

Management Committee
 Aziza Khand (Chairperson), Huda Alarashi (Vice Chair), Halima Hussain (Treasurer), Huma Khan (Secretary), Afshan Saleem (Chair Personnel Sub), Muttahera Wyne, Ghazala Hakeem, Javeria Khan, Nadia Salim, Zakia Salimi, Shazia Saeed, Amina Al-Adhami (to June 06) Piya Muquit (Co-opted), Zerqa Soofi (Co-opted), Rabia Baber (Co-opted)

Project Co-ordinator: Fariha Thomas

Staffing 2006
 Samina Ansari (Helpline Development Worker South of Scotland), Chahrazed Ahriz (Helpline Development Worker North of Scotland June – Dec), Nasreen Ali (Info & Advice Worker), Layla Mohammed (Admin Officer – Part time to end Sept then Bereavement Counselling Development Worker from Oct), Dilshad Sharif (Capacity Building Development Worker from Aug), Lutfunnahar Lata (PPP Project Development Worker from Aug 06), Azmina Abubakar (Admin Officer – Part time), Shabana Kousar (Admin Officer – Part time), Nahrumah Huq (Admin Officer Part time from November), Nadia El Nakla – Helpline Development Worker North of Scotland recruited Dec)

Sessional Staff: Qurat al-Ain, Goulnaz Ali, Fatima Bashir, Nughmana Mirza, Safeena Rashid

Volunteers
 Ghazala Shaheen, Shamala Shaukat, Khadija Hussein, Sofiya Parveen, Yasmin Farhat, Taiba Qureshi, Jean Wilson, Azra Bari, Wassim Iqbal, Koser Javed, Khadija Silaha, Humera Ashraf Zuberi, Sahilla Shamim, Tehseen Ashrif, Khadra Sharif, Maitreyee Bhattacharyya, Farwa Chaudhry, Muzna Nasir, Afifa Manzoor, Rafal Hilmy, Hatham Al-Joubouri, Pamela Khanna, Fouzia Ameer, Shaheen Ali Khan, Pallavi Rastogi, Shumaila Wasim, Ambreen Alam, Simi Cauleechurn, Refana Saleem, Amanda McLean, Zainab Rogerson, Afsha Arshad, Sidra Shirjeel, Marrion Cobban, Sonia Javaid, Lubaba Sadaf, Khadija Annabel MacInnes, Asma Hussein, Tanveer Durrani, Maryam Ahmadyar, Chidem Enkeshafi, Nafisa Hussein, Vaqar Silimi, Safia Rizwan, Shereen Kashmiri, Fatima Ramzan

This Year, Next Year (Co-ordinator's report)

2006 started out with uncertainty over funding still hanging over our heads. We had submitted a number of funding applications and alhamdulillah (all praise to God) we were successful with most of these. As a result 2006 has been a year of expansion with a second worker recruited to undertake development and helpline work in the North of Scotland, the start of the PPP project (Violence against Women), the Capacity Building community development project and the Bereavement Counselling Project. I wish to thank all our funders for their vision and confidence in MWRC, which has enabled us to broaden and deepen the range of services and development work available for Muslim women in Scotland.

It has sometimes felt as if almost the whole year has been taken up with recruitment, for the new posts and with some staff moving on. However I am glad to say that at the end of the year we have a full compliment of staff, all extremely committed and hard working, and a very good team spirit. I wish to thank all the staff, especially those who have stayed with us through some difficult times for the exceptional work they have done. Volunteering remains at the heart of MWRC and thanks go to all the volunteers who have helped us over the year in all aspects of the work.

As anticipated during 2006 we hosted two student placements and increased our links with Universities, particularly Glasgow Caledonian and Glasgow Universities, which will lead to further placements in the future. Placements offer a chance for students and their tutors to learn more about the Muslim community, which will then feed in to their future work, as well as helping undertake work with us.

We continued to keep up our media profile including STV, BBC TV and Radio Scotland as well as community media. We also now have a short DVD offering a snapshot of MWRC which is helpful introducing the organisation to others.

