



A TOOLKIT FOR ADVOCATES

SHARING THE MUSAWAH FRAMEWORK AND KEY MESSAGES



musawah

Individuals and Groups

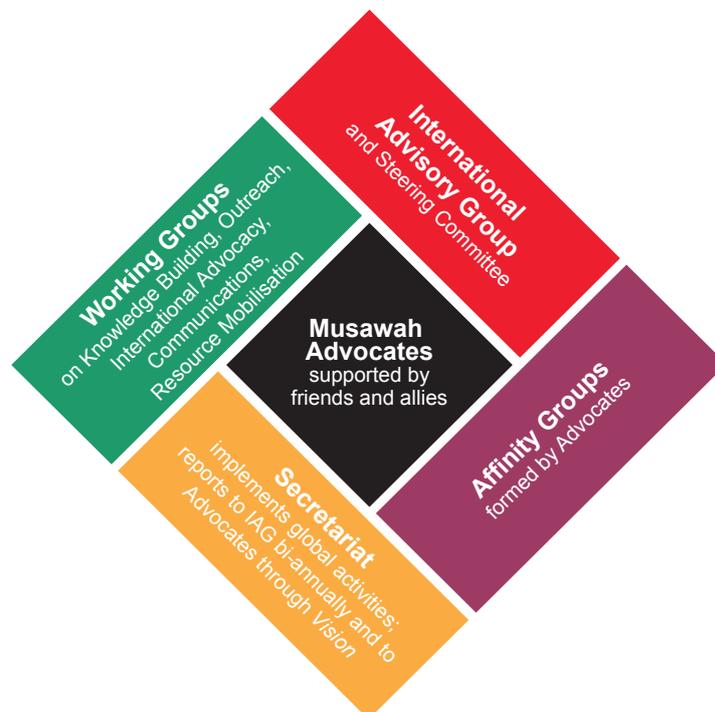
Musawah brings together NGOs, activists, scholars, practitioners, policymakers and grassroots women and men from around the world who are working for equality and justice in Muslim family laws and practices. This includes both people who are working individually as well as those who work collectively with others—everyone has a role they can play.

Musawah Advocates include individuals and organisations that share Musawah’s goal of equality in the family and have a stake in and commitment to the growth of the movement. All Advocates agree with the Musawah Framework for Action, use the Framework in their activities, and contribute to the achievement of Musawah’s strategic goals and objectives.

Musawah also works with allies, which includes individuals and organisations that broadly support Musawah’s work, vision and principles, though they are not working specifically on issues related to Muslim family laws and practices.

Individuals and organisations may work with Musawah by forming an Affinity Group or by being part of a Working Group. Affinity Groups are self-formed groups of individual Advocates or organisations that share a national, regional, thematic or contextual focus, and that want to advance their advocacy by tapping into the solidarity and strength of collective thought and action. Working Groups on knowledge building, outreach, international advocacy, communications, and resource mobilisation support, advise, and assist in developing work plans, building resources and implementing activities for these areas of work.

Musawah’s Strategic Direction [document](#) provides details about the movement’s various structures—Affinity Groups, Working Groups, the International Advisory Group and the Secretariat, while the website and Annexe 2 on How to Get Involved suggests how individuals and groups can become involved



To talk about



How can individuals contribute to a movement such as Musawah and how can Musawah include them effectively?

What kinds of individuals and organisations are already part of local campaigns for equality and justice in the family? Can you think of others that you could include in your national or regional activities?

