

The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 271

29 August – 4 September 2009

Violence against women in London

Woolwich: Man guilty of abusing teenage girls

A man is awaiting sentencing for sexually abusing two girls who had run away from a care home.

The two girls, aged 14 and 15, were staying with friends in the Rose of Lee Hostel in Lewisham after running away from their care home in Kent. The court heard that Mark Fraser, 43, took advantage of the girls' situation to repeatedly abuse them, knowing that they were desperate for money to buy food.

Fraser offered them £40 to take their clothes off in front of him; he then performed a 'series of sex acts' on them. Fraser offered one of the girls more money and abused her further, as well as suggesting she do something more for money. Robert Acheson, prosecuting, said: "it was suggested photographs might be taken."

This week, Fraser, who has previous convictions for indecent exposure with intent, serious assault, possession of weapons, attempted robbery and assault causing actual bodily harm, was found guilty of causing or inciting child prostitution and sexual activity with a child.

Fraser and Martin O'Carroll, manager of the Rose of Lee Hostel, were however both found not guilty of engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child and paying for sexual services with a child, charges relating to their abuse of the 14-year-old.

Fraser, who is currently serving a 16-month jail sentence for the previous assault conviction, has been remanded in custody until sentencing on 24 September.

Source: [This is Local London](#) 2 September 2009

Brentford: Man admits raping teenage girl

A man has pleaded guilty to two counts of rape after he attacked a teenage girl waiting at a bus stop.

David Simapuka, 43, admitted dragging the 17-year-old from a bus stop on 25 May and raping her twice in a nearby graveyard. He was arrested on 3 July after being identified by his DNA. He has, however, denied two further charges of threatening to kill the young woman and keeping her against her will.

Simapuka, who also attempted to rape a woman in a public toilet more than ten year ago, has been remanded in custody to await sentencing on 19 October.

DS Louise Caveen, of Hounslow's Sapphire Unit, said: "I am please that the evidence against him led to him pleading guilty to these offences today, meaning that the victim was spared from having to relive her experience in court."

Source: [This is Local London](#) 2 September 2009

Violence against women in the UK

Bath: Police make appeal in 1984 murder case

Police investigating the murder of a teenager in Bath in 1984 are due to make a national TV appeal for information.

Melanie Road, who was 17 at the time, was sexually assaulted and stabbed to death as she was making her way home from a nightclub on 9 June 1984.

Although her killer has never been caught, police do have a DNA sample from the crime scene. Unfortunately this has not been matched to anybody on the national database, but the cold-case team looking into the death believe that any information the public has – about anyone acting suspiciously that night – could be enough to solve the case, by comparing DNA samples.

Melanie Road left the Beau Nash club on Kingston Road, Bath, in the early hours of the morning. Her body was found near her home at St Stephen's Court at 5.30am by the milkman and his son. Despite 90 arrests at the time, no one has ever been charged.

Source: [BBC News](#) 2 September 2009

Advert banned because semi-nude model looked under 16

An advert released by Los-Angeles-based retailer American Apparel has been banned by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The advert, which featured a model wearing a hooded top and shorts, consisted of a series of photographs, in which she progressively revealed more skin until the final shot showed her with the hooded top unzipped and her nipple partially exposed.

Despite American Apparel arguing that the model was in fact 23 and that the images simply showed varying ways of wearing the same top, the Advertising Standards Authority concluded that the photographs suggested that the model

was stripping off in “an amateur-style photo shoot.” It also concluded that the model appeared to be under 16 in some of the shots and therefore the advert “could be seen to sexualise a model who appeared to be a child under the age of 16 years.”

However it did not uphold a complaint from one person that the nudity was offensive and could be seen by children. This was because the advertisement was published in ‘Vice’ magazine, which is aimed at 18-34 year olds and because the nudity “was not so overtly gratuitous as to make it unsuitable or likely to cause serious or widespread offence to the target audience.”

Source: Press Association 2 September 2009

1 in 3 teenage girls tell of sexual abuse by boyfriends

A survey by the NSPCC and Bristol University has found that one in three teenage girls has suffered sexual abuse at the hands of a boyfriend, and one in four has suffered violence in a relationship.

