# Annalkebor

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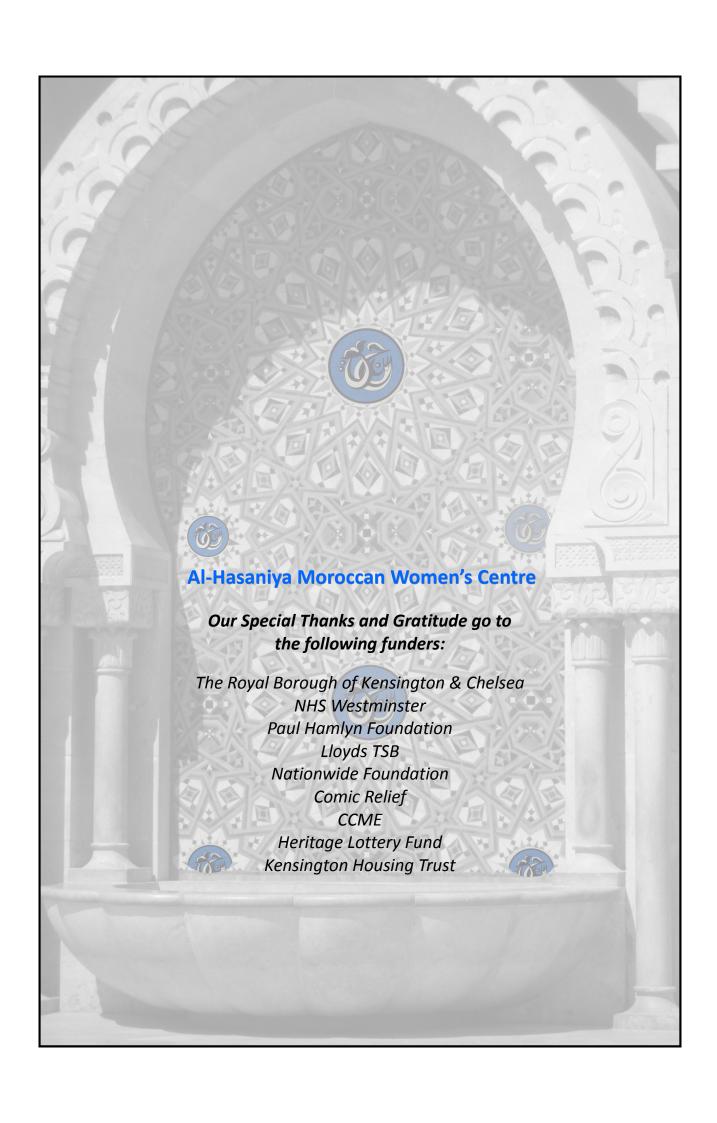
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### Trustees for 2009/10

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### **Staff & Volunteers**

Zakia Chentouf Souad Talsi Esma Dukali Mouna El-Ogbani Samantha Herron Habiba Shoukry Lamiya Dukali



# Chair's Foreword



Our Chair with a group of young girls on a Cultural Trip to Morocco (Aril 2009)

This year's annual report is indeed a special one. Not only are we celebrating 25 years of excellent community work but also the birth of a new era within our Arabic-speaking community. World's events as stated in the report by my colleague Souad Talsi have had a direct impact on our lives as British Arabs and Muslims.

As Chair of a local Conservative ward and a hopeful future Councillor, I feel particularly hopeful and positive that our young people are coming forward in a positive, engaging and empowering way. Such work and bridge-building takes time, effort and a huge amount of engagement, empowerment and continued dialogue, to show our youngsters that centres such as AI-Hasaniya are here for them. It is vital that our young people are involved politically in the apparatus that is local and national politics. There is a need to ensure that young people are engaged in purposeful community agenda rather than any perceived negative activity.

We are delighted to see that one of our founder members has recently been appointed by Minister John Denham as a member of the National Muslim Women's Advisory group (NMWAG), a body that advises the government on key issues relating to British Muslim women. Equally we are represented at the Council for Moroccans Abroad, a body that advises the Moroccan Government on key issues pertaining to the Moroccan migrant communities across the world. This involvement and others demonstrate beyond doubt the centre's ability for excellence, not only on a one-to-one basis in the advocacy and support given on a daily basis, but also on a much larger scale contributing to the shaping of overall policies affecting us all.

