have played a part in their lives.

The book launch was held at the National Media Museum in Bradford on Tuesday 29th November. Over 200 people, including the project participants, invited dignitaries including the Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mrs Kate Moreton-Deakin and the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cllr Geoff Reid and guests from the Abrahamic faiths, attended the event.

11/16

Shared Heritage of Daughters of Eve' Book Launch



Curry Circle Christmas Party

12/16

The Muslim Women's Council hosted their yearly Christmas party for Curry Circle users on 22nd December 2016, coinciding with their 3rd year anniversary, at the Carlisle Business Centre. Over 200 people attended, including service users, faith representatives, volunteers, and business owners. The Christmas meal was funded by Mercure Bankfield Hotel, who ensured their staff were available to provide a fantastic service, and singer Janet Jaye performed lively musical entertainment.



# 2017

On the 18th February 2017, the Muslim Women's Council held an event titled "Road to Recovery" as part of their Women's Circle initiative. PC Firzana Ahmed and vocalist Shabnam Khan shared their personal journeys towards recovering from cancer. Information was also provided by Macmillan Cancer Support.

02/17

Road to Recovery



Curry Circle  
Valentines Dinner

02/17

On Thursday 16th February 2017, Muslim Women's Council teamed up with MyLahores Restaurant in Bradford to host a belated valentine's dinner for the service users of the Curry Circle. Over 100 Curry Circle service users, faith representatives, volunteers and business owners across Bradford attended the meal.



On the 25th February 2017, the Muslim Women's Council held an event titled "Enlightened Minds: In Formation". This event was open to all women over the age of 16. The session was led by Yasmin Amin, PhD student at University of Exeter's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, and Nuzhat Ali, Winner of the Northern Writers Award 2015. Topics such as feminism, culture versus religion and gender ethics were discussed.

02/17

Enlightened Minds: In  
Formation Seminar



Bradford's Great Get  
Together and Big Iftar

06/17

Hundreds of Bradfordians of all faiths and none flocked to Bradford City Park on 18th June 2017, to share a meal at 'Iftar in the Park', a joint initiative with the Jo Cox Foundation celebrating the legacy of Jo Cox, and also marking the month of Ramadan when Muslims fast, with the Big Iftar.

The event was hosted in partnership with Bradford Council, MyLahore, Martin House Hospice, Bradford Council for Mosques, Bradford Reform Synagogue, Touchstone Bradford, Wellsprings Together Bradford and Carlisle Business Centre.

The Daughters of Eve Conference 2017 was held in the heart of Bradford at the Mercure Bankfield Hotel over a three day period: 6th, 7th and 8th October. The first day of the conference was opened up to men in order to get a variety of opinions on a range of topics. The day consisted of a series of sessions with expert opinions on themes such as Muslim responses to extremism and the Legitimisation of Islamophobia in the Mainstream. The evening session explored why feminine readings of the Quran are important for modern society, delivered by leading feminist scholar Dr. Riffat Hassan. The second day consisted of a variety of panel discussions on topics such as Connecting Divided Worlds, Shared Heritage: Reimagining Our World and a post play panel discussion. This was followed by an evening of shopping and entertainment by world renowned singer Shabnam Khan.

Shabnam's session was an intensive teach in with Dr. Riffat Hassan and Dr. Shuruq Naguib on the following themes: Muslim Women: a paradigm shift and Muslim Women: Sacred Texts & Religious Authority.

10/17

Daughters of Eve



# 2018



Organ Donation Awareness Seminar

04/18

On Friday 13th April, Muslim Women's Council held an awareness raising seminar at Carlisle Business Centre. The seminar was primarily aimed at BAME communities where the figures around organ donations are particularly astonishing coupled with related illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The seminar was led by Consultants Dr Habib Akbani and Dr Sharif Al Ghazal, from Bradford Teaching Hospitals, and covered the current situation, displaying a clear lack of organs being donated amongst the group of people requiring them the most, members of the BAME community. Presentations were delivered to a packed hall covering the numerous religious opinions on organ donation acceptability as well as ethical and humane.

Muslim Women's Council held a series of seminars during Ramadan 2018, each seminar took place on a Friday and consisted of a community Iftaar as well as congregational prayer. The topics discussed were: health benefits of fasting, fiqh of Ramadan, the Quranic verse 2:186, and how Ramadan is a source of purification for us all.

05/18-06/18

Iftaar Seminars



Reclaiming the Mosque

07/18

On the 8th July, the Muslim Women's Council and Islamic Institute for Development and Research (IIDR) held a seminar titled "Reclaiming the Mosque", led by Dr. Jasser Auda and was attended by over 100 people. The seminar was based on Jasser Auda's latest book, Reclaiming the Mosque; the main topics covered were: historical accounts of women in Islam and the role that they played both in and out of the mosque (even in the battlefield); how to avoid and combat misinterpretations of hadith and Quranic stipulations; the original design and layout of the Prophet's mosque in Medina; dress codes, community interaction and behavioural etiquettes in prayer spaces and the emergence of single gender mosques.



Ingleton Falls Challenge

08/18

On Saturday 11th August a group of Curry Circle volunteers and sponsors took part in a sponsored walk in order to raise money for the Curry Circle, an initiative that provides a hot two-course meal for the vulnerable and less fortunate people in our society.

We held our annual Curry Circle Christmas party on 21st December. There were more than 200 attendees, including service users, faith representatives, volunteers and business owners. The meal was sponsored by MyLahores, and singer Janet Jaye performed lively musical entertainment.

