

**QUARTER 1 - 2024 NEWSLETTER**

# **SISTERHOOD IN ACTION**





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I W C N Z

# QUARTER ONE HIGHLIGHTS

2024 | ISSUE NO. 1

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# IWCNZ

2024 | ISSUE NO. 1



## 2024 BIG PLANS

Welcome to our latest quarterly newsletter! In this edition, we provide glimpses of our upcoming events and initiatives to know what's in store. Additionally, we highlight the accomplishments and activities of the past months, celebrating our achievements together. We also shine a spotlight on Muslim sisters in business, highlighting their successes and contributions to various industries. Don't miss our message from the National Coordinator motivating us in the area of self improvement and working with Iḥsān. Join us as we explore the dynamic and inspiring world of our community!

With Love,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM



## IN THIS ISSUE

01

Overview of Quarter One  
Community Development

02

2024 Women in Leadership  
Highlights

03

Message from National  
Coordinator Aliya Danzeisen

04

2024 Conference Overview &  
Khadija Al-Kaddour Tour

05

IWCNZ Feature - Sisters in  
Business

06

Upcoming Events and  
Community Development

# IWCNZ'S WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

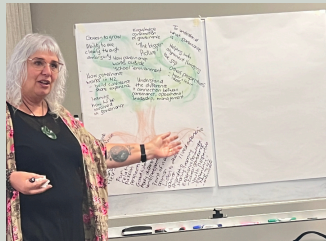


The Auckland Women in Leadership cohort concluded their journey with empowering media coaching, provided by The Media Training Bureau. Every participant fully participated in the opportunity to refine their communication prowess, with some even delivering presentations at the ensuing conference, showcasing newfound confidence.

This highlighted session, the final for the first Auckland cohort, marked a significant milestone as individuals pushed past their comfort zones. Following this, the group celebrated their achievements at hotel during a separate graduation ceremony. The event honoured their accomplishments and confirmed the ongoing bonds and invaluable connections forged throughout the WIL mentoring experience.

## AUCKLAND & WELLINGTON

The Wellington cohort culminated their governance training journey with an important and in-depth final session run by our advisors from the organisation, Community Waikato. Participants found the experience extremely valuable and engaging, after delving into intricate aspects of governance.



A month later, the group gathered for their graduation ceremony, held at a prestigious Wellington hotel. Attendees shared profound reflections on their growth, both professionally and personally, underscoring the transformative impact of the program. This event not only celebrated individual achievements but also marked the conclusion of the Wellington cohort's

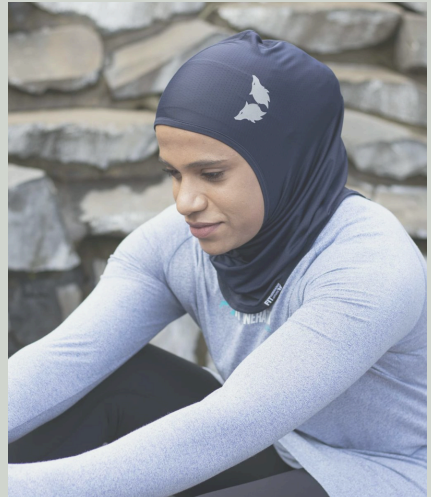
With gratitude to the Ministry of Social Development, we've successfully concluded two WIL cohorts in Auckland, Wellington, and Waikato. Currently, IWCNZ diligently reviewing applications to select our upcoming South Island cohort. Keep an eye out for further opportunities over the next 12 months.





## FIT FLEX MUSLIMAH- ONLINE COACHING

Flex Muslimah provided an engaging online fitness session, empowering participants to achieve wellness goals from home. Featuring a Q&A segment and a 20-minute beginner workout led by Sister Maryam, the event echoed the Hadith of Al-Bukhari, stressing physical strength's significance. It emphasised integrating exercise into daily life as worship to Allah. Aligning with Islamic principles of holistic health, participants expressed satisfaction, vocalising their enjoyment during the session.



