

Violence Against Women and Girls Autumn Newsletter 2014

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I am delighted to introduce the winter edition of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) newsletter. I am delighted to have returned to the Home

Office and my top priority will be to continue to drive action right across government to end VAWG.

25 November marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – an ambition which the Coalition Government remains committed to realising. Over the course of 16 Days of Action the government will be making a number of announcements to ensure we continue to maintain momentum to end VAWG right through to the election. I am delighted that the Government has announced a further £10M funding to support local refuges.

We are announcing the formation of a new specialist unit to tackle Female Genital Mutilation. In my dual role as ministerial champion for tackling violence against women and girls overseas, I am also particularly proud of the UKs hosting of two highly successful global summits: the “Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict” summit in June and in July the “Girl summit” – focused on ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) in a generation. We secured 170 commitments to action, and 475 signatories to the Girl Summit Charter.

We know that our ambition will not be realised without a truly collaborative approach – frontline professionals, campaigners, charities, the police, health and local

Commissioners all have a vital role to play. I am particularly pleased that our regional VAWG conferences for local commissioners which have taken place between September and November have been so well attended and received such positive feed back. The Commissioning “Top Tips” document which has come out of these conferences will also shortly be available on the Government website.

It is the dedicated commitment of so many people working across the UK that makes real change possible where it matters – supporting victims, tackling perpetrators and preventing violence in the first place. It is only by working together that we will end violence against women and girls.

Thank you.

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone



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Female Genital Mutilation Unit

On 6 December the Home Office will formally launch the new female genital mutilation unit. The unit, announced at the Girl Summit in July, will build on recent progress in tackling female genital mutilation by coordinating efforts across government and providing outreach support to local areas. In addition, the unit will act as a hub for effective practice, gathering and sharing examples across local areas and professional groups. Based at the Home Office but with resources from across government, the unit will work closely with the voluntary and community sector, survivors and professionals to develop policies and processes. It will draw on this expertise to provide targeted support to local areas and professionals looking to strengthen their ability to tackle female genital mutilation. The unit will also work with the police to encourage and support further prosecutions and promote the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s consular support service to those at risk of female genital mutilation. Information about the work of the unit and details of the government latest policies and announcements on female genital mutilation will be available on GOV.UK from 10 December. For more information, email the unit at FGMenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on Mandatory Reporting of FGM

The government has today (Friday 5 December) launched a consultation asking for views on how best to introduce mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985, but only two prosecutions have been brought. Victims and witnesses often come under pressure from their family or community not to speak out. The government believes mandatory reporting should help increase the number of reports of FGM to the police from professionals. It is

hoped this will lead to further prosecutions that will deter perpetrators and protect victims. The consultation, which will last for five weeks, will seek views on how to introduce mandatory reporting and which agencies it will cover.

It will also look at what sanctions should be used if professionals fail to report cases of FGM.

The consultation document is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-mandatory-reporting-for-fgm>

Department for International Development

The DFID’s quarterly Violence Against Women and Girls Evidence Digest can be found online [here](#), which summarises the latest evidence on drivers of gender-based violence and what works to prevent it.

The Cross-Ministerial Champion for Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Overseas, the Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP, has made her quarterly [written ministerial statement](#) on progress in this area. It summarises work over the past three months, including highlights from the Girl Summit, the UK response to Violence Against Women and Girls in Iraq, and latest developments on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in South Sudan.

The Department for International Development has commissioned a piece of work to analyse the overall number, breadth and depth of programmes that tackle Violence Against Women and Girls overseas. The top line figures from the report are extremely promising. They show that since 2012 DFID has significantly scaled up its Violence Against Women and Girls programming, with an estimated 63% increase in the number of DFID supported Violence Against Women and Girls programmes. The UK



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now funds a total of 103 programmes, which includes an additional 54 new programmes that have a Violence Against Women and Girls component, and 10 new programmes that focus solely on addressing Violence Against Women and Girls. UK-funded Violence Against Women and Girls programmes (bilateral and multilateral) are implemented in 29 countries, compared to 20 countries in 2012. Please contact **Ruth Graham** if you would like further information on this.

Home Office campaign to raise awareness of Modern Slavery

This government is determined to stamp out modern slavery, which is why the Home Secretary introduced the Modern Slavery Bill. It will strengthen legislation on modern slavery, bring more slave drivers to justice and better protect victims. A Home Office campaign was launched in July to increase awareness of this horrific and often hidden crime, urging the public, partners and businesses, to help free the UK from Modern Slavery and encourage reporting to the new modern slavery helpline (0800 0121 700) and website (www.modernslavery.co.uk).

Throughout August, a TV advert was broadcast UK-wide to highlight to the public some of the most prevalent types of slavery, and that victims can be men, women and children from a range of backgrounds. The advert also promoted the new national modern slavery helpline (0800 0121 700) where the public can get advice and information on how to spot the signs of slavery, as well as report their suspicions. The advert can be seen on the Home Office YouTube channel: <http://youtu.be/QCpvJ-5OofU> Alongside this, we have partnered with the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail to highlight this issue and its human impact to their readers.

Partners have been encouraged to support the campaign, and communicate messages to both the public and their service users. A range of resources, including posters and a wallet-sized reference card, was specially produced for partners to promote the campaign, and can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery

The current phase of the campaign seeks to raise awareness amongst employers and industry of forced labour and exploitation, targeting sectors in which slavery has been reported – agriculture and fisheries, factories and food processing, construction/ labouring, hotels and catering. We are working with industry bodies in these sectors to inform people who work either directly or indirectly in these sectors about modern slavery, its prevalence in their sector, and measures they can take to ensure their supply chains are clean. This work is being complimented by news articles in trade sector press.





Violence Against Women and Girls Communications Insight Pack

We have updated the Communications Insight Pack which has been developed to provide partners with key insights into violence against women and girls (VAWG) which can help to inform local communications activities.

The pack covers a wide range of VAWG areas and includes key national statistics, background information on policy, government and partner campaigns which tackle VAWG. It also signposts other useful research and how to access various free support materials which are currently available to partners. The pack will be updated on a regular basis as new statistics and campaigns become available. The pack is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-communications-insight-pack>

We would like to hear what you think about this pack, any comments you provide will be used to evaluate the pack to inform future updates. Once you have read the pack you can access the online survey to let us know your views via

this link <http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/115218PQBBR>

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Serious Crime Bill: new measures to tackle FGM

The Serious Crime Bill has completed its passage through the House of Lords and was introduced in the Commons on 6 November. The bill now contains four clauses extending the law in relation to female genital mutilation:

- clause 67 (which was included in the bill as introduced in the House of Lords in June) extends the reach of the extra-territorial offences in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 to habitual, as well as permanent, UK residents (in addition to UK nationals);
- as announced by the Prime Minister at the Girl Summit on 22 July, the government is changing the law to grant lifelong anonymity for victims of female genital mutilation. This will be done by clause 68 of the bill. Providing anonymity, so that they can never be identified by the press, may encourage more victims to come forward;
- as also announced at the Girl Summit, clause 69 introduces a new offence of failing to protect a girl from risk of female genital mutilation. This follows a recommendation from the Director of Public Prosecutions; and
- following a consultation launched at the Girl Summit, clause 70 introduces a new civil order to protect potential victims of female genital mutilation. This would operate in a similar way to the existing Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO), and would contain such prohibitions, restrictions or other requirements as the court considered appropriate for the purposes of the order.

