

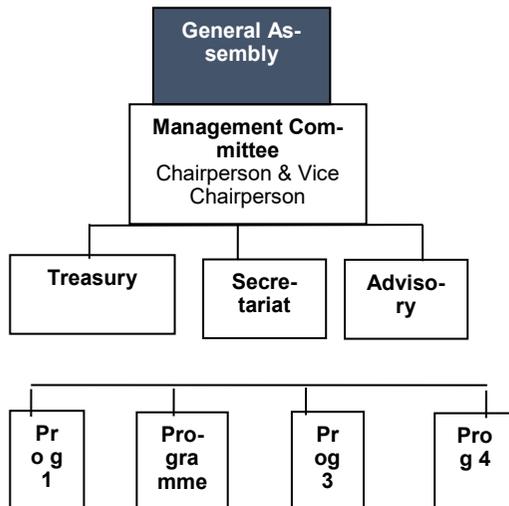
#### 4. Refugee and Migrants Forum

1. After School Club to Support Children and Young People with Behavioural Problems
2. Befriending Coffee Club to deliver classes on the use of Internet for the 50+ refugee women and asylum seekers from French speaking countries,
3. Homeless Support
4. Arts
5. Debts awareness
6. Holiday Play Scheme for children and Young people
7. Community social events to reduce isolation



#### Our Structure

The organisation has a management committee made up of five Trustees mandated by the General Assembly of members.



## Sandwell African Women Association

#### How to contact us [Mail delivery]

For more information about SAWA,  
Please contact:

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#### Our Partners:

  
heart of england  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# Sandwell African Women Association

## SAWA

*Working alongside Vulnerable Women in the Community*



Sandwell African Women Association  
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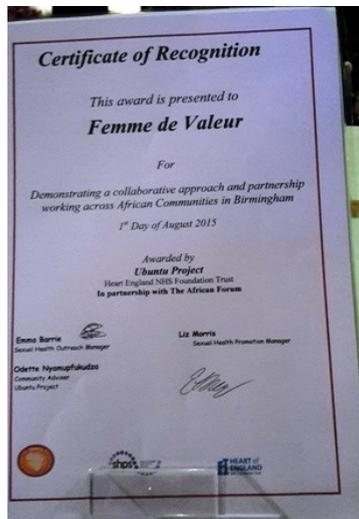
## Background Information

**Sandwell African Women Association — SAWA** was established on **01.09.2014**. It is a local community organisation registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under Charity Number: **1166949**.

### Birth of SAWA

SAWA evolves from an informal structure known by many as “*Femmes de Valeur*” in French language, literally translated as “women of value”, a self help group which, about 30 refugee and immigrant local women of Birmingham started and run from 2011 to 2013 thanks to the financial assistance from the Allen Lane Foundation. This “*Femmes de Valeur*” was a foundation of their unity and mutual solidarity. The aim of this Platform was to reach out women members and non members, especially those women who were most vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated because of geographic distance or because of poverty and other social problems in order to give them a helping hand either morally or physically. Tributes for the success of this structure are to be given to Ms Mamy Zozo Makanzu (the then project Coordinator) along with Adeline Kalenga, Dorcas Moise, Chouchou Nelly Ndjoli and Enzo Dolengbe who were actively involved in this project and made a good team through helping and supporting others.

On 01 September 2014, the group changed its name and became known as *Sandwell African Women Association* with a desire to support, restore, empower and bring hope to African refugee women and children affected by wars, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, survivors of torture and deprived of human rights in their home lands.



### SAWA Aims and Goals:

The group provides advice, support and training to disadvantaged African women refugees and children from Sandwell area, Birmingham, Walsall, Dudley and Wolverhampton. It delivers a range of services to improving safety, access to justice and well-being of women and children in Sandwell and helps homeless people through education, accommodation, and support as well as supporting young people who face barriers to work.

### What We DO (Our Programmes):

SAWA has a range of activities:

1. **Advice & Support** (Information, Advice and Guidance on Education, Training and Employment)

2. **Community Development Programme:** Under this programme, SAWA gives African refugee women, asylum seekers and girls a voice and chance to express themselves and represent the needs and aspirations of their communities.

3. **Health Advocacy Programme**  
The main area of our charitable activity to achieve this programme is the provision of Volunteer advocacy to help African refugee women and girls to settle and for African women asylum seekers and refugees to access health and social care services.

4. **Refugee and Migrants Forum**  
This programme gives a voice to African women refugees and asylum seekers to influence decision makers and policy makers through networking with other women refugee groups.

We are not for profit, non party political and non sectarian. The organisation is made up of volunteers who work to promote the welfare and conditions of life for women and children, of all ages, whether in the city or country.

**Our slogan is “Working alongside Vulnerable Women in the Community”**

## Examples of Our Activities under each Programme:

### 1. Advice & Support

We offer advice on:

- English Language Courses (ESOL)
- Rights and Entitlements
- Professional Re-qualification
- Access to further and higher education
- Help with legal matters.
- We also assist clients who cannot get their children accepted by schools.



### 2. Community Development

There are a number of activities being carried out under this programme:

1. Sewing & Tailoring Training Club
2. Job Club
3. Internet Cafe
4. Cookery Club.

4. Drop-in Centre. The support package includes:

- a) General help with claim-fits, dealing with applying for support ship situations
- b) Responding to benefit enquiries and help to and resolve issues to: Job Seekers' Allowance, Employment Allowance, Income Support, Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, etc.



### 3. Health Advocacy

Projects include:

1. Sexual Exploitation Awareness & Support
2. Campaign against Feminine Genital Mutilation
3. Befriending Club to provide services (including advice, free information, outreach advice, etc) to isolated refugee older women
4. Community Sport Project to Keep Women and Children Active
5. Domestic violence, etc.