## BEYOND LOVE - ZOOM TALK

The talk successfully guided individuals on a journey of self-discovery, focusing on preparing them comprehensively for marriage. Exploring religiosity, personality, values, and personal contributions to partnerships fostered deep self-awareness. Participants gained insight into their beliefs, character, and contributions to marriage through case studies, storytelling from the time of the Sahabah. The session by Sister Amaney from Sacred Soulmates helped equip participants with the understanding needed for a sacred union like marriage, ensuring they were ready for the journey ahead.



## MAXIMISING THE LAST DAYS OF RAMADAN- ZOOM TALK

Sister Asma Ibrahim's Ramadan talk was a transformative journey, delving into the physical and spiritual dimensions of fasting, and unveiling the profound significance of Laylatul Qadr. Through her talks, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the physiological and psychological benefits of fasting, discovering practical strategies to elevate their spiritual growth in the remaining days of Ramadan. Sister Asma highlighted the spiritual essence of Laylatul Qadr, empowering listeners to embrace its significance and maximise their Ramadan experience.



## SUNNAH TROTS PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW PLYMOUTH AND DUNEDIN

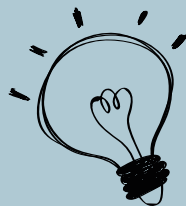
The Youth Muslimah Horse Riding events, held in Palmerston North, New Plymouth, and Dunedin, were organised with the aim of encouraging young Muslimahs to get outdoors and engaging in physical activities as Islam encourages an active lifestyle. These events covered fundamental riding techniques, safety protocols, horse care essentials and an opportunity to ride on their own. These events were inspired by Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) advice to teach children swimming, archery, and horse riding. Historically horse riding was essential for transportation and warfare, enhancing mobility and coordination. The Prophet's guidance emphasised a holistic education, blending physical skills with moral teachings to promote discipline and preparedness. While times have changed, the principles of balanced development remain relevant, inspiring the youth to seek equilibrium in their lives.







# NATIONAL COORDINATOR MESSAGE



## TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH EXCELLENCE: YOU Version 2.0

Assalamu alaikum my dear sisters,

While we've said goodbye once again to Ramadan, I encourage you not to bid adieu to the dedicated skill, focus and excellence you showed during the month. Those habits of striving to do good and achieving excellence should be honed. The concept of Ihsān assists us in our worship of Allah (SWT) as well as in doing better in our ordinary lives. The effort of doing a bit more, a bit better, a bit "extra", takes our ordinary efforts to the extraordinary!

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) when asked by Jibril what Ihsān was, he said "to worship God as though you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, then indeed He sees you." (Bukhari, Muslim). I'm confident over Ramadan you identified areas where you can continue to improve. Are you still envisioning a better, upgraded and more dedicated version of yourself?

Allah instructs us to excel in deeds of righteousness. "And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good." (Quran, 2:195) Are you looking for opportunities to assist, to be of value to others, to inspire those around you with your excellence and action? As we head out of homes daily, let each of us remember the value of Islam in our lives. The Prophet (SAW) reminded: "Verily, Allah has prescribed excellence in everything." (Muslim) Let this be your daily guide in your worship, work, and relationships.

Working with Ihsān requires you to dream bigger and better. Imagine yourself as the best possible version of yourself—compassionate, resilient, and steadfast in serving humanity. Let your actions speak for themselves and inspire those around you to also excel.

Of course, working to excellence is not easy. It requires you to push yourself, to be patient, and to persevere in order to step out of your comfort zone. I am confident you will see worth in the work. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) instructed: "Verily, Allah loves that when anyone of you does a job, he should perfect it." (Al-Bayhaqi)

So, my dear sisters, I advise you as I do myself, now that we've finished our month's fast, we have once again been given an opportunity to do better. Take advantage of it and become the best version of yourself—Version 2.0 of YOU!

Wassalam,

*Aliya*



# CONFERENCE 2024

The 33rd Annual Conference of the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand was held from February 23rd to 25th, 2024, in Wellington - Lower Hutt, was a vibrant gathering marked by insightful discussions and enriching experiences. With a theme "Crowns Across Majestic Realms," attendees were inspired to aspire for the highest rewards in Jannah while embodying the teachings of Islam in their daily lives. The event featured dynamic speakers who shared their perspectives, as well as a distinguished keynote address. Breaks were filled with engaging activities, ensuring sisters have a chance to build connections. The conference also held Gala Night, providing attendees with an opportunity to network and celebrate within the community.

