



Press Release

For Immediate Release: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## DOSTI group proud to receive Community Inspirational Award

Go-Woman! Alliance Community Interest Company (GOAL) are delighted at being the finalists in the Community Inspirational Award, under the category of 'Bringing People Together'. The award was in recognition of an outstanding individual or a group who have improved community cohesion by bringing together people from different backgrounds and cultures to work together.

DOSTI group were shortlisted alongside amazing projects taking place across the country, empowering communities and removing isolation amongst the most vulnerable members of our society.

The award was presented by Jane Bailey, Superintendent, West Midlands Police to Yasmin Akhtar (director of GOAL) and Farzana Amin (project manager, DOSTI group).

Yasmin Akhtar, director at the group, said "This was a great honour, firstly for being shortlisted amongst really deserving projects, but also for being acknowledged for doing something we love and that is bringing people together from different backgrounds, creating stronger and more resilient communities.'

'Older people in our community, especially women are constantly overlooked. Their contribution to society as mothers, wives and daughters are taken for granted. Those coming from south-Asian community, lacking the English language skills, alienated from the digital society become isolated and withdrawn from their community.'

'DOSTI group was set up to break barriers by providing a local, friendly and trusted environment where individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of colour, creed or religion could access support and meet others in a safe environment, over cup of tea and biscuits with bilingual support, empathy and warm welcome. By sharing their skills, it makes women feel valued once again. This helps to reduce isolation, reducing mental health issues which manifest amongst this group due to loneliness and the feeling of helplessness.'

'DOSTI group provides women with a platform to become active members of the community, challenging the negative stereotypes of immigrants, old or new', says Yasmin Akhtar (GOAL)

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Notes to editor

Photos attached. For further information about Go-Woman! Alliance Community Interest Company (GOAL), please contact Yasmin Akhtar on 0121 327 2997 or email [yasmin@gwacic.com](mailto:yasmin@gwacic.com) or alternatively log on to [www.gwacic.com](http://www.gwacic.com)