12/18

Curry Circle Christmas Party



# 2019



On Saturday 14th September, a group of Curry Circle volunteers and sponsors took part in a sponsored walk in order to raise money for the Curry Circle, an initiative that provides a clean environment and hot two-course meal for the vulnerable and less fortunate people in our community.

09/19

Islam & Homosexuality

02/19

On 2nd February, Muslim Women's Council held a seminar titled Islam and Homosexuality. The seminar was led by Ustad Ahtsham Ali and held in partnership with Chapter 25. The seminar consisted of in-depth analysis using the Quran and Hadith, and a Q&A session.



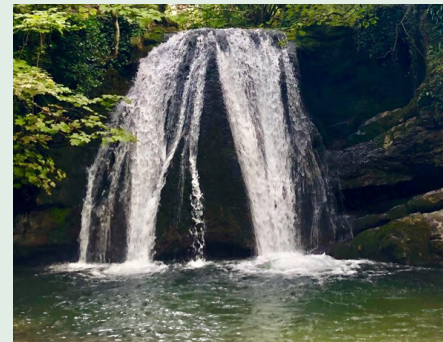
Malham Cove Fundraiser



Think Tank Pilot Project

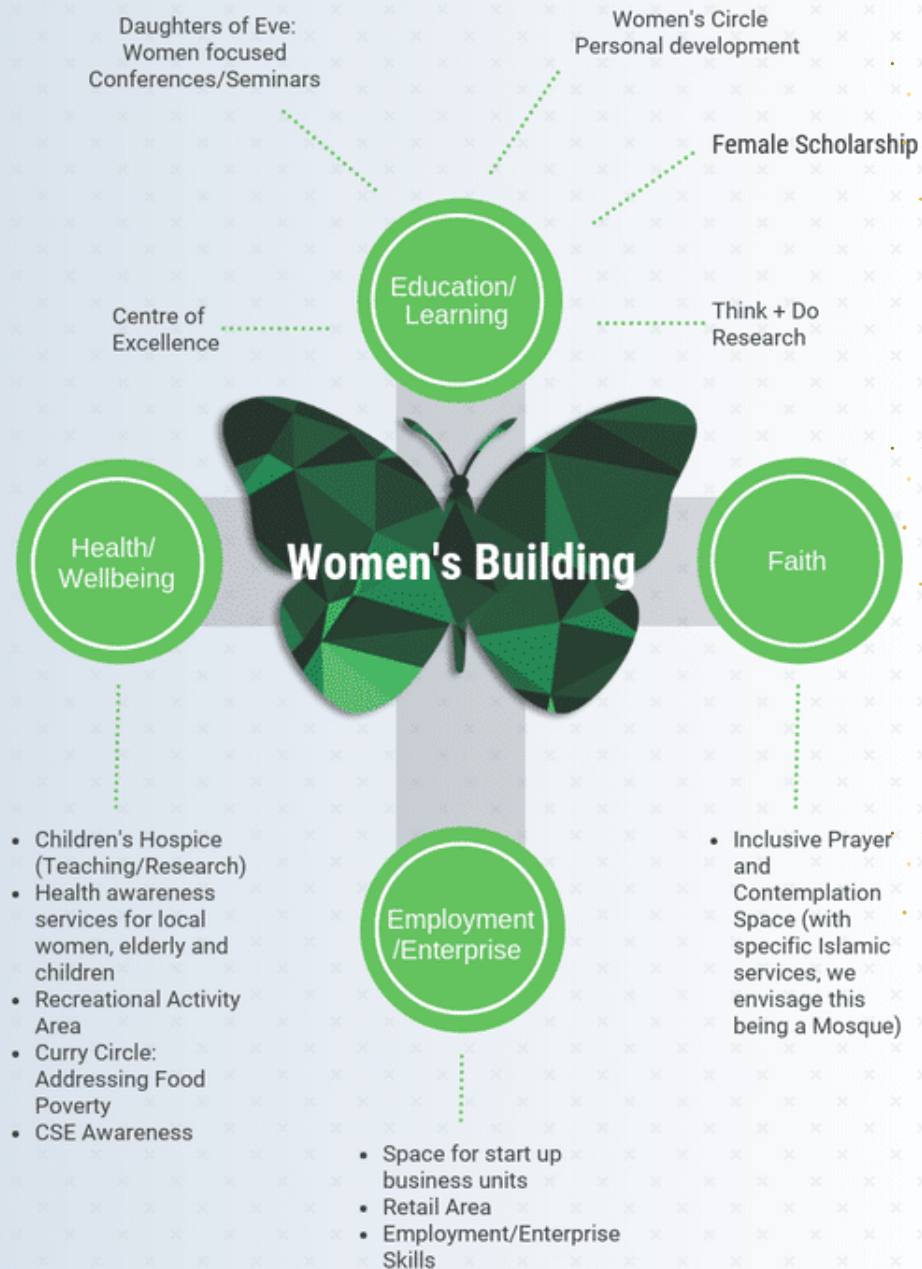
09/19

Muslim Women's Council launched the Think Tank Pilot Project in August 2019. The programme is available to women living or working in the Bradford District. The aim of the project is to empower and give a platform to women to identify and influence what the key issues for Muslim women are. We have recruited 50 women and are providing them with skilled training and facilitation through the process.





## Our Future Priorities







'For every woman, life with all its opportunities'

We hope we have inspired you with our journey! If you want to continue to be inspired over the next ten years, please contact us at [directorsoffice@muslimwomenscouncil.org.uk](mailto:directorsoffice@muslimwomenscouncil.org.uk) or 01274 223230 [www.muslimwomenscouncil.org.uk](http://www.muslimwomenscouncil.org.uk)