

Building Sector Skills & Understanding



Australian Muslim Women's
Centre for Human Rights
Equality without Exception



INTRODUCTION

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights (AMWCHR) is an organisation of Muslim women working to advance the rights and status of Muslim women in Australia.

The Australian Muslim community is characterised by diversity, rather than a binding version of Islam and what it means to be Muslim. Our organisation is committed to reflecting the sectarian, cultural and linguistic diversity within the Muslim community.

AMWCHR's training is based on more than 30 years of service provision to the Muslim community across Australia. Through our training we aim to share our knowledge, expertise, skills and insights to assist organisations, large or small, private, community-based or government, to develop their competence in responding to and working with Muslim communities.

For many years our organisation has provided training at the intersection of culture, faith, race, and gender. We do not only seek to inform but to stimulate discussion and broaden perspectives while reflecting the rich and dynamic areas in which we work.

Our training sessions highlight the diversity of Muslim communities in Australia and emphasise the importance of recognising the complexity and multiple factors that interact to create unique individual and community needs. AMWCHR combines the importance of understanding cultural practices and traditions while recognising individual experiences.

We have developed a reputation for providing the best possible and up to date information and training in knowledge areas that are often contested or represented by multiple agendas within communities or society more broadly. All our training is based on the organisation's extensive research that is regularly updated. This includes literature reviews of emerging research here and overseas, on-the-ground community consultations, as well as case studies and case work we deal with.

In relation to Islam, AMWCHR have specialised knowledge of diversity of interpretations that exist on various aspects of Islamic practices. This ensures training participants appreciate the richness of the cultural, historical and political influences that impact on Islam and Muslim communities. All our training is customised to meet the specific needs and interests of the audience and is interactive and engaging.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AMWCHR acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands our organisation is located on and where we conduct our work. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. AMWCHR is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters, and seas and their rich contribution to society.

We recognise that gender, race, and religion intersect to create multiple forms of discrimination and violence against Muslim women, particularly in a context of growing Islamophobia. AMWCHR also acknowledges that preventing prejudice in all forms is bound to the struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Before we can successfully tackle issues within our communities, Australia must address the ongoing impacts of colonisation, systemic racism, and discrimination in all its forms in this country.



Training Sessions:

The following outline provides a general overview of the training sessions currently offered by the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights.

Training sessions are delivered by experienced and trained facilitators and provides comprehensive insights along with practical tools to enhance understanding and practice.

In addition to the sessions below, we can develop tailored sessions to suit organisational needs upon request. Tailored trainings will be developed and priced individually.

Insights into working with Muslim migrant communities

Available as half day or full day workshop

This session introduces a general overview on Islam and Muslim Communities in Australia, which includes an explanation on the Five Pillars of Islam, Islamic values, Festivals and Customs and Muslims in Australia.

The training will also explore the varying migration journeys and settlement experiences in Australia and is designed to support participants to increase their knowledge and understanding of Muslim communities and develop an awareness of the unique challenges and barriers impacting Muslim women, children, and families.



Responding to Family Violence in Muslim communities

Available as half day or full day workshop

This training incorporates universal and culturally/religiously specific information on family violence, focusing on its impact within Muslim communities to highlight the additional challenges that exist and the diverse circumstances that Muslim women experience when dealing with family violence.

The aim of this training is to assist service providers, policy and decision makers to take into consideration the cultural, religious and social factors that impact on Muslim women's lives and deeply influence their response to family violence. This training incorporates universal and culturally/religiously specific information on family violence, focusing on its impact within Muslim communities to highlight the additional challenges that exist and the diverse circumstances that Muslim women experience when dealing with family violence.

Recognising and Responding to Early and Forced Marriage in Muslim communities

Half day workshop

This training provides participants with information on current legislation criminalising early and forced marriages and delves into the origins, drivers and narratives associated with the practice. Exploring why it's happening and what is being done here in Australia and elsewhere to ensure no one (men or women, girls or boys) are forced to marry.

What is the impact on the victims, what are the hurdles they face? The training also explores the double-bind of disclosing or not disclosing forced marriage practices.

Service providers, especially schoolteachers, social workers and youth workers who work with Muslim communities may face this issue and require the appropriate tools and knowledge, as well as the community connections and support, to respond appropriately.

How to book:

If you are interested in any of our sessions, please contact us by emailing training@amwchr.org.au or call (03) 9481 3000 to discuss your training needs



Testimonials.

What participants found useful about our training

"Through your eloquent presentation style, you delivered an unbiased account of the history of Islam, Islamic sectarianism, and Islam diversity in Australia"

"This training has increased my understanding of the diversity of Muslim faith and the role of culture to understand family issues."

" I feel more confident to engage families/ victims of EFM/FV in Muslim communities after the training."

"This will help me open up conversations in a more sensitive and informed way"

"Wonderful training, really loved it and the detailed content and discussions. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge and experience. It's absolutely key when we are so often interacting with people from cultures different than our own, so that we can provide them with useful, relevant and appropriate support."

"Great training by experienced, knowledgeable and wonderful passionate facilitators."

Some of the agencies AMWCHR has provided training and support to includes:

Department of Families,
Fairness and Housing

Department of
Education

Muslim Women's
Support Centre

JUNO

Vic Police

Australian Federal
Police

Lighthouse
Foundation



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