



Directory of Muslim Women's Organisations in New Zealand



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
DETAILED LISTING OF ORGANISATIONS BY REGION	5
Auckland	5
Al Farook Centre	5
At Taqwa Women’s group	5
Baitul-Ilm Trust, the Baitul-Ilm Playgroup & Women’s Group	5
Convert Connect (run through Fatima Foundation).....	6
Dannemora Women’s Group	6
Fatima Foundation	6
Islamic Women’s Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ)	8
Muslim Women’s Wellbeing Group	8
Muslimah Sports Association	8
Pakuranga Centre Muslim Women’s Group.....	9
Ranui Masjid Women’s Group.....	9
Rasheed Memorial Dawah Trust (RMDT)	9
South Auckland Muslim Association (SAMA) – Mosque Ladies Group	9
Umma Trust	10
Women’s Empowerment Foundation “The Trust”.....	11
Working Together Group (WTG)	12
Young Muslim Women’s Association (YMWA).....	12
Christchurch.....	13
An-Nur Childcare Centre	13
Muslim Association Canterbury – Women’s Coordinator.....	13
Muslim Women’s Group at the Al-Noor Mosque	13
Nawawi Centre	14
Refugee Women’s Day	14
Women’s programmes run through Hagley Community College	14
Wellington	15
International Muslim Association of New Zealand (IMAN).....	15
Muslim Students Association of Victoria University(MSVUW)	15
Rayhaan	15

DIRECTORY BY TYPE.....	16
Local Mosque Women’s Groups.....	16
Social Services.....	16
Non-Segregated Groups	17
Health and Fitness Groups	17

INTRODUCTION

Women's groups worldwide have pioneered initiatives ranging from programmes for peace to micro-credit successes in their communities. In New Zealand the achievements are just as amazing and, as this directory demonstrates, Muslim Women's groups play a particularly important role in the community. Covering Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington this directory details the many activities run by Muslim Women's organisations around the country, making this a highly useful resource both within the community and for those working with Muslim Women. In a largely voluntary sector many women took time out of their busy days to contribute to the development of this directory. A very big thank you goes out to all of them, without whose support this directory would not have been possible.

This directory provides a listing of Muslim Women's organisations and also some organisation not strictly run by Muslim Women but whose client base is strongly that. For greater clarity those organisations listed that are Muslim Women specific will be denoted by a green crescent  and those who are not strictly Muslim Women based will be denoted with a yellow crescent. 

DETAILED LISTING OF ORGANISATIONS BY REGION

Auckland

Al Farook Centre

The Al Farook Centre have an Islamic focus and run a regular Sunday women's group. They also offer a Islamic class for younger girls aged 7-13yrs. This class runs from Monday to Friday with a set Islamic syllabus.

For more information please contact: Rehanna Dean (09) 534 2459 or email to: fpadean@xtra.co.nz

At Taqwa Women's group

The At Taqwa Women's group have an Islamic focus and run regular weekly women's Quran class and a monthly lecture series.

They also organise family activities like dress up evenings for women and children. Events like this give women especially mothers with young children the opportunity to socialise outside the home environment.

For more information please contact: Tasneem Mohammed 021 131 5167 or email to: itafs@xtra.co.nz

Baitul-Ilm Trust, the Baitul-Ilm Playgroup & Women's Group

The Baitul-Ilm Playgroup & Women's Group is an Islamic Playgroup operating alongside a Muslim Women's group. At present, as a playgroup, the mothers look after the children (they have no paid staff looking after the children). Some women who don't have children or preschoolers, and occasionally women who are thinking about or have recently converted to Islam also attend

The Islamic Playgroup provides an environment for children aged up to 5 years old to learn Islamic Studies, English and Arabic language. This prepares children where English is not their first language to get a step up before entering primary school.

Mothers bringing their children to the playgroup have access to support from other mothers at the centre with welfare needs, counselling, health issues and settlement issues. Regular presenters are also invited to come to the centre and talk on issues such as women's and children's health and development. This environment provides the opportunity for socialising with other Muslim women.