The theme for the 2024 IWCNZ National Conference, "Crowns Across Majestic Realms," underscores the multifaceted journey of Muslimahs as they strive to embody the essence of their faith in various spheres of existence. It serves as a beacon guiding attendees towards spiritual growth, personal development, and community engagement. Through this theme, the conference aims to inspire resilience, purpose, and unity among participants, creating a deeper understanding of teachings of Islam. Additionally, the purpose of the conference remains aligned with previous years, offering a secure platform for Muslim women to come together, share knowledge, strengthen bonds, and collectively plan for a better tomorrow. The event provided a nurturing environment for learning, networking, and innovation, aimed at helping women to fulfill their roles within their families, communities and careers while staying rooted in their faith.

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The conference speakers stream was organised into four distinct categories to ensure inclusivity and accommodate the diverse interests of participants. In addition to the Islamic, General, and Youth programs, a dedicated Research Stream and history stream was also available. This segmentation provided attendees with a comprehensive framework to navigate the conference's extensive offerings, allowing them to select workshops and talks that aligned with their preferences and objectives. By offering a dedicated Research Stream, the conference aimed to foster scholarly discussions and showcase the latest research in relevant fields, enriching the overall conference experience for attendees.

*"Indeed, Allah will admit those who have believed and done righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearl, and their garments therein will be silk"*

[Qur'an, 22:23]



This year, the Government Expo at the conference featured a diverse array of stalls and exhibits, enriching the overall experience for attendees. The Tangata Tiriti group's participation added another layer of significance, shedding light on the importance of honouring the Treaty of Waitangi and inclusivity. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to engage with stalls from various government agencies, including the New Zealand Police, Ministry of Social Development, and the Human Rights Commission. The presence of these organisations provided valuable insights into community engagement, social services, and human rights advocacy. The expo also showcased the Police Recruitment Stall, offering attendees an opportunity to learn about career opportunities within law enforcement.



## ACTIVITIES AT THE CONFERENCE

The conference offered a diverse range of activities catering to various interests and preferences. Attendees had the opportunity to choose from engaging workshops and excursions, ensuring a memorable and personalised experience. Options included a jewelry-making workshop at Village Beads, where participants could unleash their creativity and craft unique bead jewelry pieces under expert guidance. Nature enthusiasts had the opportunity to embark on a Ladies Nature Hike along the Korokoro Dam Loop Track. Alternatively, attendees could opt for a City Tour/Te Papa Museum excursion, offering a dynamic blend of cultural exploration at New Zealand's National Museum, Te Papa, and leisure time at Wellington's vibrant waterfront. A Islamic Workshop provided attendees with the chance to delve deeper into Islamic teachings and the conference theme, or attend a cupcake decorating class. Other than these activities, participants also had the option to take a break and relax if they wished, ensuring flexibility and the opportunity for attendees to recharge as needed.



## GALA NIGHT

The Gala Night, held on Saturday, was a highlight of the conference, marked by elegance and sophistication. Attendees were treated to a delightful evening of fine dining and glamour as they dressed up for the occasion. The ambiance was vibrant and celebratory, setting the stage for a memorable experience. A special highlight of the evening was the "Pearl of the Season" game, adding an element of excitement, fun and camaraderie as participants participated in the friendly competition.

The event also featured a keynote address, offering profound insights and inspiration to all present. Additionally, the Gala Night served as an opportunity to recognise and honour outstanding contributions within the community through an awards ceremony. It was a night filled with laughter, joy, and camaraderie, creating cherished memories for all who attended.





