



THE COALITION OF MUSLIM WOMEN OF KW
WELCOMES YOU TO

Awards Recognition Dinner 2019

Honouring Women Who Inspire in KW

*Thank you for coming to congratulate
our amazing award winners!*



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Greetings of Peace!

Thank you for joining us at the CMW Awards Recognition Dinner 2019, honouring outstanding Muslim women who inspire us with their dynamic spirits and amazing accomplishments! We promise you a memorable evening filled with heartfelt speeches, live entertainment, a delectable multicultural food feast, and memorable words of inspiration from our keynote speaker, Wazhma Frogh.

Your hosts, the vibrant women of the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW (CMW), embrace this opportunity to put their mission into action, by enhancing communication and fostering understanding between Muslim women and the larger community at this warm and welcoming event. Striving towards our vision of a just and harmonious community where Muslim women are valued, engaged, empowered, and recognized as leaders, together with you, tonight we celebrate and salute the women who inspire, enrich, and empower us!

CMW Awards Recognition Dinner Table Sponsors

Continental Driving School	Mohammed ElMallah
Duaa Al-Aghar	Muslim Social Services
House of Friendship	Uzair Memon
Interfaith Grand River	Waterloo Region District School Board
MAC Maple Grove School	Waterloo Regional Police Services

CMW Women Who Inspire In KW Award Sponsors

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CMW Women Who Inspire in KW Award Team

Team Leads: Fauzia Mazhar and Uzma Bhutto

Amanpreet Singh	Ghazala Fauzia	Rahma Abukhousa
Bryson Costa	Jayad Patel	Safa Qoussini
Caroline Vartanian	Jumana Alsabah	Sharmaine Ehi-Akatue
Fauzia Baig	Nafish Moghimi	Zohra Wali

Awards Program

6:45 - 6:55pm

Formal Program Begins

Opening Remarks: Fauzia Mazhar, Chair CMW

6:55 - 7:05pm

Greetings and Award Presentation

The Honourable Bardish Chagger, House Leader

Laurel McKellar, THEMUSEUM (Award Sponsor)

Honouree: **Rania Lawendy (Inspiring Leadership)**

7:05 - 7:25pm

Keynote: Towards the Light - **Wazhma Frogh**

Human Rights Lawyer and Women's Rights Activist

7:25 - 7:35pm

Greetings and Award Presentation

Marwan Tabbara, MP, Kitchener South - Hespeler

Raj Saini, MP, Kitchener Centre

Honouree: **Awatef Al-Khadour (Community Service)**

7:35 - 8:15pm

Dinner

8:15 - 8:30pm

Greetings and Award Presentation

Catherine Fife, MPP, Waterloo

Laura Mae Lindo, MPP, Kitchener Centre

Honouree: **Zainab Hakeem Arkani (Advocacy/Activism)**

8:30 - 8:45pm

Greetings and Award Presentation

Mike Harris, MPP, Kitchener Conestoga

Amy Fee, MPP, Kitchener South - Hespeler

Honouree: **Nermin Özdemir (Professional Excellence)**

8:45 - 9:00pm

Greetings and Award Presentations

Bryan Larkin, Chief, Waterloo Region Police Services

Sponsor: Heffner Lexus Toyota

Honouree: **Hafsa Said (Outstanding Youth)**

9:00 - 9:15pm

Greetings and Award Presentations

Karen Redman, Chair, Regional Council

Honouree: **Jane Mitchell (Friend of CMW)**

9:15 - 9:25pm

Greetings and Award Presentations

Berry Urbanovic, Mayor, City of Kitchener

Dave Jaworsky, Mayor, City of Waterloo

Honourees: **Fauzia Baig, Nafiseh Moghimi, Zohra Wali**

9:25 - 9:30pm

Closing Remarks: Uzma Bhutto

On behalf of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, we offer our congratulations to all the recipients of this year's Coalition of Muslim Women Who Inspire awards. As well, we thank all the volunteers and members of this important organization for being true leaders who inspire to create a better and brighter community.

You are all role models in this community and through your work you have created a legacy that motivates others to do more, to learn more, and to be more. You all play a vital role in building a more vibrant, healthy and inclusive community.

We are proud of your collective and individual accomplishments and thank you for continuing to build bridges of understanding within our community and for strengthening the voices of Muslim women in our Region.



