

# **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

Registered Charity

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNT**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

St. Marys Neighbourhood Centre  
124 Upper Street  
Islington  
London  
N1 2TX

**Trustees:**

Ms R Fatherazi – Chairperson – Appointed 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Ms T Foulds -Treasurer  
Mrs C Mayfield  
Ms M Sookias  
Ms M Ndeti  
Ms E Vacchelli  
Ms B Fatherazi – Not a trustee from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Ms G Marco – Not a trustee from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
61 Fountains Crescent  
London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

**CONTENTS**

**Pages**

- 4-7. Trustees Report**
- 8. Independent Examiners Report**
- 9. Statement of Financial Activities**
- 10. Balance Sheet**
- 11-14. Notes to the Accounts**

## **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

### **Report of the Trustees**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### **Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11th December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meet regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

### **Background**

MEWSo was established in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds. Since our inception, we have provided culturally tailored services such as befriending, counselling, social activities, and specialist advice to support women escaping gender-based violence and discrimination.

We work with women from communities where patriarchal values, cultural pressures, and systemic inequalities have left many vulnerable to abuse, social exclusion, poverty, and ill health. MEWSo remains one of the only organisations in London advocating specifically for women impacted by polygamy, forced virginity testing, and hymenoplasty. We also support LGBTQ+ individuals, those with insecure immigration status, and women with no recourse to public funds.

Our mission is to challenge every form of discrimination and exclusion and promote a society where every woman, regardless of her background, lives in safety and equality. We are committed to values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

**Charitable Objects:** The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern 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 society, by:

- Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
- Education and training in vocational and other skills;
- Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community;
- Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and harmful traditional practices.

**Activities and Achievements:** 2024-2025 The past year has been marked by increased hardship for many women in our communities due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, housing instability, and

cuts to vital services. MEWSO responded by strengthening partnerships, expanding support services, and continuing to raise awareness around harmful practices and inequalities. Between April 2024 and March 2025, MEWSO supported:

- 126 VAWG survivor
- 90 sessions of 1:1 counselling were delivered
- 66 women participated in group therapy
- 40 therapeutic sessions delivered in Farsi and Arabic
- 316 women participated in our projects, workshops, services, and social clubs.

Our major project this year was the culmination and launch of our five-year Polygamy Matters Project. The final report, co-produced with Greenwich University and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, highlighted the emotional, financial, and legal impact of polygamy on over 20,000 women in the UK. The online conference on 20 March 2025 included presentations by experts and powerful testimonies by affected women.

We also participated in the Future of Immigration Conference, and the Harmful Practices Conference, where we addressed issues including virginity testing and polygamy. These engagements helped raise awareness among professionals and policymakers. Professional Training and Frontline Engagement: We delivered over 10 professional training sessions attended by 77 professionals for different organisations including:

- Hackney Migrant Centre
- National Survivor User Network (NSUN)
- Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid
- Islington Council Frontline Training
- Brook Organisation
- The Harmful Practices Operational Group

Volunteering and Community Engagement:

- We were supported by 8 volunteers
- Choir sessions launched in Westminster with strong community participation
- New social clubs in Queen's Park and Islington, supported by Westminster and Islington Councils
- Warm-Up Hubs provided meals and respite during winter
- We proudly celebrated International Women's Day and Nowruz with music, dance, cultural activities, and food packages for service users observing Ramadan.
- Other initiatives included:
- Online safety sessions
- Health Cook & Eat sessions
- Self-defence and personal safety workshops in coordination with Metropolitan Police
- Olive Club and Women's Circle gatherings
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers living in hotels

We are proud to report that in 2025, MEWSO was officially accredited by the Advice Quality Standard (AQS).

Risk Management MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

Our key risk remains financial sustainability. We continue to monitor liquid reserves and funding pipeline to ensure continuity. Additional risk areas include staff capacity, data security, safeguarding, and health and safety. We regularly review our policies and ensure appropriate training.

Our hybrid delivery model allows for both digital and in-person support. We will continue to adapt our operations and advocate for the most marginalised in our communities. We remain deeply grateful to all our funders, partners, trustees, staff, volunteers, and service-users for their continued belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to ensure every woman has the opportunity to live safely, freely, and with dignity.