The provisions in clauses 68 to 70 were added to the bill at Lords Report stage in October. The bill will have to complete its parliamentary passage before it can become law.



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You can read more about the bill and the debates during the Lords stages at:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/seriouscrime.html>

A factsheet about the female genital mutilation provisions in the bill is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/371024/Fact_sheet_-_Female_Genital_Mutilation_-_Commons_Intro.pdf

Home Office ISVA Register

The Home Office is in the process of compiling an ISVA register that can be used by statutory agencies as well as to map ISVA services across England and Wales.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to send the information requested in the table below, listing the ISVAs that operate within your organisation, to the Home Office Inter-Personal Violence Team. Please send completed returns to ISVA@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk by **5 December**.

Area	Funding source(s)	Name of ISVA	Organisation	Address and contact details of organisation	Contact email address (for ISVA newsletter etc)	Referral Process	Client group (e.g. gender/age)	Training completed

Many thanks if you have already completed this grid and returned to the Home Office. You do not need to do so again.

Department of Health

The Department of Health is hosting an event to mark UN Elimination of violence against women on 25 November as part of its work to raise awareness of the impact that violence and abuse has on those affected.

Domestic abuse is estimated to have cost the economy £15.7 billion in 2008 including £1.7 billion in health care costs. We want to ensure that every victim is treated with dignity and are tackling negative attitudes to girls and women to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, published a new Standard on Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) on 19 September as part of the Government’s commitment to reduce knife and gun crime. The Standard enables NHS A&E departments in England to collect and share non-confidential data with Community Safety Partnerships about attendances involving violent crime. This will help the police to target crime hotspots with stop-and-search measures.

A copy of the ISTV standard is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aes-and-police-to-share-information-to-help-tackle-violence>

Public Health England

[Evidence into Practice: Tackling Domestic Violence in universities and the workplace](#)

On 6 November, Public Health England (PHE) held an **Evidence into Practice event**, exploring the issue of domestic violence. The event looked ahead to the ‘16 Days of Action’ global campaign and hosted the launch of two separate initiatives that aim to raise awareness and tackle the problem of domestic violence in the UK.



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The bystander Intervention Initiative:

Public Health England has commissioned the University of the West of England (UWE) to develop a bystander ‘Intervention Initiative’; a programme to encourage all students to stand up against violence or sexual abuse in their community.

It is a free resource with an **educational toolkit** to be used by universities and colleges and, ideally, implemented into their curriculum for the prevention of sexual coercion and domestic abuse in university settings. UWE are the first university to run the programme and it currently runs as part of the first year law students’ curriculum.

The toolkit was inspired by recent research from the **National Union of Students**, revealing that 37% of women and 12% of men said they had faced unwelcome sexual advances. Research has also found that female students have a greater than one in three chance of being sexually assaulted during their time at university.

For more information, see the **Initiative website**, or this short **student video**.

16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence toolkit for businesses:

Public Health England (PHE) has launched **Violence toolkit for businesses** - a step by step guide for businesses on how they can tackle domestic violence and raise awareness of an issue that impacts health, wellbeing, and absence and turn over in the workplace.

The toolkit, commissioned by PHE and developed by **The Corporate Alliance**, provides practical tools and resources to help businesses take action over the 16 Days (25 November to 10th December), from raising awareness internally using posters and internal communications, to being visible through social media, blogs and podcasts. In doing so, the workplace will be better equipped to

acknowledge the signs that indicate it may be going on. For companies interested in eliminating the impact of domestic violence in the workplace, they can do so by joining **The Alliance**.

Welsh Government

Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill

The Welsh government is taking a firm stand against gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. A central part of the comprehensive package of reforms being progressed is the introduction of the Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) bill. The bill was introduced into the National Assembly for Wales on 30 June and is currently at stage 1 of the legislative process.

The bill will enshrine in legislation the Welsh government’s commitment to tackling the endemic social problems of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. It will change Welsh infrastructure, creating stronger leadership and ensuring a stronger and more consistent focus on tackling these issues. It will raise the issue of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence with our most senior public sector leaders, and place a responsibility on them to drive forward changes which improve the safety of victims and their children.

The bill should not, however, be seen in isolation. It is just one key element of a broader package of reforms.

National Training Framework

Consultation on a National Training Framework opened on 23 October and closes on 19 December 2014. It is



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available here: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/people-and-communities/national-training-framework-on-gender-based-violence/?lang=en>.

The Framework has been mapped against the possible journey a victim of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence takes through public and specialist services. The purpose of this mapping is to work from the broadest needs assessment – ranging from awareness and prevention, to proactive identification, assertive and supportive engagement through to longer term recovery and support. A framework based on this needs assessment will produce training linked to early and crisis intervention, high risk behaviours and vulnerabilities and longer term support around trauma and complex needs.

Whole School Approach

Work is underway across the Welsh government to deliver our commitments on healthy relationship education and ensuring a whole school approach. For example, school staff are listed as key professions within the National Training Framework and Safeguarding Children in Education statutory guidance will be strengthened, as will the role of Designated Senior Persons for Child Protection and a lead Governor in schools, to ensure gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence aspects are fully reflected alongside other child safeguarding issues.

Additional funding has also been provided to Hafan Cymru, a Welsh charitable Housing Association which focuses on supporting victims of Domestic Abuse, to extend their Spectrum Programme from this autumn. This will see healthy relationship lessons delivered in 50% of primary and secondary schools in Wales in the first year.

10,000 Safer Lives

The Welsh government continues to make progress on delivering the 10,000 Safer Lives Project, which seeks to improve the response provided by the Public Service

in Wales to victims of domestic abuse, specifically those categorised as medium or standard risk. Between April 2011 and March 2014 over 7,000 individuals considered themselves to be safer, or to feel safer as a result of the direct support from specialist organisations funded by the Welsh government, such as the All-Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline, Project Dyn and New Pathways.

A key achievement (and one of the minimum standards) of the 10,000 Safer Lives Project is that all 42 major public service organisations in Wales have reviewed and/or revised their workplace policies on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence and have either already, or are in the process of promoting and implementing them within their organisations. These policies, along with support from line managers and HR, will help employee’s access advice and services to tackle difficult situations while remaining in work.

