



## CIO Registration

### Greater Manchester South Asian Women (GMSAW)



Originally, I have a working background in Community Development Work, supporting people with mental health issues, domestic abuse, arranged marriages, as well as living with dementia.

Since the pandemic, I had an increase in the number of people requesting help and advice including women needing refuge, or in social isolation, as well as mental health issues. As most other support services are open between 9am-5pm, we identified a need for contact hours outside of this and wanted to set up a support group for South Asian women based in Greater Manchester. We decided to formalise the group to gain funding to run our sessions and activities.

I've known about Macc for years and have used the website for resources and information, but a friend recommended I contact them for group support.

Macc provided a lot of support! I wanted to find out what my options were and share ideas, as well as have someone guide me through the process. It was me coming with an idea and having someone to explain what I could do with that. We started off with what outcomes GMSAW wanted to achieve, and Millie went through each structure to explain what was the right direction for our group. From that, we decided to continue as a CIO.

Millie guided me through the registration process; all the forms needed and how to complete them, as well as the wording we needed to use. Even though at a grassroots level, we had a common language, it was also important to understand how we wanted to present ourselves to the Charity Commission for example in terms of activities.



Alongside this, Millie also offered help with creating policies as well as moral support – I felt I was guided step by side because it can be quite daunting,

It means a lot to us as it means we now have a constitution, we're registered as a CIO and have the governance and understanding in how to run effectively. Because of Macc's support, Millie also supported us with proof reading a funding application and as a result, we have been able to get some small pots of funding.

Since then, Millie has also sent a list of other relevant funders and an offer of support for any future funding bids.

I think it's been amazing the support we've had. Through the pandemic it's been so helpful, as I've gone from having an idea that has been put into action through Macc and is now established.

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