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Opening
“There are opportunities even in the most difficult moments.”
— Wangari Maathai

Three years ago when we started this organization, we could not have imagined the challenges we would face. We were bright-eyed women that believed deeply in justice and were willing to commit our time and efforts to meeting needs in our community. In reviewing our success and challenges of the past year, I am in awe of Allah’s divine plan for us as individuals and for this organization.

I would define 2019 as a year of development, establishing relationships and preparing for all the opportunity of 2020. As we have grown, we have begun to ask ourselves serious questions about the sustainability of this work. Our success as an organization depends entirely on how much our community invests in us.

Whether you’re a monthly sustainer, attend our events regularly, have participated in one of our trainings or re-post us on Facebook, we want to thank you. This organization would not exist without you. I am always excited to share our projects, challenges, successes and ideas with you and sharing this document is no different.

We created this document to share with you because you are as much a part of this work as we are. I hope you look through it, ask us questions and continue to stay engaged with us. Thank you for your continued support.

Doha Medani
Operations Lead, Co-Founder
Our Projects

Defining our organizational priorities to guide our work and focus our efforts was a major achievement of 2019.

Every project that we take on is directly related to one of our 5 organizational pillars.

Detailed information on the pillars and how we define them can be found on our site.
We worked with local organizers in Greensboro, mothers and high schoolers to plan this event. It was covered on the local news, including Triad City Beat.
We pride ourselves in our transparency within our own networks as well as to the broader community we serve. We do not believe in transactional relationships, rather, we seek to be part of transformative and intentional relationships with all the networks we are part of.

This year we became founding members of the NC Medicare for All Coalition and joined the labor organizing efforts of the NC Raising Wages coalition.

Additionally, we hosted a stop on the Ramadan Road Trip with our partners at Shoulder to Shoulder.

NC Medicare for All Coalition
December 2019

NC Raising Wages Coalition
November 2019
#political education

Farmworker’s Awareness Week
March 2019
Farm work is the third most dangerous job in the United States. This is especially relevant to North Carolinians. We hosted a film screening during National FWAW.

Hola Ya Zola! (translation: Hi, person!) podcast
December 2019
Our co-founder Doha joined the co-hosts of Hola Ya Zola to talk about the importance of political education and how we’re building power across North Carolina.

Muslim Power Building Project
August 2019
Co-founder Eiman was accepted into the second cohort of the Muslim Power Building Project, sponsored by LA Voice.

Digital Organizing School
October 2019
Co-founder Doha was completed Digital Organizing School and will work towards advancing the digital strategy of Muslim Women For in the coming year.
We highlight the stories of women of color in every aspect of our organizational structure. Our website launched in April and it features the stories of organizers in North Carolina. The blog can be found on muslimwomenfor.org/blog.
#leadership-development

2nd Annual Retreat fellows
September 2019

We chose 10 exceptional young women and provided them with a crash course in organizing. More important than that, we challenged them to dive deeply into their identities and explore who their people are.

In 2020, we will support their individual fellowship projects. Including but not limited to:

- Journaling as self-care for youth
  Raleigh, NC
  Keyona Shears

- Healthy Foods Initiative at HBCU campus (A&T)
  Greensboro, NC
  Aaliah Bogin

- Social Justice Club at Islamic Private School (Al-Iman)
  Raleigh, NC
  Zineb Baali
Our Finances

The work we do is financed by our community and grants. This year we secured $29,000 in grants alone. This has given us the opportunity to continue our fellowship program, pay our staff for the first time and fund our 2020 electoral work.

Additionally, we ramped up our online fundraising and doubled our number of community sustainers (ex. monthly donors.) We hope to increase this in 2020.

Our Strategy

In 2020, we will be doing much more electoral work. We will be registering voters, ensuring they vote and keeping our community educated on the 2020 census and other current events that affect them.

We look forward to leaning on our community to volunteer with us, sustain this work and create a membership model.
Lela's Vision for 2020

For me, Muslim Women For has become my home. In the past three years, I’ve experienced moments of challenge and moments of growth and learning. When I get the question, “how do you measure your success or impact,” impact for me is not always about numbers, it’s about the progress we’ve made centering our people and making sure the events we host, the campaigns we run, the conversations we have are rooted in the path toward a more just world for our people.

Our impact is the strong relationships and coalitions we’ve built across the state and country, the spaces we create for the next generation of leaders who will help us move our work forward, and the Muslim voices and experiences that we bring with us into every single space we walk into when we know that the stakes are too high for our community to not be present. Whether it’s the next three, five, or ten years, my vision for Muslim Women For is that we advocate for a world where Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrant, and Muslim women are respected, honored, cherished, and valued.

Lela Ali
Policy & Programming Lead, Co-Founder
Eiman’s Vision for 2020

We started this organization with not much more than a passion for our community. Looking back after nearly three years, I am in awe of how far that has taken us. Our journey, full of victories, heart ache, and jubilation, has been fueled by our commitment to our community, and, more importantly, our community’s trust. When folks show their support by coming out to our events, donating their money and spending their time, it means more that they can imagine. It means that they have faith in our intentions and our vision, and we plan to hold to our word.

Through the years, we have learned many lessons that we never could foresee, and I am thrilled to continue building on these lessons with my amazing co-founders. It is an endless battle and our wins are not at any finish line, but through the journey. 2020 is a big year. I see an opportunity for us to directly impact the trajectory of our country.

I see increased advocacy for black and brown communities, intentional investments in the leadership of black women and women of color, and continued confrontation of immigrant injustice. I see an America that steps up for all marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ, disabled, and those experiencing homelessness. In 2020, I see victory.

Eiman Ali
Development & Finance Lead, Co-Founder