The survey found that 90% of girls aged between 13 and 17 had been in an intimate relationship. One-quarter of girls had suffered violence such as being slapped, punched or beaten by boyfriends.

As part of the research 91 teenagers were subjected to detailed questioning about their relationships. Of the teenaged women interviewed, one in six had been pressured into having sex and one in 16 had been raped, while others had been pressured or forced to kiss or intimately touch their boyfriends.

Many of the girls questioned stated that they had to put up with abuse because they felt scared or guilty and that otherwise they believed they would lose their boyfriends.

The research showed that those with older boyfriends were more likely to suffer as were those from a family in which an adult had been violent. For boys, having violent friends put them at greater risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence in a relationship.

The report states that schools need to educate young people about acceptable behaviour in relationships and to reverse the normalisation of violence and sexual abuse.

Source: The Guardian 1 September 2009

International violence against women

Afghanistan: Rights campaigners demand new law differentiating between rape and adultery

Human rights groups are calling upon the Afghan government to introduce a new law that would differentiate between rape and consensual adultery.

Sonya Merkova of Amnesty International has stated that the difference between rape, an act of violence and coercion, and consensual adultery is simply not clear in the law.

Ajmal Samadi of the Afghanistan Rights Monitor agrees with Amnesty, saying that rape ought to be dealt with as a crime, but separately from the Islamic adultery penal codes.

It is a serious problem that judges in Afghanistan frequently confuse adultery and rape, with one judge describing rape as “an illicit sexual relationship between a man and a woman who are not married to each other.”

Cases of rape or of adultery are governed by Articles 422-433 of the 1976 Penal Code. The Code prescribes a punishment of between 7 and 15 years' imprisonment for adulterers or rapists (interchangeably) depending on their marital status, age and other mitigating or aggravating features.

Unfortunately, women who are victims of rape face being convicted under Article 427 of the Code for fornication outside marriage and therefore facing prosecution themselves for a crime committed against them. The issue of consent is simply not dealt with adequately.

The situation is exacerbated by the failure of judges to acknowledge the existence of marital rape. Supreme Court judges Bahauddin Baha and Mohammad Qasim affirmed the right of a husband to sexual relations with his wife (or wives – a man in Afghanistan is allowed to have a maximum of four wives, whilst a woman may only have one husband). For many judges, if a husband forces sexual relations on his wife, this cannot be considered rape.

Campaigners state that the issue of marital rape is particularly crucial in a country where child and forced marriages are still rife. With many women and girls allowed no choice as to whom they marry, the issue of consent within a marriage is particularly pertinent.

Source: [IRIN News](#) 3 September 2009

Chile: Activists demand protection for women who abort

Around 30 members of the Chilean Health Ministry's Consultative Council on Gender and Women's Health have asked the government to enforce a directive they wrote ordering that women who have aborted pregnancies be treated humanely.

The demand for humane treatment comes after the names and addresses of two women recently admitted to hospitals due to complications arising out of abortions were released to the media.

In Chile abortion is illegal, even if the mother's life is at risk. Despite this, it is estimated that between 120,000 and 160,000 women in Chile terminate pregnancies each year, which inevitably leads to some women requiring medical treatment for complications.

On 19 August, a 19-year-old woman was admitted to El Pino Hospital in Santiago with a life-threatening haemorrhage, which had been caused by her taking the drug misoprostol, a medicine prescribed for gastric ulcers, to terminate a four month pregnancy. The drug is frequently used to abort pregnancies as it can induce uterine contractions.

Five days later a 21-year-old woman was admitted to the Concepcion Hospital with severe abdominal pain. Doctors found the head of a 21-week foetus in her uterus, with the rest of the foetus being found later by police at her home.

While the Health Ministry recognises that abortion is a criminal offence in Chile, it calls on health services not to extract confessions from patients that could later be used to prosecute them. Such treatment of women violates Article 15 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was ratified by Chile in 1988.