It is truly a remarkable achievement when I consider that the centre employs a very small number of staff. However these women are truly dedicated and fully committed to the families we seek to help, support and engage and in so doing they go beyond the parameters of selfless commitment.

I sincerely hope that our work will continue to move on to bigger and more exciting levels; above all that our women will continue to use the centre, grow in confidence and become true citizens, fully integrated, committed and engaged in the local community they live in.

A very warm thank you to all our funders, friends and users for their continued support in the work we do at Al-Hasaniya.

Here's to another 25 years.

Thank you.



### H.E. British Ambassador to Morocco Mr. Tim Morris

Earlier this year we were honoured to welcome His Excellency Mr Tim Morris, the first British Ambassador ever to visit our centre. His visit was marked with a series of discussions over matters pertaining to the British Moroccan Community. This is what he had to say about Al-Hasaniya 's work:

"I am delighted to congratulate the Al-Hasaniya Women's Centre on another successful year. I was honoured to visit the centre early in 2009 and to hear of the important community work being done.

As British Ambassador to Morocco, I am concerned to build a close and productive relationship between our two countries. I believe we are at a moment where we are beginning to find some key areas of cooperation in political cooperation, in business and in shared work in bringing our communities together. The Moroccan community in the United Kingdom is of great significance in this. It means we already have a network of people who are committed to furthering mutual understanding. I want to work closely with the Al-Hasaniya Women's Centre and other community groups to bring us together.

I hope very much to see friends from the Centre over the coming year. I know already of some of your exciting projects and we in Rabat look forward to seeing you! "

In turn we at Al-Hasaniya wish to thank His Excellency immensely for kindly accepting our invitation and visiting our community. It was a wonderful

opportunity to exchange views and ideas on how we can work together for a better, tolerant and multicultural Britain.



ouad Talsi

"The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough to those who have little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Long before the academic excellence we see today, where female migration is researched and discussed as a serious and contentious gender issue, Al-Hasaniya was here debating, supporting and raising the plight of this group of women. They came to the UK in the early 1960s in equal measure to men, seeking their fortunes in order to provide a better life for their loved ones. These women were often illiterate and totally ill equipped for a society such as Britain. Yet they made it through, working and bringing up successful future generations.

Al-Hasaniya will continue as it has in the last 25 years to serve their needs and the needs of other Arabic speaking women and their families. We are very proud to be here still despite all the financial struggles we have faced, to tell the story, a story of success, good practice and sheer determination that has enabled us to achieve so much.

By virtue of our expertise, knowledge and experience, continual assistance and guidance is sought from us to assist in shaping the statutory provisions for Arabic-speaking and Muslim communities in general and women within these communities in particular. This has often left us sitting somewhat uncomfortably in the world of funding provision. However we hope that this report will not only serve to be a 25 year celebration of good value for money for all the projects we have delivered, but that it can also be a call for a better recognition of the role we play by securing appropriate funding, which will allow us to grow and develop so that we can continue to be a beacon of hope for so many women and their families.

The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) was formed in January 2008 and is made up of 26 Muslim women from all over the country representing a wide spectrum of communities, professions and traditions. We are determined that more Muslim women from the Arabic-speaking world within the UK should play their part and make their mark in the wider civic society.

Our official response to the Government's call to all civil society to air their views on PREVENT was welcomed and encouraged. We gave our view through our representation on NMWAG. Our assessment was long and comprehensive, but for the purpose of this report we wish to report that our comments were taken on board and as we all know the PREVENT programme as delivered by Central Government is better and more inclusive.

The role the civil society continues to play in assisting and supporting the underprivileged, the disadvantaged and the marginalised is unparallel and second to none. We hope that by continuing our dialogue with statutory provision providers, we will reach those who are hard to reach and help in making our community at large a peaceful, cohesive and discrimination-free society, where we can all contribute and develop along each other.



Mr. Shahid Malik, MP and Minister for Local Government and Communities, with some of the NMWAG members - including our own Souad Talsi - at the launch of the Role Model programme.

# Centre Manager

Another year of hard work and memorable moments has passed and we are very happy to report to you, our friends, partners, users and supporters, on what we have been up to. As we do every year, we have let you know how our projects have operated, whom we've worked with and whom we plan to work with in the coming year.

