

We're really excited about what we've achieved in the last year and the local and national recognition and support we've received from our community, funders and other organisations. We're able to develop our work and reach more people because of this support and partnership working, so first and foremost we'd like to thank everyone who has been involved so far. We know it's important to keep you all informed about what's going on in the FACES world and this update will let you know what's happened since our last conference and our plans for the future. We're very pleased to be able to share our successes with you and as always must acknowledge God as the One who grants success, and pray He facilitates our work going forward for the benefit of the community.

### **Farewell to Sarah**

Sarah joined us in 2017 as our first Development Worker and having a part-time employee to drive FACES forward was a blessing. Sarah helped organise our Breaking the Silence training, produced a youth programme and organised our 2018 conference. Sarah relocated to Leeds in July 2018 to welcome her newborn with her husband and family. Thank you Sarah for all you helped us do, and we wish you the best with all of your endeavours.

### **On our website**

Read more about our ethos, aims and partners, and our messages on our blog at [www.faces.org.uk](http://www.faces.org.uk)

### **Our new Development Worker**

Melissa joined the FACES team in September 2018, taking on Sarah's previous role as our Development Worker. Many of us knew Melissa from her previous interfaith and community work in Luton, and she's fit right in to the team and helped develop and coordinate our work.

*"Working with FACES has been a great experience - I'm very grateful to be able to do this important work helping to safeguard young people in our communities. I've been able to develop my experience and learning in this area, opportunities I'm thankful to everyone at FACES for."*

### **BAME Scholarship**

Congratulations to our co-chair Rehana Faisal for her place on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic scholarship at the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse, which enabled us to develop our youth programme and build our profile and support for FACES nationally.

### **Funding**

As a volunteer-led organisation, we rely on grants, donations and lots of in-kind support to sustain our work, build our own resources and run our training, workshops and events.

Funding from The Tudor Trust has enabled us to employ a full-time Development Worker and to conduct research into the experiences of young people of faith in relation to child sexual exploitation. We're thankful to The Tudor Trust for this amazing support that allows us to push FACES further and carry out this valuable research.

We have received funding from Near Neighbours again this year to cascade learning around child sexual exploitation to parents of faith, bringing people together to learn and share their experiences and to help inform our projects so that they best meet the needs of our community.

The Allder Trust has supported our youth programme and work with girls, ensuring we can reach more girls in Luton.

We thank all of the grant providers and individuals who have donated to us in the past and those who give regularly, and Madinah

### **Keep in touch**

Email us at [admin@faces.org.uk](mailto:admin@faces.org.uk)



[/facesluton](https://www.facebook.com/facesluton)



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Masjid in Luton who raised £600 in December to support our work.

### Thank you!

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#### Breaking the Silence

In 2018 we delivered our Breaking the Silence training to around 200 people at Hope Church Luton and UK Islamic Mission mosques in Manchester, Walsall and Plaistow. The participants gave positive responses all round and felt more informed and empowered to take action. Thank you for having us.

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#### Teen Programme

We were very pleased to pilot our Teen Programme at Challney High School for Girls and Al-Hikmah School in March and April 2019. We ran sessions exploring identity and perceptions, communication, and healthy and harmful situations with 90 students. Thank you to the girls who took part, their schools (and teachers for allowing us to take up their lesson times!) and to Linda from Hope Church who helped facilitate the sessions. We also delivered a session with girls at the Oasis Centre in May - thank you all for welcoming us and helping us grow our work.

*"This session was good, we liked that you understood us as Muslim, teenage girls that also want to experience 'normal teenage things'. We also have a voice to show that we are nice Muslims not bad as stereotypes are used against us. It's hard to be a Muslim teenager as they say teenage years are the hardest - we are just curious."*

#### New training

As the learning around child sexual exploitation develops and as we build our presence and experience in the area, we recognise our unique position to offer deeper learning around issues of diversity, particularly around faith and ethnicity. This means we can support our communities by cascading knowledge and providing spaces to discuss solutions to the challenges we face, and by helping train others whom our communities engage with to manage potential misconceptions and prejudice throughout their work.

Thank you to Blenheim Ladies Group for inviting us to pilot some aspects of this training with them in June 2019. Opportunities to work with parents and families are essential to ensure our developing work stays aligned with our aims.

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#### Other events

We'd like to thank Faith and Police Together for inviting us to speak at their 2019 conference in June, where we talked about our work and expressed our message of faith not being a 'risk factor' or a problem to be tackled, but it being a form of resilience and strength that can be used to better protect children and young people.

We also spoke at a Luton Against Sexual Exploitation (LASE) event in High Town, Luton in May - thank you for inviting us and for all the work you do.

## How you can get involved

#### NEW CPD Training

We're delighted to be providing two new accredited training courses covering child sexual exploitation and the impact of prejudice in safeguarding responses. We'll be offering these courses FREE thanks to Near Neighbours funding for their pilot delivery in September. Please register your interest via email for dates and booking at [admin@faces.org.uk](mailto:admin@faces.org.uk).

#### Working with young people

If your school, church, mosque or youth group would like to find out more about our youth programme or to arrange for us to come and deliver some workshops, please get in touch at [admin@faces.org.uk](mailto:admin@faces.org.uk).

#### Could you be involved in our research?

Our research project is being carried out across 2018/19 in partnership with The International Centre: Researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking at the University of Bedfordshire. This involves talking to Christian and Muslim young people aged 16-21. If your organisation works with young people and would be open to being involved please contact [rehana@faces.org.uk](mailto:rehana@faces.org.uk).

**Find out more about volunteering with us at [www.faces.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.faces.org.uk/volunteer).**