During 2006 we also entered into two formal partnerships – with CRUSE for the Bereavement Counselling Project and with REACH Community Health Project for a short term research project into mental health issues for Muslim women in South Glasgow, an issue which we have long recognised needs more development.

There will be further changes and challenges in 2007. While we have relatively secure funding for this year, a major challenge will be to implement the new fundraising strategy to enable continuity beyond March 2008.

This will be my last report as Co-ordinator for MWRC as it is my intention to move on after March 2007. MWRC is about to embark on a review of the role of the Co-ordinator which may lead to some changes in the post, to meet our changing needs. I feel exceptionally privileged to have had the opportunity to work with MWRC over the past 10 years, almost five in the role of Co-ordinator, and am confident that MWRC will continue to develop to meet the changing needs of Muslim women in Scotland.

Fariha Thomas, *Co-ordinator*

Chairperson's Report

2006 was akin to a survival year for MWRC and in many ways a test of strength and belief. Many funding streams had or were coming to an end and new sources of funding were still just around the corner. Difficult times.

This period and year has exemplified one of the great strengths of MWRC as an organisation - the vision and belief in our ability to carry out our aims which goes beyond the security of stable funding. This goes right back to the establishment of the organisation almost 10 years ago, long before funding support of any kind had been secured. The organisation was built on commitment and hard work from a team of voluntary staff and trained volunteers providing services with the belief that if we worked hard and maintained our belief the financial support would come insh'Allah.

It is this belief that sees MWRC now moving ahead with a very healthy and expanded staff team, a number of new projects and posts including a North of Scotland Helpline and Development post and the Violence against Women project, the Capacity Building Project and, joint with Cruse, the Bereavement Counselling Initiative.

Whilst funding for future work and future years always remains an issue, we can look to the future with focus and enthusiasm. We look to strengthen our organisation's role in the representation and policy arena as well as providing high quality services and development work to Muslim women. We will push ahead with addressing their specific needs in this climate of change.

This coming AGM sees change in both the positions of Co-ordinator and Chair and I have full confidence that the new people recruited for both these positions will take MWRC forward.

As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank all those who have been part of MWRC's work since the beginning. Special thanks go to the staff, past and present, for their dedication. Particular recognition is due for the sterling work and commitment of the outgoing Co-ordinator, the numerous volunteers who have given of their time and also to the Management Committee for their ongoing expertise support and guidance over these last years.

Aziza Khand, *Chairperson*

Treasurer's Report

Alongside you will find the audited statement of accounts for 2005/6.

I am happy to be able to announce that in this funding year we generated a small surplus in our unrestricted funds, which forms a small start to our intention to build up a reserve fund of one quarter's running costs for the organisation.

We were successful in attracting new and additional funding from the Scottish Executive for 2006–2008, and from the Tudor Trust for 2006–2009, for a range of projects outlined elsewhere in this report. This has given MWRC a period of stability from which to develop a realistic longer term funding strategy to take us into the future.

Our funding sources remain a mixture of Scottish Executive grants, charitable grants, donations and community fundraising. We thank all our funders for their continued support.

Halima Hussain, *Treasurer*

The Muslim Women's Resource & Development Centre Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31 March 2006

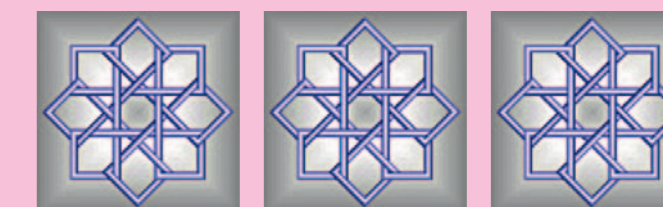
	£	2006 £
Incoming Resources		
Grant Income		75,972
Donations		41,567
Bank Interest		220
Total Incoming Resources		117,759
Resources Expended		
Charitable activities		
Volunteer expenses	1,328	
Wages	70,744	
Interpreter's Fees	1,701	
Training and Consultancy	4,909	
Travelling Expenses	1,384	
Affiliation Fees	167	
Telephone and Internet	1,818	
Postage and Stationery	1,620	
Rent, Rates, Heat and Light	8,914	
Hospitality	1,589	
Recruitment	1,042	
Promotion and Advertising	3,452	
General Expenses	783	
Purchase of equipment	–	
Governance Costs		
Insurance	1,005	
Administration expenses	944	
Audit Fees	1,058	
	102,458	
Net Movement in Funds		15,301
Balance Brought Forward at 1 April 2005		(4,263)
Balance Carried Forward at 31 March 2006		11,038

