

The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 272

5 September 2009 – 11 September 2009

Violence against women in London

Man with schizophrenia detained in mental hospital for attempted rapes

A man suffering from schizophrenia has been detained indefinitely in a mental hospital, for trying to rape four women.

Samson Bello, 23, of Hackney, East London, pleaded guilty to the attempted rapes and charges of kidnap at Southwark Crown Court.

Mr Bello hid in alleyways before dragging his victims off and trying to strip them. In each case the victim managed to raise the alarm and Bello fled.

In the first incident he dragged a 16-year-old woman off Marylebone High Street just after midnight on 29 March. He managed to partially undress her before a member of the public disturbed him and he ran off.

Two days later, Bello attempted to rape three women in separate incidents. First he pulled a 24-year-old Spanish tourist into an alley off Hampstead Road in Camden Town. Again, a member of the public disturbed him and he ran off.

Next, he grabbed an 18-year-old student on Pentonville Road in King's Cross; however, she fought him off and when residents came to help her, he ran away.

Yet within half an hour Bello had made another attempt, on a second student in the King's Cross area. Again the 20-year-old woman fought him off.

Bello admitted almost immediately that he was the perpetrator: when police questioned him and showed him an identikit picture of the suspect he stated, "Yes, it's me".

The judge in the case stated that were it not for his schizophrenia, Bello would have faced life sentences for the incidents.

Source: [BBC News](#) 8 September 2009

Woman sacked after being assaulted by a customer

The Rail Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) is to strike at First Capital Connect on 14 September over the dismissal of a female worker.

The RMT say Rachel Lock was sacked after she was assaulted at a ticket barrier by a passenger who was angry about being challenged about a fare evasion.

RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said: "It's a scandal that, instead of supporting their member of staff in this traumatic situation, they have chosen to sack her [...] With the train companies turning up the pressure for more and harsher penalty fares, they are putting more and more staff at risk of assault of the kind suffered by Rachel Lock."

First Capital Connect has refused to reinstate Ms Lock, stating, "The safety and security of our staff is our absolute top priority and the FCC has followed the disciplinary procedure agreed with the trade unions all the way through to appeal".

Source: [BBC News](#) 8 September 2009

Man who killed his wife now a London cabbie

A man who strangled his wife in 2000 and was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act in 2001 for her manslaughter has been allowed to train and operate as a black cab driver.

The man was released after the Parole Board concluded that he was no longer a risk to society and he has therefore been free to find employment ever since. The decision to allow him to take the exams required to become a black cab driver was also scrutinised by two independent reviewers.

While TfL insists that careful safeguards are in place over this driver's work, and that six independent medical advisers deemed him safe to operate as a cab driver, many in the profession are outraged.

Hundreds of cab drivers and trainees protested outside the public carriage office in north London. Steve McNamara from the London Taxi Drivers Association said, "It's an outrageous decision. We say the Public Carriage Office needs to review their decision and review it now and more importantly look at the whole licensing process by which they even considered somebody like this."

Source: [BBC News](#) 10 September 2009

Violence against women in the UK

Staffordshire: BNP councillor arrested for domestic violence

BNP city councillor Steve Batkin was arrested on Friday night in relation to an incident of domestic violence.

Batkin, 50, who is unmarried, represents the Bentilee and Townsend ward on Stoke-on-Trent City Council. In 2003 he was the first BNP councillor to be elected in the city and was the party's figurehead in that area until 2004. He was replaced after making outspoken comments in the media questioning the scale of the Holocaust and stating that racial tensions in Stoke-on-Trent would result in a "multi-cultural bloodbath".

Alby Walker, the BNP group leader on the City Council, said he was certain that Batkin had done nothing wrong but that the party would be investigating the incident. "Steve has given me a full explanation of what happened on Friday and I accept his explanation. I have discussed the matter with our deputy party leader, Simon Darby, who is looking into it, and we will be discussing it with the other group members later in the week."

Batkin was released without charge after questioning.

Source: [This is Staffordshire](#) 9 September 2009

Staffordshire: former detective admits to grooming girl

A former detective constable specialising in child abuse has admitted to grooming a 15 year old girl.

Andrew Row, 31, pleaded guilty to 5 charges under the Sexual Offences Act. Police stated that Rowe sent the girl hundreds of messages over a social networking site and caused or incited her to engage in sexual activity. They also stated that there was evidence to suggest that Rowe had tried to cover up his activities by deleting telephone and computer evidence.

The victim's family issued a statement saying that Rowe had been in a position where people trusted him and that he had "completely abused" this. Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale reiterated this, stating that Rowe, who had been an officer for 12 years, had "betrayed his victim and her parents."

