

Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women Organisation

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**



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Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation

Reclaiming Post-Covid-19 Safe Spaces



Foreword

During the second year of the pandemics more women found themselves isolated, destitute and in need of immediate support. Incidents of Domestic Violence continued to increase, as the ongoing lockdowns urged people to stay at home, uncertain about their future. Isolation as well as financial insecurity can cultivate an environment where domestic violence regrettably flourishes. The need for action is now urgent more than ever!

This year Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO) staff successfully continued to work from home supporting hundreds of Kurdish Middle Eastern and North African (KMENA) women as effectively as they did in our premises. When in 2021 the restrictions lifted, they safely returned to the offices implementing a hybrid system of work. KMEWO's projects continued to be delivered like nothing had happened before. After almost 2 years of isolation our survivors had again the chance to get gathered in our public events and activities in an attempt to forget the days of total loneliness and despair.

All this could not have been a reality without the hard work of KMEWO's staff and volunteers who very easily adapted to the new order of things proving how efficient they are regardless of how demanding the situation is. Our funders were also always by our side showing their trust to our work and supporting us to achieve all our goals and dreams for a world towards free and equal women who enjoy their fundamental human rights.

For all these, I would like to express my gratitude to every single person who worked hard and tirelessly or supported us in any other way to be present and active for one more year we sought to put an end to violence against women and girls.

The road is long and there is still a lot to be done, however we are all committed to support our KMENA sisters thrive!

Chair, Dr. Janan Aljabiri



Foreword

Covid-19 hit the world affecting our lives for almost 2 years. The extended national lockdowns constituted a great challenge in many aspects; unemployment and financial struggles, insecurity about the future or that hopeless feeling of isolation. At the same time the cost of living saw a rise that no one could predict before. In such a scenery, domestic violence incidents were inevitably increased. Many women were left trapped in their own homes often fearing for their lives. Black and Minoritised Women were particularly affected, as apart from the issues they traditionally face such as language barriers, they also became victims of a worldwide pandemic.

In the light of all the above, this year we are proud to say that KMEWO managed to thrive and tackle lots of these challenges. We were developed and expanded; thus we were able to support many more women in need. We successfully worked from home while later we returned to a hybrid model of working creating safe spaces for our staff and survivors.

All this could not have happened without the hard work of our dedicated Trustees and staff; particularly our Sustainability and Development Manager, Gona Saed, and our frontline workers for making almost everything possible in a period everything seemed impossible. I am also proud of our survivors and happy to see them flourishing. I would like to thank them for their trust to KMEWO; it means a lot to us.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to our funders and partners; the older and the new ones. Without their ongoing support we would never have been able to make this happen. With their trust in us, they gave flesh and bones to our dream for a world towards women's equality, safety and self-determination.

Last but not least, I am grateful to Islington Council for supporting us and gave us the opportunity to be regarded as Champion Organisation.

I am very content with what we achieved throughout this hard year and I am really looking forward to another successful one!

Sawsan Salim, Director



ABOUT KMEWO

KMEWO is a UK registered charity providing **holistic services** for Kurdish, Middle East and North African (KMENA) women for the last 23 years. We are a 'led by and for' Black and Minoritised women's organisation striving for **equality, safety, justice and empowerment** to support survivors of Domestic Violence (DV) and Harmful Practices (HP).



MISSION

To ensure KMENA women living in the UK are supported and empowered to achieve a better standard of life, free from any violence and with legal freedoms intact.

AIM

Our aim is to promote KMENA women's human rights and quality of life supporting them to recover from distress and suffering due to the dreadful experience of domestic abuse and honour-based violence increasing their opportunities for better education, employment and social engagement.

WE STRIVE FOR ALL WOMEN'S EQUALITY, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT



**KMEWO'S
Holistic Services
Take Women
through a
journey towards**

**REBUILD
RECOVERY
S A F E T Y**





The holistic services are Free and provided from women only spaces in a safe and confidential environment.

