



رێنخراوی ژنانی کوردو روژبه لاتی ناوهراستی

KMEWO

Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



Led By Women for Women

Women Life Freedom

In Solidarity with Women in Kurdistan and in Iran
Struggling for Equality and
Freedom



In the Loving Memory of Mahsa
Amini
(2000-2022)

Foreword

The past year has been a hard one in many ways. I would like to take a moment to talk about the **'Women, Life, Freedom'** movement, which became a rallying cry on the streets of Iran and around the world after the death of our sister, Mahsa Amini, who was arbitrarily killed by the 'morality police' in Iran. This tragic incident, and many others that happen every day, sadly remind us that women's rights are human rights and we must stand up and fight for them until they are universally recognised, respected and protected. Violence against women and girls still exists and must be eliminated; from the unjust death of a young woman at the hands of a government, to the smallest household where a woman suffers in silence because of her gender.

KMEWO spent another year working to ensure that the Kurdish, Middle Eastern and North African (KMENA) women in the UK who approached our organisation for support were safe and strong enough to rebuild their lives. Despite the hardships, pressures and limited capacity of the VAWG sector, KMEWO staff and volunteers worked hard to ensure that our organisation thrived. Once again they did it! I am proud and would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart for their dedication, which gives life to our cause; a world where women are equal to men and enjoy their fundamental human rights.

I would also like to thank KMEWO's funders, partners and friends, the new and the old ones, for believing in us and supporting the organisation and, as a result, hundreds of women. I am looking forward to next year!

Dr. Janan Al Jabiri



Foreword

Another year has passed and there is so much to reflect on and remember. The absurd and unjust death of Mahsa Amini, who was beaten to death by the 'morality police' of Iran for not properly wearing her hijab, sparked outrage around the world and it was time to stand together in solidarity and speak out for women's right to equality and freedom. KMEWO, together with sister organisations, campaigned for Kurdish and Iranian women's struggles to be free from patriarchal oppression, insisting that what is happening to women and girls there is also important here, insisting that the issue is global and not local.

For another tough year, KMEWO supported a large number of survivors of domestic abuse and other harmful practices in their journey towards safety, recovery and rebuild. Sadly, the cost-of-living crisis often goes hand in hand with domestic abuse, while the most worrying issue remains that many women are forced to stay in abusive relationships as they cannot make ends meet otherwise. We must find solutions to tackle this!

Consequently, there has been a high demand for complex services, putting increased pressure on KMEWO's staff, whose professionalism and resilience has seen our organisation thrive for another year! I would like to thank them all for their hard work as well as our trustees and volunteers for their continued support.

I will never be tired of repeating that nothing could be done without the support of KMEWO's funders and partners who believe in our cause for a world free of violence against women and girls. Thank you and I am here to ensure that the KMEWO family is here to prove you right!

Sawsan Salim, Director



ABOUT KMEWO

Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women Organisation (KMEWO) is a led by and for Minoritised Women's organisation in London, dedicated to improving the quality of life of Kurdish, Middle Eastern, and North African women who have experienced domestic abuse and harmful practices. Our mission, grounded in equality and empowerment, began 24 years ago to champion their fundamental rights, and provide opportunities through provisions of holistic support, aiding their journey towards safety, recovery and rebuild.

Aim

Our aim is to promote KMENA's women Human Rights and quality of life supporting them to recover from distress and suffering due to the dreadful experience of domestic abuse and Harmful Practices by increasing their opportunity for better education, employment and social engagement.

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.