In some cases treatment has also been made conditional upon the women providing information about the abortion and this contravenes the Chilean constitution, which states that everyone has the right to health protection.

Source: [IPS](#) 28 August 2009

France: New treatment for female genital mutilation victims

A new treatment being developed by French doctor Pierre Foldes could offer hope to victims of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Dr Foldes first encountered victims of FGM while volunteering in Burkina Faso almost 30 years ago, but upon returning to France he realised that there was very little research and no treatments for the physical and psychological damage incurred by the women.

Foldes went on to develop a simple reconstructive technique that removes the painful scar tissue that often covers the clitoris and rebuilds the area by cutting the ligaments to expose the original root of the clitoris. After six to eight weeks the area begins to look normal and after about six months feeling begins to come back.

The treatment programme lasts for up to two years. Foldes appreciates the complex psychological issues caused by FGM and states that the surgical procedure is only a very small part of what his team does; a whole team of psychologists are employed to carry out follow-up appointments with patients for several months.

Due to FGM being illegal in France, the French public health system supports the scheme, with approximately 70 per cent of patients receiving treatment free of charge. Foldes estimates he has operated on 3,000 women and hopes to increase the numbers receiving treatment as the programme develops.

Foldes has, however, encountered strong opposition from religious and cultural groups who want the practice of FGM to continue, including multiple death threats, and men coming to his office armed with knives on several occasions.

An estimated 130 million women have undergone FGM worldwide, with various effects including infections, blood-loss, complications in childbirth and fistula.

Source: [CNN](#) 2 September 2009

Events, Campaigns and Direct Action

Murder for honour's sake: Rana Hussein at the Frontline Club

8 October, 2009 7pm

Tickets £12.50/£10 for early booking. Available online from

<http://frontlineclub.com/events/>

Over 5,000 girls and women are killed each year by male relatives in the belief that it will purge a family of shame brought on it by the behaviour of a sister, daughter, wife or mother.

Award-winning journalist Rana Hussein and author of the acclaimed *Murder in the Name of Honour*, will be at the Frontline Club to discuss the full scale of murders carried out for "crimes" that include adultery, being raped or chewing gum and laughing in the street. She will be joined by: Ramita Navai, a reporter for Channel 4's *Unreported World*; Nazir Afzal OBE, director of legal services, CPS London and the foremost criminal justice practitioner on the issue of honour crime and Liesl Gertholtz, director of the women's rights division at Human Rights Watch.

The event will be moderated by Samira Ahmed, presenter and correspondent for Channel 4 News.

Venue: The Frontline Club
13 Norfolk Place,
London W2 1QJ
Tel: +44 (0)20 7479 8950
Closest Tube Station: Paddington

URGENT: Motion P73 by Equity seeks to undermine the campaign to stop lap dancing clubs being licensed like cafes. Oppose Motion P73 at TUC Congress.

Motion P73 requires TUC Congress to go against the OBJECT (www.object.org.uk) and Fawcett (www.fawcettsociety.org.uk) campaign to stop lap dancing clubs being licensed like cafes.

It is crucial that motion P73 is opposed and that TUC affiliated unions support measures to close the loophole in the 2003 Licensing Act, which has led to the number of lap dancing clubs doubling over the last 4 years.

Lap dancing clubs are part of the sex industry, not the leisure industry and this needs to be reflected in how they are licensed.

Lap dancing clubs normalise the sexual objectification of women, create 'no go' areas for women and are a form of commercial sexual exploitation – Read testimonies of women who have worked in the industry [here](#).

The Equity motion is concerned that the new licensing regime will require clubs to pay a licensing fee of up to £30 000. This is an issue for club owners and should not be placed above the need for better regulation of the industry.

Contrary to Equity's claims, a new licensing regime is necessary to ensure that issues relating to gender equality and the rights of women both inside and outside of the clubs can be taken into consideration in the licensing process.

This will allow for better organisation of the industry and will give people a better say in the licensing of lap dancing clubs.

This campaign has mobilized women from the industry, trade unions, students, women's organizations and members of the public - with **10,000 signatures** handed in to Number 10 Downing Street calling for the government to introduce tougher licensing laws for lap dancing clubs.