Awareness Raising in Wales

The Welsh government is committed to ensuring attitudes in relation to gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence change and raising awareness is central to this.

The launch of the Welsh government’s “Making a Stand” campaign in June this year showed everyone can make a difference if we all stand together and take responsibility for this issue. Further planned campaigns during the course of the year will ensure everyone in Wales is aware of the contribution they can make, no matter how big or small.

Attached is a link to the Live Fear Free website which provides details of all previous campaigns undertaken in Wales - <http://livefearfree.org.uk/splash?orig=/>



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White Ribbon Award

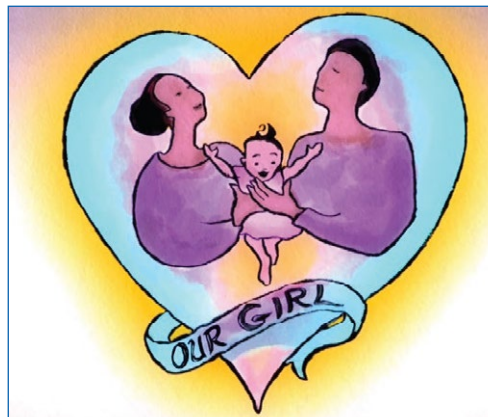
The Welsh government’s commitment to dealing with gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence was formally recognised through the White Ribbon accreditation received in June. This external award is given to organisations which actively tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, specifically through including men and boys in this challenge. We are proud to have been awarded this accreditation and are now encouraging the Welsh public sector to follow our lead and play their part.

Anti Slavery in Wales

On 25 November Welsh government will be publishing the Anti-Slavery Commissioner’s 2nd Annual Report. The report will be available on the Welsh government website following publication. In the last year Welsh government has delivered a range of Anti-Slavery related training across Wales, continued the roll out of the ‘Survivor Care Pathway’ and undertaken Wales-wide communication campaign and extensive stakeholder engagement. Further details will be included in the report on the 25 November.

AVA (Against Violence and Abuse)

Free film resource to help raise awareness about forced marriage



AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) in partnership with Animage Films have produced two short films aimed at getting communities talking and acting towards putting a stop to forced marriage. ‘Our Girl’ is a three minute animated film featuring several filmed scenarios, all based on true cases of forced marriage. To view this film please go to <http://vimeo.com/100885525>

Accompanying ‘Our Girl’ is ‘True Stories’ a six minute film with extended dramatised interviews based on real testimonies from forced marriage victims. To view this film please go to <http://vimeo.com/101035867>

AVA have also produced a resource to accompany the films which gives an overview of forced marriage and detailed guidance, including suggested exercises, for facilitators who may wish to use the film to raise awareness within their communities. This can be accessed at <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/news/2014/august/our-girl-film-and-resource-on-forced-marriage.aspx>

Prevention Platform

Based on years of research, funded by Comic Relief, AVA has developed a ‘one stop shop’ website to support anyone interested in preventing violence against women and girls. The site is aimed at practitioners who work with young people, both in schools but also other educational institutions as well as youth centres and other places young people may be.

The site contains a **free e-learning training resource** to help practitioners identify the main forms of Violence Against Women and Girls and start to understand how to recognise warning signs and respond to disclosures.

There is also a **comprehensive toolkit** which looks at:

- the different forms of VAWG



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- how to develop a programme of work
- how to train staff
- how to work with parents and carers
- how to monitor and evaluate the impact of the work
- safeguarding
- campaigning
- meaningful youth participation
- creating a ‘whole school’ approach
- policy development
- building local partnerships

We also have specific sections for:

- Pupil referral units
- Youth offending Teams
- Primary and Secondary Schools
- Youth Centres

There is a **searchable database of lesson plans, resources and films** which can be filtered according to your preferences. We also have an **interactive map** so you can search for local projects as well as adding your own.

Please visit the site and circulate to any colleagues who may be interested.

www.preventionplatform.co.uk

Or contact Jo for more information:
Joanna.sharpen@avaproject.org.uk

Avon and Glamour Magazine launch ‘Wall of Silence’ campaign in Aid of Refuge and Women’s Aid

This month, Avon and Glamour magazine launched a powerful digital fundraising campaign in aid of national domestic violence charities Refuge and Women’s Aid.

The campaign, ‘Wall of Silence’, asks people take ‘selfies’ of themselves with their finger over their lips, illustrating the silence that still surrounds the subject of domestic violence. For each ‘shhh’ selfie uploaded with the hashtag #wallofsilence to Twitter or Instagram, Avon will automatically donate £1 to Refuge and Women’s Aid. The selfies are also collected together to create a live ‘Wall of Silence’ on the Avon website, which can be viewed here:

www.avon.uk.com/wallofsilence

The Wall of Silence idea was the brainchild by Charli Bailey, herself a survivor of domestic violence – who won a competition to design a digital promotion for Avon’s ongoing Speak Out Against Domestic Violence campaign. She said: *“We are not talking enough about a crime that kills two women every week. I hope you will show your support by uploading your picture and standing up for women everywhere. Women like me. Women like you.”*

The campaign has been a huge success so far, with celebrities Susan Boyle, Fearne Cotton and Caroline Flack all getting involved.

National Domestic Violence Helpline - survey

Refuge would like to hear your views about the National Domestic Violence Helpline which is delivered by Women’s Aid England and Refuge. They have commissioned Cordis Bright (for more about Cordis



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Bright please see: www.cordisbright.co.uk) to conduct an independent evaluation of the Helpline. As part of this evaluation, they would be very grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes or so to complete a short questionnaire.

The questionnaire can be accessed by clicking here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NDVHLSurvey>

The survey is confidential and will close at 5pm on Friday 12th December. If you know of other colleagues who may be interested in completing this questionnaire please do forward onto them.

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Amanda Hill-Dixon on 020 7330 9170 or by email at amandahilldixon@cordisbright.co.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to take part in this research.

Efua Dorkenoo, OBE, Inspirational Leader in the Anti-FGM Movement, Dies Aged 65

Efua Dorkenoo, OBE, a leading light in the global movement against female genital mutilation (FGM) has died aged 65. Efua was often referred to as the ‘mother of the campaign’ and was a key person in ensuring that female genital mutilation was reframed both as a human rights violation and a severe form of violence against women and girls.

Efua was born in Cape Coast, Ghana on 6 September 1949. In her late teens, she moved to London where she trained to become a nurse. Efua first came across female genital mutilation in the late 1970s when she witnessed a woman who had undergone female genital mutilation giving birth.