## **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene.

These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas. The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

## **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £ 156,257 (£189,815 in 2023/2024) from various funders.

## **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen

difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

#### **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

#### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,



*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
26/06/2025

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 26/06/2025

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2024</u>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u></b>		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		4,205	-	4,205	5,176
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(16)	-	152,052	152,052	184,639
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>4,205</b>	<b>152,052</b>	<b>156,257</b>	<b>189,815</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(14)	-	254,054	254,054	270,911
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>270,911</b>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<b>4,205</b>	<b>(102,002)</b>	<b>(97,797)</b>	<b>(81,096)</b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<b>95,743</b>	<b>124,994</b>	<b>220,737</b>	<b>301,833</b>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>99,948</b>	<b>22,992</b>	<b>122,940</b>	<b>220,737</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2025

	Note	£ <u>2024-2025</u>	£ <u>2023-2024</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	(12)	44,999	70
Cash at Bank and In Hand		98,044	223,912
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	20,103	3,245
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>122,940</b></u>	<u><b>220,737</b></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		99,948	95,743
Restricted Fund	(15)	<u>22,992</u>	<u>124,994</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><b>122,940</b></u>	<u><b>220,737</b></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26/06/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Ms R Fatherazi  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSO is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## **6. Tangible fixed assets**

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

No Fixed asset to be depreciated in this year.

## **7. Staff Costs**

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £101,592 (£140,119 in 2023/24) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total numbers of employees were 4 in this year (6 in 2023-2024)

4 self-employed staff were used in this financial year

Trustees are not remunerated.

## **8. Status**

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## **9. Fund Accounting**

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## **10. Support Cost**

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 17.

## **11. Taxation**

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## **12. Debtors**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	44,999	70
	<u>44,999</u>	<u>70</u>

## **13. Accrual and Creditors**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other Creditors	20,103	3,245
	<u>20,103</u>	<u>3,245</u>

#### 14. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>
			2025	2024
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>				
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	-	176,041	<b>176,041</b>	206,782
Recruitment	-	270	<b>270</b>	-
Training, Workshops and other activities	-	8,431	<b>8,431</b>	14,719
Partnerships and Collaboration	-	31,626	<b>31,626</b>	16,099
Participants Expenses	-	2,193	<b>2,193</b>	2,318
Volunteer Expenses	-	4,221	<b>4,221</b>	4,601
Rent and Room Hire	-	8,262	<b>8,262</b>	6,581
Equipment & Hiring	-	-	-	630
Publicity & Advertisement	-	1,800	<b>1,800</b>	378
Memberships and Subscription	-	4,440	<b>4,440</b>	1,887
Refreshments and Catering	-	1,614	<b>1,614</b>	1,834
Transport and Travel	-	1,767	<b>1,767</b>	2,231
Professional and Consultancy Fees	-	6,900	<b>6,900</b>	6,690
Insurance	-	586	<b>586</b>	228
Office & IT Expenses	-	5,903	<b>5,903</b>	5,933
<b>Total Charitable Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>270,911</b>

#### 15. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	<b>Balance at 1st April 2024</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Outgoing resources</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March 2025</b>
	£	£	£	£
Action Funder	<b>4,805</b>	5,000	7,969	<b>1,836</b>
Islington Fund	<b>3,135</b>	24,244	19,661	<b>7,718</b>
London Community Foundation	<b>68,358</b>	44,999	113,357	<b>0</b>
Smallwood Trust	-	10,000	7,186	<b>2,814</b>
Greater London Authority	-	1,000	1,000	-
The Health Forum Fund	-	10,155	10,155	-
Cripplegate	<b>4,000</b>	-	4,000	-
The National Lottery Fund	<b>20,488</b>	-	20,488	-
City of Westminster Trust	<b>3,692</b>	-	3,692	-
Westminster Council	<b>20,515</b>	56,654	66,544	<b>10,625</b>
	<b>124,993</b>	<b>152,052</b>	<b>254,052</b>	<b>22,992</b>

## 16. Grant Receivable

Funder	<u>Purpose of Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		2025	2024
		£	£
The London Com. Foundation	Asylum/Migrants/Health	44,999	66,991
Action Funder	Health and Wellbeing	5,000	4,999
Islington Fund	Health and Wellbeing	24,244	5,585
Haringey Council	Health and Wellbeing	-	4,125
Smallwood Trust	Health and Wellbeing	10,000	-
Health Forum Fund	Health and Wellbeing	10,155	10,735
GLA Fund	Health and Wellbeing	1,000	500
The National Lottery Fund	Domestic Violence Support	-	46,521
City of Westminster Trusts	Young Girls Support	-	7,528
Cripplegate Foundation	Information & Advice	-	4,000
Westminster Council	Sports, Health & Wellbeing	56,654	33,656
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>152,052</b>	<b>184,639</b>

## 17. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Professional and Consultancy Fees	5,950	950	6,900
Insurance	-	586	586
Office & IT Expenses	5,903	-	5,903
Office Rent and Room Hire	8,262	-	8,262
	<b>20,114</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>21,650</b>