We Strive For All Women's

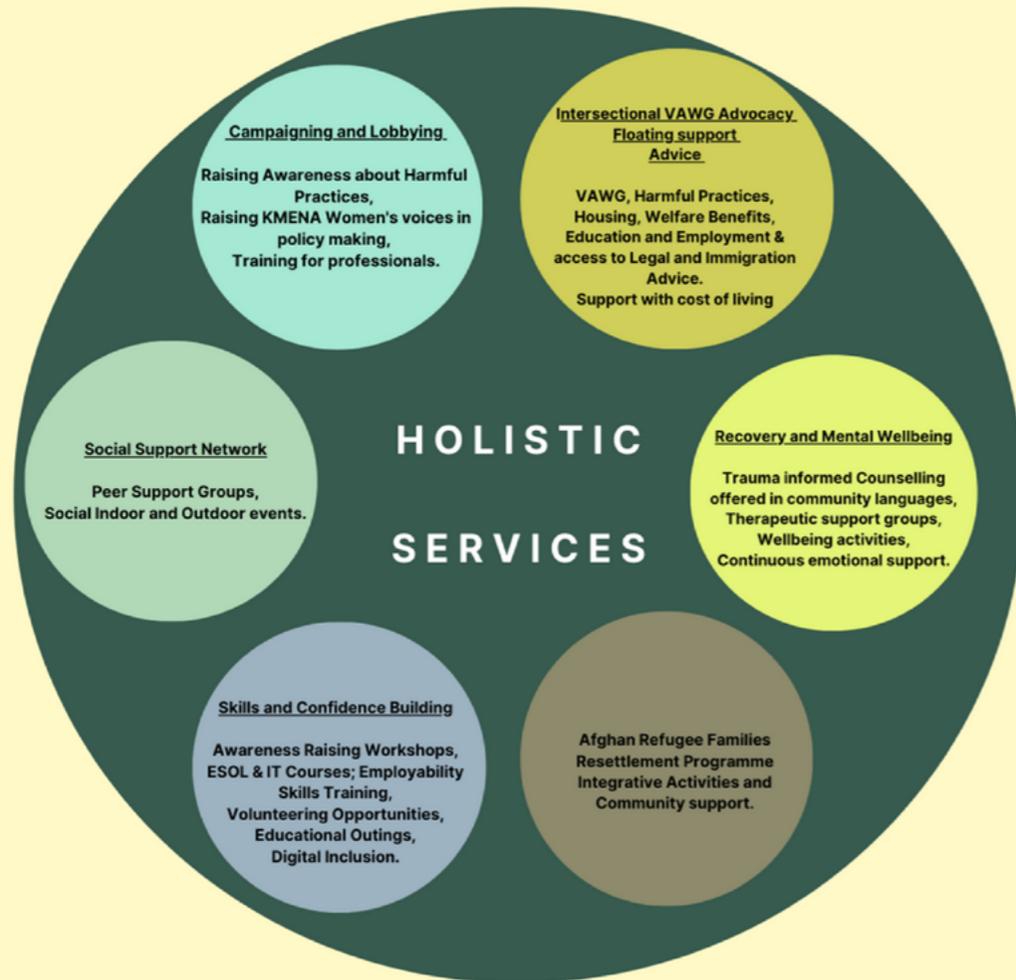
Equality

Justice

Empowerment

KMEWO's Holistic Services Take Women to a Journey Towards

Safety | Recovery | Rebuild



Circle of Holistic Services

The holistic services are free and provided in women-only spaces at a safe confidential and non judgmental environment.



691

women improved safety and well being through our VAWG Specialist Advocacy, Advice and support.



77

Women improved their mental health through 1:1 counselling in mother tongue and group well being sessions.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE (2022-2023)



57

women improved their language, digital and employability skills as a result of accessing 1:1 support and skills building programmes.



47

Women were relieved from extreme poverty through grants and goods distributions as a response to current cost of living crisis.



94

IT Devices were distributed to women at Refuges and KMEWO survivors.



36

Frontline professionals improved their practice and responses to the needs of DA survivors through KMEWO HP training.



83

women Improved housing conditions and maximised their income and /or managed debt.



66

newly arrived Afghan Refugee Women were supported to settle in Islington and navigate the Borough through group activities and site visits.

VAWG Intersectional Advocacy and Support Services

Under KMEWO's 'Safety' and 'Recovery' services, survivors of domestic abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage (FM), 'Honour-Based Abuse', and other harmful practices can seek essential support from our organisation.

Our commitment is to establish women-only safe spaces that offer intersectional advocacy in the mother tongue. Our specialised frontline team conducts risk assessments, crisis intervention and draws support plans. We provide assistance to survivors in accessing secure lodging as well as navigating the criminal justice system. Emotional and peer support, wellbeing workshops, counselling, and other comprehensive services are critical in tackling social isolation and trauma stemming from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).



Safety

Samira Project

In partnership with the IMECE Women's Centre and Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA), we provide to Islington Black and Minoritised Women, survivors of Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices crisis intervention, resettlement assistance, support with accessing the criminal justice system and any welfare benefit needs. This year, **119** women were supported in a variety of languages, including Arabic, English, Farsi, and Kurdish Sorani.



P&ACT Partnership

Twelve 'led by and for' women's organisations have come together in a London-wide partnership for women's safety. During the reporting period, KMEWO provided VAWG advocacy, counselling, support groups and community engagement to **208** in Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Enfield. Also one online Harmful Training for Professionals was offered to **18** frontline professionals of the statutory and voluntary sector.