In 1983, Efua founded FORWARD and in the early nineties, was a key person in setting up Equality Now’s anti-female genital mutilation programme. This relationship with the international human rights organisation continued for over two decades. At Equality Now, along with other organisations, Efua helped push for the Africa-led global ban on female genital mutilation, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2012. She was also a key person in ensuring that a ‘joined-up’ approach to ending female genital mutilation was initiated in the United Kingdom, which is leading the way globally on funding anti-female genital mutilation efforts.

Since January, Efua has led a social change communications campaign to end female genital mutilation within a generation, funded by the UK Department for International Development. ‘The Girl Generation: Together to End female genital mutilation’ launched a week before her passing.

Efua now has a very inspired and determined team who will carry on the work she has started. At the forefront of this is an ever-increasing number of female genital mutilation survivors – girls and women who were failed. Giving them a platform for their voices to be heard was always one of her key priorities.

Efua Dorkenoo, OBE, died on 18 October 2014 and is survived by her husband, Freddie Greene, her two sons, Kobina and Ebow, two stepsons, Galvin and Yanik, stepdaughter, Fummi, and by her grandson, Cassius.

White Ribbon Campaign

Men Engage Global Symposium

Chris Green from White Ribbon Campaign attended the 2nd Men Engage Global Symposium “Men and Boys for Gender Justice” to present the work of the Local Authorities Award scheme which is generating



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unprecedented levels of activity involving men in speaking out about male violence against women and challenging negative gender stereotypes which underpin abuse, particularly in Wales where 75% of all local authorities are involved, and the other 25% are in the process of negotiating their campaigning.

Unprecedented Demand for Campaigning Materials

On the approach to November 25th, each week is busier than the last and we are seeing unprecedented demand for campaigning materials -for example

Weekending 31st October WRC volunteer’s sent out over 230 parcels of campaigning materials to Local authorities, Police forces and Sports Clubs, Voluntary sector organisations and individuals.

Bystander Programme

November 5th saw the first date in a 6 week Bystander training action research project based at Lincoln University delivered by Scottish Womens Aid and White Ribbon Campaign.

Nottingham Rugby Club –raising awareness about abuse

Allen Graham, Chief Executive at Rushcliffe Borough Council, (a White Ribbon authority) is leading an innovative campaign with Nottingham Rugby Club and other partners (Gedling Borough Council and the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner) to raise awareness about abuse towards women and encourage men to make the pledge “never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.”

Rushcliffe recognises that engaging men to speak out about this abuse is challenging, with many such

campaigns and events being led and attended solely by women. The Council knows men care about this issue and Rushcliffe decided to tackle this using the positive power of sport. Rushcliffe is home of the world renowned Nottingham Forest FC, Trent Bridge Cricket Ground and the National Watersports Centre. Rushcliffe hopes this campaign will trigger other sports clubs to get involved.

As part of the campaign, the new kit for Nottingham Rugby Club features the white ribbon emblem (signifying the international campaign to tackle abuse towards women). There will be regular articles in match day programmes written by prominent male role models who are spearheading the drive to end abuse towards women.

Marketing materials and pitch-side banners all promote the pledge. The rugby players are acting as ambassadors for the White Ribbon Campaign and are spreading the word at events and community engagements. Since the Club will host away fans from across the country (including some fans who live in other parts of the world), this campaign truly has a far reaching impact.

Brent Wilson, Rugby Club captain says: “We’re proud to support this campaign. The work being done is fantastic and very worthwhile. We won’t stand by and let domestic violence happen. The whole squad are honoured to have the White Ribbon on our shirts and we hope it encourages more people to show their support.”

The Club is also linking, through this project, with local domestic abuse charities Equation and Family Care to help mentor young people to learn about the positive power of sport, the values of teamwork and respect in relationships and help to change abusive attitudes

A major feature of this campaign is the high profile given using communications with regular articles and many photos on social media platforms including tweets,



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Facebook and Pinterest (<http://www.pinterest.com/rushcliffe/white-ribbon-campaign>) showing men who have taken the pledge. Rushcliffe is also highlighting this project within newsletters going out to residents and businesses, and even on the sides of the borough’s bin wagons.

Each year the Rugby Club’s nominates a charity match to raise awareness of a good cause. In 2015, this will be the White Ribbon campaign and the match against Worcester is on 8 February 2015.

Any man reading this article, is urged to sign the pledge to help stop abuse towards women which can range from demeaning and derogatory behaviour, right up to some of the worst crimes imaginable. Pledge at www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/makepledge.



Hollie Gazzard Trust

Hollie Gazzard was murdered by her ex-boyfriend Asher Maslin, 22, while at work in a hair salon in Gloucester in February. He was **jailed for life**.

Her family set up the trust to help young people to become hair stylists and in memory of Hollie.

For more information please visit <http://holliegazzard.org/>

Gloucestershire Police and the University of Gloucestershire joint venture

On the 9th December 2014 Gloucestershire Police in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire will begin piloting the DART Domestic abuse and stalking reference tool. This tool was developed as a result of research conducted with female victims of domestic abuse, families of deceased victims, and professionals from a variety of agencies, mainly the police and paramedics. The research aligned the perspectives of professionals and victims, and made recommendations for first responders and those who may have abuse disclosed to them. The research is focused on female victims of abuse, stalking and homicide, and takes the view that women who suffer such abuse are often skilled managers of dangerous men. The tool which is an abbreviated form of the recommendations from the research, is for use by any agency which may have contact with victims of domestic abuse and stalking, or in fact any form of abuse. It would be useful for example, for Housing departments, GP surgeries, Health Visitors, Midwives, Social Services, Benefits officers and so on.

The research is published as a book this November and powerfully argues for better status for victims, but also, in its recommendations, bridges the gap which can exist between victims and professionals.

Monckton Smith, Williams and Mullane (2014) *Domestic Abuse, Homicide and Gender: strategies for policy and practice* Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan



All Citizens Advice Bureaux to ask a routine enquiry about gender violence – the ASK RE Programme

Citizens Advice sees many clients who have experienced gender violence and domestic abuse- in 2012-13 over 13,000 clients disclosed DVA during the advice process. However this is less than 1% of our clients.

The ASK Pilot

In 2013 we carried out a pilot project in nine bureaux. A routine enquiry about GVA was asked of clients (both men and women) being seen in a face to face advice session with a debt, benefit or housing enquiry. The pilot highlighted the great extent to which abuse is underreported. 20% of people asked during the project disclosed past experience of abuse and 7% disclosed current abuse. A number of clients were in an emergency situation.

The ASK pilot found that asking a routine enquiry:

- helped clients experiencing GVA with options, including helping them get out of an emergency
- provided important information that meant advisers were able to give better advice and support about the presenting issue, particularly benefit, debt and housing problems
- helped begin to break the silence and shame around GVA

The ASK RE Programme

From the Autumn of 2014 to March 15 over 30 bureaux will be trained and supported to use ASK RE in face to face interview situations in debt and benefit enquiry areas. Then over three years ASK RE will be rolled out across the whole network of 330 bureaux.

