

E-update: 29 February 2008

To All Muslim Women Network Attending and e-Network Members

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## In The News....

### 1. "Pay gap for women is widest in London" 28 February 2008

"Women in London are paid nearly a quarter less than men with the pay gap in the capital the widest in the country."

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23444326-details/Pay+gap+for+women+is+widest+in+London/article.do>

### 2. "Equality for women in London a 'pipe dream' without tough new legislation." 28 February 2008

"The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, today urged the Government to introduce tough new equality legislation later this year. The Mayor, speaking today at the launch of his fourth Women in London's Economy report, warned that failure to do so will have a serious impact on London's future economic growth."

[http://www.london.gov.uk/view\\_press\\_release.jsp?releaseid=15893](http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=15893)

### 3. "When Hibah Khan wanted a divorce, she turned to a sharia court. Her case would have concluded swiftly and happily – if the ruling had been allowed to stand..." 24 February 2008

"Tucked away in Leyton, East London, is Britain's oldest sharia court. Entirely innocuous, there are no signs promoting its presence, nor anything in its façade to suggest the gravity of the decisions made within its four walls."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/extras/sunday-review/living/sharia-is-not-the-problem-785281.html>

### 4. "Women urged to think big" 23 February 2008

"A group of multinational companies is backing a new government initiative aimed at reducing the barriers to female entrepreneurs securing large corporate contracts."

[http://search.ft.com/ftArticle?queryText=moules&aje=true&id=080223000097&ct=0&nclik\\_check=1](http://search.ft.com/ftArticle?queryText=moules&aje=true&id=080223000097&ct=0&nclik_check=1)

### 5. "UNISON Calls on Coventry City Council to face equal pay facts" 19 February 2008

“Warning to Coventry City Council, “face the fact that equal pay is not a take it or leave it piece of legislation, but the law of the land”. The union is calling on the council to stop wasting residents’ money fighting equal pay claims made by the union on behalf of 250 low paid women council workers.”

[http://www.unison.org.uk/westmidlands/pages\\_view.asp?did=3876](http://www.unison.org.uk/westmidlands/pages_view.asp?did=3876)

#### **6. “Women turning to pension helpline” 14 February 2008**

“A helpline for advice on women's pensions is almost certain to continue following a barrage of calls, the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) says.”

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7244833.stm>

#### **7. “Threats from all directions” 13 February 2008**

“The mood in the small meeting room in Portcullis House, the building opposite parliament housing MPs' offices, is truculent. It is crammed with leaders and workers from refuges for black and minority ethnic (BME) and refugee women throughout the country who are angry and scared at what they see as a threat to their existence.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/feb/13/equality.socialcare>

#### **8. “Jobs for the Girls” 12 February 2008**

“A number of YWCA's campaign calls were taken up in an influential report looking into the progress of the Women and Work Commission's recommendations on the gender pay gap.”

<http://www.ywca-gb.org.uk/newsarticle.asp?ID=235>

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## **Consultations and Publications**

### **Time to act on forced marriages**

Margaret Moran MP has opened a debate on [epolitix.com](http://www.epolitix.com) about Forced Marriage. Please contribute your ideas, the more points of view the better.

The direct link is:

<http://www.epolitix.com/EN/Blog/200802/b4d59499-fa55-434e-b75d-80ca580d4d3d.htm>

### **Realising our Potential; Promoting the Talents of Muslim Women**

[http://www.nwra.gov.uk/downloads/documents/feb\\_08/nwra\\_1203435427\\_Realising\\_our\\_Potential\\_event.pdf](http://www.nwra.gov.uk/downloads/documents/feb_08/nwra_1203435427_Realising_our_Potential_event.pdf)

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## Training and Events

### 1. Introduction to Islam & the Muslim Culture - One-day Introductory Course

**Date:** Wednesday, 19th March or Thursday, 17th July 2008, 9.30 – 4.00

**Venue:** North London Central Mosque, Finsbury Park, London N4 2QH

**Cost:** £135 +VAT per person

With the introduction of the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the Religious Discrimination Regulation, there has been an increase in demand from public sector organisations for greater access to courses and information regarding people from the various cultures and religions which make up their communities.