I M P A C T

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684

survivors improved their safety and mental wellbeing through our specialist VAWG Advocacy, advice and counselling Services

178

Women improved their language, digital and employability skills as a result of accessing 1:1 support and skills building programs

122

Women have maximized their income and improved housing conditions as a result of accessing 1:1 general advice and support

99

Newly arrived Afghan Refugees were settled and accessed a range of services through tailored support

60

women improved mental health

42

Professionals have improved their understanding and reponses to survivors of Harmful Practices as a result of attending HP Training

37

Survivors with No Recourse to Public Fund gained access to support and secure immigration status

AND MORE!

VAWG Intersectional Advocacy and Support services

Our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services seek to support victims and survivors of any form of violence; domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking and harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and the so-called 'honour'-based violence. Our tailored intersectional advocacy is provided in a safe and confidential women's only space. Our specialised staff carries out risk assessments, draws support plans regarding crisis intervention, supports survivors accessing safe accommodation and criminal justice systems. Emotional support, peer support, wellbeing workshops, counselling and other holistic services are a game changer, when it comes to social isolation and trauma linked to VAWG. The journey to recovery may be long but it is definitely achievable.

SUPPORT
VIOLENCE

THE SAMIRA

PROJECT

This partnership project is between IMECE Women's Centre, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO) and Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) and provides **crisis intervention** for Black and Minoritised Women, survivors of DV and HP.

128

survivors were supported towards safety, accessing refuge accommodation, MARAC and IDVA services.



P & A C T PARTNERSHIP

A London wide **partnership** of 12 'by and for' Black and Minoritised women and girls specialist services, in which KMEWO delivers VAWG advocacy, counselling, support groups, community engagement and HP training for professionals operating in the boroughs of **Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Enfield.**

52

women were supported and benefited

32

Frontline staff trained

SURVIVORS

2

THRIVERS

A **partnership** led by KMEWO along with Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSo) providing holistic and **long-term support** to Black and Minoritised Women residents of **Harigney, Hackney, Westminster and Barnet** and survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices.



93

Survivors accessed advice, advocacy and counselling services.



42

Professionals participated in Harmful Practices Training.

MOPAC | PARTNER OF LONDON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Grassroots Fund

**The London
Community
Foundation**

THE PATHWAY TO RECOVERY

PARTNERSHIP

A **partnership** between IMECE, LAWRS and KMEWO to provide specialist VAWG services, support groups and counselling to **Arabic and Kurdish Sorani speakers**.

65

Women received advice, advocate counselling, language and group services.



1:1 COUNSELLING & THERAPEUTIC GROUPS

Provided by a **qualified therapist** to meet the collective needs of the group, our **counselling service** offers a range of 1:1 one individually tailored and culturally sensitive counselling sessions in **Arabic, Amharic, English, Farsi, Kurdish Sorani and Tigrinya**. We ensure a safe place for women going through loss and trauma, linked to VAWG and harmful practices, sexual violence and exploitation, war, torture and persecution.

60

Women were supported and benefited.



**Community Advice
and
Support**

AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT

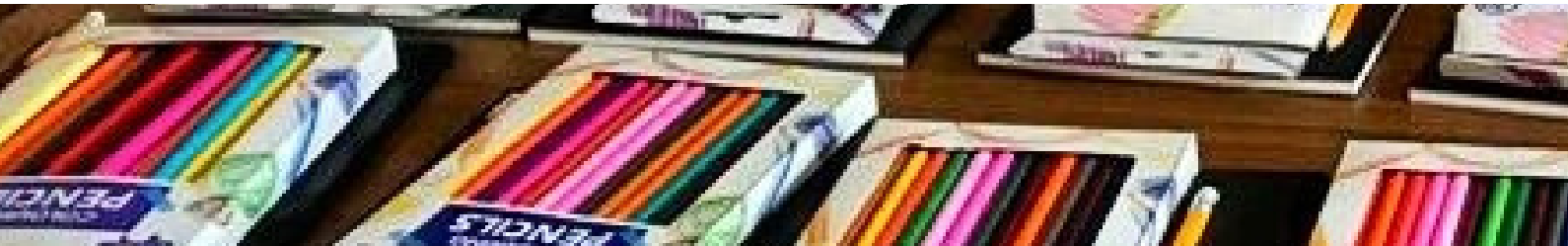
PROGRAMME

We successfully offered a wide range support to newly arrived Afghan Refugees. We devoted 5 days per week in Bridging Hotel, where they were hosted, providing, welfare benefits support and navigation support. We linked in with multi a agency identifying safeguarding concerns, escalating urgent health, school and other enquiries to relevant members of the MDT team. We also offered tailored advice and advocacy, ongoing emotional and trauma informed support.

