

SVAAN Update – March/April 2012



Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) monthly email update. The update is full of information for organisations who work in the sexual violence sector. If you have events or information you would like to be included please email nisan.kesete@eaveshousing.co.uk.

Domestic Violence Immigration Rule Mainstreamed

After years of tireless campaigning by those working in human rights and the women's sector in December 2009, the UK Government launched a pilot scheme, the Sojourner Project, which was run by Eaves to support victims of domestic violence who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and who are in the UK as a spouse or partner of a British Citizen or a person who has an Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR).

The scheme has helped 1,522 individuals, including 738 women with children escape from violent and dangerous situations since it was established. It provided victims who would otherwise be destitute because they have no access to public funds with a means to escape abuse and access vital life saving support services.

Jo Clarke, who used to manage the Sojourner Project at Eaves said: "The Sojourner Project pilot has been a huge success, enabling in excess of 1,000 people, 12 of them men, to escape abusive relationships and secure Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK.

"Victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds are among the most vulnerable and badly abused so the Sojourner funding has, quite literally, saved many lives."

The pilot scheme however, has ended and from the 1st of April 2012, the Government has announced that the scheme will be mainstreamed and made available permanently i.e. allowing victims of domestic violence on partner and spousal visas with no recourse to public funds to access benefits and public housing while they apply for settlement under the domestic violence immigration rule.

Eaves do welcome the Government's commitment to helping women who suffer from domestic abuse and who do not have recourse to public funds. Clarke said: "Our findings have demonstrated the need for this escape route and I welcome the introduction of the government's long-term solution which will mainstream the provision of financial support to this group."

However those who have campaigned on the issue still have reservations regarding the suitability of the new service. Heather Harvey, Eaves Research and Development Manager says: "One of the strengths of having Eaves run the pilot project that supported women with no recourse to public funds, was that it was managed by domestic violence experts who could help, advise and reassure women going through the process to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain.

"It is a matter of concern that the new service cuts out this element and means that women or their representatives are simply directed to a [UKBA website](#) and then on to the DWP. This may act as a deterrent for many women who although perfectly entitled to support under the scheme, may be in fear of such authorities, not to mention in some cases having limited English. This may cause women to stay in abusive situations.

"It also seems that there is an assumption that women at risk will go to women's organisations like Eaves who will be expected to help them to navigate these bureaucracies yet there will be no additional funding for the organisations, at a time when we have less staff, less money and more demand for our services."

The Campaign to Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds, which involves over 27 leading women's and human rights groups, also welcomes this move by the Government. However, the campaign points that there are many other vulnerable victims who remain without a safety net. These include women in the UK on other visas, over-stayers, and overseas domestic workers, who experience gender based violence or abuse and exploitation by their employers.

These women are still forced to make a stark choice between staying within an abusive relationship, and risking their lives, and that of their children, and leaving, and facing destitution, and in many cases, also deportation. Besides, under new proposals, they will not be entitled to legal aid to make an application to stay in the country or to appeal against refusal.

The Campaign also stated concern as regards the Government's new proposals on family-related migration, including plans to increase the probationary period for spousal visas from two to five years, and changes to the Immigration Rules which require applicants for settlement under the domestic violence rule to be free of unspent convictions, despite the fact that many victims of abuse act in self-defence or are falsely accused of crime by abusive partners and family members. These changes undermine women's ability to escape abuse and gain access to safety and support.

To find out more please visit:
Southall Black Sister's website [here](#)
UK Boarder Agency's website [here](#)

Parliamentary Updates

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2010-12

Section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 created an offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult. The offence is limited to incidents where the victim died of an unlawful act and only applies to members of the household who had frequent contact with the victim. The household member must have either caused the victim's death or failed to take reasonable steps to protect the victim, and the victim must have been at significant risk of serious physical harm. Only those who are 16 or over may be guilty of the offence, unless they are the mother or father of the victim.

The Bill would amend Section 5 of the Act to widen its scope to include situations where children and vulnerable adults have been seriously harmed. 'Serious harm' is defined in the 2004 Act as "harm that amounts to grievous bodily harm for the purposes of the Offences against the Person Act 1861".

The Bill received Royal Assent on 8 March. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

Eradication of Slavery (UK Company Supply Chains) Bill 2010-12

A Bill to require retailers and manufacturers in the UK to make annual statements of measures taken by them to eradicate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation from their direct supply chains; to require large retailers and manufacturers to provide customers with information about measures taken by them to eliminate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation; to provide victims of slavery with necessary protections and rights; and for connected purposes.