QUARTER ONE | 2024

# KHADIJA AL-KADDOUR

*IWCNZ Conference KeyNote Speaker*

Khadija Al-Kaddour, our esteemed keynote speaker, came in from Perth, Australia and brings a wealth of expertise and passion to her role as a Muslimah Coach. With a background as a qualified and experienced Parenting Educator, Motivational Speaker, and Mother of five boys, Khadija is deeply committed to empowering and supporting women on their journey to becoming confident and authentic individuals. Certified in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), she leverages her diverse skill set to facilitate transformative change in the lives of her clients.

Khadija's work spans both online and face-to-face platforms, where she delivers presentations and teaching programs on various parenting and personal development topics. Her approach emphasises the cultivation of purposeful intent, nurturing skills, inner dialogue, and positive emotional responses to create emotionally healthy and thriving homes.

Khadija al Kaddour, delivered powerful and inspiring talks that resonated deeply with attendees. On Saturday, she addressed the theme of "Rediscovering Yourself," urging participants to break free from limitations and behaviors that hinder personal growth. She emphasised the importance of setting intentions for the year ahead, both for individual development and for the well-being of one's family, without compromising on personal values. Khadija encouraged attendees to prioritise self-healing, growth, and learning, highlighting the transformative power of intentional thinking and self-compassion. Her talk explored the journey of awakening, healing, and thriving, touching upon key areas essential for personal transformation.

During the Saturday evening Gala, Khadija continued to inspire with her talk on "Reclaiming You: The Woman That You Are Becoming." She delved into the significance of reclaiming one's value and emphasized the importance of building a strong sense of self-worth and self-love. Through her words, attendees were encouraged to elevate their vibrations and embrace their inherent worthiness. Khadija's empowering message resonated with attendees, motivating them to embrace their true selves and embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. Her talks left a lasting impact, empowering attendees to reclaim their authenticity and step into their fullest potential.

# SPEAKERS TOUR

The Public Service Breakfast held at the Public Trust Hall in Wellington featured an keynote address by Khadija al Kaddour from Australia. Titled "Morning Tea & Transformation," the event centered on utilising Islamic teachings to navigate change effectively. Attendees were encouraged to embrace change as a natural aspect of life and progress. The significance of supporting Muslim public servants and promoting cross-cultural understanding in the workplace was underscored. The event, open to both Muslims and non-Muslims, giving a relaxed atmosphere conducive to the sharing of thoughts and ideas, promoting inclusivity and collaboration among participants.



During the Auckland Speakers Tour, Khadija Al Kaddour delivered an enlightening talk on thriving families through seven keys to emotional wellness. The event welcomed participants from all backgrounds, including families and members of the wider community. National Coordinator, Aliya Danzeisen, initiated the program by introducing the Islamic Women's Council and its mission, demonstrated through a highlight video. Khadija then took the stage, addressing emotional wellness and effective child-rearing techniques. A lively Q&A session followed, enabling attendees to directly engage with Khadija, meaningful interactions and gaining deeper insights into her expertise. The event concluded with refreshments, providing an opportunity for further networking and discussion.

## GLAMAH SUNSET CRUISE

The Glamah sunset cruise, our group's debut event for over 50s, exceeded expectations. Participants relished the serene ambiance as we sailed, enjoying dinner against the Auckland Harbour backdrop and a beautiful sunset. We had activities to get to know each other, and lively conversations, strengthening bonds among guests. The highlight was witnessing the dazzling light show near the Harbor Bridge during the journey back. Overall, it was a memorable outing, fostering connections and creating cherished memories for all involved.



## CONNECTIONS WITH SISTERS IN PALMERSTON NORTH AND NEW PLYMOUTH

While in Palmerston North and New Plymouth for the youth horse riding sessions, we had the chance to meet up with other sisters in the cities. These gatherings offered an opportunity to deepen our connections with the sisters in the area, whether over a delightful meal in Palmerston North or a beach walk and ice cream in New Plymouth.



## FAREWELL FOR DC HAUMAHA & SGT WAYNE PANAPA

At the end of January, IWCNZ National Coordinator Aliya Danzeisen attended the retirement send-off of NZ Police Deputy Commissioner Wallace (Wally) Haumaha and Sergeant Wayne Panapa held at the Pipitea Marae. With a combined 90 years of service, the dedication of these men to the community has had a significant and positive impact for the nation. They were integral parts of the Iwi and Community Group within the NZ Police established in 2020 and their contributions have helped improve relationships for many communities, including our own. DC Haumaha and Sgt Panapa have been constant and respectful with us throughout. IWCNZ extend our gratitude for their commitment and wish them well.