99

Individuals became independent within the borrow.

Donations to Afghan Refugees



IBAA

PARTNERSHIP

The **Islington BAMER Advice Alliance (IBBA)** provides community-based advice, 1:1 support, community engagement activities, immigration and legal support, homelessness and housing advice as well as legal advice related to divorce enquiries. That has a positive impact on Black and Minoritised women supporting them to be part of a community and tackle exclusion.

501

WOMEN WERE SUPPORTED & BENEFITED.

Empowering Women and Skills' Development



Women empowerment and upskilling is the key to change our survivors' lives with the ultimate goal of proper education and financial independence.

- **Employment Support:** We provide support and guidance to Black and Minoritised women through CV-building, online Job search and interview preparation seeking to assist them in making their dreams come true.
- **Digital Inclusion:** The aim of this project is to build confidence among 16-55 women who live in London and they are in need of career advice and access to digital devices.
- **Community Learning- ESOL-IT Skills:** A wide range of community held classes aiming at providing vulnerable Black and Minoritised women with learning opportunities, access to employment as well as at breaking the chain of social isolation.

MANY OF THE ATTENDEES HAVE MOVED ON TO VOLUNTEERING, HIGHER EDUCATION AND/OR EMPLOYMENT.

158

ATTENDED CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



Digital Devices and Free Data Scheme

KMEWO's On Loan Tablet Scheme gave the unique opportunity to 20 Black and Minoritised women to get their own tablets and consequently to have access to the internet. The women benefited from this scheme were either survivors of VAWG or destitute on low-income, who now had the chance to access support services at KMEWO and outside; and with the one-to-one support, they were able to attend online counselling sessions, wellbeing and ESOL classes, search for employment opportunities, apply for Universal Credits or bid for social housing and engage in online activities relevant to their health and well-being.

**The London
Community
Foundation**

What Our Survivors Say About Us

“ KMEWO-Just want to let you know that I have received my indefinite leave to stay in UK. I want to use this opportunity to appreciate you for your overwhelming support throughout the process. You were very supportive and always attentive to me in me during the process. Due I didn't meet face to face but all this time it was as we met face to face, always checking on us and supporting us as much as you could. You listened to me and very competent culturally. Thanks a lot, Avan ”

“ Thank you very much, for all the advice and help KMEWO gave to me in my problems. I had NRPF and everyone other than you turned me away. I am very thankful for all the efforts made by you and by the organisation that protects women from violence. Greetings to all of you! ”

“ I am honoured to express my gratitude to everyone who participated from your organisation helping me to get out of a very toxic relationship that was a threatening for my safety and my son.

I am thankful for director of the organisation, and Avan in particular, the counsellor, and the solicitors that I referred to and I'm sure the list is long.

"I would like to say a big thank you for all your support as I get my ILR . You were approachable and made me feel comfortable and I could talk to you about my worries and fear. It felt like a family that I needed."

CONTINUATION ON COVID-19 RESPONSES

Due to long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic and the rise of cost of living KMEWO continued providing basic and emergency needs, in particular to women of NRPF, Asylum Seekers and those on a low income.

