

Khadija Leadership Network 11 / 9 Charlotte Street Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021

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Organisation Profile

The **Khadija Leadership Network** (KLN) is a not for profit organisation aimed at encouraging Muslim women to lead. KLN does this by building the capacity and capability of Muslim women in New Zealand.

The current trustees of KLN are Tayyaba Khan (Founder), Pakeeza Rasheed (Chairperson) and Rodiya Yusuf (Executive Board Member). In September 2019 four new board members were brought on - Nurain Janah, Tima Alhaddad, Masooma Mehdi and Soraiya Daud. KLN has two esteemed Patrons - Yvonne Ridley, an internationally renowned journalist, and Dr. Mohsen Al Attar, a law professor at Warwick University, UK.

KLN's official launch event was in **December 2017** and we have since steadily built up a strong profile in New Zealand. We have close connections within the Muslim community and have held public events for the benefit of Muslim women as well as events aimed at raising public awareness and combating misconceptions about Muslims. The work of KLN has become even more important and urgent after the terror attacks of Christchurch.

The 2018-2020 Strategy for KLN consists of:

- Developing inclusive leaders
- Setting up a dedicated Zakat and Sadaqah fund in NZ
- Providing opportunities to give back
- Challenging assumptions about Muslim women
- Increasing visibility and representation



A Closer Look

EVENTS

DELIVERING WITH IMPACT

March 2018 - International Women's Day - Press for Progress Panel event.

April 2018 - Navigating Leadership Breakfast Series with Minister Julie Anne Genter - Minister for Women.

May 2018 - Panel Event in collaboration with the Human Rights Lawyers Association Aoteaora on Cultural Racism involving legal and cultural experts.

October 2018 - KLN Annual Lecture Series: Professor Anita Weiss from University of Oregon - Women's Rights in Pakistan.

November 2018 - Seeds of Ilm 2018: Turangawaewae. A conference exploring the New Zealand Muslim identity. Before the conference KLN held the inaugural New Zealand Muslim Awards, with awards presented by MP Marama Davidson.

March 2019 - KLN organised the first vigil after the Christchurch terror attacks (held in Auckland) and we have been active in advocating on behalf of the Muslim community, promoting diverse viewpoints and amplifying a range of Muslim voices.



Continued

MORE EVENTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

April 2019 - Facilitated a debrief for Muslim community volunteers on the ground during the Christchurch attacks. The outcome of this debrief showed there was a need for an alternative leadership model within New Zealand's Muslim community.

June 2019 - Co-hosted 'Let's Deal with It: A Trans-Tasman Campaign towards facilitating Racial Equity' Conference alongside Shakti NZ and Auckland Peace Action.

September 2019 - 'One Whanau Dinner' co-hosted with Pearl of Islands Foundation in Christchurch on behalf of victims to acknowledge the work of first responders after the terror attacks and to help build bridges within the wider Christchurch community.

September 2019 - Held the annual New Zealand Muslims Awards for the second year in a row. At the event KLN's patron Mohsen Al Attar delivered a powerful keynote address on the need for greater action and courageous activism in the current global environment.



And Finally ...

ONGOING WORK

RAISING AWARENESS & PROVIDING SUPPORT

Participated extensively in media commentary after the Christchurch attacks and highlighted a diverse range of Muslim voices. We acted as a conduit by putting the media in touch with members of the Muslim community and we also commented in all leading New Zealand media as well as international media such as Vice, Buzzfeed, the New York Times and Reuters to mention a few. KLN also facilitated the addition of regular Muslim guests and commentators within the New Zealand media.

Launched a petition to address a questionable donation received with ties back to China. It served as a way to address global Islamophobia and raise awareness about the atrocities faced by Uyghur Muslims. As a result of our actions people not just in NZ but also worldwide are now more aware of the mass illegal detention of Uyghur Muslims. We were even trending on Twitter.

Regularly provide advice to a range of government agencies, community groups and not for profit organisations on a range of issues including cultural and religious competency.

Funded a young woman from Christchurch to participate in the Active Citizens programme.

Distributed zakat (charitable funds) to two women in significant need.