## AL FAROOQ ANNUAL HOLISTIC SHIFA SEMINAR

In February, Al Farooq Ladies hosted their first annual dinner, bringing together a community dedicated to well-being and support. Our National Treasurer Sr. Munira Khanum and our project manager were invited for the event. An evening that featured enlightening presentations from two sisters in our community, including a psychologist, Sr. Areej Arif who discussed the vital importance of mental well-being within our Muslim community and talked about misconceptions our community has towards seeking help. As well as Sr. Ohoud Eraki, a registered nurse and certified Hijama practitioner, talked about benefits of holistic and Islamic treatment such as Hijama. The event was followed by a meaningful networking dinner with sisters from our community.

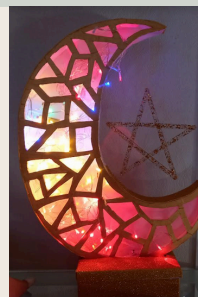


## RAMADAN SCHOOL INITIATIVE

IWCNZ recently supported a group of mothers from an intermediate school in Auckland in their initiative to promote understanding of Ramadan within the school community. The mothers and team members from IWCNZ met with the school principal to discuss the significance of Ramadan, its potential benefits for students, and ways to integrate it into school activities. Additionally, our Auckland youth worker provided a Ramadan briefing to all staff members, offering tips on inclusivity for students observing Ramadan. As part of the initiative, the school library was adorned with festive Ramadan decorations, and IWCNZ donated Islamic books to enrich the school's resources.

## RAMADAN DECOR

Our online decor competition for Ramadan garnered a heartwarming response, bringing families and sisters together in a creative celebration of the festive season. The participation was remarkable, showcasing a wealth of imagination and talent. We invite you to visit our Instagram page to discover the winning entries and witness the incredible diversity of decorations inspired by this special time of year. Join us in celebrating the creativity and community spirit of our participants!





## AUCKLAND IFTAR

The fourth consecutive year of our Ramadan iftar proved to be a resounding success, with 130 sisters gathering at a new location. The evening featured a small auction, raising funds for Gaza, alongside a important Islamic reminder by our assistant national coordinator. Attendees enjoyed a delightful spread of beautifully prepared food, giving a sense of community and generosity reflective of the spirit of Ramadan.



## HAMILTON IFTAR

The Hamilton Iftar was a memorable gathering that fostered a deep sense of sisterhood and community among attendees. The evening began with Quran recitation, followed by an insightful Islamic talk and wise words from our National Coordinator, instilling a sense of spiritual connection and reflection. A lively Ramadan trivia added a touch of fun to the night. Through this shared experience of breaking our fast together, thoughts and feelings of gratitude were expressed, reminding us of the blessings of unity, food and peace during this blessed month of Ramadan

## THE LOVE OF ALLAH ZOOM TALK BY DR HAIFAA YOUNIS

The "Love of Allah (swt)" Zoom talk, featuring Dr. Haifaa, the founder of Jannah Institute and a Board-Certified expert, proved to be an insightful and engaging event.

Dr. Haifaa's extensive knowledge and passion for sharing the wisdom of the Qur'an were evident throughout the lecture. The talk gave a deep sense of reflection for sisters. Attendees were provided with valuable insights into the importance of cultivating love for Allah (swt) in their lives, inspiring them to strengthen their spiritual connection.

The interactive nature of the Zoom platform allowed for active participation with over 140 sisters and meaningful dialogue, enhancing the learning experience. "Love of Allah (swt)" Zoom talk was a success, leaving participants feeling uplifted, inspired, and more connected to their faith before Ramadan.





## HEART TO HEART

This Zoom Session was led by Dr. Asya Bin Mahfooz and emphasised the role of communication between youth and their parents, as well as highly important communication strategies and the Islamic perspective on this crucial interaction.