The Baitul-Ilm Trust in association with the Concordia Institute of Business is delivering NZQA certificated courses through the Southern Institute of Technology Zero Fees programme. Since 2007, fifteen women from the group have completed courses in English and Computing. Other courses offered include Teacher Aiding, Clothing Design & Manufacturing, Small Business Management and Health Sciences.

For more information please contact: Rhonda Cowell-Bari (09) 629 1423 or (09) 627 4465 or email to: info@bit.org.nz

Convert Connect (run through Fatima Foundation)

See Fatimah Foundation section

For more information please contact: Shamima Hafiz (09) 278 4948 or email to: fatimahfoundation@hotmail.com or shamimahafiz@yahoo.co.nz or contact Noeleen Van de Lisdonk on noeleen@xnet.co.nz

Dannemora Women's Group

The Dannemora Women's Group have an Islamic focus and regular Islamic classes for local women ranging in age from teenagers through to the elderly. In addition to the classes women in the group also collect food for the food bank run through the *working together* group. The women also regularly contribute to the fundraising efforts of their local mosque.

Islamic classes for children are run at the same time as the women's classes allowing mothers the chance to attend class while their children are supervised. The women organise regular family events like the father and son soccer competition.

For more information please contact: Nasra Rahman (09) 263 9820 or email to: nazra_rahman@hotmail.com

Fatima Foundation

The Fatimah Foundation is a registered Charitable Trust. The main focus is to "Do Good" by supporting Muslim women, children and their families during times of difficulty.

The Foundation applies a holistic approach when supporting families through social and other hardships. We work to empower families to achieve the best options to resolve challenges they face, whilst respecting their spiritual and cultural identity. Our services are free, inclusive and confidential.

Social Services Support

The Fatimah Foundation networks and/or advocates on behalf of clients with organizations and government agencies: WINZ, ACC, NZ Police, HNZ, CYFS, Legal, Schools, GPs, Local support groups, Mosques and others.

GoldCare Services

The Fatimah Foundation supports the elderly by strengthening support systems within the home. From social services to recruiting and coordinating volunteers who assist the elderly in the community. Anyone interested in volunteering with this scheme please contact the Fatimah Foundation

Project - "Cha & Chat"

An information service provision for women 50 years plus to promote their well being. The scheme is designed to encourage women to come out of isolation, socialize and get informed. The morning tea group invites a speaker from the Public Sector or other organizations to share & discuss information on topical issues of interest to the group. A Translator is available with notice. Meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the month at SAMA, Jamia Masjid Al Mustafa

Drug Realization

A support service for families who have a family member involved in or addicted to drugs and substances.

The Fatimah Foundation support families to cope with change in family dynamics as a consequence of a family member using drugs.

PantryPak Partnership

A Halal Food Bank operating in South Auckland for families in need. Food is donated by individuals, community groups and Mosques. Anyone interested in volunteering with this scheme please contact the Fatimah Foundation

ConvertConnect

Designed to welcome new women reverts/converts and their children into Islam at a pace that suits them. A friendly, multicultural, and a fun environment.

For Women: Support is provided to reverts making the transition into Islam including support with social concerns like Isolation, cultural understanding, dress codes and traditions etc.

For Children: An Islamic based learning group engaging children through activity.

Islamic classes are held with a guest speaker invited every month.

Meetings are fortnightly at SAMA Jamia Masjid, Al Mustafa.

For further information please contact: Shamima Hafiz, Muslim Community Advocate (09) 278 4948 or 027 384 7936 or email to: fatimahfoundation@hotmail.com

Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ)



IWCNZ supports Muslim women and women's group in their local communities, Centres and Mosques.

The Council organises conferences and symposiums to incorporate the promotion of Islam through Women's Conferences, Youth Camps, Educational programmes and Seminars at local and National levels. Their Annual conference is open to all Muslim women throughout New Zealand. There are presentations and discussions on many different topics and issues. IWCNZ members have also made several submissions to central and local government on issues of concern to Muslim women.

