



musawah
For Equality in the Family

EQUALITY IN THE MUSLIM FAMILY IS NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE



**WE DEMAND JUSTICE IN OUR FAMILY LAWS SO
WE CAN ESTABLISH JUSTICE IN OUR SOCIETIES!**

WHO ARE WE?

Musawah believes we can establish gender justice and equality in our Muslim societies. We advocate for reform in Muslim family laws and practices, using Islam as our source of legitimacy and reclaiming its egalitarian ethos. We centre the needs and lived realities of families today.

We are a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. We have been breaking new grounds since our 2009 launch in Malaysia. We challenge the ways Islam is used to justify discrimination against women in law and practice by promoting egalitarian principles found in Islamic divine texts and a rights-based framework that advocates for equality and justice in Muslim families.

Our global movement brings together activists, policy makers, and scholars who use our resources in their advocacy and public education, including family laws, violence against women, child marriage, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Currently, we are focused on building the momentum for change and accelerating our impact at the national, regional and global levels. We are guided by our Theory of Change and our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework that outline four strategic paths to change:



Opening spaces for conversations and learning about gender, religion, and lived realities

Developing accessible resources about Islam and gender



Strengthening the capacity of activists and campaigners to organise and mobilise

Building a collective force and momentum for change



Finding Musawah was like finding a haven, a sanctuary, where I met people with whom I share a dream, and with whom I felt strong enough, brave enough to take the path less chosen.

Salma Nims
Jordanian National Commission for Women





CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE IN MUSLIM FAMILY LAWS (CFJ)

Musawah spearheads the global Campaign for Justice in Muslim Family Laws, a key entry point for movement building at the national and regional levels. We bring together advocates (activists, academics, policy makers) for family law reform from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. By 2025, we will have supported groups in 15 countries to actively pursue reform in at least one family law issue while strengthening their skills and competencies for long term and sustainable campaigning. The campaign is linked to the wider Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law, which spans all regions, religions, cultures, and traditions.

RECLAIMING 'ADL AND IHSAN IN MUSLIM MARRIAGE

Musawah is working within Muslim legal tradition to shift the concept of marriage from domination to a partnership of equals. We produce multidisciplinary knowledge using three interrelated elements: textual, historical and socio-legal studies; ethnographic research; and opening spaces to advance a new discourse around marriage. *Justice and Beauty in Muslim Marriage: Towards Egalitarian Ethics and Laws* (Oneworld, 2022) explores marriage from the multiple perspectives of the Qur'an, Sunna, Muslim legal tradition, historical and contemporary marriage practices, and law reform processes.

MUSAWAH GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Since 2013, Musawah has trained over 350 activists, academics and policy makers from 37 countries across four regions in its bespoke Islam and Gender Equality and Justice (I-nGEJ) training programme. This transformative course builds the capacity, literacy and consciousness of activists, decision-makers and rights groups to critically speak out on the impact of laws, policies and practices justified in the name of Islam, while promoting an understanding of Islam which upholds equality and justice. Our long-term vision is a Musawah Global Institute that offers a variety of online and in-person workshops, and education programmes tailored for different groups.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

We aim to make family law reform a global priority issue through strategic engagements with international and regional organisations. A key strategy is to support national activists to engage with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its treaty body through shadow reports and oral statements. We are also piloting a methodology to effectively track countries' progress under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 5.1.1, and will be sharing this information with the CEDAW Committee to strengthen its demands for accountability and push for greater achievement of the SDGs.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our communication activities raise the visibility of Musawah and advocates through our presence on various social media platforms, newsletter, 'Vision', and our website. We popularise content developed by Musawah, her partners and allies. We also build connections and share knowledge among broader communities and networks. We are intentional in making digital spaces active and abuzz with discussions on gender, religion and lived realities.



FIND OUT MORE AND SUPPORT US!

Administrative Office:

Musawah Secretariat, 15, Jalan Limau Purut,
Taman Bangsar, 59000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For media or urgent requests:
info@musawah.org

For other enquiries:
musawah@musawah.org

www.musawah.org



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