

RESILIENCE THROUGH
THE PANDEMIC

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021



ORGANISATION

Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation

Registered Charity Number: 1150129

RESILIENCE THROUGH
THE PANDEMIC

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

This year has been a game changer for all of us, on a personal and professional level. I hope the pandemic has opened new opportunities for you, as it certainly did for our organisation.

I am proud and confident to say that MEWSO proved to be a resilient and flexible organisation. We were able to adapt to the new realities quickly enough to continue to support women in need. We embraced every opportunity to deliver additional support and advocacy during these hard times.



Building women's resilience, despite domestic abuse and all other pressures that the pandemic brought, remained the key focus of our work, as we continued to ensure that women stayed strong and able to protect themselves and their families.

We are going to experience the consequences of the pandemic for a long time, and we are definitely not clear how the future will look like for us. What we know however is that after a year and a half of “test and trace” approaches in many aspects of our lives, we are ready to fight back and stay strong and in solidarity.

Our strengths lie in our resilient and devoted team, our strong partnerships and our growing campaign work, and most importantly – in all our funders, partners and friends who trust us and continuously support our efforts to fight inequality and injustice.

Halaleh Teheri,
Founder and Executive Director of MEWSO



Our brief history

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT WE DO



MEWSO was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination.

The women we support face a number of disadvantages, a lot of them deriving from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures and their migrant status. Our culturally-tailored holistic support benefits their integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organisation in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGBTQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspire for a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

OUR VALUES & OBJECTIVES

SUPPORTING WOMEN TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

MEWSO promotes social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern and other migrant descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into the society.



We provide **advice, guidance, practical and emotional support** to women experiencing domestic violence, any form of gender-based abuse or housing and welfare issues.



We provide **skills-based trainings, IT and English classes** and encourage women to continue their education.



We offer **social and recreational activities** involving the local community.



We **raise public awareness** of issues affecting women and girls and talk about reasons behind their inequalities.

OUR VALUES

Social Justice

We fight for fair and just relations between the individual and society.

Equality and diversity

We value individual human rights and we do not tolerate any form of discrimination.

Solidarity

We stand in unity with all women to defend them from discrimination, inequality and exclusion.

Collaboration

We work in collaboration with other organisations to develop a community-wide response to defend women's rights.

Secularism

We act in separation to any religious views or beliefs.

OUR TEAM & OUR TRUSTEES



HALALEH TEHERI
Founder and Executive Director



ROSE FATHERAZI
Project and Service Manager



SODABEH GASHTASEBI
Senior Welfare Advisor



SAHER NADIR
Domestic Violence Advisor



ELLIE ANGUS
Fundraising Manager



AUDREY THOMPSON
Communications Coordinator



NATASHA FEROZE
Campaign Coordinator



SHAVONNE KONNO
Finance Coordinator



AMAN ZANOON
Campaign and Administrative Assistant

Between April 2020 and March 2021, MEWSO was joined by several talented and committed women who brought new skills and ideas to the team. Our Managements Committee also welcomed new members - women with passion and experience in leadership, safeguarding, digital marketing and community engagement. As always, our volunteers and befrienders continued to play a key part of our support package. We are deeply grateful to all of those passionate women who supported us throughout the year by donating their time, expertise, moral and financial support.