Don't let motion P73 align the TUC with the interests of the industry over the struggle against the mainstreaming of commercial sexual exploitation.

Please forward this information to all delegates to the TUC Congress and ensure that motion P73 is opposed.

Email anna@object.org.uk if you have any further questions.

NB For further information about the OBJECT and Fawcett campaign, visit <http://www.object.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/about-the-campaign>

Book release: *Violence Against Women in South Asian Communities: Issues for Policy and Practice*

Edited by Ravi K Thiara and Aisha K Gill
Foreword by Professor Liz Kelly CBE

This book draws on the expertise of leading practitioners and researchers, and the extensive knowledge of the editors, to delve into the theoretical and practical issues behind violence against women in South Asian communities.

The book provides a vital contribution to the debates on policy, research and service provision, looking beyond forced marriage and 'honour-based' violence into the complex interaction of religion and culture that create intersecting forms of violence against women. It ends by proposing ways of improving services for survivors from different racial and cultural backgrounds

Violence Against Women in South Asian Communities will be of far-reaching use to professional academics, researchers, students, policy makers, practitioners and anyone concerned with gendered violence within South Asian communities.

Available from October from [Jessica Kingsley Publishers](#) £25.00

**Prostitution is Exploitation – Stop the Demand!
Support the Eaves and OBJECT *Demand Change!* Campaign.**

On 24 June Eaves and OBJECT launched their joint campaign *Demand Change!* during a high profile event at the House of Commons. *Demand Change!* calls on the Government to fulfil its multiple international and domestic obligations to tackle the demand for prostitution.

The key aims of the *Demand Change!* Campaign are:

- to promote an increased understanding of the myths and realities surrounding prostitution
- to call for prostitution to be seen and widely understood as a form of violence against women
- to lobby for adoption of the ‘Nordic model’ of tackling demand and decriminalising women in prostitution.

Get involved:

- Sign this [online petition](#) to tackle demand for prostitution and circulate the link widely;
- Send this template **lobbying letter** to your MP ([word doc](#));
- Download this [petition](#) to use in your community / workplace etc;
- Download **campaign posters** to spread the word [here](#) (green version) and [here](#) (black version).

To find out more please visit the campaign [website](#).

**East London Pilot
RSL Domestic Violence Reciprocal Agreement**

RSLs in the east London sub region have joined together to assist their tenants who need to flee from their home. The purpose of the pilot RSL DV Reciprocal Agreement is to establish a mutually supportive framework through which the partner RSLs can work together to rehouse tenants who are experiencing domestic violence and need to move home.

The RSL DV Reciprocal pilot is intended to assist tenants of the participating RSLs subjected to domestic violence, regardless of gender, where there are safety issues and/or child protection concerns and where there are threats of violence, where a person has been subjected to violence (as defined by the Second London Domestic Violence Strategy, GLA, 2005) and there is a likelihood of further violence and the survivors address is known to the perpetrator.

The RSL DV Reciprocal Agreement is intended to increase safe options, offer choice and an alternative to the homelessness route and potentially long spells in temporary accommodation. The agreement is subject to the constraints of availability, to locate suitable alternative accommodation within a mutually agreed location and is subject to the policies and procedures of the participating RSLs.

Where an RSL tenant approaches with a request to move from their accommodation because of the threat and fear of domestic violence the RSL will conduct a risk assessment with the survivor and will attempt to transfer the household from within their own stock.

Where this is not possible a request for alternative accommodation will be sent to partner RSLs with stock in the area/s where the tenant has indicated that they will be safe. Where ever possible the area/s requested should be as wide as possible to maximise the chances of successful outcome.

All referrals will be subject to the policies and procedures of the RSLs. Where it is not possible to provide alternative accommodation the RSL will work with the survivor to discuss housing options, with safety being the primary concern.

The RSL DV Reciprocal Agreement is open to the tenants of the participating RSLs which are at the time of writing Community Based Housing Association, East Thames, London and Quadrant, Metropolitan Housing Trust, One Housing Group, Peabody, Southern Housing Group and Swan.