All bureaux will receive two days specialist GVA training for their supervisors, and those supervisors will then cascade training to advisers. Cabx will not be able to use ASK RE without having undergone training and will only be able to ask a routine enquiry with unaccompanied clients in a face to face setting in a confidential place.

Asking a routine enquiry about GVA in an advice setting is unique and the service will be carefully monitoring and evaluating the work, as well as recording statistical information. We have also established an advisory group to assist in guiding and informing the work. We are very interested to hear from other organisations who have trialled or use a routine or targeted question about GVA or DVA with their clients.

ASK RE Programme contact Helen.Scadding@citizensadvice.org.uk

Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW), the sexual violence charity for women and girls, is delighted to announce that it has become the first organisation in the women's voluntary sector to be awarded co-investment from the UK Commission for Employment & Skills (UKCES) for an Employer Leadership Project.

This new contract will enable RCEW to work collaboratively with its network of specialist, independent member Rape Crisis organisations to shape workforce development throughout the sexual violence sector over the next three years.

The overall aim of the Project is to ensure that the majority of those who experience rape and sexual violence have access to high quality Rape Crisis services.

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To this end, it will work towards greater recognition and understanding of the costs of rape and sexual violence both to society and to the economy, as well as a greater recognition of the specific needs of sexual violence survivors, the value of the specialist nature of Rape Crisis services, and the skills and knowledge required by staff working in the sector.

In the longer term, it's hoped that the overall impact of the Project will be demonstrated through a 15% increase in the availability of high quality Rape Crisis services, 10% growth in job opportunities in the sexual violence sector and 5% reduction in costs to the economy of rape and sexual violence.

This award is a national recognition of the hard work, expertise, professionalism and quality service that has been provided by the Rape Crisis network across England and Wales over the past 40 years.

Rape Crisis understands and recognises the value of training and is keen to progress this exciting development of a national qualification for the sexual violence sector, which will provide a framework through which we can evidence the professionalism of our staff and volunteers and both ensure and demonstrate the ongoing quality of Rape Crisis service provision.

Domestic Homicide Reviews: Emerging Themes

Thursday 4th December 2014, Birmingham City Centre, 10:00-15:30

Who should attend?

This conference is open to all those who work around domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, to combat the problems and challenges that are faced.

- Domestic Violence Coordinators
- Community Safety Partnership Members
- Commissioners
- Clinical Commissioning Group Members
- Police Officers & PCCs
- Health Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- IDVA Managers
- Refuge Workers
- Housing Officers
- Probation Officers

It has been three and a half years since the Home Office legislation came into place that local areas are expected to undertake a multi-agency review following a domestic homicide. The DVCN thought this would be an opportune moment to review the emerging themes and patterns arising from some of the DHRs conducted thus far.

At this conference we will host experts who have been involved at different points in the process of DHRs. This will bring an even richer depth into the findings they present: from common themes of how agencies are responding to domestic abuse, to families being integral to the process.

Agenda:

Frank Mullane—*Director, AAFDA*



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Family and Professionals: The Status Gap

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence

Lessons Learned: Turning Words into Action

There will be two panel discussions with experts

More speakers TBA...

Tickets are FREE for members | £75 for non-members |

Membership costs £100 per year

To book your place click [here](#) | To become a member click [here](#)

Phone: 020 8748 5717

Email: admin@dvcn.org.uk

Fax: 020 8748 5921

www.dvcn.org.uk

Mirabal Project

Professors Liz Kelly (London Metropolitan University), Nicole Westmarland (Durham University), and Charlotte Watts (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), have been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Northern Rock Foundation to investigate the extent to which perpetrator programmes reduce violence and increase safety for women and children, and the routes by which they contribute to coordinated community responses to domestic violence. The pilot phase also received funding from LankellyChase Foundation and the Home Office. This research enters a contested arena where questions of methodology and policy direction have reached something of an impasse. By re-casting the research question beyond ‘do they work?’, addressing the limitations of previous studies, and introducing innovative directions in analysis they hope to

create a new trajectory for domestic violence perpetrator research and interventions. For more information please see:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/criva/anhistoricaloverviewbriefingnote.pdf>

https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/criva/FinalversionChildren_and_Young_Peoplebriefingnote.pdf

Project Mirabal Launch Conference

Domestic Violence Perpetrators - Changing the Story

Two conferences will be held to mark the end of our research on domestic violence perpetrator programmes. Both conferences will be exactly the same, with the same programme and speakers, just held in different venues:

Tuesday 13th January 2015, Stoke Newington Town Hall

Thursday 15th January 2015, Durham Town Hall

Speakers will include members of the Project Mirabal Team:

- Professor Liz Kelly, London Metropolitan University
- Professor Nicole Westmarland, Durham University
- Dr Natasha Howard, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Other speakers include:

- Professor Catherine Donovan, Sunderland University
- Dr Rebecca Barnes, Leicester University
- Professor David Gadd, Manchester University
- Sinéad Bloomfield, Chartered Psychologist, National



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Offender Management Service

- Jo Todd, CEO, Respect

Both conferences are free to attend, however, places are limited therefore attendance is via registration only. To register click on the following link and choose either London or Durham: mirabal2015.eventbrite.co.uk <<http://mirabal2015.eventbrite.co.uk/>, the password is ‘mirabal’ (please note spelling with a not e).

For further information please

contact: cwasu@londonmet.ac.uk or

durham.criva@durham.ac.uk

Project Mirabal is supported by grants from the ESRC, Northern Rock Foundation and LankellyChase Foundation.

Royal Navy and AVA

The Royal Navy with the assistance of AVA (Against Violence and Abuse), who received Labor funding, are drafting a single service strategy and practice manual for working with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence within the Naval Service (NS). Once completed, AVA plan to roll out training to specialist welfare professionals and other NS personnel who are likely to be the first point of contact for domestic abuse (DA) disclosure across the Service. By carrying out this piece of work it is anticipated that general awareness will be heightened and strengthen the social intolerance of DA in the NS. It is hoped that this important initiative will increase safe choices for women and children experiencing domestic violence so that they might plan safer futures without compromising their quality of life.

“Getting it Right First Time”

- CAADA’s 2015 conference

CAADA’s national conference will be held in London on 25 February 2015.

“Getting it Right First Time” will bring together everyone who is dedicated to ending domestic abuse. It will be an opportunity to share successes, debate new ideas and consider how families experiencing domestic abuse can become safe, and stay safe in the long term.

For everyone, from service managers and frontline workers to safeguarding professionals, commissioners, police and Marac coordinators, it is always a sell out event so please register early by emailing training@caada.org.uk.

