MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Registered Charity

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2026

Charity number: 1150129

MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

Registered Charity Number: 1150129

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

Trustees:
Ms R Fatherazi – Chairperson
Ms M Ndeti
Ms M Sookias
Ms D Jaisingh
Ms H A Chaudhary
Ms M Ndeti
Ms E Vacchelli
Ms T Foulds - Retired
Ms B Fatherazi – Retired
Ms G Marco – Retired

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 31ST MARCH 2026

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026.

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 meets regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

Background

MEWSo was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The women we support face a number of disadvantages, mostly resulting from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures. They also experience structural poverty, social and health inequalities and endure or have survived gender-based violence. Throughout the years, many have found friends and supporters in the face of our advisors, facilitators and befrienders. The culturally-tailored support we provide to these women is vital for their social integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organization in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGTBQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspires to a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the 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:

1. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
2. Education and training in English language and in vocational and other skills;
3. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community; and
4. Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and honour related violence.

Within this wording 'Middle Eastern' means countries including: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus.

Activities and Achievements

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 2025 and March 2026, MEWSo supported nearly 1000 women in variety activities:

- 250 VAWG survivor
- 120 sessions of 1:1 counselling were delivered
- 95 women participated in group therapy
- 65 therapeutic sessions delivered in Farsi and Arabic
- 420 women participated in our projects, workshops, services, and social clubs.

Between March 2025 and March 2026, MEWSO has continued to deliver a wide range of activities supporting vulnerable, migrant and minority women across London. The organisation has strengthened its role across frontline service delivery, professional training, partnership working, and community engagement.

During this period, MEWSO has not only maintained and expanded its services but has also secured significant funding to support both immediate needs and long-term impact. Its work reflects a holistic and culturally informed approach, addressing safeguarding, wellbeing, and social inclusion.

Training and Capacity Building for Professionals

Over the past year, MEWSO has continued to play a leading role in delivering specialist training to professionals working with vulnerable women and girls. This has focused on harmful practices that are often hidden or poorly understood, including polygamy, FGM, and other forms of gender-based abuse within minority communities.

A key development during this period has been the launch and application of MEWSO’s Polygamy Matters report, which has strengthened both awareness and professional understanding of polygamy as a safeguarding issue. The report highlights the complex impact of polygamy on women and children, including links to domestic abuse, financial control, mental health challenges, and long-term vulnerability. MEWSO has used this evidence to inform training and advocacy, ensuring that professionals are better equipped to identify and respond to such cases.

MEWSO also has delivered targeted training sessions Supported by London Community Foundation and in partnership with Barnardo’s to multi-agency groups across London, including professionals from local authorities and frontline services. Training delivered to the Harmful Practices Operational

Group across Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Westminster has contributed to building a shared understanding of these issues and improving safeguarding responses.
In addition, MEWSO has contributed to wider professional events. At the “Changing the System” conference in early 2026, MEWSO co-delivered interactive workshops using the “4Rs” framework (Recognise, Respond, Record, and Refer) providing practical tools for professionals.
Partnership working has remained central to MEWSO’s approach. The organisation has continued to collaborate with a range of national and local partners to extend its reach and maximise impact.
MEWSO’s collaboration with Barnardo’s has supported both awareness-raising and direct community engagement around harmful practices such as FGM, forced marriage, and gender-based violence, through the delivery of over 15 training sessions to community members, men, and professionals. Through this partnership, MEWSO has contributed its specialist expertise while benefiting from wider networks and resources.
A key example includes the delivery of a women’s health and wellbeing event, co-delivered with The Sharan Project and supported by Barnardo’s and the National FGM Centre. The event provided women with access to information and activities focused on physical and mental health, including nutrition, fitness, yoga, and health awareness.
MEWSO has also worked alongside Barnardo’s and other partners in wider multi-agency initiatives such as the “Changing the System” conference, contributing to collective efforts to address harmful practices.
These partnerships have enabled MEWSO to strengthen its influence, share knowledge, and deliver coordinated support across sectors.