Applicants might, for safety at the time of application, be staying with family or friends, in temporary accommodation or in a womens refuge, however their existing tenancy must be with one of the participating RSLs and in the east London sub region. The east London sub region comprises the boroughs **Barking and Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Redbridge and Waltham Forest.**

To discuss an RSL DV Reciprocal contact the named person in the tenants RSL. Details of the named contacts for each of the RSLs are on the Homelessness Project Area of the East London Housing Partnership (ELHP) web site at www.elhp.org.uk.

For further information contact the ELHP Homelessness Coordinator Margaret Williams Margaret.Williams@lbbd.gov.uk or telephone 07772221482

Give the women of Europe the right to free abortion!

Do you want to put pressure on the European power holders? Join thousands of others in collecting one million signatures for the right to free abortion. Sign the **Make Noise for Free Choice** petition.

Justice now! Ratify to protect all human rights

On December 10th, 2008, the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP or Optional Protocol). By adopting this long awaited instrument, the General Assembly has corrected historic imbalances, strongly reaffirmed the universality, indivisibility and inter-dependence of all human rights, but most importantly, has created the possibility for millions who suffer from social and economic rights' violations to find redress at the international level.

Once the Optional Protocol (OP) enters into force, it will allow women, children, migrants, Indigenous peoples and anyone whose economic, social and cultural rights have been violated to present a complaint before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations independent body of experts responsible for supervising State compliance with all the rights protected in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The NGO Coalition has drafted a petition asking governments to support the OP and sign it on September 24, with ratification following as soon as possible. Show your support and urge governments to join the OP by **signing the petition** and asking others to do the same!

The Week of Peace Awards 2009

The Peace Alliance and the Week of Peace are excited to announce this years Peace Awards nominations. The awards are a celebration and recognition of individuals and organisations who through various initiatives and projects have positively contributed to the peace and safety of London. We are presently encouraging you and all our partners and their networks to identify and nominate peace champions in their communities.

Please find below a link for this years categories and the nomination form:

<http://weekofpeace.org.uk/resources/AwardsFormFinal.pdf>

The Peace Awards Fundraising Dinner

This year the London week of Peace Awards and Fundraising Dinner will be held on **Wednesday 23rd September 2009** at the **Renaissance Chancery Court Hotel**, Holborn. The **Attorney General Baroness Patricia Scotland QC** will be the guest of Honour along with other distinguished guests.

This black tie event will feature a drinks reception, a three course dinner, exciting auction prizes, live entertainment and an opportunity to network with like-minded people who are making a difference in the Capital.

Purchasing Tickets

Tickets are now available for purchase at £100 per person or £1000 for a table of ten with monies raised going towards the Peace Fund. The Peace Fund was instrumental in funding numerous initiatives across London some of which are cited in the 2008 Report. (Please see the 2008 Report [The Week of Peace website](#) for further information).

Please send in your nominations and confirm attendance for the dinner as seats are limited.

For more information about this year's Week of Peace please visit the [website](#).

NSPCC: Working together to safeguard children living with domestic violence

Date and time: Wednesday 23 September 2009, 9.30am - 5pm.

Venue: Huxley Suite, ZSL London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY

This one-day conference will launch a landmark research report – Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children's services' responses. The research, conducted by Nicky Stanley and colleagues at the University of Central Lancashire, is the first in-depth UK study of police notifications of domestic violence incidents involving children to children's social work services.

Find out more about Working together to safeguard children living with domestic violence on [Inform](#).

Please forward this invitation, as appropriate, to members of your team and/or professional contacts who you think would be interested in attending.

To book a place or for further information please contact Charlotte Moss by email at eventsorganiser@nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC: Promoting safe sexual cultures in education settings – Preventing sexual bullying

A national one day conference for all staff working in education settings to explore approaches to prevent sexual bullying among children and young people.

Date and time: Friday 2 October 2009, 9am – 4.30pm.

Venue: Inmarsat Conference Centre, 99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX.

With the rising problem of sexual bullying in education, this conference is essential for all those working in education settings.