The sponsoring MP has nominated 27 April 2012 for the second reading.

European Convention on Human Rights (Temporary Withdrawal) Bill 2010-12

A Bill to make provision for the temporary withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Convention on Human Rights.

The sponsoring MP has nominated 27 April 2012 for the second reading.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12

Third reading - the final chance for the Lords to change the Bill - took place on 27 March. Amendments discussed covered clauses 19, 10, 21, 46, 48, 57, 77, 78, 145, 147, 152 and 153 of the Bill.

The Bill will now go to the Commons for consideration of Lords amendments (Ping Pong). The amendments are scheduled to be debated in the House of Commons on 17th of April 2012

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2010-12

A Bill to amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to create an offence of paying for sexual services of a person under the age of 21 years.

2nd reading was on the 30th of March 2012 and not moved for debate. There is no indication when the Bill will progress further.

Funding Opportunities

Islington Council

Infrastructure Support Services

Islington Council is inviting applications to deliver infrastructure support to Islington's Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector (CYPVS) organisations.

The service will provide valuable infrastructure support to approximately 190 voluntary organisations and community groups that support local children, young people and their families in Islington which will lead to improved:

- Engagement.
- Governance.
- Financial management.
- Fundraising.
- Business planning.
- Tendering.

Applications are sought from suitably qualified and experienced providers able to demonstrate:

- Experience in engaging and supporting small and medium sized community and voluntary organisations who offer services to a diverse range of communities.
- A proven track record of providing services and in making concrete and sustainable improvements to organisations.

Applications must register with the [London Tenders Procurement Portal](#) to submit an Expression of Interest and access a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) document.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 12 noon on 20 April 2012.

Completed PQQ documents must be submitted by 23 April 2012.

London Borough of Bromley

Provision of Support Services

The London Borough of Bromley is inviting applications for the provision of for the provision of Support Services at Johnson Court: Supported Living – Adults with Learning Disabilities.

Applications are invited from all experienced providers who wish to operate within the London Borough of Bromley boundary and are committed to:

- High quality models of person centred care which will deliver improved outcomes for service users.
- Continuous development, improvement and innovation in service delivery.
- Accessible, consistent services.
- Transparent balance between the cost and value of Services against performance.

Services must be delivered to service users in a way that is consistent with the promotion of:

- Privacy.
- Dignity.
- Independence.
- Choice.
- Rights.
- Fulfilment.

Bid Process

Applicants must register with the [London Tenders Procurement Portal](#) to submit an Expression of Interest.

The deadline for submissions is 1pm on 3 May 2012.

Trainings, Meetings and Events

London Mayoral Hustings

Thursday 12 April, 6-8pm

Do you want a chance to put questions to London election candidates, and to hear their responses on a range of questions about violence against women?

This hustings event is a chance for women's organisations, activists, members of the press, and all those interested in London government to hear what the different parties propose to do to end and prevent violence against women. The panel members are all standing for election and are eager to demonstrate their parties' commitment in this area.

Date & Time: Thursday 12 April, 6-8pm; doors from 6pm, 'question time style hustings' 6.30-7.30pm, followed by drinks

Where: Auditorium, Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, EC2A 3EA (full disabled access)

Confirmed speakers: Natalie Bennett (Green), Kit Malthouse AM (Conservative), Caroline Pidgeon AM (Liberal Democrats), Val Shawcross AM (Labour)

To reserve a place: please email admin@evaw.org.uk and put 'hustings' in the subject box

Free lecture - Multiple Perpetrator Rape

Professor Rachel Jewkes (Director of the South African Medical Research Council Gender and Health Unit) will be giving a free public lecture about multiple perpetrator rape hosted by Middlesex University Forensic Psychological Services.

The event is free to anyone who wishes to attend and there are some spaces remaining so if you plan on attending, **please RSVP by the 27th April 2012 by emailing fps@mdx.ac.uk**. Once you have reserved your place, we will send you directions to the event.

If you have any questions please feel free to direct them to Miranda Horvath at m.horvath@mdx.ac.uk.

