



A TOOLKIT FOR ADVOCATES

SHARING THE MUSAWAH FRAMEWORK AND KEY MESSAGES

© Sisters in Islam, 2013

Published in Malaysia by:

Musawah
an initiative of Sisters in Islam (SIS Forum Malaysia)
4 Jalan 11/8E, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: +603 7960 5121 Fax: +603 7960 8737
Email: musawah@musawah.org Web: <http://www.musawah.org>

Developed by: Cassandra Balchin with inputs from Musawah Advocates and the Musawah Secretariat.

With thanks to the following for pilot testing and feedback: Anna Turley, Hadil el-Khouly, Imrana Jalal, Jana Rumminger, Johaira Wahab, Layali Eshqaidef, Manal Abdel Halim, Meghana Bahar, Rozana Isa, Zainah Anwar

Creative Direction: Meghana Bahar

Cover Design: Ezrena Hussain

Illustrations: Shieko Reto & Rini Templeton (www.riniart.org)

Layout: Ezrena Hussain

Any part of this publication may be copied, reproduced, adapted, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means to meet local needs, without permission from Musawah, provided that there is no intention of gaining material profits and that all copies, reproductions, adaptation and translation through mechanical, electrical or electronic means acknowledge Musawah and the authors as the sources. A copy of any reproduction, adaptation or translation should be sent to Musawah at the above address.

*This Musawah Toolkit is dedicated to the memory of Cassandra Balchin,
who researched and wrote this training guide.
Cass was a founding member of Musawah and its first
Communications Coordinator and
a member of the Musawah International Advisory Group.
We miss her, not least her writing and communication skills.*

A TOOLKIT FOR ADVOCATES:
SHARING THE MUSAWAH FRAMEWORK
AND KEY MESSAGES

CONTENTS

Suggestions for Using this Toolkit	5
Musawah's Hope for Equality	10
Musawah Key Messages	11
The Musawah Principles	12
Why 'Musawah'?	13
Global	15
Movement	17
Equality in the Family	19
Equality and Justice in the Muslim	
Family are Necessary	21
The <i>Time</i> for Equality and Justice is <i>Now!</i>	23
Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family	
are Possible	25
Holistic Framework	27
Why Equality <i>and</i> Justice?	31
Equality and Substantive Equality	33
Equality in the Family is the Foundation	
for Equality in Society	35
Families are Central to Our Lives	37
Safe and Happy Space, Equally	
Empowering for All	39
The Muslim Family and Families in All	
Their Multiple Forms	41
To Promote and Protect Equality	45
Led by Muslim Women	47
Women and Men	49
Publicly Reclaim Islam's Spirit of Justice	52
For All	54
Individuals and Groups	56
Musawah Ways of Working:	
Knowledge Building, Outreach and	
International Advocacy	58
The Story of the Musawah Framework	
for Action	61
Musawah Launched	62
Annexe 1: Examples of Advocacy Guides	
and Manuals for You to Adapt	64
Annexe 2: How You Can Get Involved	83
Facilitator Notes	85

Suggestions for Using this Toolkit

How can this toolkit be used?

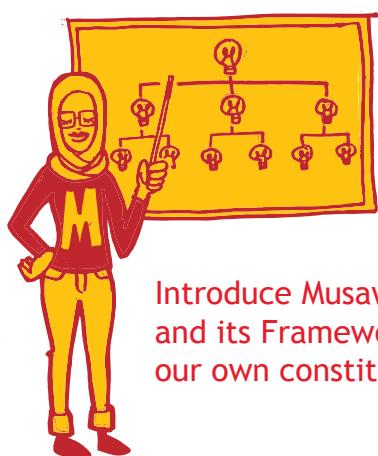
This toolkit is designed mainly for Musawah Advocates, and to help Advocates to:



Promote the
Musawah
Key Messages



Think about
the key ideas
in the Musawah
Framework



Introduce Musawah
and its Framework to
our own constituencies



Find other Musawah key analyses
and resources, for example our
website and publications



The Musawah Framework for Action is the founding document for our global movement. Its six pages explain our vision, our principles and our arguments for why equality and justice in the family are necessary and possible.

In order to build our movement and reach out to as many women and men as possible, we need to make these principles and arguments accessible, and show how they are relevant to local activism. We also need to share with other activists, potential allies, media, policymakers, and women and men affected by the issues what our movement is about and what it does.

The Musawah key messages summarise our Framework and how our movement works. They are short, simple statements that Advocates can memorise and share.

So this kit is a tool for building knowledge and mobilising (doing advocacy) on equality and justice in the family.

We hope this toolkit helps to bring the Musawah Framework to life for you. We also hope it gives you information and inspiration, and equips you and those you work with to be an active part of our global movement to ensure equality and justice in the family.

What does the toolkit include?