Delegates will hear of the impact of sexual bullying on the lives of children and young people and professionals working in the education sector and how positive steps can be taken to address this issue.

Presentations from key national and local projects will illustrate how best to support children and young people in developing safe, respectful sexual relationships and create a culture where sexual bullying and coercive sexual relationships will not be accepted.

You will be able to:

- identify activities that promote safe sexual cultures in education settings
- recognise, respond to and manage sexual bullying in education settings
- contribute to the establishment of a national agenda for future action against sexual bullying.

Speakers include:

- **Julie Bentley** (chief executive, Family Planning Association) - Chair
- **Baroness Morgan of Drefelin** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families) - tbc

- **Max Hyde** (National Union of Teachers [NUT] executive member and vice chair, Education, Equalities and Professional Development Committee)
- **Dr Elly Farmer** (chartered clinical psychologist, NSPCC)
- **Hannah White** (UK programme and policy manager, WOMANKIND Worldwide).

Registration fees: Delegate fee £150. Vegetarian food will be provided. If you have any specific dietary or access requirements please let us know five weeks before the event.

[Download a flyer and booking form for this event \(PDF, 264KB\)](#)

For further information about this event, please contact Radha Singh (NSPCC events officer) on 020 7825 2760 or email eventsorganiser@nspcc.org.uk

Bright Ideas Conference: *Creative ways of implementing the Improving Safety and Reducing Harm - Children, Young People and Domestic Violence toolkit.*

The Greater London Domestic Violence Project is holding a unique event comprising a selection of practical, active and fun sessions for frontline workers to experiment new ways of working with children and young people who are affected by violence. Each session is based on an aspect of the new Department of Health and GLDVP toolkit: Improving Safety and Reducing Harm - Children, Young People and Domestic Violence.

This will not be a typical conference! Participants will learn and develop skills in an innovative, unique and enjoyable way!

Who should attend?

This event is aimed primarily at frontline practitioners across all sectors that work directly with children and young people where domestic violence is an issue in their lives, whether at home or in their own relationships.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn and develop new skills such as art therapy
- Hear from young people directly about their experiences
- Explore different ways of working with young people
- Network with each other in dynamic and creative ways
- Benefit from 'caring for carers' and therapeutic interventions.

Where?

Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street, London EC1V 9LT

Map and detailed travel information will be sent to participants upon booking.

Each participant will receive a free copy of the new Improving Safety and Reducing Harm - Children, Young People and Domestic Violence Toolkit.

When?

Tuesday 15th September 2009, 9am until 4.30pm

Conference costs:

The early bird catches the worm...

£119/£129 vol/stat if your booking form is received before the end of July.

£139/£159 vol/stat price thereafter.

How to get your booking form: email cypconference@gldvp.org.uk or download from the Greater London Domestic Violence Project www.gldvp.org.uk

Irish Travelling Women and Domestic Violence – Meeting Needs and Challenging Prejudices

Solace Women's Aid has been working with Irish Travelling women affected by domestic violence for 15 years and is hosting a conference on October 22nd in London to raise awareness of domestic violence within this vulnerable community and identify best practice.

This group of women and children are amongst the most marginalised in the country and severe prejudices exist in many agencies creating life threatening barriers to support.

"I came to the Irish refuge 2 months ago with my 5 boys. We had to get away. My boys had never even been to a cinema before. We just never went. He'd never let me go out on my own with the children"

Solace Women's Aid Service User

In a MORI poll over a third of all adults admitted to being prejudiced against Irish Travellers and Gypsies – this is a higher level of prejudice than against any other ethnic group. There are over 300,000 Irish Travellers and Gypsies living in the UK and a small research study conducted in 2007 showed that 81% of women in an Irish Traveller community had experienced domestic violence.

"It's alright here; it's the best refuge I've been in so far. I felt left out in other refuges. The workers have been supportive. I think it's important to have a refuge where Travellers are welcome. It's the longest I've ever stayed away. Why should I go back to be tortured?"