The Central American Women's Network (CAWN) and Frauensolidarit et

Images of exploited and trafficked women - 27 Apr 2012 - 10:00

Friends House, George Fox Room, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

While there has been growing awareness over the last decade as to the urgency to address trafficking for sexual exploitation and exploitation within the sex-industry, advocates have not always agreed on the most appropriate approach to tackle it. Debates are played out and amplified by media stories, backing the prevalence of dominating discourses.

The conference intends to be a forum for the effectiveness of such approaches to be discussed and for their complementarities to be explored. Plenary discussions will be followed by three workshops which you may sign-up for in advance. Please see the full programme of the conference attached.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 18th April in reply to campaigns@cawn.org as there are limited places. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

A Symposium Event - University of Huddersfield

Opportunities and Challenges in Feminist Narrative Research

Date: Friday 22 June 2012

Time: 9.30am- 4.30pm

A feminist narrative research symposium event is being held at the University of Huddersfield, organised by a group of postgraduate researchers. This event will bring together feminist narrative academics, students and practitioners to explore the opportunities and challenges that feminist narrative research can offer. This will include lectures and workshops on feminist narrative research theory, methodology and methods. The event will conclude with a roundtable discussion, which will also provide a forum for critical thinking to inform the development of feminist narrative research.

This event is free and lunch and refreshments are provided, however spaces are limited.

To book your place or for further information please contact:
feministnarrative@hud.ac.uk

Tender

One day training: Awareness and Good Practice when working with women experiencing violence and abuse in relationships

Dates: Thursday 14th June 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £90

This training will equip participants with an understanding of the issues for women experiencing violence from men they know. The day will give attendees an appreciation of the barriers faced by women seeking help to leave an abusive relationship. The training will enable participants to:

- Define the different types of abuse.
- Understand the pressures on women to stay in violent relationships and what might prevent them from seeking and securing the help they need.
- Explore the additional issues for women from marginalised groups.
- Examine the responsibility for violence using the power and control model.
- Address the impact on children witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse.

The day is aimed at staff in any agency who may be called upon to support, advise, treat, or otherwise assist a woman experiencing violence from a man she knows.

One Day Training: Working with young people to address violence in teenage relationships

Date: Thursday 21st June 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £150

This very practical day will equip participants with a clear understanding of the key issues of abuse and violence in relationships and practically examine how drama techniques can be used to engage young people in these issues. These exercises have been tried and tested in a range of youth settings including schools, youth centres and pupil referral units and the training will be delivered by facilitators with a wealth of experience in delivering issue based projects. This training will:

- Give participants a theoretical understanding of issues such as different types of abuse, the excuses perpetrators give and the pressures on victims to stay in abusive relationships through our gendered model.
- Practically explore exercises that can be used to engage young people.
- Explore how the activities can be applied in a variety of youth settings, and learn effective techniques for engaging and encouraging young people to participate.
- Trouble shoot particular barriers participants have encountered when carrying out this kind of violence prevention work.

The day is aimed at professionals working directly with young people. Participants do not need to have previous experience of drama or theatre to take part in the day.

One Day Training: Working effectively in and with Schools: a practical approach to successful partnerships with schools

Date: Thursday 28th June 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £150

This training will help participants to create robust and mutually beneficial links with schools to deliver high impact work with students and teachers. Working in schools is often a big challenge for organisations. Tender has experience of identifying ways to work successfully with a school's administration, schedules and ethos to build a strong relationship.

Attendees will increase their understanding of the needs and challenges faced by teachers and will develop methods of adapting their approaches to appeal to schools in light of these. This training will address:

- Making initial contact with schools – strategies and methods
- Working with key teachers; Maintaining relationships once a project is underway
- Secondary, Primary, Special, Pupil Referral Units – identifying their differing needs
- School-speak; becoming familiar with the language that schools and teachers use
- Developing and delivering teacher training

The day is aimed at staff in any organisation that may be starting to work directly in primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units.

To request a booking form or some more information please contact Jake Tily on 0207 431 7278 or email jake@tender.org.uk

CWASU – London Metropolitan University

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Training course delivered by the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University in May and June 2012. Content includes:

- definitions and prevalence of sexual exploitation
- contexts and forms e.g. trafficking, abusive images of children, sex tourism, online grooming
- sexualisation of popular culture
- demand
- policy and practice responses including criminal justice and safeguarding frameworks

Cost: £630.