Projects, Services, Workshops, and Community Activities
Throughout last year, MEWSO has delivered a wide range of services and activities designed to support women holistically, combining practical assistance with empowerment and community-building.
MEWSO has continued to provide essential frontline services, including advice on domestic abuse, welfare, housing, and family issues. These services have supported women facing complex and multiple challenges and have remained accessible across different boroughs. On the other hand, MEWSO has delivered a strong programme of workshops aimed at building skills, confidence, and independence. These have included:

- Healthy cooking sessions (“Cook and Eat”)
- Green Living workshops promoting sustainable practices
- Digital safety workshops addressing online risks
- Healthcare rights sessions improving access to services
- Group counselling for Farsi speaking women
- Regular Women’s Circle
- Olive Club which have provided safe and welcoming spaces for women.
- Embroidery and crochet Club
- English conversation classes
- Creative sessions have supported wellbeing and reduced isolation.

MEWSO has organised a range of outings, cultural events, and community gatherings, including International Women’s Day celebrations and group trips. Outreach work has also enabled the organisation to engage with new service users, including asylum seekers and newly arrived women, particularly in the Hackney area, where it has successfully extended its services this year.

New Projects and Funding

During this period, MEWSO has successfully secured a number of significant funding streams, strengthening both its sustainability and its ability to respond to emerging needs.

Longer-Term and Strategic Funding

- A five-year grant from the City Bridge Foundation, with £172,324 received to date, supporting long-term programme delivery and organisational sustainability
- A Healthy Heart project funded by Westminster City Council (£25,000), focusing on improving community health and wellbeing
- A DASA project funded by MOPAC, with a total value of £259,987.09 over three years, due to begin in June, strengthening MEWSO's work on domestic abuse and safeguarding.
- Last year funding from London Community

We are proud to report that in 2026, MEWSo has successfully become part of two consortiums for VAWG organisations, one of which secured a three-year contract with MOPAC, helping to sustain our advisory role. This represents a significant achievement in supporting the most vulnerable women during another challenging year marked by the cost-of-living crisis.

This year, some of our communities, particularly Iranian, Kurdish, Palestinian, and Syrian groups, have faced extremely difficult circumstances due to ongoing conflicts and wars in their homelands. This has had a severe impact on our communities, especially on women and those who are newly arrived refugees struggling to adapt to new UK border regulations. Therefore, we have developed several coalitions and partnerships with other organisations to support migrants and refugees, particularly in response to changes and service reductions resulting from the Immigration Law 2026.

In our first year of holding the accredited Advice Quality Standard (AQS), MEWSo has strengthened its connections with MARAC to better support complex and high-risk cases.

We have also successfully secured resources and grants to provide one-to-one and group counselling for more women in Farsi, Kurdish, and Arabic, particularly those experiencing mental health challenges or distress due to ongoing events in the news. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to MOPAC, the London Community Foundation, City Bridge Trust, and Islington and Westminster Councils.

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.

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.

Financial Review
MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £ 229,861 (£156,257 in 2024/2025) from various funders.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations
No 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
01/05/2026



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 31st March 2026, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

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.

Tacts Accountant

Date: 01/05/2026

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 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2026	Total Funds 2025
INCOMING RESOURCES: -		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		6,319	-	6,319	4,205
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(16)	-	223,542	223,542	152,052
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**6,319**	**223,542**	**229,861**	**156,257**
RESOUCES EXPENDED					
Expenditure in raising funds		827	-	827	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	(14)	1,896	201,630	203,526	254,054
TOTAL RESOUCES EXPENDED		**2,723**	**201,630**	**204,353**	**254,054**
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		**3,597**	**21,911**	**25,508**	**(97,797)**
Balances Brought Forward		**99,948**	**22,992**	**122,940**	**220,737**
Balances Carried Forward		**103,545**	**44,903**	**148,448**	**122,940**