AMINA – THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Network House, 311 Calder Street, Glasgow G42 7NQ
 Tel: 0141 585 8026 Fax: 0141 423 7700
 e.mail: info@mwrc.org.uk website: www.mwrc.org.uk
 Scottish Charity Number SCO27690



AMINA – THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

Amina – the Muslim Women's Resource Centre works with mainstream agencies and policy makers to enhance their understanding of the Muslim community and of barriers preventing Muslim women accessing services and participating in society. We also provide direct helping services and community development to Muslim women.



Committed to promoting the welfare of Muslim Women

Why MWRC?

Amina – the Muslim Women’s Resource Centre (MWRC) was founded in 1997 and opened its doors to the public in April 2002. A Scottish Charity run by Muslim women for Muslim women, its purpose is to promote the social welfare of Muslim women and enable them to participate in all aspects of society without having to compromise their basic beliefs and values. MWRC operates at two levels – by working with policy makers and mainstream providers to help overcome barriers to civic participation and access to services; and by providing a range of services directly to Muslim women delivered in a way that meets their specific needs, hence providing models of good practice. MWRC carries out development with Muslim women and work to enable communities to come together thus overcoming stereotypes and misunderstanding between communities. Further details of the work carried out in 2006 follow in this annual report.

“There is obviously a great buzz about the place and I feel it opened up all kinds of ideas for me. Thank you for giving us such a warm welcome.” Allison Elliot (University of Edinburgh/ Better Public Services Forum)

Media Appearances

Feb & May: STV: Talk Scotland
May: Multi Ethnic Aberdeen Radio
July: BBC TV Newsnight Scotland
September: BBC Radio Scotland; Radio Ramadhan Glasgow 4 programmes; Radio Ramadhan Edinburgh 1 programme; Radio Ramadhan Dundee 1 programme
November: “Strathclyde Police Listen to Muslim Women” – joint seminar with Strathclyde Police Scotland’s Oracle, Friday People, Jang, I Witness.
December: Report on “Strathclyde Police seminar: Listen to Muslim Women”: Scotland’s Oracle

Consultation Engagement Includes:

- Equal Opportunities Commission – participation on advisory group for *Moving On Up*. GFI into VME women and the workforce
- Women’s National Commission/ Muslim Women’s Network *She Who Disputes* consultation advisory group
- EOC Gender Equality Duty February
- Scottish Law Commission – response to Discussion paper on rape and other sexual offences May
- Scottish Executive – Age and experience consultation on developing a strategy for a Scotland with an ageing population June
- Voluntary Action Fund – Researching the important of funding provided by VAF June & December
- The Cabinet Office – The Equalities Review. Response submitted June
- Scottish Parliament Equal Opps. Committee review of equality developments – consultation meeting August
- SCVO Better Public Services Forum consultation August & September
- Centre for Creative Communities – New strategies for the UK Women’s Sector September
- Scottish Executive – National Strategy and Action plan on Race Equality December

Calendar of Achievements and Events 2006

January: Customer Care Course for staff and volunteers.

February: MWRC Website: www.mwrc.org.uk launched.

March: AGM.

Visit from British Council intern from Oman.
 Joint International Women’s Day as part of Govanhill Settlement and Integration Network (GSIN).
 Fundraising Book Sale.

Visit from WNC Iraqi women’s Internship programme.

April: Helpline runs from Dundee one day per week.