The course runs over 6 days, from 10am-5pm:

**Thursday 3rd May
Friday 4th May
Thursday 17th May
Friday 18th May
Thursday 14th June
Friday 15th June**

If attendees successfully complete assignments, the course carries credits towards a postgraduate certificate, diploma or MA.

For more information, please contact Maddy Coy - m.coy@londonmet.ac.uk

To enrol on the course, please contact Marcy O'Reilly - marcy.oreilly@londonmet.ac.uk

London Voluntary Resource Centre

One day courses 2012
Domestic Violence 14th May 2012

Cost: £60 per person + VAT

Domestic violence has its roots in political, cultural and economic forces which shape our response and interventions. This course explores the impact of domestic abuse on children and looks at the implications for their safety and wellbeing and the benefits of close inter-agency collaboration. It also considers strategies for working with families where violence against women, in all its forms, is an issue.

Learning outcomes cover

- The impact of domestic violence on women and children and strategies for working effectively with families where domestic violence is an issue.
- The definition of 'domestic violence', myths and stereotypes.
- The research on domestic violence.
- The political, cultural and economic reasons why women stay in violent relationships.
- The impact of domestic violence on children and the use of child protection procedures.
- Strategies for effective multi-agency working and creative packages of support for families where domestic violence is an issue.

To book a place or for more information email courses@reconstruct.co.uk or call Joanne on 01895 204861

Resources, Surveys & Consultations

Getting it right for victims and witnesses

Closing Date: 22 April 2012

The consultation partially sets out how the Government proposes to reform the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) to protect compensation payments for those most seriously injured while removing less serious injuries like sprains from the scheme and restricting payments to those with criminal convictions.

For all documents on the consultation and to respond follow the following link <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/victims-witnesses-cp3-2012.htm>

Tower Hamlets Residents' Solidarity Campaign

Since the beginning of 2012, the police in Tower Hamlets have been targeting women involved in street-based prostitution with arrests, displacement and threats of ASBOs in an effort to 'clean up' the streets for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Many of the women have had early experiences of abuse and violence; they have been groomed or forced into prostitution. For the vast majority, prostitution is a choice of 'no choice'. In addition, they experience high levels of sexual and physical violence on the streets and in their intimate relationships. They are faced with homelessness, drug

addictions and poverty.

We call on the police and the council to stop this victimisation and instead to focus on those who buy sex (kerb-crawlers), those who perpetrate violence against women and those who exploit them (abusive partners and drug dealers).

Please sign the petition here

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/residents-solidarity-campaign/>

ROW & CWASU

Rights of Women, together with the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University are currently working on a research project to explore women's experiences of the family justice system where domestic violence is an issue. We would like to interview women who have experienced domestic violence and have gone through, or are currently going through, child contact proceedings in London.

Interviews will last approximately 1hr-1hr 15 minutes, and will be conducted by telephone (or in person if preferred). All interviewees will remain anonymous in the research. Unfortunately, due to resource constraints, we will not be able to provide interpreters, so all interviews will be conducted in English.

Please contact Rights of Women's Policy and Public Affairs Officer, katherine@row.org.uk or telephone 020 7251 6575 if you have any service users who are interested to speak to our team and who:

- Speak English;
- Have experienced domestic violence; and,
- Have gone through / are going through child contact proceedings in London

Mumsnet

We Believe You Rape Awareness Campaign

Mumsnet launched a new campaign- We Believe You, and it has two simple aims. First, we want to shine a spotlight on the prevalence of rape and sexual assault in women's lives; then, we want to pull apart the many myths surrounding rape, which make so many women feel that they will not be believed if they report this crime.

To all those women, we say: we believe you.

We hope this campaign will succeed in showing just how many lives have been blighted by sexual violence. We hope it will explode the myth that most rapes are carried out by strangers, and that the testimony of women who have been raped by men they know should be viewed with suspicion. We hope it will show that there is no 'typical' rape survivor, and reassure those who have experienced rape that it's never your fault.

**We believe you. Join us in spreading the word. #webelieveyou
And, if you are able to, share your experiences. #ididnotreport**

[Join the discussion on the Talk boards](#)

[Read our webchat with Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer](#)

Vacancies and Volunteering

Womankind

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are looking for a new Chief Executive with the passion and capabilities to inspire and lead the organisation into our next phase of development. Grounded in practical experience in the field, the Chief Executive will be a seasoned leader with a commitment to women's rights, able to mobilise resources and galvanise others to engage with the fundamental issues of gender equality in the developing world.