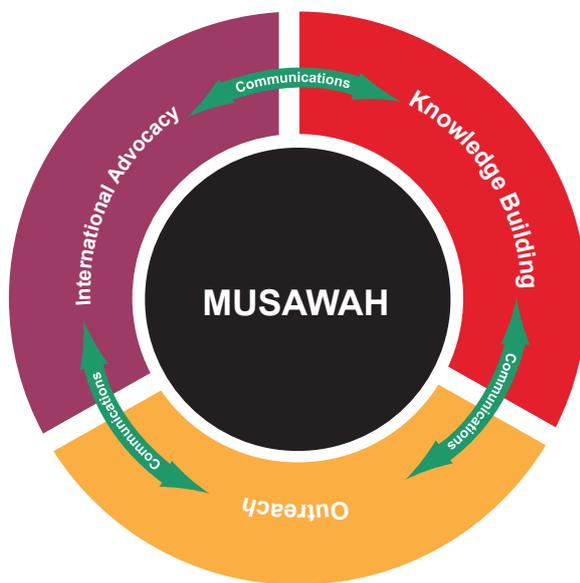
To do



Have a look at the list of organisations in the [links](#) section on the Musawah website. Can you suggest links for any other organisations or individuals? If you think they may be interested in linking, please let the Secretariat know by e-mailing us at musawah@musawah.org.

Musawah's Ways of Working: Knowledge Building, Outreach and International Advocacy

Musawah has developed three inter-related areas of work to realise its goal of building a strong movement of women and men working towards equality and justice in Muslim families. These three areas of work are: (1) knowledge building; (2) outreach; and (3) international advocacy. These areas of work are supported by communications activities.



Knowledge Building

Musawah is a knowledge building movement, which facilitates access to existing knowledge and the creation of new knowledge about women's rights in Islam. We seek to apply feminist and rights-based perspectives to understand and search for equality and justice within Muslim legal traditions. Such perspectives help reveal the tension between the egalitarian and hierarchical voices in the tradition. They also help uncover women's voices that have been for so long silenced in the production of religious knowledge. This will ensure women's concerns and

interests can be reflected.

We believe that the production and sharing of knowledge should be participatory, should recognise non-traditional forms of expertise, and should begin from contexts rather than texts. In this way, the knowledge produced will be grounded in the lived realities of women and men, with such realities informing the approach to the issues and the questions being asked.

Musawah's current knowledge building work has two components: (1) long-term, multifaceted research projects on specific concepts and themes; and (2) capacity building of Musawah Advocates to make knowledge relating to family laws and practices and advocacy strategies for equality and justice in Islam more accessible.

Building the Movement and Outreach

Outreach is vital for building our movement: it brings together a critical mass of Musawah Advocates who support the Musawah Framework for Action; it builds lasting and effective alliances locally, regionally and globally; and it ensures knowledge building is based on and responds to the lived realities of women and men.

Through its outreach, Musawah works to strengthen the sense of community and common purpose amongst Advocates, with a goal of building a critical mass of supporters that work with and advocate for the Musawah Framework. Musawah creates and shares platforms, tools and information that all in the Musawah community can use based on their needs and their own directions.

Musawah's current outreach work seeks to connect

with activists, organisations and individuals through three key components: mobilisation, capacity building and knowledge building. More details about outreach strategies, focus areas and activities to date are available in our Strategic Direction document.

One of our major activities is a Global Meeting, organised once every three to four years. The next is scheduled for 2014 in Cairo, Egypt. Leading up to the meeting, there will be regional meetings and activities carried out at the regional and national levels-and which have been occurring since 2011. These will focus on highlighting the achievements made towards equality and justice in family law and practices.

International Advocacy and Advocating for Change on Multiple Levels

The Musawah Framework advocates for equality and justice within the family and in community practices as well as at the national level in terms of laws and

policies.

Because our holistic Framework also includes approaches based on international human rights, our three inter-related areas of work include international advocacy.

Musawah's international advocacy serves to strengthen women's voices at the regional and international levels, and to raise the visibility of initiatives advocating equality and justice in the Muslim family.

A key strategy for our international advocacy is engagement with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), and with NGOs involved in the CEDAW reporting process.

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To talk about



How might feminist or rights-based knowledge building be different from other types of knowledge building?

Are ideas enough to change the world? Why do we need to build movements?

Musawah is a movement supporting rights activists who want to achieve equality and justice in the family in their communities and countries. Then why does it work areas include international advocacy?

In your view, is one of Musawah's three work areas—knowledge building, outreach and international advocacy—more important for your work or are they all equally important?

To do



You can find out more about each of Musawah's three [work areas](#) online, and about how to get involved [here](#).