Centre projects and activities have grown from strength to strength and we have been very busy developing the organisation. This year we celebrated 25 years of service to the community and held an open day at Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall. The day was a great success and attended by users, funders and partners, who all had a chance to catch up on our work over the last few years and to hear a little bit about our future plans.

As always we must have a small but pertinent moan about the lack of resources available to the voluntary sector as a whole and to BME groups in particular. We often feel that we are on standby, switched on to serve a purpose when a certain Government agenda works its way down and then off again to await the next wave of new policies and ideas. The changing funding climate makes it very hard to carry on with the groundwork that very few agencies still do. Direct work with vulnerable groups of people, who without organisations such as ours would be totally isolated and have no means of support. Providing a face-to-face service for users is becoming increasingly more difficult, however we persevere and hope that the services we are able to provide help to make a positive difference to the community we serve.

We often find that we go over and above our remit of funded work in order to be able to fully support our users, which in turn puts a strain on our resources. We will, over the next year, be looking at ways of increasing our capacity and utilising more of the services around us.

The next couple of years are going to be very exciting for Al-Hasaniya. Those of you who attended our open day will have heard about our new oral history project called 'Dardasha' (loosely translated as 'chit-chat') documenting the moving stories of female Moroccan migration to the UK. The project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Kensington Housing Trust, will focus on the Portobello area and involve volunteers from the younger generations. We hope to have an exhibition of the collected stories and will be working with many partners on this project. For further information on this project please contact the centre.

We are also working on an innovative proposal to have the first Moroccan Cultural Centre in the UK based in Kensington and Chelsea. The proposal is still in its infancy, however the plan is to have a centre similar to the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith, The Africa Centre in Covent Garden and the famous Institute Du Monde Arabe in Paris, projecting a positive face of all that is Moroccan, whilst providing an area for the exploration and promotion of the arts, culture, and language. The steering committee of this project are happy to answer any queries and can be contacted via the centre.

As well as looking forward we equally cherish looking back over our achievements and feel very proud that a small organisation that started in a small room 25 years ago has

managed to be involved in so many valuable projects and has grown to be a voice for Arab women and a valued member of the voluntary sector. Thank you to all those who have made it possible.



### CHILDREN & FAMILIES MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Working with women who suffer from enduring emotional health problems, this project offers daily advocacy and referral advice. Women can receive support with their practical problems and access mainstream health care services for their emotional/mental health problems. Funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Adult Social Care and NHS Westminster, the project offers one-to-one sessions for women to access mainstream services in relation to all social welfare matters.

The partnership with the Arabic Families Service at Parkside Clinic has developed over the last few years and we have run successful parenting and therapy courses at the centre. As well as being a mainstream mental health service Provider, Parkside Clinic has through the AFS been able to work more closely with local community groups such as ours. The AFS is an addition to K&C CAMHS (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service) who work specifically with Muslim and non-Muslim children and families for whom Arabic is the main language and with Muslim children and families for whom English is the main language. The courses are designed to help women recover from isolation and support them in their role as mothers. Working with a bilingual social worker and psychotherapist they aim to raise awareness about safeguarding children's emotional and psychological well-being.



As an organisation working with the Arabic community for 25 years we felt this service was long overdue and a fantastic resource for the borough. Despite many different projects over the years targeting the issue of mental health and Arab women, they have remained somewhat isolated from mainstream mental health care and for various reasons, namely the stigma attached to seeking the support and language and cultural barriers, they have been unable to access appropriate services. With the AFS they can do so either directly and access a culturally and linguistically sensitive service or they can be referred by Al-Hasaniya, which often takes away the fear of accessing these services alone. Referrals for counselling are increasing and attendance at the parenting courses has been high. We hope to continue to develop this partnership over the coming years as it has proved an essential service for our users.