Dr. Asya kickstarted the session with a breakdown of the communication dynamics, i.e. the difference distinguishing between one-way and two-way communication. She then delved into practical tips for enhancing communication quality between youth and parents, drawing from her extensive 30 years of experience in family work. Additionally, she discussed the significance of communication in Islam, offering valuable insights for improving behavior.



## SETTING RAMADAN INTENTIONS

This session was in partnership with the Sisterhood of Auckland and focused on the crucial role of intentions, particularly during Ramadan. Two Youth Muslimah led the discussion, employing analogies, hadiths, and Quranic verses to convey their message effectively. They began with a powerful analogy likening intentions to the fruits of a garden, illustrating how intentions shape our spiritual journey. Throughout the session, attendees learned about aligning intentions with Islamic teachings, with practical guidance on maximising rewards during Ramadan and maintaining mindfulness beyond the holy month. The speakers stressed the importance of consciousness of Allah throughout the year, not just during Ramadan, emphasising the transformative power of sincere intentions in all aspects of life.



## ACTIONS FOR PEACE PANEL

Nabeela, our Auckland youth worker, recently joined the "Actions for Peace" Panel at the SGINZ Youth Peace Event titled "Creating a Hopeful Future." This event aimed to unite young people from diverse peace-building communities to discuss 'Action for Peace' in our daily lives, focusing on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG #16 for just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. The panel featured discussions on enacting change in communities, aiming to provide relatable and actionable perspectives that encourage youth to promote peace and harmony within their circles. Nabeela shared the mahi that IWCNZ does to promote peace and cultural diversity within our Muslimah youth.





## UNITY SUMMIT

The inaugural Unity Day Summit organised by the Sakinah Community Trust convened over 100 guests, including Dr. Maysoon Salama and Sr. Aliya, in remembrance of those lost and impacted in the 2019 Christchurch terrorist attack. Panels focused on community healing and unity with speakers also addressing the ongoing challenges and need for restorative justice. IWCNZ is grateful to the organisers for such a well-run and inspirational event.



## YOUTH ITIKAF NIGHT

IWCNZ along with ATFYC hosted a Muslimah youth Itikaf night at Al Rahman Masjid. The night was facilitated by our IWCNZ assistant national coordinator and an experienced Quran Teacher. The night started with an iftar, dua, workshops, prayer, taraweeh and concluded with suhoor. A blessed night with our youth reflecting, learning and upholding sisterhood.



## NEW WINDSOR COMMUNITY HUB

Our Team members recently participated in the Unity and Diversity morning at the New Windsor Community Hub. The event commenced with a heartwarming activity of crafting plaques for the Wood of Unity, allowing attendees to share messages symbolising solidarity and togetherness. Following this, brief speeches were delivered by members of the Whau Local Board and a representative of the community affected by the attacks. IWCNZ members contributed by reciting a dua, offering prayers for unity and healing. The event concluded on a note of unity and hope, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity within the community.



## PEACE FORUM

Last week, we hosted our 3rd annual Women's Forum, focusing on the topic of nurturing peace in turbulent times and promoting peace within our communities. We were privileged to hear from four dynamic speakers from diverse fields who shared their perspectives and insights on the subject. One key takeaway from the session was the recognition that while there are many practical ways to nurture peace, it ultimately comes down to our relationship with Allah and turning to Him during turbulent times to attain true peace.



## WAIKATO ARAB SOCIAL IFTAR

IWCNZ contributed to the Waikato Arab Social Club Community Iftar, An iftar aimed to celebrate diversity, inclusion and promote social harmony . The community iftar was open to the registered public with their family. National Coordinator along with National Treasurer and other IWCNZ representatives attended the iftar to support.

## ONLINE CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION

Our online Ramadan Arabic calligraphy competition, centered around the verse from Surah Al-Baqarah (2:152), "So remember me and I will remember you. And be grateful to me and do not deny me," was a resounding success, bringing together talented artists from across New Zealand. Participants showcased their skills by beautifully displaying this profound verse in their own artistic ways. As the submissions poured in, it became evident that this competition was not just about artistic expression but also about connecting with the divine words of Allah and embodying the spirit of remembrance, gratitude, and humility.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### YOUTH SPLASH AND SLICE

Get ready for an exciting experience at our upcoming event: Splash & Slice – a pool event designed just for you! Dive into the refreshing waters and enjoy some delicious pizza with your sisters. It's the perfect opportunity to unwind, have fun, and strengthen bonds of sisterhood.