OUR TEAM & OUR TRUSTEES



CORDELIA MAYFIELD

Chair



BEHNAZ FATHERAZI

Treasurer



SHARON LEONARDI

Secretary



LORIS KNEIZEH

Trustee



REJNA ALAADIN

Trustee



MARIA SOOKIAS

Trustee



NOELLA HACQUARD

Trustee



DINA ELRAYYES

Trustee



GUILENE MARCO

Trustee

ACTIVITIES

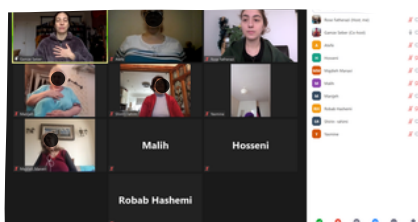
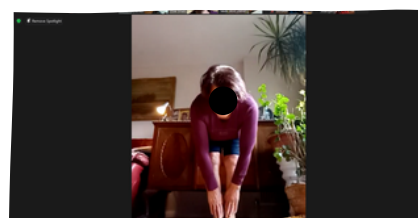
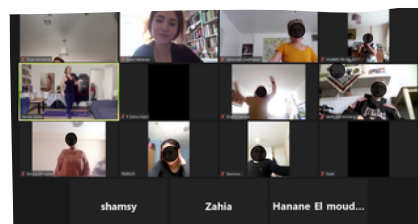
2020 - 2021

The past year has been extraordinary in many ways. The lockdown restrictions, loss of income and security brought many challenges to the women we support, especially around domestic abuse and welfare. We saw an increase in the complexity of cases we dealt with.

Our advisors have been liaising with police, social services and solicitors on a daily basis. The year was also a testimony of MEWSO's resilience, flexibility and adaptivity. Soon after the first Covid-19 cases were announced in the UK, we decided to close our offices and work from home. We continued to support women via phone, Zoom and Whatsapp groups. In fact, we went beyond Islington and Westminster as we were able to reach out to women in need from all London boroughs.

Our service user base expanded, but so did the issues our women were confronting. Therefore, we grew our advice service to accommodate the increased demand of support around obtaining safe shelter, non-molestation orders, leave to remain and welfare advice.

We created new social activities so women had a variety of options to stay connected throughout the lockdowns. Our calendar of events is now full of activities – Mum and Baby Club, Conversational English Class, Mindfulness, Zumba, Singing Choir, Arts and Crafts, among others. We are also proud to continue to be the only organisation supporting women in polygamous relationships, those forced to undergo virginity tests or hymen repair surgeries, and one of the very few supporting Middle Eastern women from the LGBTQ+ community.



ACTIVITIES 2020 - 2021

ALL THINGS CREATIVE

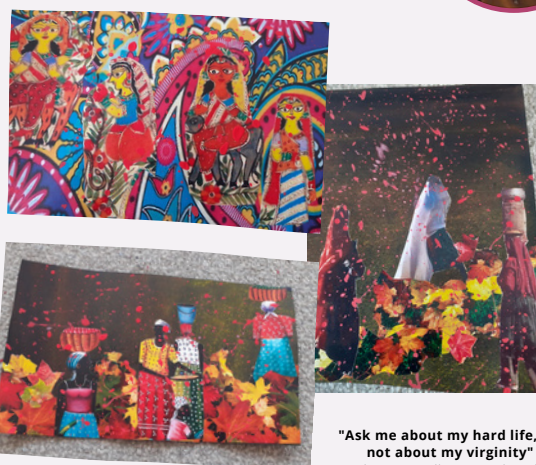
94 women attended our workshops and classes - from arts and crafts and needlework to cooking and singing - as we managed to create a calendar full of workshops for different tastes and interests.

Arts Classes

Our art classes encourage women to express themselves by creating collages, sketches and other creative activities. Throughout the year, different female artists showcased their art works and talked to our participants about the messages and emotions their art brings.

"Creating art feels so liberating to me. MEWSO's classes give me an opportunity to express myself, process my feelings and emotions and meet women with the same passions as me" – Sara, 53

"I am happy to help women relax and let their creative spirit come alive together with other women. They translate their life experiences on the paper or through objects." - Sodabeh, Facilitator



"Ask me about my hard life, not about my virginity"
Thematic collages produced during our classes

Iranian Singing Choir

Every other week our Farsi choir, facilitated by the very accomplished singer Mehri Zomorodnia, gathers a group of music lovers who go over different scales to perform traditional Iranian songs.



"Women enjoy the class so much. Plus, we sing traditional songs only, which reminds them of their homeland and brings about a sense of community." Mehri, Facilitator

Body and Mind

In a year of pandemic, when we all cherished normality, many of our service users chose to take part in our workshops on Yoga, Meditation, Breathing and Mindfulness. Women from all backgrounds, young and old, have been joining our facilitator, the fabulous Gamze, in order to reduce stress and improve their wellbeing. Gamze's classes start with breathing exercises, followed by yoga practices and meditation at the end, so there is something for every taste.