### **Case Study**

Mrs H consulted the Centre after her husband abandoned her and her four children. She was very withdrawn and confused when she came to see us, as her husband had been responsible for all household duties. Language barriers made it very hard for her to communicate with the relevant services. She was faced with the task of informing all the relevant authorities that her husband had left and that she was now a single mother. We did the following for Mrs H:

- Assisted client in making applications for all relevant benefits, as she and her family were left with no income. She had
  never worked before and was solely reliant on her husband in all matters relating to finances. Husband left substantial rent
  arrears behind, which we needed to freeze as well as resolve.
- Informed all the relevant authorities of the change in circumstances as everything was in husband's name. This involved
  contacting all utility bill companies, as well as making new applications for Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits.
- The family's home was local authority and again under the name of the husband. Mrs H needed to transfer the tenancy over to her and her children, however could only do this via solicitors and court. We referred her to a firm of solicitors we work closely with, and although the process was lengthy, we managed to get the transfer completed. Appointments were attended with the client where necessary, as well as corresponding with the landlord as Mrs. H had limited English and was scared.
- Mrs H had concerns about raising her four children alone and required some emotional support in doing this. She was
  referred to the Parenting Skills Course, where she was able to gain support not only from the trainer but also through other
  participants of the group who were in similar situations.
- Mrs. H was also referred for one-to-one counselling, as the sudden change in her life left her feeling extremely vulnerable, anxious and scared.

On first contact Ms H was very afraid and completely lacked self-confidence given the circumstances, however over time she has come to trust the staff and the service. Through the support she received she has gradually been able to rebuild her life and is now doing well, as are her children. We have noticed a significant improvement in her emotional well being and she continues to attend Al-Hasaniya on a regular basis, for various everyday practical issues or to take part in activities and workshops.

### OLDER PEOPLE'S OUTREACH PROJECT

Al Hasaniya's Older People's Outreach Project is funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Adult Social Care and is a service for elderly Arabic-speaking people aged 60 years and over. Elderly men and women are faced with many challenges as they try to live their daily lives and take care of their own needs. Those who come from different religious and cultural backgrounds often encounter further obstacles. Language barriers can lead to feelings of isolation and make it much more difficult to access health services and welfare care. For women who are unable to come to the centre we have a bilingual outreach worker who can make home visits.

The project provides vital links to other service providers, such as income maximisation services, social services and occupational therapy and many other services, which help us to provide a fully comprehensive service for our users. Another important aspect of the project is the luncheon club every Friday, where women can get together and

socialise, thus helping to reduce isolation and so benefit overall physical and mental health. In addition we also run a programme of workshops and outings for elderly women throughout the year.



### **Case Study**

Ms K is a single mother who lives with her two sons. She is long-term disabled, following a bout of polio as a child. Her physical and mental health significantly deteriorated during the last year, due to a sequence of unfortunate circumstances. She turned to Al Hasaniya for help with each of these and was visited many times by our outreach worker when she was unable to come into the centre.

Ms K's father became ill with terminal cancer and had to move in with his daughter so she could take care of him. At the same time as Ms K was nursing her sick father, she also experienced severe delays in outstanding repairs to a blocked sink and leaking pipes in her home which dated back to February 2008. Despite numerous letters and phone calls to TMO by us on behalf of Ms K, the repairs were consistently not attended to. With a dying father to take care of and poor mobility herself, Ms K found herself mopping up water and washing clothes and utensils in the bath.

Ms K's physical health rapidly deteriorated, she also became very depressed and began to feel easily distressed by daily concerns. With no family or close friend to support her we helped Ms K with the following:

- We finally managed to arrange for the repairs to be completed. We have now made a formal complaint to the TMO on behalf of Ms K, which is currently being investigated.
- We asked Ms K whether she would like to undergo some counselling, but she declined. We then discussed with her the services of 'FamilyFriend', which provides volunteers to give weekly emotional and practical support to vulnerable individuals. Ms K felt this would be beneficial for herself, we referred her for a consultation. A
- volunteer met with Ms K and our outreach worker and together they decided that Ms K would benefit greatly from the service. Ms K now receives regular weekly visits from a volunteer. The volunteer tailors her
- visits according to Ms K's needs each week, sometimes accompanying her to appointments or driving her to the shops, sometimes helping her with her mail and bills and such like.
- Ms. K's physical health has begun to improve and so she now attends the programme of health workshops and activities at our centre, where she also meets with other women and feels less isolated.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

A vital service for Moroccan and Arabic-speaking women suffering from domestic violence, this project is unfortunately very much needed. We have a 2-year contract with RBKC Family and Children Services to provide One-to-one support to victims of DV and their families. The project offers culturally, religiously and linguistically sensitive support for anybody suffering from any form of abuse, be it verbal, financial, or physical. We receive at least 2 calls per week from victims of DV from all over London; we also receive calls for telephone support UK wide.

