

# MOEZA

Moeza is a long-time resident in the borough. Over her sixteen years here she has volunteered in many organisations, such as the Centre for Community Development, joining the Somali Women's Association in 2015.

She comes to the centre to support their work, her good links with the local mosques allow her to reach out to people who are in need of support. She describes the presence of the Association in the borough as highly important, especially at a time when lots of services are being cut. The team has successfully identified the local population's needs, providing the essential assistance that the

community would otherwise lack: for example, benefits and housing advice, English skills, online services and more. Moeza thinks of this place as familiar and welcoming. The volunteers are able to address cultural and linguistic barriers, so people feel they can share their worries and problems openly. She is motivated by her desire to help the community as well as to learn from this positive environment and keep pushing the Association's rewarding work further.

*"I feel more confident, because of the experience I'm gaining here working with others, instead of being at home."*

*"I'd like to see more social interactions among the different communities of the borough and the different faiths – we want to develop our resources to reach the wider community."*