IWCNZ supports Muslim women who need help often through liaison with various service providers. The Council also liaises with various national/International women's organisations to upgrade it's activities.

The Council both receives and disseminates information that is relevant and of religious or organisational nature to its members.

For more information please contact: Nasreen Hannif 021 160 49 25 (Auckland) or Rehanna Ali 021 623 931 (Wellington). If you wish to join their email group please contact iwcnz@yahoogroups.com

Muslim Women's Wellbeing Group



The Muslim Women's Wellbeing Group aims to increase the fitness and well-being of Muslim women through the provision of opportunities for them to access fitness programmes otherwise inaccessible to them.

They run a regular swimming club for Muslim Women. The swimming pool is accessed out of public hours to allow the women to swim in a women's only environment.

For more information please contact: Nasra Rahman (09) 263 9820 and Safia Sabbir (09) 272 2100 or email to: nazra_rahman@hotmail.com

Muslimah Sports Association



The Muslimah Sports Association aims to create healthier Muslim women communities through sporting activities and programmes. They run a very popular weekend netball tournament between March and August. Other sporting activities on offer include volleyball tournaments and swimming lessons taught at the Zayed college swimming pool.

For more information please contact: Tasneem Mohammed 021 131 5167 or email to: itafs@xtra.co.nz

Pakuranga Centre Muslim Women's Group



The Pakuranga Centre Muslim Women's Group have an Islamic focus and meet weekly to provide religious education to the women in the group. Women of all ages attend this group.

For more information please contact: Mrs. N Dean (09) 577 5867 or Razeena Yunus (09) 576 3497

Ranui Masjid Women's Group



The Ranui Masjid Women's Group have an Islamic focus and run a mothers and daughters group at the Mosque on Sundays.

For more information please contact: Shahnaaz (09) 837 3472 or Mehnaz Ali 021 127 1510

Rasheed Memorial Dawah Trust (RMDT)



RMDT is an Islamic Trust based on the principle of "harmonious co-existence". The Trust is not a women's only group and runs workshops that are gender mixed for the purposes of inclusion.

The Trust run workshops in the community and have recently run a two day service provider workshop on "cultural training" that included a section on working with Muslim women and how to tailor services to be responsive and culturally sensitive.

For more information please contact: (09) 620 5996 or email to: info@rmdt.org.nz

South Auckland Muslim Association (SAMA) – Mosque Ladies Group



SAMA have an Islamic focus and run regular weekend Islamic Classes for Women at the Al-Mustafa mosque.

For more information please contact: Sahidan Ismail (09) 277 7442

Umma Trust



Umma Trust was established in 2003 to undertake development work in Iraq and at a local level to provide essential social services and settlement support to Arabic speaking communities in Auckland. In 2008 services in Auckland were expanded to the wider Muslim community with a specific focus on the wellbeing of Muslim women, children and families who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Umma Trust takes a strength-based approach to its work with families and works in a holistic manner. All services are confidential and culturally, linguistically and spiritually sensitive. The Umma Trust works in collaboration with a central and local government, community groups plus Muslim community and religious leaders to address the needs identified.

Services provided by Umma Trust include the provision of information and advice, advocacy, community based awareness programmes on positive parenting in a NZ context and preventing violence and home visits for women and families living in isolation.

The Trust also runs the following workshops/networks:

- Muslim Women Network – Provides an opportunity for women to meet on a fortnightly basis to support each other and reduce isolation. It also facilitates greater understanding between Muslim communities of different ethnicities, address settlement needs and invites speakers from mainstream service providers.
- May Road School Playgroup – Mothers and children learn together with information provided about road safety, healthy eating and positive parenting e.g. Skip.
- Senior Citizens Group - Provides opportunities for reducing isolation, supporting each other, increased awareness about mainstream service provision, healthy eating and health living.
- Healthy Eating Healthy Living – A series of workshops on nutrition and healthy activity, including how to prepare nutritious family meals, increased awareness about local vegetables and fruits and the importance of being active.
- Muslim Women Swimming Pool Programme – Collaborative project with Auckland Somali Association, ProCare PHO and other key stakeholders - held at Cameron Swimming Pools, Mt Roskill every Sunday from 6.30 – 8.30pm – swimming, gym, sauna etc.
- Physical Activities – Exercise classes lead by Community Netfit Trained Muslim Women Instructors.
- Professional Development Workshop for mainstream services providers on Muslim values and beliefs to enable better service responsiveness.
- Youth Activities facilitated by Youth Coordinators – health workshops, mentoring, skills and leadership development.

