

# Muslim Sisters of Eire



Est. 2010.

March 2023



## Lorraine O'Connor, Founder

Lorraine was born and raised in Dublin. She embraced Islam over 15 years ago and graduated with a degree in Women's Studies from University College Dublin. Lorraine has previously been the chair of the Dublin 12 Women's action group and the Rape Crisis Centre in Dublin. Lorraine founded Muslim Sisters of Eire, an organisation whose primary objective is integration, poverty relief, breaking down startups providing support to those in need, with our longest and ongoing project being the feeding of the homeless outside the GPO on every Friday of the year—rain, hail or shine. Lorraine is currently the chair of Muslim Sisters of Eire. Muslim Sisters of Eire has appeared on TV and radio shows, in order to raise awareness about Islam and the issues of the Irish Muslim community.

# VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to serve the Irish Community in their upliftment, empowerment and integration.

# MISSION

We actively work with the community to achieve their upliftment, empowerment and integration by:

- Providing a platform for non-denominational projects ranging from community cohesion projects. Conferences and poverty relief.
- Creating public awareness of Islam and combating misconceptions about Muslims.
- Providing women a safe space to talk and establish strong-bonds of friendships.
- Serving the community through humanitarian aid, poverty relief, interfaith activities, integration and diversity.

## A Decade & Beyond

Muslim Sisters of Eire was pioneered by Lorraine O'Connor in 2010 with the primary objective to provide support and a safe place for Muslim and Non-Muslim women. Muslim Sisters of Eire established of mainly Muslim women living in Ireland. It is a voluntary registered charity organisation with the purpose of providing support to people in need across Ireland. Muslim sisters of Eire accepts volunteers from all walks of life and backgrounds. Muslim sisters of Eire does not discriminate on any grounds of gender, race, religion or lifestyle.





# GOALS



## Diversity & Education

Our organization aims to correct misconceptions of immigrants and religious differences, addressing xenophobia and educating the Irish society by:

- Hosting educational workshops for various community groups.
- School visits and educational talks on experiences and stories of migrants. Muslim Sisters of Eire has worked with the Department of Education and currently is in three school books (Inspire 1, Inspire 2 and Soul Seekers Workbook).



## Social Welfare

Our primary target is the Irish community and we strive to serve the community by:

- Advocacy for the homeless.
- Food bank support.
- Weekly feeding and soup runs to support those in the community who are in need. This further provides an opportunity for our volunteers, who come from largely migrant backgrounds, to interact with the public and engage in community work.
- Gaisce engagement and support.



## Migrant Assistance

Through engagement, Muslim Sisters of Eire assists migrants with integration into Irish society by:

- Providing a platform for migrants to serve the community through non-denominational projects.
- Providing family support and court support.
- Hosting events which are inclusive for women of all backgrounds to engage with one another and find a sense of belonging.

## Impact

Our impact on the Irish community over the last 10 years has reached target groups in monetary poverty, as well as enlightening those who are contributing to the positive cultural richness of society. This has been achieved through our community engagement, as well as poverty relief projects. A substantial number of our recipients are single mothers who have been recently housed after living in emergency accommodation and rely on our support for food as they try to pay bills and supplement their rent during the current economic crisis.

## In the Media

Our challenges have been documented in an academic book published by Routledge titled: Barriers to Effective Civil Society Organisations: Political, Social and Financial Shifts (Natali, Malila and Sai 2020), as well as being featured on RTÉ's 'Ramadan Diaries' segment covering our Covid-19 pandemic project. We have been included in the secondary level syllabus in text books. Our work has received nationwide recognition and won many awards.



## Engagement and Networking in a Safe

Muslim Sisters of Eire is a well-recognised diverse group of women from many backgrounds including, Somali, Sudanese, Nigerian, North African, South African, Malaysian, Pakistani, Indian, French, Australian, English and Irish. Our organisation is able to provide a safe space for women to engage with one another through the following activities:

- Hosting of educational workshops, including health focused events in conjunction with the HSE.
- Hosting of social gatherings, as well as conferences, webinars, and seminars.
- Hosting of Youth camps and activities.

Providing support, advocacy and comfort to single mothers and women suffering from abuse. Muslim Sister of Eire have a helpline, which is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This helpline service provides women with a safe way of communication for any form of domestic and sexual abuse. For better outreach, we provide support in several different languages including English, Urdu, Arabic, Kenyan/Somali, French, and Ukrainian /Russian.

## TARGET

Muslim Sisters of Eire's target groups include the following:

- Irish Communities.
- Migrant Communities in Ireland.
- Women from all backgrounds.



## Awards

- 2020 Volunteer Ireland Award - award from the president of Ireland
- 2021 European Forum of Muslim of Women - In recognition of "Pandemic Poverty Outreach Project" and "Best Campaign Award"
- 2020 Covid hero award for work during the pandemic from Lord Mayor Tom Brabazon
- 2021 FOMWAI - Award of Excellence for continuing support service and strong dedication to ISLAM
- 2022 Award from Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland in recognition of our work across Dublin City  
Garda National Youth Award  
Garda Divisional Youth Award  
Garda National Youth Award

## Funding

Muslim Sisters of Eire currently rely primarily on donations from the public, via PayPal, Facebook and Launchgood. While we do also receive one off project-focused funding, we are looking towards a more sustainable means of funding operations. Please get in touch with us should you be interested in becoming a donor.



Muslim Sisters of Eire

## Muslim Sisters of Eire

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