[Measure your impact: new CAADA research tool available at subsidised rates](#)

Following a successful pilot run, Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) is rolling out a new research tool to help local services and commissioners measure how effectively they support children and young people who experience domestic abuse.

Children’s Insights will monitor services’ support for victims and compare outcomes with national data and similar services. Building on CAADA’s existing Insights tool, it will gather objective evidence to help build a ‘whole family’ picture of need and enable services and commissioners to deliver support that will make the biggest impact.

Feedback for the existing Insights service suggests that Children’s Insights will be well received:

“As a service manager, I’ve used Insights reports to demonstrate impact to our existing funders - my plan



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is to use the data to attract additional funding to our organisation over the long term. We see Insights as an invaluable tool and have continued to use the service for a second year."

Commissioners will also benefit from Children’s Insights by improving their knowledge and being able to review the performance of services in the context of national comparative data.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fidelity UK Foundation and the Dulverton Trust, Children’s Insights will be available at heavily subsidised rates to 15 voluntary organisations. To learn how your area can benefit, visit <http://www.caada.org.uk/dvservices/childrens-insights-for-domestic-abuse-services.html> or contact the Insights team via insights@caada.org.uk or on 0117 317 8750.

Paladin

Paladin knows that training professionals on risk assessment and understanding the new law is vital to supporting victims. Advocacy is also vital and trained specialist staff is critical to saving lives and saving money. In some cases, stalking can lead to physical and sexual violence and even murder.

Paladin’s Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) ensure high risk victims of stalking nationally are supported and that a co-ordinated community response is developed locally to keep victims and their children safe. The ISACs work closely with police, probation, local authorities, Crown Prosecution Service and local support agencies. There are a significant amount of stalking cases where the victim did not have a relationship with the perpetrator. Currently there is no service to offer support, advice and help for these victims except for Paladin. This is a major gap in public protection. We want to ensure that

the gap is filled given the volume of cases across the UK matched against the severity and seriousness of stalking when it happens. This training will save lives and money.

Paladin developed an accredited Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) training course through the University of Brighton and has already run the first course in London finishing in November 2014 and was a great success. This training has enabled Paladin to establish a network of ISACs across the UK as satellites to the national service which will save lives, give victims quality of life and reduce levels of isolation. It is important that there are more ISACs across the UK as their specialist knowledge and advocacy is vital in keeping victims and their children safe. In the long term it will save both lives and money.

Our next course is running in Liverpool in March 2015 with dates to follow. You can read more information on [our website](#). To express an interest in this course, email us at info@paladinservice.co.uk

Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk
Telephone: 0207 840 8960

Address: P.O. Box 64640, London, SW8 9DJ
Twitter: @paladinservice

Website: <http://www.paladinservice.co.uk>

Broken Rainbow

Broken Rainbow the National LGBT Domestic Abuse Organisation has had a really exciting but busy few months.

We were delighted to be asked to work with EastEnders and their current same-sex domestic abuse storyline. The relationship between Tina and Tosh depicts a relationship



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that isn’t simply troubled but abusive and we welcome the producers determination to portray a depiction of domestic abuse that does not conform to a stereotypical idea but that has its roots in survivor testimony and real life stories. Domestic abuse takes many forms and can affect anyone and this storyline, we hope, will raise awareness not just within the LGBT community but also mainstream society as well. We can already see from social media and forums that those conversations are beginning.

Storylines like this, on a widely watched peak-time soap, can reach so many more victims than simply publicising services on social media or through liaison with mainstream agencies and as a result more victims are reaching out to us by phone and chat as the storyline develops.

We currently support over 5,000 people a year through our helpline, chat and email services and are delighted to announce that we will shortly be able to provide an effective and targeted casework service.

We have received Comic Relief funding for a LGBT IDVA which will be based in Manchester. We are all aware that IDVA services are crucial to improving outcomes for high risk victims and specialist services that work with hard to reach communities are recognised as being an effective way to ensure that IDVA representation is accessible to all who need it. Our LGBT IDVA will provide advocacy to a community who are under-represented in mainstream agencies and services and the MARAC process. We also believe having an LGBT IDVA in a large urban area with a thriving gay community will lead to wider disclosure from victims and more effective interventions and outcomes.

LimeCulture CIC expands to provide ‘Tendering Support’

Due to the vast experience of LimeCulture Community Interest Company (CIC) in working with Commissioners (NHS, Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Authority) they have been approached by specialist sexual violence organisations asking for support and assistance in the tendering process.

In light of the new commissioning arrangements that have taken place over the last few years, LimeCulture CIC is seeing an increase in the number of non-specialist organisations bidding for contracts, which they believe are most effectively delivered by specialist sexual violence organisations. However, while many of the (often small) specialist sexual violence organisation have years of experience, knowledge and skills to work effectively with victims, they do not always have the time, capacity or resources to enter into complicated bidding arrangements in order to secure contracts or funding to continue their important work. Sadly, this could mean that more specialist sexual violence services have to close if they are not successfully winning contracts that fund the delivery of their service provision.

As a result of this, LimeCulture has recently expanded the focus of their work to include a ‘Tendering Support’ package for providers of sexual violence services. The aim of this is to offer bespoke support to voluntary and community sector organisations who are putting together proposals, tenders or bids to provide services for victims of sexual violence as part of their local commissioning processes.

LimeCulture can now offer providers a range of bespoke support to ensure the services can demonstrate they are able to deliver high-quality service to support victims of sexual violence and to enable them to make a strong



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case for investment. LimeCulture CIC’s support is tailored to meet the requirements of the individual service and can include a range of options and services, such as bid-writing assistance, support to develop proposals, independent service reviews, help with the development, collection and measuring of meaningful outcome information and data etc.

For more information about the Tendering Support that is now available to providers of sexual violence services, please contact Stephanie.Reardon@limeculture.co.uk.

HER CENTRE - Bridging the gaps in the Legal Funding

The Her Centre is a women’s only organisation. We work with women affected by domestic & sexual abuse, providing an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, helping women make informed choices on how to exit an abusive relationship or stay safe. The last year and a half has seen big changes in the Legal Aid funding that is available to women needing Non Molestation Order’s, Occupation Order’s, Child Contact Issue and Divorce. According to the Rights of Women report Evidencing Domestic Violence, 61% of women were unable to obtain legal funding to help them obtain such orders, and on 16% had to represent themselves in court, often having to face their abusers in court and suffer further intimidation. This is especially true with divorce and child contact, even where a woman has obtained legal aid to get a protection order.

To help women in these situations the Her Centre is working in partnership with Greenwich University, who provided us with year 2 & 3 female law students, volunteering their time to assist our Independent Domestic Violence Advocates to obtain the information needed and then complete the necessary paperwork, ready for the

IDVAs to escort the women to court to obtain the orders themselves, which is free of charge wherever possible. This service is proving to be a very valuable source in helping us to help women be safe and reduce their already very stressful situations.