International Development – Umma Trust is a member of Council of International Development and actively involved in the areas of capability and capacity building, health, education and gender development in the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific.

For more information please contact: (09) 815 0153 or email to: ummatrust@xtra.co.nz

Women's Empowerment Foundation "The Trust"



The Women's Empowerment Foundation came out of research on *"Improving particular Community Responsiveness in Family Violence: Combining Research, Programme Development and Evaluation"* at the University of Auckland in 2005. This stemmed from the earlier PhD Research of Dr Safia Akhter.

The Women's Empowerment Foundation provides support to women, children and men to build peace and harmony in their homes and lives. The main client base of the organisation is ethnic women who face/faced domestic violence, many of them Muslim women. The organisation also provides financial and technical assistance to ethnic women to develop small enterprises to promote their empowerment.

The foundation assists women and children victims of domestic violence by providing them with emergency and long term shelter (including furniture), emergency food supply, transportation and counselling services. They organize a weekly group discussion on building peace and harmony at home, in the work place and in the community.

They also provide advocacy services in the form of liaison and support for meetings with social workers, legal advocacy/support and referrals including immigration issues and support with school enrolment.

Women are assisted in setting up small enterprises through the provision of training, seed funding, mentoring and monitoring of their business. They also run a women's driver licensing programme that empowers women through provision of a NZ qualified and experienced female driving instructor who provides practical training to assist women in gaining their license. The ability to drive themselves and their children brings increased mobility to women's lives and reduces isolation at home.

Mothers can also access a homework club for their children where their skills in mathematics, sciences and English are accelerated. This programme targets mainly high school and intermediate students through the provision of experienced teachers to provide the support to children who because of language barriers cannot access this support at home.

For more information please contact: Dr Safia Akhter (09) 620 5064 or email to: womenempowermentnz@xtra.co.nz or womenempowermentnz@gmail.com

Working Together Group (WTG)



This is a non-segregated group of both men and women from the Muslim Community who work together on a project by project basis.

Some of the projects they have spearheaded are the Muslim foster home for Muslim children needing to go into foster care. This is run in alignment with the Child Youth Family framework. Muslim women in need of short-term shelter/welfare support can also informally access use of this service.

A community hearse is available free of charge to the Muslim community, this service is especially helpful to widows with low economic capacity.

The *Helping Hand* Food bank is run in association with the *Pantry Pack* and the *Ummah Trust*. WTG approaches local Mosque based Muslim Women's groups and asks them to donate to the food bank. WTG then collects the food items brought in by local Muslim Women's groups for delivery to needy in the community. In many cases Muslim women themselves will be the ones accessing the food bank service for their families. In addition to this a van service is also run out in the community, offering food and counselling support to homeless youth.

The Working Together Group initiates these projects and then hands them over to the local Muslim Community to continue with.

For more information please contact: Noeleen Van de Lisdonk email to: noeleen@xnet.co.nz

Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA)



The YMWA was founded in September 2001 to serve the needs of young Muslim women in a spiritual and culturally appropriate manner. They focus on serving the Muslim female population between the ages of 12 – 24, in four main areas - social activities, educational opportunities, annual camps, and sports.

For more information please contact: Sidra Khan, *President* or email to: ymwa.nz@gmail.com or check out the website www.ymwa.org.nz

Christchurch

An-Nur Childcare Centre



The An-Nur Childcare Centre takes commitment to the language (Arabic), culture, education and teaching of Islam as the guiding principle of the centre. They provide childcare for Muslim children and many mothers access English classes in the same building through Alayan & Associate and CCEL. Many of the mothers who study in the centre move on to further study. Others are mentored into the workforce after gaining work experience at the An-Nur Centre. The centre employs Arabic, Malay and Somali teachers to assist the children in their mother tongue.