As a K&C funded project we are unable to support all the women who contact us and therefore need to have a good network of partners to refer to, the problem we find is that very few DV agencies if any have Arabic-speaking staff outside of the borough and neighbouring boroughs such as Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham.

Many of the cases we come across are very complex and involve many different areas of law, such as immigration and housing. We have to work closely with solicitors and advice agencies in order to be able to help these women make informed choices and secure a decent life for their families. In addition to this we must tread very carefully in terms of the cultural implications of DV. We have had cases where a huge amount of work takes place to secure accommodation for a victim of DV; applications have been made to court for injunctions and due to family pressure the victim will return to her husband. Whilst extremely frustrating and worrying, we can only remain in contact and ensure that the victim knows they have an avenue of support should the need arise again. This problem is not exclusive to the Arab community, but is an issue for all victims of abusive relationships.

In addition to one to one support the project also offers referrals for counselling and holds workshops on areas such as housing law, immigration and welfare benefits.

### Case Study

Ms E was referred to us by her GP who wanted to refer her to counselling. Ms E had been in the UK for approx 8 months and had a 2-year spouse visa making her totally dependent on her husband. She had been repeatedly raped by her husband and due to cultural and religious barriers believed that to report him she would be going against her religion and culture. Family pressures also stopped her from doing so. She needed to discuss her issues with a religiously sensitive counsellor who would understand her anxieties.

Ms E equally had practical issues that she needed support with, she wanted to leave her husband, however because of her immigration status, unless she was able to report her husband to the police and gather strong enough evidence for her to leave the matrimonial home, she would not be able to apply for stay in the UK under the domestic violence rules. She would also not qualify for any public funds or social housing, and because of language barriers as well as the emotional turmoil she was going through, she was not in a position to work and support herself. She was therefore in a very vulnerable position. Ms E felt she could not return to her homeland, as she would have shamed her family and stated they would not want her back as a divorced woman. The pressure from her family was a main factor as to why she could not report the matter to the police. We helped Ms E with the following:

- Referred her to the Arabic Families Service for counselling and support
- Referred her to Victim support because of the crime she had been subjected to. Ms E allowed us to do this, but refused to report the matter to the police at this stage.
- Referred her to a housing solicitor to discuss her rights in relation to the matrimonial home. We were unable to
  find refuge space for Ms E because of her status; she felt she could remain in the property with her husband, as
  long as she could call us if anything happened. We explained that she should call 999 in the event she felt unsafe
  or threatened at any time.
- Referred her to a family and immigration solicitor for advice in relation to possibly making an application for an injunction, divorce or legal separation.
- Attended the Job Centre with her to register for training. Helped her to apply for a National Insurance number.
- Arranged a meeting with the local Imam so that she could get information in relation to her situation from a religious perspective.

Ms E continues to receive one to one support from both the domestic violence and mental health projects as well as attend workshops and centre activities.

### YOUTH PROJECT

Our Youth Project combines emotional, practical and social support. Part funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, it helps both those coming from migrant communities and those from refugee communities. The project draws its strength from its regular contacts with its community, including the parents, so we can have an overview of whether we are on the right track or not and the holistic approach we have towards working with our youngsters, by listening and acting rather than imposing our ideas. It works and allows them to grow confident and more independent and take ownership of the project, being fully involved in the decision making process.

We are pleased to report that despite the fact that we did not manage to raise all the necessary funds to carry the project on with a full time paid worker, we did recruit two volunteers from within the community to help our part time worker and managed to run a series of workshops dealing with a variety of issues, such as dual citizenship, Islam in the UK and gender approach and equality. The workshops were very well attended and we hope to be able to carry out more in the next year.

We believe that this project has supported a group of vulnerable young people and enabled them to increase their confidence, self-belief and good attitudes by giving them a sense of belonging. Despite limited resources, we have been able to continue with the good standard of work set up at the beginning of the project. The practical element of the project is still very much alive and allows young people to gain access to immediate advice and information, in relation to housing issues, immigration matters, debts and much more. This is particularly useful for the refugee and asylum seekers we support, as arriving to a new country is not without its hurdles, especially in the current political climate.