Our new Chief Executive will be able to provide visionary and strategic leadership whilst delivering increased organisational effectiveness. Through their leadership, grass roots local change will be leveraged to impact global policy, build strategic partnerships and ultimately create systemic change.

Working with an ambitious and engaged Board and a highly dedicated staff team, the Chief Executive will increase Womankind Worldwide's capacity to support a global community of women shaping their own futures and enhancing the future prospects of their communities.

Applications should be uploaded at www.perrettlaver.com/candidates by quoting reference number 1031.

The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 13th April 2012.

Eaves

Advice Worker – Substance Misuse

Fixed Term Contract to end October 2012 (May be subject to extension)

Salary SP30-35 £28,770 - £32,532

You will be required to:

- Assist in the development and delivery of Eaves' Advice and Support Centre for women who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing different forms of sexual violence.
- Provide general advice and support to women accessing services either by telephone or in person.
- Provide specialist advice and support on substance misuse issues.
- Develop and run appropriate service user workshops.
- Build partnerships with statutory and voluntary organisations to improve access to and provision of services for women who have experienced sexual violence.

Do you have:

- Knowledge and understanding of issues facing women who have experienced different forms of sexual violence/substance misuse and services available to them.
- Experience of providing advice and advocacy support to vulnerable women (including experience of needs assessment and support planning).
- Knowledge of relevant legislation: housing, benefits, legal rights, child protection, affecting women escaping violence.
- Knowledge and experience of working on a one to one basis with women with substance misuse problems.

If so, we'd like to hear from you.

For an application pack, please call our recruitment line on 020 7840 7124 or email recruitment@eaveshousing.co.uk. You can also download it from Eaves' website at www.eaves4women.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 13th April 2012 Midday

Interview date: Tuesday 24th April 2012

**TRUST & FOUNDATIONS FUNDRAISING OFFICER FULL-TIME £33,306 - £36,096
SP 33-36 pa - fixed term contract to end March 2013 LONDON**

- To raise new income for the charity from trusts & foundations
- Manage existing income and funders
- Reduce expenditure through sourcing in-kind donations from trusts or foundations

Do you have:

- Substantial experience of successful fundraising from trust & foundation sources;
- Evidence of achieving fundraising targets;
- Demonstrable knowledge of routes into new avenues of funding;
- Experience of developing and maintaining productive relationships with trust & foundation funders; and
- Experience of submitting high-quality monitoring returns to funders, on time?

If so, we'd like to hear from you.

For an application pack, please call our recruitment line on 020 7840 7124 or email recruitment@eaveshousing.co.uk. You can also download it from Eaves' website at www.eaves4women.co.uk

Closing date: Monday 16th April 2012 Midday

Interview date: Monday 23rd April 2012

Toynbee Hall

Safe Exit Coordinator

Salary: £29,000-£31,000 per annum pro rata plus 6% employer pension contribution after 6 months service

21 hours per week

Contract until 31 March 2013

Safe Exit at Toynbee Hall is a unique and successful partnership project working to reduce prostitution in Tower Hamlets, including running the Diversion Scheme which diverts women from the criminal justice system. We have also recently been working to reduce the impact of the Olympics on women selling sex on the streets in the Olympic boroughs.

You will have a strong interest in women's rights, and be skilled at developing and managing projects, research opportunities, and partnerships. You will have the determination and communication skills to make the project effective for its users and influential at a regional and national level. You will also be interested in managing research and influencing organisations around the impact of the Olympics.

To apply please email recruitment@toynbeehall.org.uk or call 020 7247 6943 to request an application pack.

Closing date: 5pm, 23rd April 2012

Interviews: 3 May 2012

SVAAN Members Annual Survey

Dear colleague,

Please take a few moments of your time to complete our annual survey of SVAAN members. This should take no more than 5-10 minutes to fill in and will help to ensure the survival of SVAAN in the future!

We are conducting this survey to gather vital feedback from our members about SVAAN, and to identify ways to improve how SVAAN operates in the future. We will also use the information from this survey to provide feedback to our funders.

Please click [here](#) or open the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HVBZPJ> to access the survey now - simply click through your answers and add any comments as appropriate (**Closing date: 6th of May 2012 – please complete it now before it's too late!**)

We really value your support, and thank you in advance for completing our survey.

