

**BMER Advice
Network – London
Partners Contact
Information:**

AdviceUK

0300 777 0107

**Advice & Learning Bu-
reau**

RM8 - 020 8507 2444

**Asian Women's Re-
source Centre**

NW10 - 020 8961 6549

**Afro – Asian Advisory
Service**

SE5 - 020 7701 0141

Asylum Aid

N1 - 020 7354 9631

**Asylum Support Ap-
peals Service**

E2 - 020 7729 3056

Barnet Refugee Service

NW9 - 020 89059002

**Bosnia Herzegovina
Community Advice Cen-
tre**

NW10 - 020 8459 4201

**Carila Latin American
Welfare Group**

N7 - 020 7561 1931

**Centre for Armenian
Information & Advice**

W3 - 8020 8992 4621

**Chinese Community
Centre**

W1 - 020 7439 3822

Corecog

E13 - 020 8548 4073

**Day-Mer Turkish &
Kurdish Community
Centre**

N16 - 020 7275 8440

**East European Advice
Centre (EEAC)**

W6 - 020 8741 1288

**East London Somali
Youth and Welfare Cen-
tre**

E1 - 020 7247 8488

**Indoamerican Refugee
and Migrant Organiza-
tion**

SW9 - 020 7733 9977

**Kurdish and Middle
Eastern Women Organi-
sation**

N19 - Tel: 02072631027



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BAN Newsletter

Edition 6- Page 1 - Feb2018

INCORPORATION IS A SIGN OF THE SUCCESSSES AND FURTHER NEED FOR OUR WORK

BAN left another year of success and progress behind. No doubt one of the major achievements of the year was the completion of BAN's incorporation as a charity (CIO) and the work the network and its newly established Trustee Board has done to develop its infrastructure.

As highlighted in recent AGM of 11th October 2017, the work the network did over this period included establishment of structures and systems to develop BAN's work, identifying and giving focus to its work as well as continuing to facilitate the corporation between member organisations. Alongside its efforts to provide a platform of cooperation, of sharing and developing good practise and resources, the BAN TB, in consultation with 35 member organisation has resolved to emphasize and enhance the policy function of BAN.

Prioritising to strengthen the unique position BAN has as a source of information about BAMER communities and their evolving needs is reflective of the challenges the sector currently faces as well as of BAN's maturing of work; this is especially pertinent given the dwindling level of response to the needs and issues faced by BAMER communities and the organisation which serve them. The recent AGM re-freshed these plans with further aims to solidify BAN's policy and fundraising work as member led activities, now enhanced with BAN's ability to lead and coordinate partnerships thanks to the establishment of basic infrastructure through incorpora-tion.

As such, the year left behind was one that highlighted the successes of our joint work as the great potential it has, which provides a sound basis on which this work could be further developed. The continued active presence of BAN's work despite all the challenges and lack of capacity, the commitment of member organisations to it as an integral aspect of their work with communities, the ethos of cooperation marking its work and the recent development of its infrastructure and plans continue to be the guarantees of this.

Would you like to become a member of BAN?

For details of how to join the network please contact

Taylan Sahbaz :

bameradvicenetwork@gmail.com

To find out more about BAN, its members, where they are located and
the services they provide, please visit our website:

<http://www.bmeadvicenetwork.org.uk/index.aspx>.

IKWRO

EC2P—020 7920 6460

IMECE Turkish Speaking Women's Group

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Iranian Association

W6 - 020 8741 2304

Iraqi Association

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Latin American Association

NW6 - 020 7372 8653

Latin American Women's Rights Service

EC1 - 020 7336 0888

Lewisham Refugee & Migrant Network

SE8 - 020 8694 0323

Limehouse

E14 - 020 7790 9699

Migrants Resource Centre

SW1—020 7834 2505

Newham Monitoring Project

E13 - 020 8470 8333

Notre Dame Refugee Centre

WC2 - 020 7440 2660

Island Advice Centre

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Refugee Action Kingston

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Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London

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Refugee Network Sutton

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Roma Support Group

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Sangam Association of Asian Women

HA8 - 020 8952 7062

Sangat Advice Centre

HA3 - 020 8427 0659

Tallo Information Centre

W3 - 020 8993 3187

Tamil Welfare Association Newham

E12 - 020 8478 05 77

Tamil Relief Centre

N9 - 020 8345 6301

Welwetchia Legal Advice Centre

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Schooling in Lambeth Indoamerican Refugee Migrant Organisation (IRMO)



Since 2013, IRMO's Family Project has helped over 90 school aged children access school in Lambeth. On average, children wait 18.5 weeks for a school place (almost half a school year). Despite the fact that school applications should be processed within 21 working days, 54% of children missed more than a term of school while waiting for a place.