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 2026

	Note	£ 2025-2026	£ 2024-2025
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current Assets:			
Debtors	(12)	-	44,999
Cash at Bank and In Hand		148,949	98,044
Current Liabilities:			
Creditors:			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	501	20,103
Net Assets		**148,448**	**122,940**
As Represented By			
Unrestricted Fund		103,545	99,948
Restricted Fund	(15)	44,903	22,992
Total Funds		**148,448**	**122,940**

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 01/05/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Ms R Fatherazi
Chairperson



MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

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 include 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 £114,368 (£101,592 in 2024/25) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total numbers of employees were 5 in this year (4 in 2024-2025)

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

	2026 £	2025 £
Other debtors	-	44,999
	-	44,999

13. Accrual and Creditors

	2026 £	2025 £
Pensions	501	-
Other Creditors	-	20,103
	501	20,103

14. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2026	Total Funds 2025
RESOUCES EXPENDED	£	£	**£**	£
Fundraising Expenses	827	-	**827**	-
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	650	150,785	**151,435**	176,041
Recruitment	-	-	**-**	270
Training, Workshops and other activities	-	9,268	**9,268**	8,431
Partnerships and Collaboration	-	16,565	**16,565**	31,626
Participants Expenses	-	2,378	**2,378**	2,193
Volunteer Expenses	-	4,830	**4,830**	4,221
Rent and Room Hire	-	5,705	**5,705**	8,262
Publicity & Advertisement	-	-	**-**	1,800
Memberships and Subscription	-	4,510	**4,510**	4,440
Refreshments and Catering	-	-	**-**	1,614
Transport and travel	-	2,296	**2,296**	1,767
Professional and Consultancy Fees	-	1,310	**1,310**	6,900
Insurance	593	-	**593**	586
Office & IT Expenses	653	3,982	**4,635**	5,903
Total Charitable Activities	**2,723**	**201,630**	**204,353**	254,054

15. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1st April 2025	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st March 2026
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Action Funder	**1,836**	-	1,836	**-**
Islington Fund	**7,718**	17,365	18,773	**6,310**
London Community Foundation	**-**	45,000	45,000	**-**
Smallwood Trust	**2,814**	10,000	10,021	**2,793**
L B Hackney	**-**	13,000	13,000	**-**
The Health Forum Fund	**-**	11,196	11,196	**-**
Cripplegate	**-**	8,575	3,564	**5,011**
City Bridge Foundation	**-**	24,374	24,374	**-**
Richard Cloudesley	**-**	5,000	705	**4,295**
Westminster Council	**10,625**	89,033	73,162	**26,495**
	22,992	**223,542**	**201,630**	**44,903**

16. Grant Receivable

Funder	Purpose of Fund	Funds 2026	Funds 2025
		£	£
The London Com. Foundation	Asylum/Migrants/Health	**45,000**	44,999
Action Funder	Health and Wellbeing	**-**	5,000
Islington Fund	Health and Wellbeing	**17,365**	24,244
L B Hackney	Health and Wellbeing	**13,000**	-
Smallwood Trust	Health and Wellbeing	**10,000**	10,000
Health Forum Fund	Health and Wellbeing	**11,196**	10,155
GLA Fund	Health and Wellbeing	**-**	1,000
Richard Cloudesley	Health and Wellbeing	**5,000**	-
City Bridge Foundation	Asylum/Migrants/Health	**24,374**	-
Cripplegate	Information & Advice	**8,575**	-
Westminster Council	Sports, Health, Migrants	**89,033**	56,654
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**223,542**	152,052

17. Governance and Support cost

	General Support	Governance	Total
	£	£	£
Professional and Consultancy Fees	360	950	**1,310**
Insurance	-	593	**593**
Office & IT Expenses	653	3,982	**4,635**
Office Rent and Room Hire	5,705	-	**5,705**
	6,718	**5,525**	**12,244**