- Enjoy two hours of exclusive access in the pool.
- Female lifeguards will be there throughout the event, to ensure safety.
- Connect with other sisters in a safe and supportive environment.



### HAMILTON MUMS BRUNCH

Calling all super moms and their little superheroes! Join us for a delightful brunch and a much-needed caffeine fix while the kiddos have a blast at our centrally located café. Let's celebrate sisterhood, share stories, and make memories together! Whether your little one is tagging along or busy at daycare, ALL are welcome. See you on April 24th at 11 am!



### AUCKLAND MUMS COFFEE BREAK

☀️ Calling all Auckland Mums! 🌸 Join us for a serene morning of bonding and bliss at our special Coffee Wander & Sip event. 🌿 Let's gather on Monday, April 29th, at 11am to stroll through the park, children playing joyfully as we engage in uplifting conversations. 🧘 This soulful experience promises to be a moment of sisterhood connection, with delicious coffee to savor. To ensure we cater to everyone's needs, registration is essential. Once registered, await an email filled with all the details Insha'Allah. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/IWCNZWandernSip>





**IWC\*NZ**  
Islamic Women's Council New Zealand



The  
*Butterfly  
Effect*

# YOUTH SUMMIT

Waikato | 3rd to 5th May

**Late Entry Tickets still available!**

- General Admission: \$65



Friday – Sunday  
May 3rd – 5th, 2024

## WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

- Buses available from Hamilton and Auckland
- An opportunity to network with govt agencies
- A unique movie night experience
- Shape the Youth Development Sphere
- collaborative workshops
- connect with muslimah youth from across the country



**REGISTER NOW AT [TINYURL.COM/IWCNZSUMMIT24](https://tinyurl.com/IWCNZSUMMIT24)**

# Sisters In Business

## SWEET STUDIO NEW ZEALAND

### About You:

I'm all about embracing life's adventures with a big smile and a whole lot of determination. Fueled by ambition and surrounded by the unwavering support of my amazing husband and family, I'm on a journey to chase my dreams and turn them into reality.

### Hobbies and Interests:

When I'm not busy working, you can usually find me lost in the pages of a good book, constantly seeking to expand my knowledge and explore new ideas. I'm also a bit of a kitchen whiz—I love experimenting with new recipes, whipping up delicious treats, and seeing the joy they bring to others.

Staying active is crucial for both my physical and mental well-being. And let's not forget my love for travel! There's nothing quite like immersing myself in new cultures, exploring breathtaking landscapes, and creating unforgettable memories along the way.

### About Sweet Studio NZ:

Welcome to Sweet Studio NZ—where every bite is a sweet celebration! As a 100% Halal bakery based in Henderson, we're passionate about crafting delectable treats. My journey into the world of baking business began with a simple love for creating delicious goodies. Inspired by the incredible success and mouthwatering creations of my sister, I decided to take my passion to the next level and turn it into a thriving business. Since December 2023, Sweet Studio NZ has been spreading happiness, one sweet treat at a time.

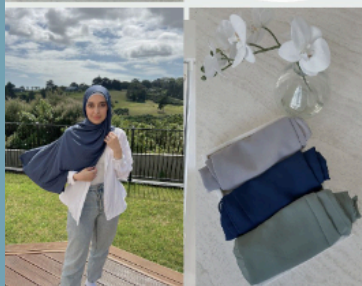
### Connect With Us:

Follow along on Instagram and Facebook @sweetstudionz to stay updated on our latest creations, special offers, and behind-the-scenes sneak peeks. Located in Henderson, you can also reach us by phone at 0274853075. Can't wait to sweeten your day!



# Sisters In Business

## SOZY MODESTY



### Tell me a bit about you?

My name is Sozan, I was born in Iraq and came to NZ when I was 2 years old. I'm now married and I work full time as a pharmacist.