"I am so happy to connect the women from their living rooms and make their day more fun and enjoyable through online sessions in these difficult days. I can see the positive impact and change of their mood at the end of the sessions. It is definitely worth it!"

Gamze, Facilitator

ACTIVITIES

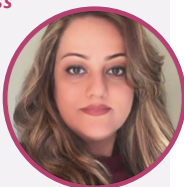
2020 - 2021

Conversational English Classes

When we asked participating women in our classes what activities they would like to join, the majority felt a need to improve their English. Therefore, we created our Conversational English Classes during the first lockdown for all those migrant women who wanted to integrate in the society and live life in its fullest.

Every Thursday our friendly facilitator Laleh creates real-life scenarios and prompts women to talk freely, without fear of making mistakes. This class is a community by itself where more confident women support migrants and refugees to practice English without fear of being judged.

"Ladies are so passionate about the class and I can see great improvement in all of them – some were not even able to complete a sentence when they joined. I am very pleased to share that apart of the learning itself, the ladies create a friendly and welcoming environment where everyone, no matter their level of English, feels accepted and supported." - Laleh



We held **14 group counselling session** for women experiencing domestic violence, trauma, illnesses and even bereavement in English and Farsi/Dari. As sessions progressed, they started to understand each other's pain and sorrow and supporting each other by talking and sharing.

"I feel so much lighter and I am not afraid anymore. These sessions showed me the importance of looking after my wellbeing" – participant, 56

IT Made Simple

In a world changed by a global pandemic, the importance of good IT skills for online communication is undeniable. Throughout lockdowns our facilitator Saivan Khonji has been showing elderly women, many of whom with limited command of English and reduced mobility, with getting to grips with digital technologies.

"I felt the classes have been very useful for all ladies. It has helped their digital skills, especially around social media – we all know the importance of keeping connected during lockdown." - Saivan, Facilitator



18 volunteer
befrienders
supported
24 women

Befriending

Lockdowns, shielding and stay-at-home appeals have marked the past year and so had the increased feelings of loneliness. Though our befriending service we paired 10 voluntary befrienders with 16 women. The befrienders were all trained to recognise signs of abuse and report incidents. Every week, they would call and lend a listening ear to women. They would talk about Covid-related anxieties, advise and encourage women to seek help in cases of domestic violence incidents. Though our LGBTQ+ programme, we recruited 8 befrienders who supported women with coming out, sharing experiences, improving self-esteem, finding support network and generally having someone like them to talk to.



Celebrating and supporting our communities

CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

The challenging times forced us to look beyond our usual ways of working. Next to testing and refining ways of supporting women remotely, we found new ways to connect with allies and strengthen our campaigning work. Our Tenth Year Anniversary, Conference on Migrant Women, Arts Festival and Nawruz celebration were streamed online by hundreds of people.

#BanVirginityTests

Virginity tests are commonly used in conservative communities because their customs say women must be virgins when marrying their husbands. Although there is no scientific way to prove a girl or woman's virginity, tests are carried out by private clinics across the UK. Investigation in 2020 identified at least 21 clinics offering such tests, as well as hymen repair surgery. Consequences of a woman not being a virgin and not married in Muslim communities are very serious. At best, she risks humiliation and embarrassment from her and husband-to-be family. At worst, this is a cause for the breakdown of a marriage or engagement, being sent back to her family in disgrace, being disowned and casted out, or even becoming a victim of honour killing. Our campaign aims to enforce a law to ban virginity tests and challenge the systematic beliefs that pressures women to go for these surgeries.

Since its launch in December 2020, our #BanVirginityTests petition has been signed by over 300 individuals. Our Director, Halaleh Teheri, was featured on many media outlets, including the BBC Newsbeat and The Sunday Times where she talked about the hidden issue of virginity testing. She was also invited by the Women's Health team at the Department of Health and Social Care to discuss the context, issues and impacts related to virginity testing and hymen repair.