Survivors 2 Thrivers

KMEWO and Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation partnered to provide holistic support to Black and Minoritised residents of Haringey, Hackney, Westminster and Barnet. During this time, **326** service users and professionals were benefited through this partnership via VAWG Advocacy and support, counselling, community engagement and Harmful Practices Training for Professionals.



Ascent Safe Accommodation Floating Support Services led by Refuge

A pan London partnership of London VAWG Consortium provides advocacy and move on support and 1:1 counselling in community languages to survivors of domestic abuse and Harmful practices. **23** women were supported.

Ascent Safe-Accommodation Floating Support Services for NRPF women led by AWRC

KMEWO provided advocacy support to **24 (NRPF)** survivors of Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices in a range of community languages through this pan London Partnership. We ensured women's access to Refuge, safe and move on accommodations, and we supported them with DDVC, cost of living, and welfare advice, encouraging and supporting them to stay away from violence and abuse.



Recovery

Mental health support : 1:1 Counselling and Therapeutic Groups

BACP registered therapists provide 1:1 individually tailored and culturally sensitive counselling sessions in Arabic, Amharic, English, Farsi, Kurdish Sorani and Tigrinya languages. The service provides a safe and confidential space for survivors who have experienced loss, VAWG and Harmful Practices-linked trauma, sexual exploitation, war, torture and prosecution. During the reporting period **63** women were supported.

Community Advice and Support

IBAA Partnership

A partnership project led by the Islington Bamer Advice Alliance (IBAA) providing community based advice, 1:1 support, community engagement activities, immigration and legal support, homelessness and housing advice and divorce related legal advice. In an attempt to tackle the exclusion of black and minoritised communities in Islington, IBAA's support has clearly had a major impact. During the reporting period **522** women were supported directly and indirectly.



Afghan Families Resettlement in Islington- Integrative Activities

The service includes tailored advice and advocacy, ongoing emotional and trauma informed support, travel training, welfare benefits support, multi-agency navigation and liaison, identification of safeguarding concerns, escalation of urgent health, educational and other enquiries to relevant members of the MDT team, as well as a wide-range support for all families. During the reporting period **66** newly settled in Islington Afghan refugee women were supported through integrative activities.



Immediate Support with Cost of Living

In the reporting period we supported **47** service users with vouchers, cash, bank transfer, food banks and other essentials. We are grateful to all donations and the support we have received from **AVON, Little Village, Church Homeless Charity, Zakat Foundation, In Kind** and **Women's Aid** during this immense financial crisis.

Rebuild

Women's Development and Employment Support Project

This is a three year project (2023-2026) that falls under KMEWO's Rebuild services. The aim of the programme is to create safe spaces for women to meet, socialise and access services: ESOL and digital classes, employment skills and workshops, and 1:1 advice and support to access education, CV writing, job search and volunteering.

ESOL Classes

17 sessions of ESOL Entry 1 classes focusing on conversation as well as on speaking and writing were offered to **43 women** in total. The sessions were delivered both online via Zoom and face to face in KMEWO's premises.

1:1 Support

14 women were benefited through 1:1 advice and support on accessing education, CV writing, job search and volunteering.

Funded By:



Digital Inclusion- Lending Hub

KMEWO is one of five organisations funded nationally to provide digital tablets and free data on loan to women at risk of digital exclusion. Working together with established refuge providers such as LAWA, London Black Women Project and the ASHIANA Network, our organisation provided support to black and minoritised women living in refuge or other forms of temporary accommodation. During the reporting period **69 IT tablets and accessories** were distributed to 3 refuges; **25 IT tablets and accessories** were distributed to KMEWO survivors on free loan, providing essential support to women and girls who are more likely to be destitute, have NRPF and have fled domestic abuse to re at risk of digital exclusion. The project was successfully completed with the total distribution of 102 IT tablets and accessories.



Building Social Support Networks

Events and Activities

Women-Life Freedom- Public Event on International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

Celebrating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls 2022, KMEWO hosted a public event inspired by the movement 'Women Life Freedom' in Iran. Amid the crisis in Iran followed by the unfair death of Mahsa Amini on the 16th of September 2022, the purpose of our event was to raise awareness on the thorny issue of religion and faith as tools of oppression against vulnerable Black and Minoritised women. Inspirational talks were given by professionals and activists in women sector and survivors testimonies were shared shedding light on the different and complex aspects of faith based abuse. It was also a great opportunity to stand with Kurdish and Iranian women and support their struggles for equality and freedom.