### What are your hobbies and interests?

I love a relaxing weekend morning with coffee and I love to hang out with friends. I love to travel and that's what got me to Turkey where I met my husband who helped me start this business.

### Tell me a bit about your business?

SOZY modesty is a small business, we bring in hijabs from Turkey and sell them here in NZ. We are starting with hijabs but inshallah in the coming months are stepping into modest clothing as well as jewellery.

### What motivated you to get started?

For years I would wait to go overseas to buy new hijabs because there wasn't much available in NZ and I realised my friends had the same problem. I thought it would be a smart business idea to fix this gap in the market, only I never knew how to turn this dream into a reality until my husband came into the picture. Together with his connections in Turkey, along with my friend and colleague Sara, we brought SOZY modesty to life.

### How long has it been around?

We recently launched SOZY modesty in March this year.

### Links

Our main platform is Instagram and we do purchases over insta direct Message.

**Instagram:** sozy\_modesty

**Tiktok:** sozy\_modesty

**Facebook:** sozy modesty

**Email:** sozymodesty@gmail.com



# Sisters In Business

## RAHMA



My name is Hend Zaki. I am originally from Egypt. I moved to New Zealand in 2015 with my husband and two beautiful daughters Jayan and Saja. I have recently completed my PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of Auckland. My research focused on the identity of Muslims born/raised in New Zealand and Australia. I have also worked for several years in the diversity and inclusion space.

### **Hobbies and Interests:**

I love spending time with my daughters whether it is baking, playing games, reading or just hanging out.

I am passionate about working collaboratively to create more welcoming, inclusive and safe environments where everyone has a sense of belonging. I believe that an inclusive environment is not a nice to have, but a must have. I have established safe spaces for women from diverse ethnic backgrounds to connect, support one another and thrive.

I am now ready to use my PhD research findings and experience working in inclusion and diversity to support leaders from all walks as well as members of the Muslim community.

### **Tell me a bit about your business?**

I have used findings from my PhD research and experience working in the inclusion and diversity space to develop the "Rahma" programmes. I will be running two different programmes. One for leaders from all walks of life to support and provide them with practical tools to create welcoming, inclusive and safe workplaces where everyone has a sense of belonging.

The programme consists of six interactive sessions. I will guide leaders in identifying what is working well in their workplace and what are some opportunities. I will also support them in creating a plan with practical steps based on research and lived experience. The six sessions are a deep dive into understanding the essential factors that contribute to creating welcoming, inclusive, and safe environments where team members feel valued, respected, do their best work and achieve positive outcomes.

The second programme is for members of the Muslim community. It consists of three sessions that will explore identity, belonging and leadership. I will work collaboratively with organisations to deliver these workshops.

### **What motivated you to get started?**

My PhD journey has come to an end, but it is now that the real work starts for me. I want to use my research to bring about positive change, especially for Muslims and people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. That's why I have created the "Rahma" programmes for leaders from all walks of life and members of the Muslim community.

In addition, our workplaces are becoming more diverse and it is important more than ever to have welcoming, inclusive and safe work environments where everyone has a sense of belonging. I know from personal experience the impact of working in an environment that is not inclusive and how it negatively impacts one's confidence, mental health, productivity and even loved ones. A welcoming, inclusive and safe work environment is not a nice to have, but it is a must have. In such an environment, team members feel valued, respected and do their best work. This leads to positive outcomes for the individual, team, organisation and Aotearoa New Zealand. I have established safe spaces for women from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the workplace to connect and support one another, but I recognise the important role leaders play in creating a positive work environment where everyone has a sense of belonging, so through my workshops I will support and guide leaders on their journey as they take steps to create more inclusive, welcoming and safe workplaces.

### **How long has it been around?**

The first round of Rahma programmes will run from June to August 2024. If you're a leader or an organisation wanting to find out more about the Rahma programmes, please contact me at [rahma@hzconsulting.co.nz](mailto:rahma@hzconsulting.co.nz)

**Sisters and fellow adventurers!**  
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