Although we would like to eventually ban hymen repair too, banning it without adequate education will only force women and girls to resort to clandestine practices which will expose them to even greater risks in terms of hygiene and unsafe medical practices.

Know your rights:

Virginity Tests and Hymen Repair Workshop

In our quest to educate our communities, we held a workshop on virginity tests and hymen repair procedures. The event welcomed mothers and daughters to discuss sexual and reproductive health rights, and cultural practices popular among our communities. We talked openly about the taboos around preserving virginity and gave a medical overview on the mistaken belief that a torn hymen means a woman has had sex. We also talked about the emotional consequences and psychological trauma following virginity tests and hymen repair procedures.

Know your rights:

Raising awareness among our communities on domestic and sexual abuse

Throughout the year, our facilitators, MEWS's Executive Director Halaleh Teheri and solicitor Nezha El Kadir engaged women in candid conversations around worries of deportation, taking children away and stigma associated with separation/divorce. Our team advised women on legal aspects and available support, and shared cases of women we had supported. The sessions raised awareness around the role of solicitors, police and social services in protecting women and dependent children and provided advice on practical steps, such as obtaining Non-Molestation Orders, finding safe shelters and promptly applying for leave to remain.

CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

"A simple wedding night with a few drops on a sheet"

"I was an assistant teacher with plans to marry my boyfriend. But my father was against my wish and eventually I gave up. My parents asked me to choose between three men who contacted my family. I was panicking – how could I marry one of them - I was not a virgin! No one in my family knew I went so far with my ex.

At uni, girls used to talk about a clinic offering restorative surgeries. I asked two of them and they guided me how to contact the clinic. I told my parents I was going to stay over at my friend's house, and had my sister accompanying me. At the clinic, I gave a fake name firstly, but at the end they asked for an ID and a contact number.

I was dead scared. Even the clinic was not in my hometown, I kept on checking who was around me. I felt ashamed as well. I don't know if I was ashamed of what I was doing at that point, or for not being a virgin.

The procedure was quick, maybe an hour or so. When I stood up after, I felt pain. I was prescribed some tablets to manage the pain for the first few hours. We then went to the hotel and slept for 8-9 hours. The next day I felt I've recovered. At least, I could act as if I am fully recovered.

When I woke up the next day, all my worries were about if they found out about that or if it didn't work properly....

For a month I was very careful and looked after my hygiene properly as the clinic people recommended.

Close to the wedding, before the Nikah ceremony the family of my fiancé spoke to my mother who asked me to follow her to a doctor. I started panicking again – what if they found out what I had done! I think one of my relative arranged the visit.

I was so scared that they might find out about my surgery; I felt numb and frozen. During the examination, when the doctor touched me, I was worried about the pain, or sudden bleeding, or the bad news, or whether the doctor questioned me. I was truly terrified.

The female doctor then confirmed I was a virgin. I really don't know whether she knew that I had undergone a hymen repair surgery or not, but things went well.

My husband was happy and enjoyed himself at the night of wedding. I was scared, anxious and sweating.

What does marriage mean for women like me? I never found any pleasure and happy moment in it. But at least I completed the ticking boxes that our wedding roles were required. It felt like a duty. I've done my part.

I think it's not fair what happened with me. But I could understand how much it meant to my parents. At least, I did not let them down by ruining their pride. However, I think I am going to let my children grow in a way that they want to be. I would not choose to push my children for such customs.

My children are worth more than a simple wedding night with a few drops on a sheet."

Amina, 25, originally from Morocco, living in the UK since she was eight.
Supported by MEWSO's advisers to rebuild her life.

CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

Step Up for Migrant Women

Every woman should have the right to be protected and live in a safe environment. For migrant women this is not the case. At present, 60% of police forces routinely share victims' immigration details with the Home Office. All women who step foot on British soil, regardless of where she is from originally, belongs to, and should be the responsibility of the UK Government. MEWSo is part of the coalition Step Up for Migrant Women. We want all women with unsettled migration status suffering abuse and domestic violence to be able to report their abuser/s to the police without fear of being detained, deported, made destitute or losing custody of her children. We are striving for the Domestic Abuse Bill to be amended so it does not leave one of the most vulnerable groups of victims of domestic abuse unprotected.