May: Fundraising Training for MC, Staff and Volunteers.
 Input to Fife Police on needs of Muslim women.

June: Joint Refugee Week events with GSIN.
 Helpline training for staff and volunteers.
 Helpline Development worker (north) starts.
 Input on Violence against women seminar – E.Renfrewshire.

July: Computer system networked and Broadband set-up
 Guest speaker at CRUSE AGM.
 Helpline details published and distributed across Dumfries and Galloway courtesy of Dumfries Domestic Abuse Strategy Group.
 MC Members, Staff and Volunteers’ picnic at Pollok Country Park.

August: Start of PPP (VAW) Project and Capacity Building Project.
 Input to seminar at Stirling University, Gender Equality and Culture Injustice Workshop.
 Perthshire Women’s Aid distributes helpline materials across GP surgeries in Perth.
 Helpline input on future women’s centre in Dundee.

September: Speech including short film on MWRC, and workshop, at “What’s Faith got to do with it?” conference.
 Training for Learn Direct Scotland staff and participation in: Give it a Go – learning for all the family.
 MWRC project presentations on Radio Ramadhan Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh.
 Amina input at Aberdeen Women’s Alliance Equality Scheme Consultation.

October: Start of Bereavement Counselling Project
 Iftar Fundraising dinner.
 Facilitation at WNC Women and faith roundtable event
 Cultural training delivered at Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau.

November: Inter-agency Domestic Abuse Seminar in Dundee.
 Nov/Dec Joint GSIN event on 16 Days against Violence against Women.

December: Helpline Training for new staff and volunteers
 “Strathclyde Police Listen to Muslim Women” – joint seminar with Strathclyde Police.
 Training on Domestic Abuse for staff and volunteers.

Induction training for new volunteers, staff and MC members took place throughout year.

Staff training undertaken during 2006 has included Institute of Fundraising Management Certificate; Institute of Leadership and Management; BA Community Regeneration; and numerous short courses

Language Skills within MWRC

English, Arabic, Bengali, Bajuni, Cutchi, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Kurdish, Malay, Punjabi, Pushtu, Somali, Swahili, Spanish, Sorani, Turkish, Urdu, Russian. Total: 20

Library and drop in

The MWRC library contains an expanding range of reference books, magazines and leaflets on Islamic topics particularly focussed towards women, as well as texts on Counselling and a very comprehensive Resource Bank of information on services and resources in Glasgow and the rest of Scotland. We have two Internet linked computers and Quran software for women to use. Tea and Coffee etc are available for women who wish to come in to meet with others or use the library facility during drop in sessions. During 2006 we continued to expand the range of books available in the library.

PPP Project

The PPP project aims to **Prevent** domestic abuse in the Muslim community through raising awareness about the issue of domestic abuse and providing information about Islamic rules and regulations in relation to this. It aims to **Protect** Muslim women by making them more aware of the help and services available for them. The project **Provides** information and emotional support for those women who experience domestic abuse.

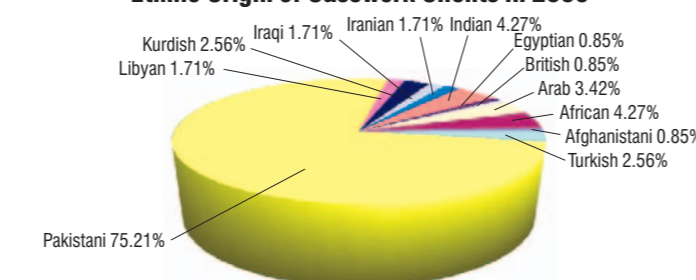
The PPP project also aims to make mainstream service providers more aware about what Islam really says on domestic abuse and the complexities of the situation facing Muslim women, to assist them in providing faith and culturally sensitive and to overcome inaccurate stereotypes about Muslim women. The project is producing a booklet on what Islam really says regarding domestic abuse which will be launched in March 2007.

The project started in August 2006 and is funded by the Scottish Executive until March 2008 with additional funding for 2006/7 from Strathclyde Police. The PPP project was developed as a result of the high level of domestic abuse enquiries to MWRC, particularly in relation to misunderstanding of what Islam says about domestic abuse and related family issues. It is not because the practice is more common in the Muslim community.