This is what you will find inside:

- The Musawah key messages, a statement of our Hope for Equality, and the Musawah Principles;
- Explanations for the main terms in the key messages and the Musawah Framework;
- Suggested activities for you to do on your own or with a group of Advocates or your constituencies, to start thinking about Musawah and discussing its approach;
- Suggested follow-up activities like accessing audio-visual clips of Musawah Advocates speaking about their experiences and ideas; information to find out or to research to do and share with other Advocates; resources to read and websites to check out.

What does the toolkit not include?

This toolkit is mainly about Musawah's analyses. You can find more information about our hope for equality, our ways of working and our structure in our collectively developed 2011 [Strategic Direction document](#). Our website also has a section [Get Involved](#) where you can find out or show others how to become more closely involved with Musawah.

This toolkit is not a general guide about how to do advocacy. Many excellent resources already exist which can give you ideas about how to do advocacy with people, how to promote your ideas to decision-makers or to the media. A few examples are included in Annexe 1 and in the [Resources](#) section of our website.

Many Advocates have lots of experience of talking about controversial subjects and persuading people to share your point of view—even if you don't know you have this experience! Persuading your parents to let you study your chosen subject, or persuading your spouse, children or siblings to help you in the house, or persuading your friends to visit the place you want to visit, all use the same basic skills:

- ❖ Choose an appropriate moment and appropriate topic;
- ❖ Know your audience and what matters to them;
- ❖ Respond to your audience's needs and perspectives;
- ❖ Use effective facts and knowledge
- ❖ Bring in the right allies to support you.

You can do it!

How should I use the toolkit?

Advocates can use this toolkit in different situations, including:

- Alone or with other Advocates as a tool to help reflect about Musawah and the issues of equality and justice in the family;
- As a quick key messages reference when you are speaking publicly to allies, the media, decision-makers or donors, or writing about Musawah;
- As a manual for advocacy work with our constituencies on the issues, Musawah and our Framework.

There are a few things to bear in mind when using this toolkit.

❖ **The main aim of this toolkit is to get everyone thinking and talking** about the issues of equality and justice in the family and about Musawah. It doesn't have all the answers and only suggests some ways of thinking about Muslim family laws and practices: it's the debate and open discussion that is important and not everyone has to agree with everything. Musawah meetings always involve lots of lively debates!

❖ **The best place to start is with the key messages.** This page could even be printed out and photocopied as a handout. Each of the highlighted words or phrases in the key messages is explained in this toolkit. If you click on the word or phrase, you will link to the page discussing it from a Musawah perspective.

- So you can click on the words or phrases you are interested in discussing

OR

- You can go through the sections of the toolkit one by one, starting at the beginning and working your way to the end

OR

- You can use the table of contents to find the ideas you want to discuss and think about.

Each section of the toolkit is designed to be a stand-alone section, which means there is some repetition across the toolkit. Many sections also have links backwards and forwards to other sections. So, you can work in a straight line, dip in and out, or jump around in the toolkit—see what works best for you.

❖ **Perhaps attempt only one or two sections at a time.** The issues are big subjects and need time for debating and digesting, even for the most experienced activist. Perhaps choose which issues are most important for your particular audience and start there as a way of ensuring their attention.

❖ **If possible, use this toolkit online.** That way, all the interactive links to the Musawah website and other websites will work, and so you will have access to more information and multi-media resources. If you are using the CD version, we have tried to include as many of the resources as possible on the CD.

❖ **How each section works:**

- Each section explains a word or phrase from the key messages, mostly using quotes from the Musawah Framework or other Musawah sources. Depending upon your audience and their capacity, you could print out (all or some of)

this information and use it as a handout, project selected paragraphs on a PowerPoint or write them on a flip-chart, or just use the explanation as your own notes for facilitating and guiding a discussion.

- Most sections have a subsection ‘To Talk About’. These are meant as suggestions for the session facilitator. Depending upon the audience and the questions, they can be used to *start* the discussion even *before* sharing the explanations and extracts from the Musawah Framework. Or, they can be used as ideas for additional discussions *in between* or *after* sharing the explanations. If there’s more than one suggested point, you don’t have to discuss them all. Maybe only one question is enough to kick off the discussion... It’s all up to you, the facilitator, to decide what will be interesting and important for your audience—and to anticipate problem areas.

The ‘To Talk About’ sections can also work as questions to ask yourself if you are using the toolkit alone to build your own thinking.

And remember: there are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers—the idea is to begin discussions.

- Finally, most sections have some suggestions for things ‘To Do’. These may be further readings or extension activities or possible ways of getting involved with Musawah.
- The separate *Facilitator Notes* section provides a short list of possible learnings or discussion aims for each section to further guide the facilitator. They are not the only learnings that can arise out of the section. Some of them point to flashpoints that may be difficult for people to discuss, either because they are sensitive or challenge dominant ways of thinking.