37

MOBILE PHONES
WITH FREE DATA
AND SECOND HAND
LAPTOPS

RESOURCES

RAISED TO SUPPORT THE
EMERGENCY NEEDS OF
ACCOMODATION AS WELL
AS NEEDS OF NRPF
WOMEN AND THEIR
CHILDREN

DONATIONS
FROM

AVON
ZAKAT FOUNDATION
WOMEN'S AID
GOOD THINGS
FOUNDATION

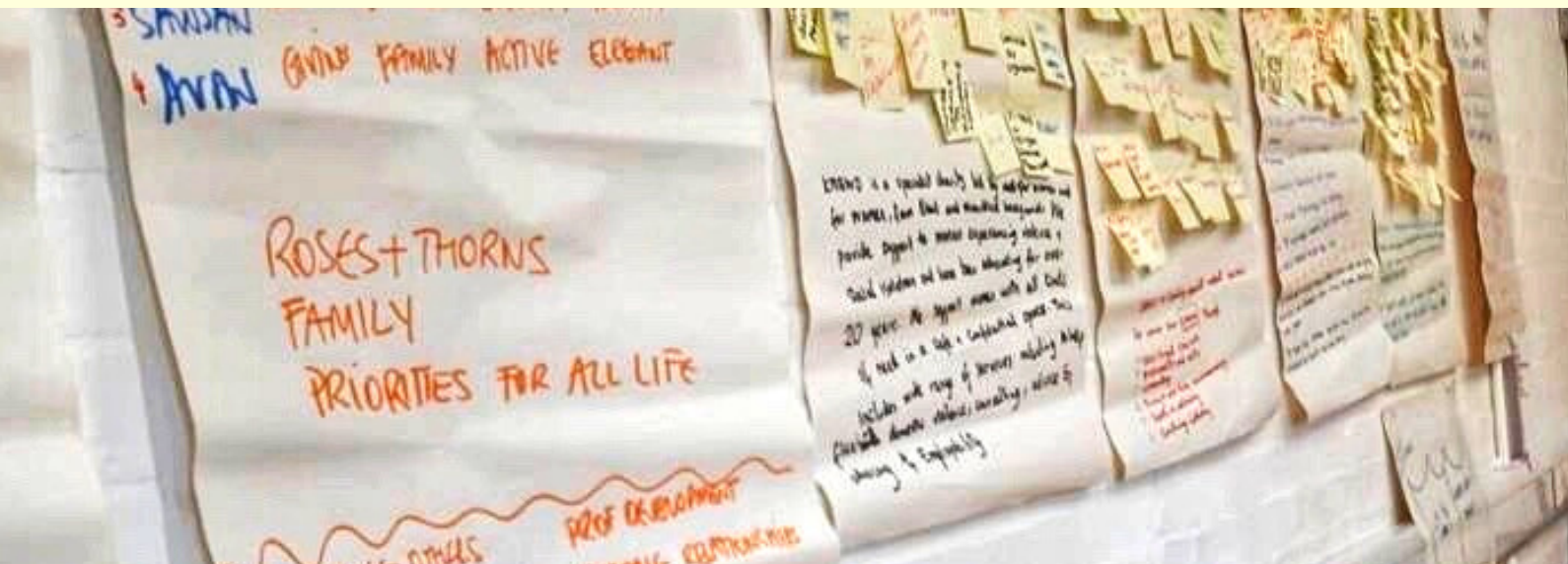


ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Almost after two years of restrictions due to COVID-19, this year we have safely started to get back to the old times, organising our first face to face events and activities since the lockdown! It seems we have left behind the days of isolation, and we are getting back to normal life once and for all!

- Many women participated to our ESOL classes and attended Domestic Violence Awareness Sessions offered in English, Kurdish and Arabic language.
- 42 women and 20 children gathered in a Community Engagement Well Being picnic at Finsbury Park having the chance to get closer and to taste delicious foods!
- Our coffee mornings in Caxton House were also very successful. There was a big participation of women who very gladly joined us.
- We proudly held our Annual event for International Women's Day in March 2022.

We are very content we managed to organise these activities in the post-covid-19 era and we are looking forward to the next ones!





A Big Thank You to Our Funders!

The last 23 years we have been a game changer in the monitoring and protection of Black and Minoritised vulnerable women's rights and we could not have made it without the ongoing support of all our Funders! For one more year we thrived due to the valuable fundings we received from our older and new funders.

We are grateful!



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

The Samira Project: a partnership project between IMECE, KMEWO and LAWA, commissioned by Islington Council.

The P&ACT EHP Partnership project: a partnership project funded by the MOPAC, providing intense one-to-one support to black and minoritised women and girls across all 32 London Boroughs.

The Survivors 2 Thrivers: a MOPAC funded specialist Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) partnership, between KMEWO and MEWSO. The project provides services in the boroughs of **Barnet, Hackney, Haringey and Westminster**.

The Islington BAMER Advice Alliance (IBAA): a consortium established by six specialist advice service providers to improve the economic and social wellbeing of Black and Minoritised communities living in Islington.

The Pathway to Recovery: A partnership with Comic Relief.