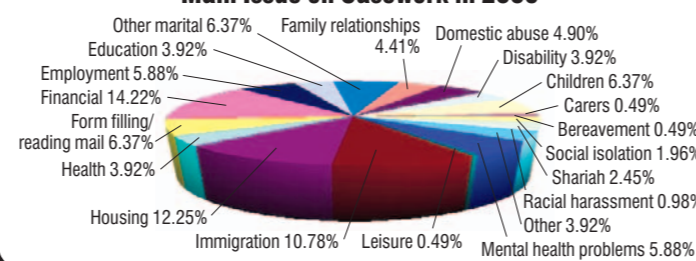
Achievements 2006

- PPP project involved in the “16 days of activism: No violence against women” campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the Muslim community in Govanhill 24.11.06 – 10.12.06.
- Training on domestic abuse for volunteers and staff of MWRC on 20.12.06.
- Contribution to MWRC input to Domestic Abuse Dimensions Seminar, Dundee 1.12.06.

Ethnic Origin of Casework Clients in 2006



Main Issue on Casework in 2006



Interagency work and Partnerships

Amina MWRC is committed to partnership working to further its aims of promoting the welfare of Muslim women, and ensuring that Muslim women are able to engage with all aspects of mainstream society. In addition to close working with a wide range of individual agencies Amina MWRC is actively involved in the following partnerships and advisory groups:

- Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS)** – represented on Board of Directors
- Castlemilk CAB/CAS Scotland**
- Scottish Women’s Convention (SWC)** – represented on Steering Committee
- Women’s National Commission: Muslim Women’s Network (MWN)** – represented on Network
- Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)** – represented on Advisory Board for the General Formal Investigation on Minority Ethnic Women
- Scottish Police College** – represented on **Independent Advisory Panel (IAP)**
- Glasgow Black and Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Network (GBVSN)**
- Scottish Executive Forced Marriage Network**
- Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP)** – BME sub group
- Glasgow South BME Community Safety Forum**
- Glasgow South and Citywide Area Implementation Groups (AIGs)**
- Govanhill Settlement and Integration Network**
- Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland – Glasgow**
- REACH Community Health Project**
- Ethnic Minority Advocacy Service (EMAS)**
- Taleem Trust**
- The Initiative**

Information, Advice and Advocacy

We provide free, confidential, faith and culturally sensitive, non-judgemental information and advice on a wide range of subjects from leisure activities and education through to welfare rights, housing and family issues. This service is provided from our Glasgow office during drop-in times or by appointment. Service users can communicate in their own language as we have experienced bilingual staff and volunteers. We use interpreters when required. With their permission, service users may also be referred to other MWRC services and mainstream agencies.

If a service user is not confident in dealing with other agencies then MWRC will speak on her behalf. We provide professional telephone advocacy, ensuring that the service user understands the whole situation. Where needed we will accompany the client to an appointment to assist her with dealing with a new agency. MWRC provides 3 levels of advocacy – supported referral where we accompany service users to one or two appointments with an agency to assist with the introduction to a service (about 20% of our face to face service users), ongoing professional advocacy by telephone and face to face with service providers (about 60% of our face to face service users and 20% helpline users), and ongoing advocacy in family situations (4/5 cases per year).

The majority of enquiries lead to ongoing casework and advocacy. 204 cases were dealt with through these services in 2006.

Drop In times:

Monday: 10am–12.30pm
Wednesday: 10am–12.30pm
Thursday: 1.00pm– 3.00pm

The Muslim Bereavement Care Project

The aim is to develop bereavement counselling services for the Muslim community to be provided in a faith and culturally sensitive and appropriate manner by both MWRC and Cruse Bereavement Care Services. This will expand the capacity of both organisations to provide support to the Muslim community including:

- recruitment of additional volunteering counsellors;
- recruitment of volunteer counselling supervisors;
- bereavement counselling training;
- training on faith and culturally sensitive issues surrounding bereavement from an Islamic perspective.