Violence, Slavery OR Deportation

The Plight of Migrant Women

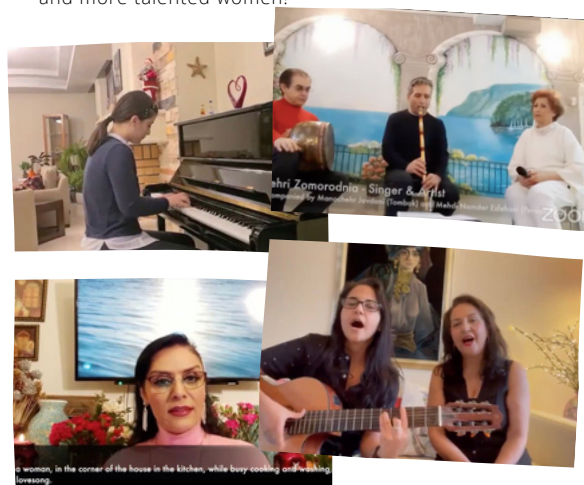
Our first major conference on migrant women was also our first large conference held and streamed online. It gave us all a chance to re-ignite our energy, re-affirm our commitment and double our efforts to protect migrant women. Our speakers, Zrinka Bralo (Migrants Organise), Pragna Patel (Southall Black Sisters), Elizabeth Jiménez-Yáñez (Latin American Women's Rights Service) and Nafsika Vasileiadou (Wimbledon Solicitors), engaged in lively and informative debates. We touched on many of the issues that women support organisations are experiencing at the moment when dealing with a Government and welfare system that makes it near impossible to protect women with insecure status from being exploited, abused, and exposed to domestic violence and slavery.



Arts Festival

For Migrant Women

Migrant women are women of many talents. They live with aspirations and inspirations. In February, we hosted a festival showcasing the art of migrant women originally from the Middle East but are now living in the UK. Recorded on Zoom and streamed live on YouTube, our team and supporters got together to celebrate the creativity and talent of 15 migrant women and share a few laughs along the way. You never know, the festival could become an annual event, showcasing new works and more talented women!



Nowruz, or the Iranian (Persian) New Year, comes every year with the spring equinox. MEWSo traditionally organises a festive event for our service users, friends and supporters. This year the celebrations were marked by restrictions and lockdowns, but they did not stop us to gather and celebrate once again, although online.

CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

Polygamy Matters

Polygamy is illegal in the UK, but some Muslim women might find themselves entering polygamous marriages through religious ceremonies called a 'Nikah'. This usually goes on in Muslim communities and is not registered nor recognised by the state. While MEWSO does not judge or discriminate against these women, they can bear harmful consequences as a result of not legally register the union - from allowing men to avoid any financial and marital duties to becoming financially dependent and with irregular immigration status. Our campaign aims to raise awareness on women's and children's rights and the consequences of entering polygamous arrangements, gain attention of the government so the existing legislations are enforced and integrate education about harmful customs and practices in the study curriculum.

During the year, our Advisors supported many women married only in accordance with their religion and therefore trapped in polygamous relationship. From unsettled immigration status to financial dependency and abuse, not being legally recognised wife brings about many challenges. Some clients were referred by women's organisations that we partner with, others came for welfare issues but consequently sought help with dissolving the religious marriage and becoming independent. Many organisations showed interest in supporting our campaign. Media outlets have been interested in giving publicity to the issue, including The Rising Womxn. You can read more about our exciting upcoming project on Polygamy in the next chapter of this report.