Solace Women's Aid Service User

Conference Speakers:

- **Professor Judith Okely**, Author and Anthropologist – Hull and Oxford Universities
- **Davina James-Hanman**, Director, Greater London Domestic Violence Project
- **Mary Mason and Bernie O'Roarke** – Solace Women's Aid
- **Michelle Morgan**, Central and Cecil Incorporating Cara Irish Housing
- **Father Joe Brown**, Irish Traveller Movement
- **Sarah Mann**, Friends, Families and Travellers
- **Irish Traveller Survivors of Domestic Violence** – Telling Their Stories.

Through workshops, discussion and presentations the conference aims to raise awareness of the needs of Irish Traveller women and identify best practice and opportunities for change.

Date: 22nd October 2009, 09:45 am – 4:30pm

Venue: London Irish Centre, 52, Camden Square, London NW1 9XB.

Suggested delegates: Health, social work and criminal justice practitioners, police, domestic violence support workers, policy makers and local authorities.

For info contact: Maureen Giles 0207 428 7656.

Delegate Fee: Only £60. Lunch provided.

CIS'ters Annual Conference: Alcohol and drug misuse as a coping strategy for victims/survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse (including co-dependency and dual diagnosis)

This event is suitable for all those who provide support to, or work with, children/teenagers/adults who have been or are at risk of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse.

Fee: £100 per delegate (early bird rate of £80 – if booked prior to 1 September 2009)

Saturday 7 November 2009 – 9.30 registration, starts 10am, finishes 4.30pm

For more information, and to request a booking form, contact Gillian Finch on 023 80 338080 or email admin@cisters.org.uk

Training

Free! – DIY workshops for unemployed women

Women and Manual Trades (WAMT) are working in partnership with Tower Hamlets Homes to run two FREE one-day DIY workshops on 28th or 29th September 2009.

These workshops are open to women who are unemployed and living in the 5 Olympic Host Boroughs (Hackney, Waltham Forest, Newham, Tower Hamlets, and Greenwich).

Women interested in joining us can register online at our website – www.wamt.org/events or contact us at WAMT on **020 7251 9192**

CIS'ters Training Seminar: How to listen so children will talk

Children and young people try to talk or to communicate in different ways, many of them not including speech. Adults need to be able to be with a child in away that enables the child or young person to feel comfortable and be heard on many levels. It should not be the child or young person's fault if the adult fails in this and the child or young person is not able to tell or be heard.

This seminar will include information about how children and young people tell, what stops children and young people telling, neurobiology, blame, shame

'telling' behaviours and attachment. This will include how to listen when a child or young person has no speech.

Who should attend?

This seminar will benefit anyone who works with or cares for children and young people, whether a parent or professional. It will be particularly useful for: social workers, teachers, police, staff working within CAMHs or Connexions or SureStart or Youth Advisory Services, child protection leads/agencies, psychotherapists, psychologists, psychiatrists and counsellors working within the statutory and non-statutory sector.

About the trainer

Norma Howes is a social worker, child forensic psychologist and sensorimotor psychotherapist. Norma is involved in training police, social workers, health and education staff on all aspects of childhood trauma and abuse. She has a private practice working with adults and children, most of whom have experienced severe childhood trauma. She has worked in the field of trauma, mental health and dissociation for more than twenty years and has researched the impact of dissociation on memory and the implications this has for both civil and criminal court proceedings. Norma was also a member of a child trauma team one day a week for twelve years where she was involved in both assessment and therapeutic services for children who had experienced Type 1 and Type 2 trauma. She has a special interest in the impact of trauma, abuse and dissociation on attachment and consequent behaviours following child abuse and domestic violence.

Cost: £75 per person

Cancellation:

Cancellations received in writing before 18 December 2009 will be entitled to a 75% refund. We regret that we cannot provide refunds after this date as we will be committed financially.

Programme alteration:

We will endeavour to notify all delegates in advance should there be any unexpected change to the programme.

When?

Wednesday 27 January 2010, registration 9.30, starts at 10am, finishes at 4.30pm

Where?

