

2024 Giving Circle Application

Member-Nominated Nonprofit

Muslim Women Professionals



Leader

Sofia Haq, Founder & CEO



Summarize what is the core mission & vision

Our mission is to empower Muslim Women Professionals to thrive personally and professionally, lead with confidence, and positively impact their communities. We strive to embody a supportive and inclusive community through education, mentorship, and networking that promotes growth, fosters innovation, and builds resources for future generations.

Briefly explain when your nonprofit was founded, why and by whom.

Muslim Women Professionals was founded in 2018 by Sofia Haq. In 2018, Donald Trump was President, the Muslim Ban was implemented, and the rates for islamophobia were skyrocketing. Around this time, Sofia was early in her career, but she was struggling. She didn't have mentors, she wasn't sure how to advocate for herself, and she realized that so many other Muslim women felt the same. Amidst such dark times she wanted to create a space where Muslim women could come together, have resources to thrive personally and professionally, and most importantly, grow their networks.

Who is your constituency and approximately how many people are served by your nonprofit?

Our constituency are Muslim women who are navigating their careers and/or Muslim women who are building their skills and growing their networks. At Muslim Women Professionals, we've had women of all ages attend our events and utilize our resources. They are not just women who are working, but also women who are stay at home mothers. Currently, we have over 30,000 Muslim women following us across our platforms. Our reach is also global. Despite women residing in various regions of the world, they all navigate similar obstacles. Our website has been viewed in over 100+ countries globally with Muslim women from countries like Turkey, Germany, the UK, India, and South Africa telling us that they have utilized our resources and attended virtual events. They have asked us to expand our in-person events to their countries and create opportunities to connect with Muslim women around the globe. Muslims are the fastest growing religious group globally. There will be an influx of more Muslim women in the years to come and we want to make sure that we are their go-to network.

What is the impact of your nonprofit over the past five years.

We've established chapters in Northern California, Southern California, and New York City. We have hosted over 60+ events. Our in-person events include: Coffee Chats and Networking events. We've hosted virtual events including: Spiritual Rights in the Workplace, Being Muslim and More at Work, and our MWP Conference. We've created resources like How to Request Eid Off Eid template which has been viewed thousands of times on our website. We've also partnered with Muslim owned businesses to invest back into the community. Our website was viewed in 100+ countries globally and we currently have 30,000+ followers across social media.

What is your goal for the next 1-5 years?

Our goal is to become the largest professional network for Muslim women globally. With more women in leadership roles, we will have a larger impact, more diversity, and more influence across industries. We already built a large presence organically, but our goal is to expand through in-person chapters. Simultaneously, we will build a virtual platform. Our team is now at over 30 women and we just established eleven new Board of Directors. We've never felt more equipped than now with our team to make these goals a reality.

What is one key item our giving circle members should know?

When we started this organization years ago, it was so difficult to receive support from the community. I remember when we presented the idea to a leader in the community they said that this wasn't needed, but when we decided to survey Muslim women we found the opposite to be true. Since then, this has become a labor of love not just for me, but also for my team members. So many of them have expressed how at MWP they can be their authentic selves and they feel supported. They are proud to be Muslim and MWP has brought that out of them. That's what matters to me. It's not just about what we're building, but it's also about ensuring that our team members feel empowered too. Given the times that we are in, we are so passionate to ensure that every Muslim woman feels safe, empowered, and supported. If we were to receive funding, it would be a huge validation for not just our organization, but for every single woman who has been a part of building this.

If you receive funding from the Women's Giving Circle, how would you plan to use the funds?

We will put the funding towards operations costs for the organization. As we have expanded our team and brought on our Board of Directors, they are currently conducting audits on each team to see how we can refine our internal platforms to ensure efficiency. They have expertise across a wide range of areas so we are grateful to utilize them to help take us to the next level.

Learn more about the MWP

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