"I arrived from Afghanistan for an arranged marriage, following the will of my family. On the first week my husband took the money my family had given me and went out drinking with his friends. On the fifth week, I was hospitalised for the first time. When I came to know he had another wife, I eventually managed to find the courage to speak out and divorce him. He couldn't let it go. His harassment continued to a point where I had to relocated twice more. The experience left me vulnerable and isolated. I would sometimes stay at home with my son for days to protect ourselves of potentially seeing him. MEWSO helped me with free counselling sessions, I joined their Olive Club and met friendly women. When I got a letter from the Family Court that he wants to see our son, I panicked – how could I leave my child alone with this violent man. And how could I face him in the court room, knowing that every moment he could get verbally and physically abusive. Luckily, I had MEWSO's Advisor as an interpreter. She spoke on my behalf and even asked the judge if they could hold him for ten minutes while I safety leave the building. I feel safer and more confident. A month ago I was granted a Non-Molestation Order and my Advisor is positive that my son won't need to meet his father without supervision."

Afsana, 27, supported by MEWSO's Domestic Violence Advisors to gain independence and rebuild her life

CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

LGBTQ+ Matters

Everyone should be free to choose who they love. In Islam, alternative sexuality is seen as an illness. LGBTQ+ women cannot express themselves within Middle Eastern communities, leading to feelings of isolation, and subsequently negatively affecting their mental health. The reactions of family, friends and colleagues means coming out as a LGBTQ+ Muslim woman can be near impossible. While some women do partly come out, many are forced to present intimate partners as best friends, and others are teased about the way they dress or their "masculine" behaviour.

Human equality is at the heart of MEWSO. We stand in the frontline in the fight against discrimination and inequality. Our campaign intends to step up for the rights of Middle Eastern women who self-identify as a lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or otherwise. We want to gather support from other like-minded charities, community and national organisations, and connect with decision-makers, schools and community groups while also building on the expertise of others.

This year we remained committed to our pledge to support migrant women from the LGBTQ+ community. We provided specialist welfare advice to those going through difficult times, paired some of them with befrienders, connected others with local community support networks and created safe spaces for those looking for ways to self-express and heal.

Members of our team were actively involved in local special interest groups, such as Hackney LGBT Forum and the Islington Mind's LGBTQ+ service, where we continuously advocated for and discussed the need for specialised support for LGBTQ+ migrant women.



CAMPAIGNING & PARTNERSHIPS

The year brought us various opportunities to participate across a number of stakeholders' platforms, where we were able to provide a community-led perspective on a number of issues affecting migrant women.

We partnered with the BME Health Forum and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust on a Covid-19 information campaign about Westminster Council's Contact Tracing Scheme.

As a grassroots organisation, we played a key role in advising on the Mayor of London's Covid-19 response plans and disseminating NHS's key health messages to women from our communities, and shared learning and good practices across our networks, including the Church Street Network, One Westminster and BME Health Forum Network.

As part of the network led by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, we shared knowledge and experience in supporting women with complex socio-economic and cultural issues, and voiced out the communication gaps in the local domestic violence response in North London. We invested in our staff – members of the team participated in series of workshops on trauma-informed practice, so they are well equipped to support women going through traumatic events in their life.

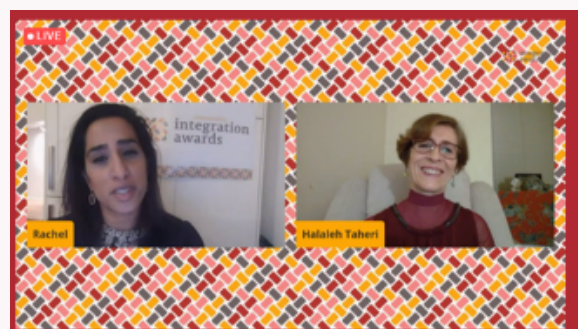
We meet monthly with community organisations and residents to discuss way forward to make the very heart of Westminster - Church Street ward – a safe and thriving place that embraces cultural diversity.

MEWSO's Director is a trustee member for the Steering Group of Community Plan for Holloway - a group working to ensure the Islington community is at the heart of the redevelopment of Holloway prison that closed down in 2016, where she advocates for facilities and opportunities for the women of Islington.

