

**Combined Trustee's Annual report 2023 — 2024**

**Name of the Charity**

The North West Islamic Association

**Charity commission Ni number:**

(NIC no: 104801)

**First Registration Date**

3 March 2016.

(Please note in this report the North West Islamic Association will be called as the Association).

**Reporting Period**

The Annual Report of the Association correlates with the financial year starting from  
01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## **Purposes of the charity**

The NWIA is established to advance, for public benefit, the interests of its membership in any charitable way, but in particular through the following means in the North-West of Northern Ireland:

- a) To promote dialogue, the dissemination of information and awareness of Islam to both Muslims and Non-Muslims. To arrange seminars and interfaith gatherings for better understanding of each other's religions and faiths.
- b) To facilitate Islamic rites such as marriage, arbitration of matrimonial disputes and to arrange funeral & burial services and provision of a cemetery.
- c) To advance education in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of Islam for all ages by such means as classes and lectures.
- d) The establishment, operation and maintenance of institutions that would enhance the religious and social causes of the Muslim community through such means as a library and school etc:
- e) To give advice and support to the Muslim community and local authorities where appropriate on any aspect of the Islamic faith and other related matters.
- f) The establishment, provision and maintenance of a place in future, for social and cultural gatherings and congregational worship.
- g) Obtaining funds through fund raising, donations and receiving grants.
- h) To render social services to the Muslim & the local community in this region by providing help to the sick, elderly, needy and the students, and supporting the preservation of family life.

## **The Structure of the Association:**

The Association had 7 appointed Trustees during reporting period:

1. Dr. Heba Ali
2. Dr Imtiaz kar
3. Dr Mohammad Abou Samra
4. Mr Lotfi Jalloul
5. Dr Rashida Rauf
6. Dr Raumeen Gani
7. Dr Zafar Nasir

The Association currently have the following office bearers,

1. Dr Sameh Hassan (Chairperson)
2. Dr Ahmed Marzouk (Vice Chairperson)
3. Dr Dileep Abdul Salem (General Secretary)
4. Dr Reyad Mehruz (Treasurer)

In addition to the office bearers NWIA has committee members for the discussion and advice on important issues and events.

The Association conducts regular committee meetings to either plan annual events or to discuss any important issues within the community. The Association keeps relevant minutes and financial statements of all events and transactions.

The Association Members pay a monthly or annual subscription of minimum £10 per month or £120 per annum. The above-named members are responsible for all the activities within the Association governed by its Constitution.

The Association receives financial support through donors, members and the public funds. These funds are used for various activities of The Association.

## **Main activities of the charity and public benefit statement in relation to the set-out objectives:**

This report summarizes the main activities and achievements of the North West Islamic Association (NWIA) in the year 2023-2024. The NWIA is a registered charity that aims to serve the Muslim community and promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation in the region. The NWIA organizes various events and programs throughout the year to fulfill its mission and vision, including the following:

### **- Medical Aid for Gaza Appeal:**

In response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war on Gaza, which has left tens of thousands of people injured and homeless, the North West Islamic Association organized a fundraising initiative to support Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a reputable UK humanitarian organization working in Gaza, for delivering medical aid to the affected people. This effort successfully raised a total of £6,000.

### **- Zakah fund raising and distribution:**

In response to the growing number of displaced individuals seeking asylum in the North West of Northern Ireland, the Association collected zakah donations during the month of Ramadan. This obligatory charitable contribution, required of Muslims during the month of Ramadan, was aimed at supporting charitable causes. The collected zakah funds were distributed to 35 asylum seekers and financially struggling overseas students. The remaining funds were donated to the Gaza medical aid appeal through Medical Aid for Palestinians following the onset of the conflict.

### **- Asylum Seekers Support:**

The North West Islamic Association ran a project aiming to support young asylum seekers and refugees through establishing a weekly youth club in collaboration with Youth Action NI. Some of these young people have experienced trauma and living in the Northwest has been very challenging for them. The project was funded by the Public Health Agency's CLEAR emotional wellbeing and mental health programme as well as the Coca-Cola Thank You Fund from the Irish youth Foundation. The project had many benefits to the participants. Young people were able to find a safe space to connect with others, support each other, eat together, play games, participate in sports activities, develop new skills and attending basic English language classes and OCN accredited trainings. The association also sourced SIA security badge

training which enabled some of the participant to find employment. The association has also been helping them with different issues they are facing through social support and signposting.

The following day trips were organized to give them the chance to explore different places in Northern Ireland

- 1) Trip to Omagh Gortin Glen Forest:  
Asylum seekers isolated in hotel accommodation got the chance to discover the natural beauty of northern Ireland and travel outside Derry/Londonderry for first time. The event was attended by 15 people.
- 2) Trip to Belfast W5 including a Space workshop. The event was attended by 24 young people.
- 3) Trip to Omagh Ulster American Folk Park attended by 15 people.