Work is being undertaken to encourage Muslims to take up both services when in need. Links have been set up with NHS hospital chaplaincy services, and leaflets and posters have been circulated at Glasgow mosques and ethnic minority organisations. An input was made on Radio Ramadhan Glasgow in October.

The project resulted from a successful application to the Scottish Executive Race Equality & Community Integration Support Fund submitted jointly by MWRC & Cruse in early 2006. This followed an increase in demand for MWRC to provide bereavement counselling and helpline support using an Islamic perspective during 2005 and increasing links with Cruse. The project started in October 2006 and is funded until end March 2008.



Above: Staff and volunteers

Right: Visit from WNC Iraqi women’s Internship programme

“Someone ‘Scottish’ will not understand and be able to help, only a Muslim will understand my situation.” (Service User)



Amina – Muslim Women’s Helpline

The helpline project is now in its 4th year running, funded by the Scottish Executive, offering an essential free and confidential information, advice and listening ear service in the caller’s first language. 365 days a year

Muslim women and all other women across Scotland are invited to use the free phone number 0808 801 0301, which will not show up on a phone bill. Callers will speak to one of our trained helpline volunteers and staff who speak a diverse range of languages including, English, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Arabic, Farsi and Swahili. We use telephone interpreting to cater for minority ethnic languages not immediately available.

Over 2006 we:

- Piloted our new ‘helpmail service’ offering information and advice in English via email helpline@mwrc.org.uk, receiving over 150 emails to date
- Received nearly 1200 calls, average length 20 mins with the largest call category being marital which includes domestic abuse
- Introduction of new helpline development worker post covering the North of Scotland
- Domestic Abuse Dimensions Seminar held in Dundee in partnership with Dundee Women’s Aid and Shakti Women’s Aid.

Capacity Building Project

The Tudor Trust funded Capacity Building Project started in August 2006. Its purpose is: to enable Muslim women to identify collective needs; to develop group work and community development programmes to meet such needs; and to enable Muslim women to engage more fully in all aspects of civic life. The project organises events and seminars to increase the mutual understanding of Muslim women and mainstream service providers/ representatives of civic institutions. We aim to develop women’s confidence and skills both through group work and volunteering opportunities. The project also entails volunteer support including: overseeing recruitment; participation in provision of induction training; and holding 3 monthly progress reviews for all regular volunteers.

During Ramadhan we organised an Iftar (fast opening) party for volunteers, which also raised funds for MWRC.

In December we organised a listening event jointly with Strathclyde Police attended by 53 Muslim women.

Our new women’s friendship group starts on 15th January 2007.

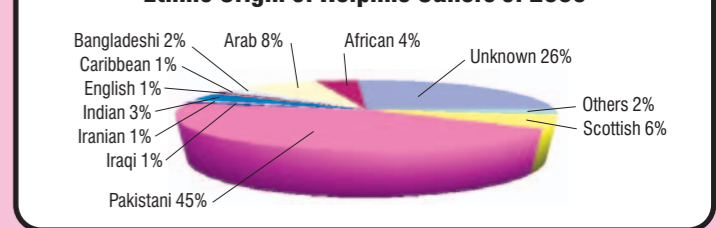
Volunteering with MWRC

Volunteering at MWRC remains the backbone of our service. During 2006 we have continued to recruit volunteers from diverse backgrounds. Volunteers are currently involved in: Counselling, Befriending, Information/Advice, Helpline, Development work, Administration and Fundraising. 61 volunteers worked with us during 2006.

Volunteers give quality service to the community and in return receive training, work experience, new friends and increase their confidence, skills knowledge and employability. Many of our volunteers have gone on to further education or employment e.g. one of our former volunteers who left to undertake a Social Care course has now been accepted for a University degree.

“Working with MWRC has developed my confidence, and I enjoy working in this helpful and friendly environment.” (Volunteer)

Ethnic Origin of Helpline Callers of 2006



Main Issue on Helpline in 2006