Bryan M. Larkin
Chief of Police



Towards the Light: One woman's story of working with Taliban through their mothers



Wazhma Frogh was appointed as a peace counsellor in 2016 by the president of Afghanistan. She co-founded Women & Peace Studies Organization (WPSO), following her participation in Afghanistan's Peace Loya Jirga in 2010. Recognizing the absence of women's perspectives from peace conversations and political process, she worked with 200 women leaders from all over Afghanistan to ensure that women are utilized as resources for building peace at the local level and that they are meaningfully included in the country's peace process.



Wazhma has a masters degree in Law and Human Rights from the University of Warwick, UK and has been trained in women and public policy, peace and conflict studies and leadership at the George Washington, Harvard, San Diego and Uppsala Universities. Her previous positions include former Afghanistan Country Director of Global Rights (International Human Rights Law Group), Gender Specialist with USAID & Counterpart International in Afghanistan, and Senior Gender Specialist with Canadian International Development Agency, in Afghanistan.

Wazhma was elected as co-chair of the Women, Peace and Security Working Group for the implementation of the National Action Plan on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 from 2015-2018.

BECAUSE HER STORY IS PART OF OUR STORY.



At Gowling WLG, we are committed to sharing and encouraging the successes of inspirational women, and ensuring that they continue to receive opportunities to shine and tell their stories. That's why we're proud to support the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW's "Women Who Inspire in KW" in their effort to recognize, strengthen and celebrate the voices of Muslim women in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Find out more at gowlingwlg.com/diversity-canada



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Honourees

Rania Lawendy ✦ Inspiring Leadership



Born and raised in Waterloo, Rania established the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at the University of Waterloo, and served as MSA president for Canada. Rania is a sought after speaker at Islamic conferences and have spoken on a myriad of topics in US, Canada, Germany, UK, Turkey, Egypt, Italy, France, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Holland. Rania established the weekend Al-Huda School in 2008, Al-Furqan Hifth School in 2013, and Maple Grove School in 2014 in KW.

Rania was a member of the core team that established the Kitchener Mosque, and helped to establish Masjid Aisha (Guelph) and Islamic Centre of Waterloo. Rania initiated the Eid Festival in KW and ran it for 10 years. Rania has also served on the national board of Muslim Association of Canada. Rania holds a Masters in Educational Leadership and owns an education consulting company that provides professional development to Islamic schools in North America.

Awatef Al Khadour ✦ Community Service



Awatef has a BSc in Geology from the University of Waterloo, and a diploma in IT from Conestoga College. She is currently studying Social Work at Conestoga College. Awatef co-founded Najda Now (now called Levant) in 2013 to bring the community together, to raise awareness about issues facing refugees, and to help newcomers in their process of integration. Awatef also founded Levant's Dabke Troupe in 2014 to help newcomers, particularly youth, to keep their cultural heritage alive here in Canada.

Awatef's work has helped fill gaps between cultures, and has helped the larger Canadian community to better understand newcomers. Awatef is always willing to help, she offers translation to any one that needs it, and works hard to make our region a welcoming place for newcomers. Awatef's tireless work with newcomers and refugees in KW, combined with her care for the community, has inspired so many newcomers to volunteer their time alongside her.

Zainab Hakeem Arkani ✦ Advocacy & Activism



Zainab Arkani grew up in Burma (Myanmar) and arrived in Canada via Thailand in 2007. Zainab was able to use the fact that she also spoke Burmese to gain an education in a country where Rohingya have been systematically persecuted. Once settled in the KW community, Zainab started helping to settle Rohingya people in our community. She co-founded a language school for Rohingya children, the first one in the world, teaching the first classes in a house basement, and then establishing the school further in a Saturday classroom of St. Louis Learning Centre for the past eight years.

Zainab has carried on public advocacy, translation of hate speech activities for the Genocide Prevention Program of McGill University, public speaking, and a continuous round of daily hands-on settlement work in collaboration with local community partners for Rohingya people of all ages, helping to make the KW region a thriving and healthy place of settlement for Rohingya refugees.





Nermin Özdemir ♦ Professional Excellence



Nermin came to Canada in 2004 and worked many jobs while pursuing English classes, moving from the lowest to the highest level possible. She then successfully applied to the Masters of Social Work Program at Wilfrid Laurier University, and with her intense dedication and numerous outstanding scholarships, graduated in 2014. Nermin has continued to pursue learning by attending trainings in Domestic Violence, Immigration, Addictions, Anti-Oppression, Anti-Racism, Diversity, Family Issues, Faith, Refugees and more.