Tell other Advocates about your activities that relate to these three work areas, either via the website, our Facebook page or by sending a contribution to our regular update, [Musawah Vision](#). It doesn't have to only be activities through Musawah and can be anything you are doing that is related to equality and justice in the family. Please contact the communications team info@musawah.org if you would like to share anything.

The Story of the Musawah Framework for Action

The Musawah Framework for Action is a working document that provides a conceptual framework for Musawah.

The Framework was developed by a group of Muslim activists and scholars who came together to initiate Musawah. This group, coordinated by Sisters in Islam (Malaysia), comprised of a 12-member planning committee of activists and academics from 11 countries. The Framework was conceptualised and written through a series of meetings and discussions with scholars, academics, activists and legal practitioners from approximately 30 countries.

The story of the Framework's development is part of the Musawah journey.

2000–2006: In the course of meetings, workshops and conversations, members of Sisters in Islam (SIS) perceived an interest in and an intense need for building an international network to share scholarship, strategies, and best practices on work related to family laws in Muslim contexts. This was seen as a strategic way to collectively counter the widespread use of Islam to resist women's demands for equality and justice and push for reform in national, regional and international contexts.

March 2007: A 12-person Planning Committee comprised of activists and scholars from different regions met in Istanbul, Turkey, at the invitation of SIS. This group decided that instead of simply holding one international meeting on family law reform, we should build on existing efforts and initiatives to create a movement that brings together Islamic and human rights frameworks, along with the lived realities of women and men, to realise equality and justice in Muslim families.

December 2007: A conceptual meeting with 21 participants from 15 countries was held in Cairo, Egypt, to deepen and clarify the conceptual framework for equality in Muslim family laws and practices and laid the groundwork for the Musawah Framework.

Mid-2008: The Secretariat was established within Sisters in Islam to, among other tasks, facilitate the compilation and production of the Framework in time for the launch at the Global Meeting.

February 2009: The Musawah Framework for Action was launched (in five languages) at Musawah's first Global Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Musawah Launched



Musawah was formally launched at its first Global Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with 270 participants and resource persons from some 50 countries and over 50 local and international volunteers.

The programme combined plenary sessions and workshops focused on why and how equality and justice in the family are necessary and possible. The meeting opened with a gala dinner and celebration with special performances. A Young Women's Caucus met throughout the five days. The Musawah website and three publications were launched.

The Global Meeting Summary of Proceedings (available in English, Arabic and French) provides an overview of the Meeting, including descriptions of each of the plenary and break-out sessions.

You can watch the Musawah Opening Video and the 2009 Global Meeting Closing Video on YouTube.

Annexe 1

Examples of Advocacy Guides and Manuals for You to Adapt

This is a list of some guides and manuals which can give you ideas about doing advocacy. They are not necessarily about family laws or about Muslim societies but you can adapt their ideas and suggestions for running workshops and getting people discussing and thinking about your context. These are only a few examples and this list is in no particular order.

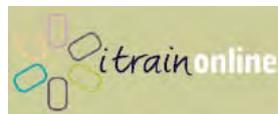


Women and Men: Hand in Hand against Violence Strategies and approaches to working with men and boys for ending violence against women

This manual is produced by Oxfam, the UN Trust Fund to End VAW and the Lebanese anti-VAW organisation Kafa. It has very detailed suggestions about how to run workshops and sessions which you can adapt to talk about Musawah.



APC training materials are designed for trainers who want to build the capacity of civil society organisations to understand information and communication technologies, ICT policy and gender-related issues.



The iTrainOnline MMTK is a growing collection of 'workshop kits' for face-to-face training. The materials use a standard set of templates, and offer building blocks for trainers to build their own courses.

But don't think you need to be a trainer to use the iTrainOnline MMTK! The handouts are valuable information resources for anyone who wants to teach themselves about any of the wide range of topics covered.



A New Weave of Power, People & Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy and Citizen Participation

A New Weave of Power, People & Politics provides a well-tested approach for building people's participation and collective power that goes beyond influencing policy and politics to transforming public decision-making altogether.

Revisioning and Using Popular Education An excellent 7-page step-by-step guide to popular education and raising consciousness raising



Gender Training Tools and other resources from Siyanda can be found on the BRIDGE Global Resources Database.