Our Staff & Trustees

Trustee Board:

Dr. Janan Aljabiri	Chair
Tanya Ahmad	Treasurer
Dr. K Rahsid	Member
Tina Saeed	Member
Gilda Partoandaz	Member
Naz Jamal	Member
Tara Ahmed	Member
Suham Karim	Member

Sessional Staff:

BACP Accredited Counsellors:

Sega Habtom	Counsellor
Soraya Mohammadi	Counsellor
Zekiye Kertall	Counsellor
Monika Schwartz	Clinical Supervision

Tutors:

Shahnaz Kinoo	ESOL
Farah Dualeh	Employment Skills
F. Arselanturk	Yoga Tutor
Tuyce Ozgelen	Zumba Tutor

Staff Members:

Sawsan Salim	Director
Gona Saed	Sustainability & Development Manager
Aygul Ozdemir	VAWG Services and Training Manager
Arinola Oladejo	Employment Support Coordinator
Avan Dawood	Senior VAWG Advices & Case Allocator Coordinator
Sazan Saleh	VAWG Adviser & Counselling Service Coordinator
Jwan Faris	Community Advice Worker
Parastoo Nakshbandi	VAWG Advisor
Doreen Duckoo	Digital Engagement Officer

Accounts

KURDISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION LIMITED				
DETAILED INCOME				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>				
Grant, Donations and Legacies	£	£	£	£
Henry Smith Charity	0		0	34,000
Islington Council / VCS	20,000	0	20,000	16,250
City Bridge Trust	0		0	28,650
Islington Council VAWG/SP	0	21,935	21,935	22,935
London Council	0	0	0	31,459
Afghan VCS	0	16,186	16,186	0
Islington IBAA		22,188	22,188	3,038
Islington - NHS	0	10,000	10,000	0
Sport for Good- Laureus	0	1,500	1,500	9,014
Belina	200		200	0
CCG Health watch Project	4,142		4,142	5,878
MOPAC- PACT/ PRP	0	74,895	74,895	44,288
YWCA	150		150	0
LIT/ LIF	0		0	3,951
IMKAAN			0	20,000
SBS		6,148	6,148	0
LLOYDS Bank Foundation	25,100	0	25,100	25,000
Barrow Cadbury	125		125	3,760
Grass root- Partnership	0	30,073	30,073	29,548
LCF/W2/	0	20,917	20,917	9,261
LCF/W4/	0		0	18,750
EQUIP/ Paddington	0	19,966	19,966	24,819
Comic Relief/ Women's Aid	0	22,397	22,397	39,248
Donations/Other Income	482	0	482	609
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	50,199	246,204	296,403	404,297

KURDISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION LIMITED				
DETAILED EXPENDITURE				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022				
Outgoing Resources	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
Charitable Expenditure	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
Salaries	24000	136,965	160,965	124,722
Taxes and NI	1095	40,330	41,425	31,442
Teachers/Tutors	0	3,930	3,930	6,083
Partnership- Grassroot	0	11,912	11,912	11,912
Rent/Rates	6000	4,480	10,480	10,020
Counselling	0	20,139	20,139	18,763
Office Need/ Cleaning	0	660	660	1,960
Volunteer Expenses	0	208	208	92
Travel	0	2,134	2,134	33
Refreshment	0	3,348	3,348	580
Telephone	0	2,366	2,366	2,223
Publicity/Photocopy/Photographs	0	498	498	251
Training	0	2,279	2,279	561
Stationery	0	2,100	2,100	1,944
IT Support	0	2,380	2,380	3,215
Stamps/Postage	0	426	426	347
Membership Fees	0	413	413	273
Quickbooks bookkeeping	144	0	144	0
Capacity Building- QM	0	1,500	1,500	17,660
Evaluation/ Survey	0	2,427	2,427	2,324
Sundry Expenses	0	1,569	1,569	1,806
Accountancy Fee	850	0	850	800
Payroll Services	637	637	1,274	839
Web/Soc Media	0	1,337	1,337	348
Insurance	0	1,103	1,103	890
Subscriptions	0	13	13	13
Vouchers	0	890	890	
Total Resources Expended	32,726	244,042	276,768	239,100



Kurdish And Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)

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