Nermin currently works as a Family Outreach Worker at House of Friendship where she is seen as a shining example of one who serves others and genuinely cares about others. Nermin has also volunteered for many organizations in KW including KW Multicultural Centre, United Way, Immigration Partnership, and Coalition of Muslim Women of KW. At work or volunteering, Nermin maintains a positive perspective and inspires everyone around her with her energy, creativity and desire to learn and grow and develop herself and others.

Hafsa Said ♦ Outstanding Youth



Hafsa is a grade 12 student at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute where she is known for her volunteerism and activism around raising the awareness and capacity of educators about anti-black racism, discrimination, and Islamophobia and how these experiences are amplified when race, gender and faith intersect. Hafsa has appeared as an eloquent speaker at many panels. She participated in a research project in the spring of 2017 with other racialized students and co-created recommendations for her school and the school board to create more inclusive and welcoming places for students.

At Cameron Heights, Hafsa has been instrumental in initiating Black Student Association and organizing Black History month assembly. At the WRDSB's first Black Brilliance Conference, Hafsa lead the workshop on planning and organizing a Black History Month school assembly. Hafsa knows how important it is to give students a voice. She is using her own voice to raise the awareness level and capacity of our educators, courageously and passionately.

Jane Mitchell ♦ Friend of CMW



Jane was an elected Regional Councillor from 2000 to 2018. As a councillor and private citizen, she has supported the CMW by attending events and speaking out about the right of Muslim women to wear what they think is appropriate as well as by personally mentoring and supporting Muslim women. Jane attended CMW's first event "Let Us Talk" in April 2010 as a private citizen and spoke about women's right to choose what they want to wear. She was the only elected official of the time who was in attendance.

Since, Jane has been a regular attendee at all CMW events. Jane has personally mentored and supported several CMW members. While on council, Jane supported the Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership and championed paying for proper interpreters. A Public School Trustee from 1990 to 2000, Jane supported inclusiveness in the schools and was part of the Race Relations committee.



Congrats to CMW's Five Year Service Award Recipients

Fauzia Baig



- Lead: Emerging Muslim Women Leaders Training (2014)
- Board Member (2015 – present)
- Lead: Salaams Canada, Give 30 KW
- Annual Blood Donation Drive (2017 – present)
- Lead: Be the Change! Leadership Training (2018-2019)

Nafiseh Moghimi



- Participant: Emerging Muslim Women Leaders Training (2014)
- Volunteer: Tea and Tales with Muslim Women (2015)
- Board Member (2017 – present)
- Volunteer: Tastes of Ramadan (2018)

Zohra Wali



- Mentor Liaison: Leaders Training (2014)
- Coordinator: Illuminate Arts KW (2015 – 2016)
- Coordinator: CMW's annual event (2015 – 2017)
- Core Team: Awards Recognition Dinner (2017)
- Coordinator: Tea and Tales with Muslim Women (2017 – 2018)
- Core Team: Tastes of Ramadan (2018)
- Board Member (2019)

**Congratulations
to this year's
winners!**



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SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF
THE COALITION OF MUSLIM WOMEN AWARDS 2019

Thank you for your continued support of our community;
you truly are Women Who Inspire!



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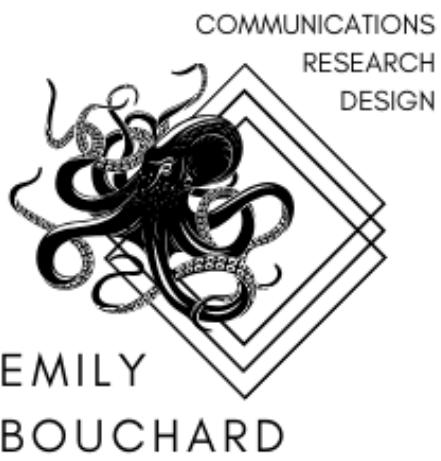
I am so grateful to the inspirational Muslim women in our community who push us to do better and be better. Never forget: you inspire the women of Waterloo Region every day of the year. Happy (Intersectional) Women's Day!

**With love,
Laura Mae**



Laura Mae Lindo
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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

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