Local authorities have a duty to provide suitable full-time education for all children of school age resident in that local authority, in line with the section 13 and 14 of Education Acts of 1996. Nevertheless, IRMO comes into contact with hundreds of families each year who are facing difficulties accessing services and formal education for their children.

There are a number of issues that can delay access to schooling, such as limited English, lack of knowledge of the UK education and admission systems, and difficulties providing the required documents. Almost half of IRMO's beneficiaries do not have a tenancy agreement. Often living in overcrowded conditions in Multiple Occupancy Homes, many do not pay bills directly. In addition, most do not claim benefits. Both are commonly used as proof of address. Some council admission teams, although not all, are prepared to accept affidavits, which parents must pay for.

IRMO has developed a briefing, which outlines a number of recommendations, including that School Admissions Teams should operate greater flexibility in the documents they will accept as proof of address and that parents should only need to apply once for a school place in their borough, with alternative schools being offered if no place within the selected schools is available. Families should also be signposted to support services and organisations.

Whilst children are out of school, they lose the rhythm of learning, their English does not improve, and their self-confidence suffers. Older children in particular are at higher risk of under-achievement in education, which will have consequences for the rest of their lives. IRMO's Family Project tries to ameliorate this with our English classes and homework clubs and we prioritise places in the project for children that are out of school. For further information on the support we offer to newly arrived Latin American and Spanish and Portuguese speaking families, contact familyproject@irmo.org.uk

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The Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women Organisation (KMEWO) founded in 1999, is a specialist BME women's organisation which started as a self-help organisation to provide advocacy help and support services to Kurdish, Middle Eastern and North African (KMENA) women who were fleeing civil wars, state and gender persecution, domestic violence and honour killings. KMEWO has grown into a well-known organisation that is highly respected within the Kurdish and Middle Eastern communities, the statutory and public-sector organisations.

Every year KMEWO supports 2000 women and families, over 42% of users are survivors of domestic abuse and/or harmful traditional practices. Its main aims are to improve the quality of lives of KMENA women, relieve their distress and suffering, promote their human rights and increase their opportunities for education, employment and integration. KMEWO users are one of the most disadvantaged and isolated groups of women in the UK who are invariably facing layers of barriers and problems with no knowledge and confidence to seek the help available to them. For many women KMEWO is usually the first point of contact, it provides a much-needed holistic support so they gain the knowledge and confidence they need to stand up for their rights.



KMEWO provides free, confidential, professional, holistic and multi-lingual advice, advocacy, practical and emotional support to women and their children. The advice workers assist with form filling on housing, welfare benefits, employment, debt management and other documents. Bilingual counselling in Kurdish and Arabic is available weekly. Currently, KMEWO is running three projects. The first one is the Samira project which is a specialist domestic abuse support for black and minority ethnic women living in Islington and London who might be at high to medium risk. The second project, Thrivers is a long term holistic support service for women wanting to exit honour based violence (HBV) and domestic abuse. The project provides continuous support to rebuild women's lives and meet their full potential through mentoring and group support. The third project is Pathway to Recovery. The project delivers specialist support services for women who are fleeing domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices.

Campaigning and lobbying are one of KMEWO's core activities. Since the beginning, KMEWO has campaigned against domestic violence, FGM and other forms of abuse against women. This is done by carrying out primary and desk-based research, sending letters and press releases, holding seminars and workshops, awareness raising campaigns, giving interviews to the press and TV, and give talks to parents and schools about unacceptable traditional practices, and provide trainings and materials, such as "for Honour and Love" DVD and three training manuals, for professionals on harmful traditional practices such as FGM, HBV and forced marriages.

For further information about our work, please call us on 02072631027 .

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General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – What you must know

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 and will apply from 25 May 2018.

If you are complying properly with the current law then most of your approach to compliance will remain valid under the GDPR. However, there are new elements and significant enhancements, so you will have to do some things for the first time and some things differently.

Charities/Advice Services frequently hold sensitive information of individuals they help and their donors. There is damage that could be caused to public trust and confidence in your organisation, and in the sector as a whole, if sensitive information is misused.

Recent issues within the sector have highlighted inadequacies in day to day data management which have led to investigations from the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office), in an effort to crack down on unlawful practices and educate organisations on more secure procedures.

Guidance from the ICO can be used on how to successfully implement GDPR. It is also advisable to start planning with no delay so that significant 'buy in' can be obtained from other staff members to help implement forthcoming changes.

Preparing For the General Data Protection Regulation -12 steps to take now is available from the ICO: <https://ico.org.uk/media/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

AdviceUK are already offering training on Data Protection covering all aspects of GDPR. Call 0300 777 0107 or email training@adviceuk.org.uk

