

# Nisa-Nashim

Jewish Muslim Women's Network

## **About Us**

### **Our Vision:**

A society in which misconceptions of those who are different from us are eradicated, specifically in relation to gender and religion.

### **Our Mission:**

Our mission is to bring our communities together and promote ways in which Jewish and Muslim women can understand that their similarities are greater than their differences, through a range of shared initiatives that support their leadership journeys and encourage them to form meaningful personal relationships, while benefiting the wider society in which they live. We place strong emphasis on the importance of role modelling – as women, as leaders and as partners, and seek to promote the positive work of Nisa-Nashim to the next generation to combat evolving misconceptions.

### **Our Aims:**

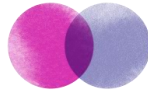
- To bring our communities together through women
- To foster leadership skills in women
- To address some of the misconceptions in wider society about Jewish and Muslim women

### **What We Do:**

We are supporting and nurturing the grassroots development of safe, inclusive groups of women across the country to meet, interact and share positive experiences together. Our Nisa-Nashim groups are based on location and/or special interest and also deliver social action projects within their communities to encourage positive relationships, further their leadership skills and reach a diverse and growing number of beneficiaries.

As well as these Nisa-Nashim groups, we hold larger events for a wider cross-section of people to network and learn from each other.

We are working actively to engage young people in our work in schools and university campuses across the UK.



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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What's the background to the initiative?**

Nisa-Nashim evolved from a 2014 International Women's Day event, the feedback from which was very positive with women particularly interested in *doing* not just talking, in issues of shared concern and in seeing how women specifically can make a difference in a variety of ways.

Nisa-Nashim was awarded funding by the Department of Communities and Local Government and was launched in June 2015 with two well-attended and inspiring events at the Jewish Museum and Islamia Girls' School, both in London. It is also supported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and has received a grant from David Dangoor.

### **Why a focus on just the Muslim and Jewish faiths?**

Nisa-Nashim recognises the importance, in the current climate, of bringing Jews and Muslims together. It is not intended to exclude men or women from other faith groups but, rather, is focused on these two,

### **What about the Middle East situation?**

Nisa-Nashim's aim is to develop meaningful and impactful relationships between Jewish and Muslim British women, to nurture them as leaders, and to benefit wider society. While the political situation in the Middle East is of deep concern to both communities, a greater sense of trust and understanding between us is so important before any progress can be made regarding meaningful dialogue on this difficult subject. Experience has shown that this is usually best avoided at an early stage while relationships and friendships are crucially being developed and then carefully nurtured

### **How will Nisa-Nashim work with existing interfaith initiatives?**

The UK has countless wonderful local and national networks and groups. Nisa-Nashim celebrates the work they do and seeks to complement their output with our primary focus on women and the Jewish and Muslim faiths. There is so much work to be done in these areas and we feel privileged to contribute to the mix, which can only benefit from a variety of different providers.

### **How can I get involved?**

Nisa-Nashim is about action – and so if you think you could set up a local group in your area, or a special interest group, we'd love to hear from you. Equally if you would just like to come along to some events, that's fine too.

You can email Leah Warren, Nisa-Nashim project manager, on [leah.warren@bod.org.uk](mailto:leah.warren@bod.org.uk) for more information.

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