





[www.maslaha.org](http://www.maslaha.org)

Interview with Raheel Mohammed

ARCC interviewed the social enterprise Maslaha based in East London. The term 'Maslaha' translates from Arabic as 'for the common good' and this principle lies at the very heart of their work. Maslaha seeks to empower disadvantaged communities to overcome social inequalities through education and inspiration

**What does the term Social Enterprise mean to you?**

Being creative and entrepreneurial in tackling social issues, a commitment to social justice and compassion

**What services does Maslaha provide?**

We focus on health, education, exhibitions and raising awareness of Islamic issues. Notably, we have produced award winning health resources which address health inequalities in Muslim communities, bringing together medical & Islamic advice.

We also work with schools to provide curriculum resources showing the contribution of Islam and Muslims to many subjects. We also carry out campaigning work on issues relevant to Muslim communities. Our "I CAN BE SHE" project seeks to empower Muslim women, and change the ways in which society perceives them. We developed an online resource [www.icanbeshe.org](http://www.icanbeshe.org) which explores the role Muslim women have played through history and the achievements of Muslim female role models today.

**CIC Regulator – correction**

The CIC Regulator confirmed that the number of CICs for Surrey (not Croydon) is approximately 130. For Croydon the figure currently stands at 56.

**How did you go about acquiring the funding to run the business?**

Initially grant funding and commissions from PCTS

**How do you generate income?**

A mixture of commissions, grant funding and some consultancy work which we would like to build on. We also have products which can bring in revenue.

**How is your workforce made up?**

Paid staff and volunteers

**How do you measure your impact on the community?**

Quantitative and qualitative measures, so interviews with users, website feedback forms, number of users that use our websites or DVDs, or visit exhibitions.

**Where do you see your Social Enterprise in 5 years' time?**

Building on the foundations we have laid down and creating new programmes of work.

**What are your top 3 tips for success?**

*Having faith and confidence in the assets that always exist within a community*

*Working with a diverse, eclectic mix of people.*

*The potential of different groups is vital to innovation and social justice. Saul D Alinsky, the prolific American community organiser, whose ideas went on to influence among others Barack Obama, said that, "the organiser in order to be part of all can be part of none"*

**CIC Association**

The CIC Association which is itself a community interest company was set up to promote the interests of community interest companies and to champion the good work that they do. On their website there is a UK map of all the CICs with contact details as well as online resources and network. [www.cicassociation.org.uk](http://www.cicassociation.org.uk)

**Social Enterprise Hub**



ARCC organised an informative networking event for social entrepreneurs and local businesses at the buzzy venue Matthew's Yard (Croydon) on October 4th.

Guest speakers included Jivko Hristov from Croydon Council, George Ruddock from Big Issue Invest and Robert Foster from Red Ochre who presented the interim findings of the mapping research into social enterprises in the Borough.

Attendees were invited to make their elevator pitch and network over snacks. The Hub is gradually becoming a feature of the Social Enterprise calendar in Croydon. If you would like to make a presentation or distribute information about your Social Enterprise contact Nicky Torode at ARCC on 020 8684 3784.

The next networking event is planned for December 2012 so look at our website for forthcoming details.

**Get Mentoring**

ARCC arranged for those interested in business mentoring to attend a four hour workshop organised by the national initiative Get Mentoring on 29 October. The workshop covered the definition of mentoring, roles and skills of being a mentor and an overview of boundaries for creating and maintaining a successful mentoring relationship.

In the social enterprise project local business owners/managers offer one-to-one mentoring for the start up social entrepreneurs. For more materials on mentoring visit [www.getmentoring.org](http://www.getmentoring.org)