University of Greenwich is also running a Thursday evening family law clinic giving free advice on issues regarding children, using volunteer solicitors supported by law students.

These are stop gaps until the law is amended to better protect women and their families who have experienced abuse. But these do give women support to get the protection they need and to resolve the linked issues of child contact and divorce.

Julie Sargent, IDVA Services Manager

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE TRUE HONOUR AWARDS

The Iranian & Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation is delighted to announce that nominations have opened for the annual True Honour Awards, which will take place at a ceremony in central London on Wednesday 4th February 2015.

The True Honour Awards recognise those who have taken a stand against “honour” based violence.

They provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your s/hero and to inspire others to join the movement to end “honour” based violence.

Your nominee could be a dedicated professional, a passionate campaigner, a brave survivor or anyone who has taken action to end “honour” based violence.



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To access the nomination form and for more information please see our website www.ikwro.org.uk or contact Sara.Browne@ikwro.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Women's Aid

In September Women's Aid launched our **SOS campaign: save refuges, save lives**. The campaign is highlighting the crisis that is facing our world leading national network of refuges. Across England, more and more specialist refuges are experiencing huge funding cuts and being closed down and the number of specialist refuges in England has decreased by 17% since 2010.

Our network of specialist domestic violence services is at great risk. The needs-led, survivor-centred approach developed over four decades by independent, specialist services is absolutely essential for the long term recovery of women and children who have survived the horror and trauma of long term, controlling violence and abuse. It is undermined by a narrow focus on identifying risk rather than needs, by disproportionate reductions in funding compared to other vital services, and - in the case of refuges in particular - by incentives which undermine the need to provide for women and children fleeing many miles.

We need to act now to save lives and are calling on the government to Save Our Services by committing to preserving the national network of specialist refuges and to exploring a new model of funding and commissioning for refuges which supports a sustainable service and high quality care.

Success for the Domestic Violence Law Reform Campaign

Women's Aid works in partnership with the Sara Charlton Charitable Foundation and Paladin to campaign for a change in the law on domestic violence. We believe that coercive control, psychological abuse and patterns of abuse should be recognised in law to criminalise the essence of domestic violence. We warmly welcomed the publication in August this of a Home Office consultation on strengthening the law on domestic violence and believe that to truly offer protection to women and children who are experiencing domestic violence coercive control should be criminalised.

Find out about the Domestic Violence Law Reform Campaign: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001001000330002§ionTitle=Law+Reform>

NEW Conference: Building the UK's First Femicide Census: Profile of Women Killed by Men

We are pleased to invite you to a special conference where the UK's first census on women killed by men will be launched. This ground breaking project will be an important tool, enabling us to monitor fatal male violence against women and providing valuable data to help reduce the number of women killed by men.

Event: Building the UK's First Femicide Census: Profiles of Women Killed by Men

Time & date: 10:00 to 16:30, 12th February 2015

Venue: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, 65 Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 1HS

Cost: £25 per delegate, £20 for Women's Aid members. No charge for delegates who have lost a family member or friend to femicide



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Please come along, hear about the important work that is being done in this area and consider how you can contribute.

We are bringing together experts on femicide to support the continuation and future development of the census, which currently provides detailed data on femicides in England since 2009. It has been developed by Karen Ingala Smith working in partnership with Women's Aid, with support from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and Deloitte LLP.

Conference speakers will include: Karen Ingala Smith, Polly Neate CEO of Women's Aid, Professor Jill Radford, Dr Aisha K. Gill and families of women who have been killed, as well as national and international experts on femicide and a senior police representative and a government Minister (tbc).

A full conference schedule will follow.

Please book online here: <http://goo.gl/forms/ylqjgJlufk>

Safer Futures – supporting schools to tackle domestic violence

Some of the highest rates of domestic violence are found in young relationships, and too often this plays out in schools. A recent study highlighted that at least 2,865 sex-crime reports have been recorded by police between 2011 and 2013 and more than 320 alleged rapes were reported in schools in the last three years.

Safer futures is a national project that aims to support schools to tackle domestic violence by building networks between local schools, specialist domestic violence services and Local Authorities to ensure that healthy relationships education is delivered responsibly and effectively across the country.

The project will create a nationwide network of domestic violence professionals working in local domestic violence services to work as Women's Aid Schools Advocates to provide in-school support for teachers to deliver lessons using the Expect Respect Education Toolkit. The project aims to create a consistent and regulated approach in supporting schools to address domestic violence drawing on the expertise of specialist practitioners who are trained in this area. Safer Futures ensures that, nationally, every child and young person would be able to access healthy relationships education, rather than it being a postcode lottery.

In addition, the aims of the Safer Futures Project are to:

- Provide professionals working in local domestic violence services with the tools and training to become Women's Aid Schools Advocates and support schools in their area to teach about domestic violence.
- Help teachers to feel confident in delivering lessons about domestic violence using the Expect Respect Educational Toolkit.
- Encourage young people to build healthy, respectful relationships, and identify abusive behaviours in themselves and others.
- Enable local domestic violence services to raise awareness and become further embedded in local communities.

From now until March 2015, regional workshops are being held to train and recruit the national team of Women's Aid School Advocates. The workshops are aimed at those working for a domestic abuse service provider for women and children, whether you are currently working with schools or would like to. However, anyone interested in healthy relationship education in schools will be welcome.



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The workshops are free to attend and are for those who are interested in learning more about the role and/or would like to become a Women's Aid School Advocate.

For more information, contact the National Schools Engagement Officer, Shabana Kausar at s.kausar@womensaid.org.uk

Women's Aid National Training Centre

Would you like a nationally recognised qualification within the Domestic Violence Sector? Women's Aid offer three levels of qualification- The Award, Certificate and Diploma in Tackling and Preventing Domestic Violence/ Abuse.

The Certificate is suitable for those already working within the sector (in a paid role for at least 6 months). Completing the Certificate qualifies you to become a Domestic Abuse Prevention Advocate (DAPA). This training has been endorsed by the Home Office as suitable for the IDVA role. The Certificate qualifies you to enrol for the Diploma.

The Diploma is the highest credit based qualification for the domestic violence sector. The University of Worcester has agreed to accept the Diploma in Preventing and Tackling Violence as meeting the entry requirements of their qualification, which is the MA in Professional Development: The Dynamics of Domestic Violence. Further information can be obtained from the University of Worcester www.worcester.ac.uk. Bursaries are available to Women's Aid members for the Diploma.