Parent's evenings provide information from speakers on issues ranging from health, cooking, physical education to breast feeding. Translation is always provided at these services to ensure mothers who have minimal English skills can still take advantage of the services. A regular newsletter goes out to all parents with special information, some issues are translated.

Informal assistance is also provided to Muslim immigrants who come to NZ and access the centre. Many parents are assisted with the transition into the primary school environment, many Muslim mothers are migrants and An Nur is able to provide them with guidance through the enrolment process which can often be daunting to them.

For more information please contact: Dr. Maysoon Salama (03) 349 3223 or email to: info@an-nur.school.nz or check out the website: www.an-nur.school.nz

Muslim Association Canterbury – Women's Coordinator



The Muslim Association of Canterbury (MAC) has a Women's Coordinator who represents Muslim women at MAC meetings.

For more information please contact: Sherin Darwish MAC Women's Coordinator (03) 342 1252 or 027 4936 482 or email to: sherinhaddad@hotmail.com

Muslim Women's Group at the Al-Noor Mosque



The Al-Noor Mosque Women's group has an Islamic Focus and run Islamic classes for women and children on Saturdays. Other issues are discussed during the classes such as raising children. The women direct what would like to talk about and sometimes speakers give presentations. Holiday programmes are also run especially camp for the Muslim girls. The group have also had held one conference with speakers and events.

For more information please contact: Sherin Darwish MAC Women's Coordinator (03) 342 1252 or 027 4936 482 or email to: sherinhaddad@hotmail.com

Nawawi Centre



The Nawawi Centre is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization that is dedicated to facilitating the development of humanity through authentic sacred Islamic knowledge and building positive relationships with diverse communities.

The Nawawi Centre combines spiritual guidance with beneficial action. Their activities include a range of educational programs, community development and social events.

Most of their educational activities require adults above twenty years due to the depth of material covered. Their client base depends on the nature of the activity, for example the Empowering Women's workshop was targeted at women, the Parenting Workshops targeted parents, the Motivational Workshop targeted young adults and the Children's Holiday program is targeted at primary children. Yet, although these groups are targeted, all are welcome to all events regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion. They believe in equal opportunities for education and equal access to interaction with the teacher and as such women are encouraged to attend.

For more information please contact: Noorayesha Jones, Project Co-ordinator on (03) 960 5700 or email to: info@nawawicenter.org

Refugee Women's Day



Refugee Women's Day is run through Hagley Community College to celebrate the strength, durability and diversity of Refugee Women in Christchurch, many of whom are Muslim women. This is a one day event that highlights the stories and achievements of refugee women. The day includes workshops, speakers, food and cultural events.

For more information please contact: Carla Moore (03) 379 3090 or email to: mr@hagley.school.nz

Women's programmes run through Hagley Community College



Hagley Community College in collaboration with Christchurch Resettlement Services (CRS) run classes for women from refugee backgrounds, many of whom are Muslim women and require women's only classes. These include exercise classes in a women's only environment, including specific classes for older women's and young girls, social empowerment for women courses and a quilt group

For more information please contact: Carla Moore (03) 379 3090 or email to: mr@hagley.school.nz

Wellington

International Muslim Association of New Zealand (IMAN)

IMAN's broad purpose is to cater to the needs of the Muslim community in the Wellington region, this encompasses both spiritual needs such as a place to worship and educational and social needs too. Although IMAN is not a women's only organisation, they have a Women's Coordinator and run a range of programmes for women. These range from a Sunday morning women's group, to Quran lessons and a women's playgroup (for preschoolers) on Friday mornings. IMAN also run children's classes during the weekends and holidays. All of these sessions provide a great social network for Muslim women in wellington region.