This introductory course offers:

- A better understanding to the background of Muslims in Britain
- An insight into basic beliefs & practices
- A visit to a Mosque
- Public Sector Development issues for Muslim communities

Anyone wishing to increase their knowledge of Islam should attend, particularly non-Muslim public sector professionals working with Muslims in the community, including:

- Surestart workers, carers & teachers
- Healthcare workers, social workers & community workers
- Police, Fire & Ambulance services
- Senior managers & policy makers
- Those responsible for developing community cohesion strategies

For more information or to book a place on the course go to [www.educationislam.org](http://www.educationislam.org)

### 2. International Women's Day Conference 2008

Pressures, Risks & Consequences of 'Honour' Related Abuse Within Families  
The Shackles of 'Honour' Codified Behaviour

**Date:** Tuesday 4th March 2008 at 9am - 4.30pm

**Venue:** City Hall, Cardiff

**Cost:** Free (but need to register)

This conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to listen, engage, question and exchange discussions with internationally recognised professionals and champions in this field. It will also develop knowledge and understanding of the extent of 'honour' related abuses within families in order to adequately support victims.

This conference is FREE to attend. All delegates must complete a registration form, which can be obtained by emailing [hbvconference@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:hbvconference@cardiff.gov.uk).

### 3. Manchester Islamic High School for Girls

**Date:** Tuesday, 13th March 2008

The activity will be for Year 7 (ages 11-12) with two forms in each year and 56 pupils in the year group. The format will be a short mime (if possible) by the representative followed by a "What's My Line" question and answer session to guess the job. The volunteer can then elaborate on her career, qualifications, life outside work etc. taking questions from the girls, who will have done some preparatory work in advance.

Please contact Christine Oldham, Education Manager, Education Business Solutions 0161 772 1012 / 1000 Mobile 07711 436454 or email [Christine.oldham@eb-solutions.org.uk](mailto:Christine.oldham@eb-solutions.org.uk) if you are interested in the event (females only).

#### **4. Whalley Range 11-18 High School, Manchester**

**Date:** Tuesday, 18th March 2008

Wider Horizons / Challenging Stereotypes has been an annual event for the Year 7 cohort for several years and forms part of the school's BCR (Business College Review) Day. The format of the activity will be over four lessons, ideally with up to four women in each class working with the girls in small groups in rotation. There will again be discussion around the volunteers' jobs, careers, life out of work, etc. You can volunteer for all four or fewer lessons. There are 10 forms in the year group (300 girls), so this event needs lots of support to make it successful. Again, the girls will have undertaken some preparatory work in class beforehand.

Please contact Christine Oldham, Education Manager, Education Business Solutions 0161 772 1012 / 1000 Mobile 07711 436454 or email [Christine.oldham@eb-solutions.org.uk](mailto:Christine.oldham@eb-solutions.org.uk) if you are interested in the event (females only).

The aim of these activities is to raise aspirations and knowledge of careers and to provide role models to young girls by illustrating the range of qualifications, jobs and careers available to women today. In other words, the key message is that being female is no barrier to what you can achieve if you work hard and try your best.

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#### **Other news**

##### **A message from Professor Haleh Afshar OBE:**

"An important Women's magazine has been closed down in Iran. As a group of academics and peace activists we have produced the petition which is attached. Dr. Elaheh Povey Rostami and I were amongst the first to have signed the petition. We will really appreciate if you as one of the anti war MPs in UK would sign this petition. If you agree to sign please email us back, using reply to all or just email [Zananmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:Zananmagazine@yahoo.com)

Many thanks and best wishes Haleh and Elaheh"

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