

## Kulsum Shadab Wahab Becomes CNMI's Women's Empowerment Voice

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On November 25, 2025 — coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women — the Italian fashion-industry body CNMI appointed Indian philanthropist and designer Kulsum Shadab Wahab as its Women's Empowerment Ambassador. The move underlines CNMI's commitment to social responsibility and gender equality through fashion.

According to CNMI President Carlo Capasa, Wahab's dedication to supporting women who survived violence represents "a powerful example of how fashion can make real impact." Her vision, he said, strengthens CNMI's ongoing pursuit of social responsibility.

### From Social Enterprise to Global Recognition

Wahab founded Ara Lumiere — a fashion brand and social enterprise — with a mission beyond aesthetics: to offer survivors of acid attacks and gender-based violence a path to dignity, healing, and economic independence. Through the brand and her work with Hothur Foundation, she's helped create meaningful opportunities for vulnerable women.

Ara Lumiere now employs over 100 women survivors, offering them training and stable livelihood — an effort that in 2022 earned the brand the "Social Impact Award" at the CNMI Sustainable Fashion Awards, held in Milan.

### For Fashion & For Social Change

As Ambassador, Wahab has committed to carrying survivors' stories forward, channeling "their courage, resilience and silent strength" into global advocacy. Through fashion and social engagement, she aims to promote a world where every woman feels free, strong, and capable of shaping her own destiny.

For CNMI and the fashion community, this appointment signals a growing shift: fashion isn't just about style — it can be a platform for empowerment, healing, and justice. The collaboration reflects a broader trend of merging creativity with conscience.

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