For more information please contact: Rehanna Ali, Women's Group Coordinator on 021 623 931 or email to: mmya@xtra.co.nz, or check out the website www.iman.co.nz

Muslim Students Association of Victoria University(MSVUW)

MSVUW endeavours to represent Muslim students and to carry out activities that benefit its members and to make others aware about Islam. Their primary objective is to ensure that the basic needs of all Muslim students at Victoria University are being catered for.

MSVUW are not a Women's only group but they do have a number of programmes and initiatives aimed at female Muslim students at Victoria University. These include regular women's only hours at the University recreation centre, providing an environment for Muslim women to exercise in privacy. They recently held the *Cultural Integration with Muslim Women* event that looked at how Muslim women are often stereotyped into the same box. Instead the event celebrated the religion's diversity with discussions, speakers, international food and a fashion parade. They also have an annual Marae sleepover with a *Halal Hangi* which provides the students (many of whom are overseas exchange students an opportunity to learn about the Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa.

For more information please contact: Sadiya Moh 021 153 7942 or email to: vicmuslims@yahoo.com

Rayhaan

Rayhaan is dedicated to the peaceful development of Sacred Islamic Knowledge within the Wellington region and the wider community. They encourage self-improvement and the informed incorporation of Islamic goals and principles in every aspect of people's lives.

Rayhaan aim to deliver services that encourage Islamic learning, positive social events and community participation. Rayhaan provide support and learning opportunities for those new to Islam. They are also running an upcoming workshop for service providers working with Muslim Clients.

For more information please contact: Aneesa Adam 021 181 2358 or email to: info@rayhaan.org.nz or check out the website: www.rayhaan.org.nz

DIRECTORY BY TYPE

Local Mosque Women's Groups

Local Women's Groups in Mosques around the country provide strong support networks to their local community. From running fundraising events to collecting for food banks and coordinating children's holiday programmes they are busy year round. They are supported by the Islamic Council of Women NZ (ICWNZ) whose role it is to provide support and information to Women's Groups in Mosques around New Zealand. Below is a list of local Mosque Women's groups. If your group is new, or has not been noted below please contact the Office of Ethnic Affairs.

Al Farook Centre	page 5
Al Taqwa Women's group	page 5
Dannemora Women's Group	page 6
Pakuranga Centre Muslim Women's Group	page 9
Ranui Masjid Women's Group	page 9
South Auckland Muslim Association (SAMA) – Mosque Ladies Group	page 9
Muslim Women's Group at the Al-Noor Mosque	page 13
International Muslim Association of New Zealand (IMAN)	page 15

Social Services

Some Organisations in this Directory have begun to fill the gap in the sector by delivering social services from an Islamic perspective. From social work to micro-credit, the work of these strong female headed organisations seems unending. Projects and services that are run by the community themselves are often the most responsive and effective in delivering social services as many of these organisations regularly demonstrate.

Convert Connect (run through Fatima Foundation)	page 6
Fatima Foundation	page 6
Women's Empowerment Foundation	page 11
Working Together Group (WTG)	page 12

Non-Segregated Groups

Although the majority of the groups included in this Directory are Women only some organisations that run on a principle of non-segregation have also been included. All three sister organisations of RMDT, Nawawi Centre and Rayhann do not segregate the seminars and activities they run. Courses on Women's empowerment are open to men as well, acknowledging that all issues require all members of a community to be participants. This Directory lists both segregated and non-segregated groups acknowledging Muslim women have a right to choose whichever option is preferable to them and their community.

Rasheed Memorial Dawah Trust (RMDT)	page 9
Working Together Group (WTG)	page 12
Nawawi Centre	page 14
Muslim Students Association of Victoria University(MSVUW)	page 15
Rayhann	page 15

Health and Fitness Groups

The provision of sensitive and appropriate facilities for Muslim Women to be able to maintain a healthy lifestyle is an important issue. Many groups across the country provide a variety of options ranging from Swimming, to Tae Bo, that assist Muslim women in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Muslim Women's Wellbeing Group	page 8
Muslimah Sports Association	page 8
Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA)	page 12
Women's programmes run through Hagley Community College	page 14
Muslim Students Association of Victoria University(MSVUW)	page 15