In April this year we were lucky enough to plan a cultural visit to Morocco for a group of 15 girls aged 13 –19. The idea behind the trip was to demonstrate how inclusive many Muslim countries are and that some of the girls' views may be misconceived, based on what they had been told by family, media etc. The girls had the opportunity to visit places like the Moroccan Parliament, British Embassy, Advisory Council for Human Rights, and the grand Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. The trip was a huge success and we saw a marked change in the girls' attitude and confidence on their return. This trip could not have happened without the help and support Moroccan Airlines and the

Foundation Hassan II and their generous grants in kind for flights and accommodation.



Participating staff and members of the youth group, visiting here the Moroccan house of Parliament.



Our team at the Council for Human Rights, asking

questions and debating.



### GOOD PRACTICES FOR ACCESS & WELL BEING PROJECT

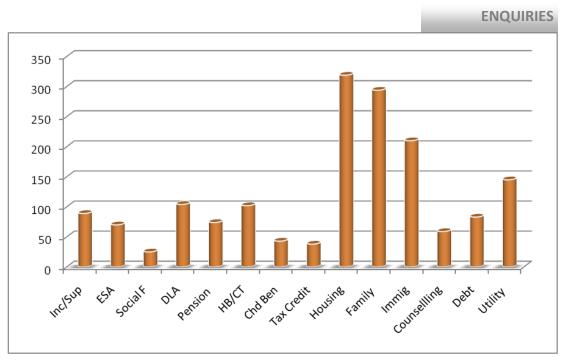
The Good Practices for Access & Well being programme (GPAW) is an eighteen month programme developed to pilot approaches to improving access to primary care services for BME communities. GPAW is working with Al Hasaniya and five other BME community-based projects based in Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster:

- Chinese National Healthy Living Centre: promoting healthy living and access to health services for the Chinese community;
- Kongolese Centre for Information and Advice: providing a range of services to help African French and Lingala speakers;
- Midaye Somali Development Network: serving the needs of the Somali community and ethnic minorities;
- Queens Park Bangladeshi Association: dedicated to the upliftment of Bangladeshi people in the Queens Park ward and the wider Bangladeshi communities in Westminster;
- WSPM Agape: for disadvantaged groups, including West African communities, residing in
- Westminster and Greater London.

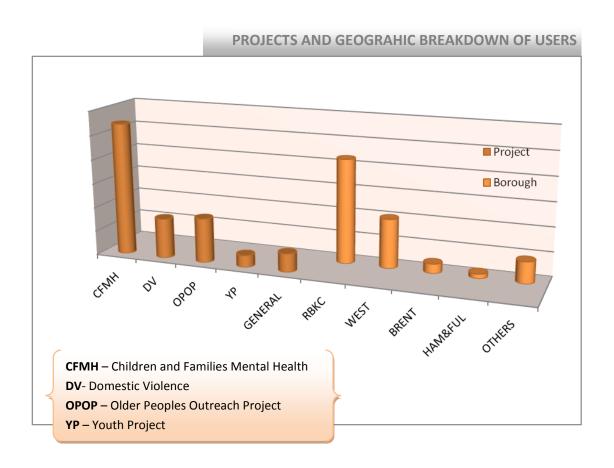
This programme required Al Hasaniya, along with the other community projects, to research and

document data collected from our user work and the opinions of the users themselves, in order to improve access for our members and communities and develop recommendations for a programme to work directly with providers of primary care services to develop a workable, practical set of measures and processes for improving access for people from BME communities in the boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

# Project Statistics



2009 saw a substantial increase in housing, family and immigration queries. A growing number of users are experiencing problems with disrepair, overcrowding and housing allocations. Family issues have also increased with a number of women experiencing difficulties within their environment, this has in-turn led to increase in counselling referrals as mothers in particular are struggling to manage.



# Home from Home



As the latest addition to the Al Hasaniya team, I would like to say what a pleasure and a privilege it is to work for this outstanding organisation and with the wonderful women who make it all happen.

I first visited Morocco ten years ago and was instantly captivated by the culture and people of this beautiful country. When I returned to London I enrolled in a course to learn classical Arabic and took every opportunity that came my way to visit Morocco and explore another facet of it. As soon as I was able I left London and spent several months living with a family on the edge of the Sahara desert. I felt driven to learn Darija so that I could immerse myself in the ancient customs and rich culture of this unique people.

