Within the interfaith organisation Faith Matters, the Tell MAMA project measures and monitors specifically anti-Muslim hate incidents and crimes. One of Jeff’s responsibilities is to develop partnerships across all sectors, particularly with those voluntary organisations providing support to victims and witnesses of crime. And LVSC - through the London Victims and Witness Alliance - maintains exactly the sort of platform his organisation needed.

**LVSC helped with**

- LVSC funded by MOPAC for capacity development activities designed to help the VCSE sector respond to changes in victims and witness policies
- London Victim and Witness Alliance established in 2013 to create strong, coherent voice
- Tell MAMA presence at LVSC fora to raise awareness of its remit: the nature and scale of anti-Muslim hate crime and its victims
LVSC and Us

Tell MAMA is only three years old and we have had to raise our profile quickly, not only amongst the general public but also with key organisations in the field. LVSC’s forum in particular enabled us to let people know who we are, to detail our objectives and the services we provide. It was also a chance to describe the type of victims we support and the often little-known scale and nature of the hate crimes we deal with.

LVSC structured a particular Victims and Witness Alliance meeting specifically around race and faith hate crime, allowing us to spend an entire day focusing solely on those issues. This was hugely significant for us, since race and faith hate crimes overlap to a huge degree in the case of Muslim victims. The meeting was a vital opportunity not just to raise Tell MAMA’s profile and present our services, but also to share and compare knowledge and experiences with other organisations in the room.

Tell MAMA actually works nationally, right across the country, however with so much hate crime being reported in London, our involvement with LVSC has provided some major opportunities to increase our impact in local neighbourhoods.

We have discussed partnership work and data sharing, not just aimed at getting us more closely involved at policing and government levels, but also with other organisations with specifically local experience. For example, the forum included organisations that work in particular boroughs, such as Lambeth. Going forward we will now be in a position to interact with these organisations as well as with the Police, the Council and Lambeth’s mosques - actively putting out positive and reassuring messages about the support and advice we’re here to provide.

That’s something that we don’t always have with the larger, more national organisations... they are useful of course, but it can be more rewarding, productive and have greater impact when we engage with the smaller, grass roots organisations working in local communities.

LVSC and You?

Jeff was keen to emphasise the greater power of a collective when it comes to influencing policy and policing issues; ”For anyone working in this field – in any strand of hate crime – formal collaboration with other organisations has to be a benefit. LVSC fora allowed us to discuss shared concerns and issues as a group... to look at strategies from various perspectives, to agree priorities and how to ask the right questions - for example on MOPAC’s implementation plans for the London Hate Crime Strategy. This type of collaborative working will make us better equipped to meet our objectives.

To see how LVSC can help and support your work in the voluntary sector, email us now on info@lvsc.org.uk

“LVSC is a standing item on our network agenda, which is a reflection of the real structural, added value that they offer to that network. They’re independent, they’re impartial, they are pan-London, and actually they’re experts in what they do which is voluntary sector support”