Throughout the year, we continued our partnership with the Finsbury Park Women's Network and other community groups.

Our London Together Project focused on improving the physical health of women in Islington. Despite providing them remotely, our Arabic Zumba classes in English, Arabic and Farsi (presenting energetic dance moves to Arabic music) proved to be very popular.

MEWSO also joined forces with The Five Foundation. The Foundation, founded by the leading survivor activist Nimco Ali OBE, is a global partnership to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which affects over 200 million women and girls around the world. As FGM is closely linked to polygamy and virginity test issues, Nimco has expressed a keen interest in our Polygamy Matters campaign.



MEWSO won the 2021 Community Integration Award for Equality, Access & Rights. Our team is grateful for the recognition, and the consecutive media training tailored for our campaign needs. Here is what the judging panel said: *"MEWSO has a strong, proven track record in supporting under- and mis- represented groups to access rights and equality. Their experience-led approach is key in both the provision of support and developing solutions to the complex issues they work on. This work stands out due to its unique position as a peer-led organisation working at the intersection of very challenging issues. Crucially, during the pandemic, they adapted their service to effectively push their work forward at a time when it was most needed. MEWSO are well placed to achieve their aims of increasing their campaigning work, building on their expertise and sustained achievements and the judging panel hope this award will support them to do so."*



From dreams to plans and actions

WHAT IS NEXT IN THE YEAR AHEAD

Whether we resume to normality, or adapt to a “new normal”, MEWSo's doors will continue to stay open for all women in need across London. Our strength lies in our understanding of issues affecting our communities. Our support is available in several languages, including Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi/Dari and Turkish. While we plan to reopen our doors for face-to-face activities, we will continue to offer remote support to women who prefer so, either due to confidentiality, time restrictions, childcare or travel limitations.

Moving to online service provision helped us to reach women from all corners of London, and we plan to sustain and expand our reach in the year ahead. We hope that our strong financial position and media presence will allow us to continue our growth so we can support even more women and build on our awareness and campaign work.

Our campaign **#BanVirginityTests** is growing stronger as we are launching a new coalition with several likeminded organisations working to end gender-based violence. Following our most recent conference where guests Nimco Ali OBE, Richard Holden MP, Nadine Dorries MP and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne discussed the history, issues, and solutions to banning virginity tests, we received a vast wave of support and solidarity. A new bill to ban virginity tests has been put forward for discussion in Parliament for July 2020, and as our momentum continues, we will be insisting for the matter to be included as a part of the sexual education in secondary schools. MEWSo is also going to be working with other women's organisations to spread awareness and evidence that these practices are taking place here and now.

We have just launched a new three years support package for women affected by polygamy practices. We will partner with Greenwich University on **designing, piloting, developing and evaluating bespoke support services for women in polygamous relationships**. We hope to raise the profile of the issue by providing awareness and educational workshops for health and social care professionals, young girls and parents from the communities.

We are working on shaping and developing an exciting **new forum for girls and young women from migrant background who live, study or work in Islington**. We want to create a platform where they feel safe to share concerns and ask for advice from professionals and peers around sexual and reproductive health and rights - something that is often not spoken about at home.

Through our new partnership project, **Survivors2Thrivors**, we will be reaching out and **supporting women in abusive relationships** from Barnet, Hackney, Haringey and Westminster. Together with our partners from the Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KWEMO) we will train frontline professionals in understanding and identifying barriers, risk factors and triggers of abuse and harmful practices in Middle Eastern communities, which will contribute to a better coordinated response to gendered violence.



THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS,
VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF MEMBERS
FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT AND
COMMITMENT TO PROTECT WOMEN
AND REBUILD LIVES.



Cripplegate Foundation
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NATIONAL
EMERGENCIES
TRUST



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THE PANDEMIC

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Sign our #BanVirginityTests petition: <https://www.change.org/p/uk-parliament-ban-virginity-tests>

Sign up to our newsletter to receive our latests news: office@mewso.org

Donate to MEWS or organise a funding campaign: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1019119&stop_mobi=yes



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MEWSorganization



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MEWSorganization



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