Back in London I found myself homesick for Morocco! I also wanted to get to know the Moroccan community in London and see if I could help it in any way. It was thus that I found my way to Al Hasaniya and started working here, first as a volunteer and more recently as a paid worker.

I always feel welcomed by the community of women who use the AI Hasaniya services. I enjoy the contact I have with these women and getting to know them. I currently spend my days here working on the Access to Health Services Project and making outreach visits to elderly women who are unable to come into the centre. It gives me great satisfaction to feel that I can maybe help someone in need in a small way.

This year together with our chairperson I also had the opportunity to take a group of young British-born Moroccan girls to Morocco, to see aspects of the country which they had never seen before. I was as fascinated as the girls were to visit the Moroccan Parliament, the British Embassy and the Hassan II Foundation in Rabat, to enter the stunning Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca and to wander round the ancient city of Fez.

I was also invited to the CCME conference in Marrakesh for Moroccan women from around the globe and felt enormous pride when we showed our film 'Unsung Heroines' to the men and women gathered. There was not a dry eye in the room.

I am now making preparations for the launch of our 'Dardasha' oral history project at the beginning of next year. It will be an honour and a privilege to have these remarkable women share their personal stories of struggle and triumph in adversity. I am looking forward to uncovering the personal and human history of Moroccan female migration to this country.

During the short time that I have been working at Al Hasaniya I have seen this organisation flourish and diversify and all involved feel that Al Hasaniya is now on the cusp of even greater things. Providing we are given the necessary financial support, there are tangible opportunities which are now within our reach.

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 2009**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)	YEAR ENDED	R ENDED 31 MARCH 2009		<b>2009</b> £	
(,				TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted		
INCOMING RESOURCES		Funds	Funds		
Grants	4		140658	140658	
Donations		288		288	
Bank interest		1058		1058	
Other Income		375		375	
Total incoming resources		1720	140658	142379	
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure					
Running Costs and Centre Manager			52656	52656	
Youth Project			14217	14217	
Children & Family Mental Health Project			28048	28048	
Domestic Violence Project			23048	23048	
Older Peoples' Outreach Project			18064	18064	
Older Peoples' Luncheon Club			0	0	
CCME			3167	3167	
Moroccan Gardens			0	0	
Better Health for All			1506	1506	
Healthy Eating					
Resilient Communities			1005	1005	
Transport			848	848	
Centre Improvement			0	0	
ESOL			0	0	
Governance costs - accountancy			2250	2250	
Total resources expended		0	144807	144807	
Net incoming resources before transfers		1720	(4149)	(2429)	
Transfers between funds	3	1597	(1597)	0	
Net incoming resources after transfers		3317	(5746)	(2429)	
TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF YEAR		33998	34638	68636	
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		37316	28892	66208	

Movements in reserves and all recognised and losses are shown above.

The charity's incoming resources and resources expended all relate to continuing activities.

### A SMALL EXAMPLE OF OUR WORK SO FAR

To recap on just **some** of our achievements over the years, in addition to dealing with an average of 4,000 enquiries per year we are proud to report that we have been involved in the following projects:

- Launch of the GRIP interpreting service for all ethnic minorities within the UK seeking access to health services.
- Participated in the launch of the national campaign to change immigration laws to protect newly arrived spouses suffering from domestic violence
- Launch of a handbook and video for all health workers dealing with Arabicspeaking women suffering from mental health problems, to encourage early diagnosis of and intervention in what still today remains a huge taboo amongst our communities.
- Continual participation in worldwide debates on migration and campaigning for better protection of migrant workers and their families. We attended the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) in Manila last year and in Athens this November.
- Running a very long and successful campaign against the old family code in Morocco, where women were treated as second-class citizens, placing them in often precarious and vulnerable states when Moroccan law came into direct conflict with that of Britain.
- Membership of the National Muslim Women Advisory Group to Gordon Brown (NMWAG)
- Membership of the Mayor's Migrant and Refugees Advisory Panel (MRAP)
- Membership of the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME)
- Membership of the Kensington & Chelsea Borough Community Relations Advisory Group (BCRAG)
- Built a Moroccan Garden in North Kensington for use and enjoyment by the whole community
- Listed in the UK Gold Book 'a guide to refuge and domestic abuse services'

Website: www.al-hasaniya.org.uk Email: contact@al-hasaniya.org.uk