#### **- Interfaith Dialogue and Outreach activities:**

Throughout the year, the NWIA participated in several interfaith dialogue and outreach events with local communities and schools. These events aimed to tackle islamophobia and foster mutual understanding, respect and friendship among people of different faiths and backgrounds. The NWIA representatives shared the basic concepts of Islam and answered questions about the Muslim community and its practices. The feedback from these events was positive and encouraging. Examples of these activities are below:

- Churches Trust Interfaith Visit  
An interfaith group from the Churches Trust visited our Islamic Centre to learn about the deep-rooted connection of our religion to the Abrahamic tradition.
- Our Sisters Together women event:  
This was part of the council Good Relations Week. A speaker from the [Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland](#) , delivered a talk about Women In Islam. The event was attended by the [Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District](#) and about 40 women from across the community. The event was funded by the DCSDC, T:buc, [Community Relations Council](#) and the Executive Office.
- International Women's Day Event:  
In collaboration with the Focus Project Derry and CCRP, our Muslim women shared their culture, personal experiences living in Northern Ireland and their contributions and role in the community. The event was attended by women from across the community.

- **Islamic Culture Workshop with the Western Trust:**  
Giving the large number of staff from Muslim background working in the Altnagelvin Hospital, the vice chairman of the association delivered a talk about the Islamic culture during the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion event organized by the Cardiology department. The event was attended by the CEO and many staff of the trust.
- **Stakeholders Islamic Awareness Training session:**  
In collaboration with People 1st NorthWest, an Islamic Awareness session was delivered to 20 of the stakeholders from different organizations working with the asylum seekers and refugees .
- **Ballymena and Cushendall Women Group visit:**  
In collaboration with the PSNI, an Islamic culture talk was delivered to a visiting group of 40 women from Ballymena and Cushendall, who learned about the Islamic culture and got the chance to interact with other muslim ladies and experience their culture.
- **Lincoln Courts Clooney women's group:**  
About 20 ladies from the waterside's Lincoln Courts Clooney women's group visited our center to learn about our culture and believes. The event was organized in collaboration with Crossing The Lines Project,
- **Long Tower Primary School Visit:**  
About 50 pupils and teachers from the Long Tower Primary School visited our centre to learn about the culture of their muslim classmates
- **Thornhill College Outreach Visit:**  
A talk was delivered to 200 pupils about the Daily Life of Muslims in Derry/Londonderry and their Culture.

### **- Youth Summer Activities Report**

The Youth Summer Activities programme was a series of events organised by NWIA to provide opportunities for young people to develop their skills, have fun and connect with other communities. The programme included a three-day Summer Camp in collaboration with Youth Action NI, held in around Altruism. The camp was open to young people aged 11 to 16 years and involved various activities such as art, craft and games. The aim of the camp was to foster leadership and teamwork skills among the participants.

### **- The month of Ramadan Activities Report**

A visiting Imam was invited to spend the whole month of Ramadan in the Islamic Centre to lead the night prayers. A community Iftar (breaking fast) was organized to bring the whole community together and was attended by ~150 people. In addition, two breaking fast gatherings (Iftars) were organized for the Asylum seekers and refugees and were attended by a total of 100 people. A kids competition was also organized and gifts distributed to 15 participants.

### **- Eid Celebrations Report**

Two religious and cultural events were organised by NWIA to mark the occasions of Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, which are two major festivals in the Islamic calendar. The Eid Celebrations aimed to provide a space for Muslims to perform their prayers, celebrate their faith and share their joy with others.

A pre Eid Party for the community was held at the Centre. The party featured various activities such as children arts & craft, preparation of Children's Eid gift bags, and putting up Eid decorations at the Centre.

About 250 people attended each of the Eid prayers, which was followed by a sermon and a social gathering. As part of the celebration. The Eid celebrations were well-received by the community, who expressed their gratitude to NWIA for organising them. The Eid celebrations also helped to strengthen the sense of belonging and identity among the Muslims in the area, as well as to showcase their culture and values to others.

Qurbani Meat was collected from donors and distributed to the most in need individuals and families in the city. A total of 75 asylum seekers, refugees and students benefited from this gesture of generosity and solidarity.

### **- Sunday School:**

The Islamic School provides education in Arabic language and Islamic studies to 60 students aged from 5 to 17 years. The students come from various locations such as Derry/Londonderry, Coleraine, Letterkenny, Buncrana and Carndonagh. The Association also organizes sports activities such as table tennis, football etc. for the students. These activities help them interact with each other and foster friendship and understanding among them.

The NWIA is proud of its activities and achievements in 2023-2024, which reflect its commitment to serving the Muslim community and fostering interfaith dialogue and harmony in the North West region. The NWIA thanks all its members, volunteers, donors, partners, funders and supporters for their contributions and cooperation. The NWIA looks forward to continuing its work in 2024-2025 with more enthusiasm and dedication.

## **Annual Financial Statement for year 2023-2024**

Please see the attached detailed account statement by the accountant.

## **Report being submitted on the behalf all trustees.**

1. Dr Imtiaz kar
2. Dr. Heba Ali
3. Dr Raumeen Gani
4. Mr Lotfi Jalloul
5. Dr Rashida Rauf
6. Dr Zafar Nasir
7. Dr Mohammad Abou Samra

HebaAli