See more at:



International Women's Day 2023: Celebrating Migrant And Refugee Women's Resilience From Conflict Zones: Afghanistan Iran Ukraine

Standing in Solidarity with women struggling against war in Ukraine and women striving for gender equality in Iran and Afghanistan, KMEWO partnered with the NRPF Team of Islington Council and HealthProm to celebrate International Women's Day 2023. The event was dedicated to the resilience of UK's migrant refugee women arriving from conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Iran and Ukraine. We created safe spaces for over **90 women** to come together, share their stories, socialise and enjoy some valuable time. Survivors shared inspiring stories which were a guiding light of fortitude and resilience for rebuilding their lives from zero.

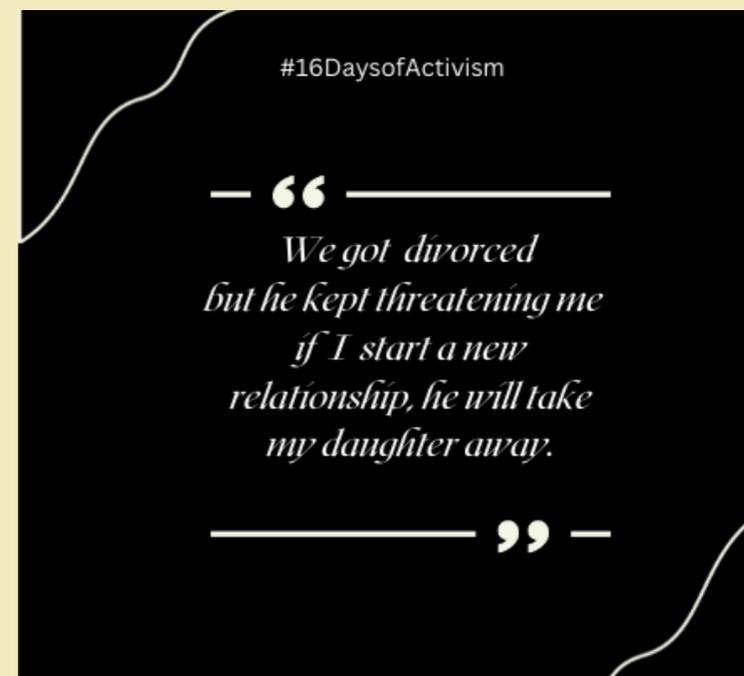


See more at:



Campaigning and Networking

On the occasion of 16 Days of Activism, KMEWO led a mini social media campaign to build on the outcomes of our Public Event on the International Day for the Elimination on Violence Against Women and Girls as well as to raise wider awareness on faith based abuse and its impact in the life of Black and Minoritised women.



Organisational Development

Expanding Communications at KMEWO

KMEWO operates for 24 years in the VAWG sector counting lots of achievements in supporting Black and Minoritised women. This year we felt that the time has come to showcase all this work to the public with an ultimate aim to influence through inspiration. For this reason we employed a dedicated Admin and Communications Officer to lead on the social media and digital platforms of the organisation. In less than one year KMEWO's presence in social media is stronger and we are an active part of the women's sector community!

To see our daily posts and updates, follow us on:

Twitter: @kmewo
Instagram: @kmewo_charity
Linkdin: KMEWO

Subscribe to Newsletter



Staff wellbeing and resilience

As the demand for services becomes more and more high, our staff operates under lots of pressure with great professionalism. It is our duty to take care of their well-being. For this purpose the hybrid working model implemented during Covid-19 is continued with one day working from home for full-time staff to offer a more flexible working pattern and to support them with cost of living crisis. From time to time we also pay for lunch or travel expenses and at the moment we are working on offering staff well-being sessions.



What Our Survivors Say About Us

Dear Parastoo, I thank you so much for your companionship, sympathy, and hard work and help in keeping me safe in this country, I have no one in this world and you were always beside me supporting me, you are an angel from God, you were my savior in these dark days of my life, I love you ❤️❤️❤️ Thank you for everything you have done for me

Good evening Sazan. First, I would like to thank you for your support and passion towards your job. You are Amazing. I had a great time working with you and receiving support from your service. I can't stop telling people how much support you provided me with, the numerous calls you made to ensure I and my son had a roof over our head, your effort to get the police to accompany me to my ex-partner's house to retrieve my documents. Your advice, your patience with me even when I was not ready to make some decisions.