Eastpoint Centre, Burgoyne Road, Southampton SO19 6PB

For more information, and to request a booking form, telephone 023 80 338080 or email admin@cisters.org.uk or gfinch@cisters.org.uk

C.I.S. Training Course: 3 linked workshops (9.30am-4pm)

Session 1 – Thursday 11 March 2010

What is sexual abuse?

Prevalence

Myths and stereotypes
Abuser theories
Prevention and detention

Session 2 – Thursday 25 March 2010

Survival skills (including self-harm)
Counting the losses
Crime and memory

Session 3 – Thursday 22 April 2010

Managing disclosures (adult survivors)
Retraumatization/revictimisation
Unresolved issues
The reality of letting go

Target audience:

All sectors. Individuals working with/supporting child victims or adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

The workshops are linked, providing delegates with an opportunity to discuss/explore core issues.

The training team will include survivors

Fee: £150. Lunch is *not* provided.

Venue: Eastleigh, Hampshire

For more information or to request a booking form, telephone 023 80 338080 or email admin@cisters.org.uk

Vacancies

Mosac Volunteer Opportunities

Mosac supports non abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children. We provide a range of free services to enable parents/carers to rebuild confidence, alleviate isolation and to assist both parents/carers and their children to achieve an improved quality of life.

An integral element all the services are our volunteers, who provide us with their valuable time to deliver our aims and objectives. We at Mosac recognise and value the wide and diverse range of skills and experiences that volunteers can bring to support our services.

We are now developing a *new* London wide Outreach Advocacy Service and Outreach Befriending Service at Mosac for non abusing parents/carers of sexually abused children. It's an exciting time for us as we are growing and need more volunteers to support and develop our work. We are taking on volunteers for different roles:

- Advocate Volunteer
- Befriending Volunteer

- Counselling Volunteer
- Helpline Volunteer
- Play Therapy Volunteer.

To become a Mosac volunteer every volunteer has to successfully complete a short training specific to their role, which covers signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, manipulation and the grooming process, understanding CSA within the family, introduction to safeguarding children, and other areas specific to the role.

If you are interested in supporting non abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children and volunteering with us in any of the roles listed above, then please have a look at the application pack on the Mosac website at: http://www.mosac.org.uk/mosac/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=72 , which includes the list of the training dates, role description and application form.

Please complete and return the application form no later than **9th September 2009**. Or telephone 020 8293 8582 for more information.

We also aim to recruit, but not exclusively, up to ten volunteers that can speak any of the following languages: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu.

Whilst membership of Mosac is open to all supporters of its aims and objectives, volunteering at Mosac is open to female volunteers only (in line with the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Part 2 (2) (E))).

Amnesty International: Secretary General

Secretary General is Amnesty International's most senior role and its most public. The post holder carries a primary responsibility for bringing together the whole of the Amnesty International movement behind coherent human rights and organisational and financial strategies, for building internal credibility and commitment to a global vision for external coherence and for ensuring that the movement's operations are convergent with its goals.

Reporting to the International Executive Committee as a whole, the Secretary General has a specific reporting relationship to the Chair of the IEC on issues delegated by the IEC to that role. The Secretary General is the line manager for the International Secretariat's senior leadership team and other consultants or staff as need requires. The role has a wide set of key relationships.

Applications should consist of a full curriculum vitae and a covering letter of application that addresses the role description and job specification. Covering letters should be addressed to Peter Pack, Chair of the IEC.

Completed applications should be uploaded at www.perrettlaver.com/candidates by quoting reference number 0494. Applicants are asked to provide full daytime and evening contact details.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 8th September 2009.

Women & Girls Network: Telephone Helpline Volunteers

Are you a woman motivated & passionate about making a difference in the lives of women & girls affected by violence? Are you able to volunteer once a week for at least one year?

Women & Girls Network is a multicultural organisation that provides counselling and therapeutic services for women overcoming experiences of violence, physical, sexual or emotional.

We work with all women: lesbian, refugee, black minority ethnic and disabled. Women from these communities are particularly encouraged to apply.

All selected applicants will receive our Accredited Helpline Volunteer Training Programme & supervision.

For more information and an Application Pack, visit our website www.wgn.org.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1pm 30th September 2009