For more information on our qualifications and the other courses we run, please visit our website for further information www.nationaltrainingcentre.org.uk

Women's Aid Annual Survey 2014

The Women's Aid Annual Survey of domestic violence services across England has become an institution and

is a comprehensive collection of such data. The data and information it provides about domestic violence services, the thousands of women and children they support and the challenge they face every year is invaluable. The 2014 Annual Survey will be published in December 2014 – keep an eye out for it on our website www.womensaid.org.uk

End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) update

This September, EVAW's expert Prevention Network published a Factsheet for Schools on Violence Against Women and Girls (<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/68/Factsheet-on-VAWG-for-Schools.pdf>) to which Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, Nicky Morgan, has publicly given her backing:

“As both Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women I am wholly committed to tackling violence against women and girls. Recent events have brought into sharp focus the crucial importance of teaching young people to understand the abuse women and girls can face and where they can get support. Ensuring young people receive good quality relationship education which teaches the importance of respect and mutual consent should be at the heart of this and the new factsheet from the Ending Violence Against Women Coalition helps to highlight the importance of this issue to teachers.”

We are delighted with this support and that the Factsheet is due to be disseminated to schools by DfE.

Following our written submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry into VAW, EVAW's Co-Chair, Professor Liz Kelly, gave oral evidence to the Committee



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this October alongside Deputy Children’s Commissioner Sue Berelowitz and Chris Green from White Ribbon Campaign.

EVAW’s Prevention Network submitted written evidence to the Education Select Committee SRE/PSHE Inquiry and hope that representatives from the Violence Against Women and Girls sector will be invited to give oral evidence at the final oral evidence session coming up this December.

In August, EVAW, Imkaan and Object published a paper by Dr Maddy Coy reviewing the academic research on sexism and racism in music videos, looking at content, the portrayal of women including the specific portrayal of black women, and the possible impact of this content on viewers:

<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/66/Pornographic-Performances-FINAL-Aug-2014.pdf>

Education and Empowerment: Building Relationships Between Harrow Police and the Local Community

Domestic violence and abuse affect countless communities throughout the United Kingdom. So, it is no secret that the best way to fight this situation is through a proactive engagement between police, community leaders, support agencies and the victims themselves. A perfect example of this approach was seen in the recent workshop Community, Culture, Confidence: Tackling Domestic Violence Locally. This event was hosted by the Harrow Police (alongside other key representatives) at Beacon Centre in South Harrow.

One Community at a Time

Hosted by Superintendent Mark Wolski of the Harrow Police and through the support of Harrow Council in partnership with MOPAC (Mayor’s Office of Police and Crime), this workshop was designed to recognise the often different needs of Harrow communities. Thereafter, targeted and turnkey approaches can be developed in order to tackle domestic violence within each sector.

Painful Statistics

Recent statistics have shown that in Harrow alone there are approximately 500 reports of Domestic Abuse that result in injury each year and around 1400 allegations of Domestic Abuse crime. Superintendent Wolski went on to affirm that “I firmly believe that the members of our communities have the ideas and answers to achieving a change in the attitudes toward domestic abuse going forward.”

Changing Perspectives

In the traditional sense, the most common form of intervention arises from the viewpoints of the service provider and practitioner. However, the Community, Culture, Confidence workshop focused on the experiences and acumen of the local community; a social segment that is often the silent and invisible victim of domestic abuse.

Superintendent Wolski continued “The benefit of bringing everyone together to discuss these issues in a forum like this not only gives us an understanding of the cultural challenges that we are faced with but also helps us to provide pragmatic and realistic solutions.”

Taking Action to Procure Results

The workshop culminated with the community identifying ‘Big Ideas’ in respect of raising awareness, challenging attitudes and empowering local residents to recognise



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and report abusive behaviour in all of its forms. These findings will be taken forward to Harrow White Ribbon Day on the 24th November for action!

It is clear that the MPS believe domestic abuse needs to be tackled head-on and that Harrow borough has demonstrated an innovative approach to the subject. Considering that one in every three women and one in six men have experienced domestic abuse sometime during their adult lives, this approach is absolutely critical in these modern times.

For more detailed information, visit @mpsharrow

MsUnderstood Partnership

MsUnderstood (MSU) is a partnership between the University of Bedfordshire, Imkaan, and the Girls against Gangs project to address young people’s experiences of gender inequality.

Engagement

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Ackerley to the team, our fourth intern whose focus is administration and information, taking over from Asaybi Snape.

MSU held our first annual conference, ‘Our Version of Events’, on the International Day of the Girl organised by our Young Women’s Engagement Officer, Jashmin Patel. The day provided space for discussion, debate and young women’s leadership. We had a fantastic turnout and many young women developing new perspectives on feminism as a result.

For the past four years Carlene Firmin has written a monthly column for Society Guardian – Girl in the Corner which she has used to share her views on a range of social issues. Carlene is committed to ensuring that young people’s voices are heard and the column is a great way

to realise this ambition, so she is handing it over to young people. For more information go to www.msunderstood.org.uk/index.php?id=24

Local sites

George Curtis, our London Programme Manager, delivered a Pan-London learning seminar entitled ‘Peer-on-Peer Abuse: Understanding the Issue Building a Response’. It was attended by 77 practitioners from children’s social care, youth offending services, voluntary sector and police from 11 local authorities across London. George is producing briefing papers on the learning seminar, which will be available for all via the website. MSU will be delivering more of these workshops in Birmingham and Manchester in partnership with the Home Office, led by Carlene Firmin. For more information, please contact events@msunderstood.org.uk and for bookings contact cara.senouni@beds.ac.uk.

Everywoman

2014 NatWest everywoman Awards has generously chosen us as their charity partner for this year. everywoman is a global membership organisation that champions the advancement of women in business, supporting members through various stages of their business life. <http://www.everywoman.com/ewawards>

Contact information

For further information about the work of the MsUnderstood Partnership please contact info@msunderstood.org.uk or visit www.msunderstood.org.uk



University of Worcester: National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse

National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse (NCSPVA) at the University of

Worcester officially launched in June 2014. The centre was launched to expand on the existing work of the University that has been in place since 2005 and which includes an MA in domestic violence, and Postgraduate Certificate in sexual violence (the latest students from these courses will graduate on November 21st); research, consultancy and a range of CPD events.

The centre will shortly launch its CPD events programme for 2015 which can be accessed via [Esther Dobson](#) This follows a range of very successful CPD events in 2014 on domestic violence, forced marriage, FGM and trafficking and the upcoming 16 days of action events that include book readings and a debate on the proposed criminalisation of domestic violence. Details of the 16 days of action events can accessed via [Esther Dobson](#)

The NCSPVA was launched by Lynda Bellingham OBE who sadly died in October this year. Lynda was a great supporter of the development of the centre as she **voiced to the media** and a great friend. As the Director of the NCSPVA I therefore give tribute to Lynda in this newsletter and look forward to continuing to lead the NCSPVA work and hope that many readers of this newsletter will join us on June 18th for our first Annual Conference which will be in her name.

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