Hello, I hope everyone is well. Thank you to everyone who contributed to helping me. The sister and Mrs. Avan were an iron woman beside me. She gave me strength and optimism in my life. She was in the difficult time with me. Thanks to the Association KMEWO, Thank you for your support of women. Indeed, women always need support.

Thank You to Our Funders

The last 24 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!



Staff and 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
 Fariba Shahbakhti Counsellor
 Monika Schwartz Clinical Supervision

Tutors:

Shahnaz Kinoo ESOL Classes

Staff Members:

Sawsan Salim Director
 Gona Saed Deputy Director

Aygul Ozdemir VAWG Services and Training Manager
 Sazan Salih Senior VAWG Advisor & Employment Coordinator
 Avan Dawood VAWG Coordinator & Senior Advisor
 Lanya Abdulrahman VAWG Advisor and Caseworker
 Parastoo Nakshbandi VAWG Advisor and Caseworker

Jwan Faris Community Advice Worker
 Anthea Ranjit Digital Community Coordinator
 Gul Ghutai Afghan Resettlement Support Worker
 Anastasia Papapetrou Admin and Communications Officer

KURDISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION LIMITED
DETAILED INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grant, Donations and Legacies				
Henry Smith Charity	0	53,850	53,850	0
Islington Council / VCS	20,000	0	20,000	20,000
GLA Refuge	0	43,040	43,040	0
GLA - AWRC	0	40,321	40,321	0
Islington Council VAWG/IMECE/SP	0	21,935	21,935	21,935
London Council/ AWR Centre	0	27,232	27,232	10,486
Afghan Resettlement -Islington VCS	0	75,000	75,000	16,186
Islington IBAA	0	14,792	14,792	22,188
Islington - NHS	0	-	-	10,000
Cripplegate Foundation	0	11,000	11,000	-
Cripplegate - IBAA	0	303	303	0
Sport for Good- Laureus	0	0	0	1,500
Belina	0	0	0	200
CCG Health watch Project	11,004	0	11,004	4,142
MOPAC- PACT/ AWR Centre	0	19,968.00	19,968	64,409
YWCA	0	0	0	150
Rosa Fund	0	24,387	24,387	0
London Council/ WGN	0	1,650	1,650	0
SBS	0	0	0	6,148
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,250	0	27,250	25,100
Barrow Cadbury	0	0	0	125
Grass root- Partnership- MOPAC	0	59,096	59,096	30,073
TLC/H	0	29,780	29,780	0
The Caring Family	0	9,990	9,990	0
Church Trust	0	1,600	1,600	0
LCF	0	9,000	9,000	20,917
Treebeard Trust	25,000	0	25,000	0
The Blue Thread	10,000	0	10,000	0
EQUIP/ Paddington	0	-	0	19,966
Comic Relief/ Women's Aid	0	16,558	16,558	22,397
Others- Standing Together	100	0	100	482
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	93,354	459,501	552,855	296,403

KURDISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION LIMITED
DETAILED EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
Outgoing Resources				
Charitable Expenditure				
Salaries	25,000	174,268	199,268	160,965
Taxes and NI	1,095	60,134	61,229	41,425
Teachers/Tutors	-	-	-	3,930
Partnership- Grassroot	-	25,681	25,681	11,912
Rent/Rates	6,000	9,850	15,850	10,480
Counselling	-	23,885	23,885	20,139
Office Need/Cleaning	-	507	507	660
Volunteer Expenses	-	2,906	2,906	208
Travel	-	903	903	2,134
Refreshment	3,000	3,494	6,494	3,348
Telephone	600	1,634	2,234	2,366
Legal & Professional fees	-	590	590	-
Publicity/Photocopy/Photographs	-	790	790	498
Training	-	-	-	2,279
Stationery/office supplies	2,515	1,254	3,769	2,100
IT Support	-	3,960	3,960	2,380
Stamps/Postage	-	-	-	426
Membership Fees	-	504	504	413
Quickbooks bookkeeping	-	-	-	144
Capacity Building- QM/ Events	-	718	718	1,500
Repairs & Maintenance	8,574	-	8,574	-
Evaluation/ Survey	225	-	225	2,427
Sundry Expenses	-	1,509	1,509	1,569
Accountancy Fee	1,000	-	1,000	850
Payroll Services	-	1,015	1,015	1,274
Web/Soc Media	-	-	-	1,337
Insurance	485	1,000	1,485	1,103
Subscriptions	-	208	208	13
Vouchers	-	-	-	890
Total Resources Expended	48,494	314,810	363,304	276,768



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KMEWO

Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation

Kurdish And Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO)

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