Mr Rowe was suspended from duty upon arrest and resigned from his post the same day.

Source: [BBC News](#) 7 September 2009

[BBC News](#) 8 May 2009

Watford: Strip club granted licence despite residents' complaints

A nightclub in Watford has been granted a licence to offer "striptease and lapdancing" despite objections from residents.

Members of Watford Borough Council, whose aim is to create a "family friendly town centre," said its hands were tied by the Licensing Act 2003, which only allows it to consider objections if they demonstrate that the application would offend one or more of the licensing objectives.

Despite representations by a local resident and letters of objection being submitted (many of which were rejected because they contained "moral objections"), the licensing sub-committee therefore granted the club its licence.

Residents' objections included fears over the potential influx of visitors, alcohol-related violence and the intimidation and harassment of women in the town.

Representatives from the organisation which will run the lapdancing club stated that due to the high prices of drinks, customers would not be getting drunk and that lapdancing clubs reduce crime and disorder in an area.

Chairman of the Licensing Committee George Derbyshire stated that while the objections did not fall within the licensing objectives under the Act, "the committee feels that a sex establishment of this nature is not supportive of the council's policy for creating a family friendly town centre and regrets the lack of discretion available to it when considering applications of this nature."

Source: [This is Local London](#) 8 September 2009

International violence against women

Australia: 19-year-old sexually assaulted during carjack

A 19-year-old woman endured a 20-minute carjacking before being sexually assaulted in a bush reserve in Sydney.

According to police [or according to her?] the woman was about to get into her car, which was parked in a street-level open-air car park, at around 6pm, when a man in his early 20s walked up behind her and pushed her into the vehicle.

The man drove the car for about 20 minutes until they reached a bush reserve where he stopped the car and sexually assaulted her. He then left the vehicle and disappeared.

The woman managed to drive herself to a police station where she gave a description of her attacker.

Source: [Sydney Morning Herald](#) 10 September 2009

South Africa: dozens of police rape and murder

Dozens of South African police committed rapes and murders in the last financial year, according to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa.

In a written response to a question posed by a member of parliament, Mr Mthethwa stated that more than 600 police had been investigated by the Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD). The Minister went on to state that it was unknown how many of those police had been prosecuted or how many of them were still serving police officers.

In his response he stated, "To obtain the information would be time consuming. The redeployment of police employees to carry out this task would be to the detriment of other essential duties or service delivery to the community."

The ICD investigation had found that 38 members of the police force were guilty of murder, 33 of attempted murder and 30 of rape, while 108 were guilty of theft. The total number charged for the financial year of 2008/2009 was 669.

According to Reuters, there were 18,487 murders, 36,190 rapes and 14,201 carjackings reported in that period, and about 50 people are murdered in South Africa each day.

In July a new police chief, Bheki Cele, was appointed to replace Jackie Selebi, who is due to go on trial for corruption in October. Cele has identified police corruption as a serious obstruction to fighting crime.

However, these figures released by the Police Minister demonstrate the major challenge South Africa faces in clearing the streets of violent crime in the run-up to the 2010 World Cup and keeping order during the event.

Source: [Reuters Africa](#) 8 September 2009

Sudan: Lubna Hussein vows to keep up campaign

Journalist Lubna Ahmed Hussein has vowed to keep up her battle with the law despite her release from custody on Tuesday.

Hussein was imprisoned on Monday when she refused to pay a fine ordered by the court because she had allegedly offended the indecency laws by wearing trousers in a café.

Despite the fact that Hussein had instructed her family and friends not to pay the fine to secure her release, the Sudanese Union of Journalists did so anyway.

It was in July that Hussein and 12 other women were arrested under the North Sudanese indecency laws. While it is not uncommon for Sudanese women to wear trousers, they can be prosecuted if their clothing is deemed "indecent" because it shows off too much of their body shape.

This discretion afforded to law enforcers in assessing whether or not female clothing is indecent has led many campaigners to say that the law is uncertain and arbitrary and that women have no way of knowing what the individual officers will decide about their dress.

While Lubna Hussein was sentenced to a fine of 500 Sudanese pounds (about 200 dollars [this needs to be pounds sterling, not dollars]), it was at the discretion of the court that she was not sentenced to be flogged. However, ten out of the 11 women arrested with her have been whipped.

Hussein will continue her fight and has already challenged supporters of the law to provide evidence from the Koran and Prophetic traditions that it has Islamic origins.

Source: [AFP](#) 9 September 2009

Events, Campaigns and Direct Action

Feminism in London 09

Speakers include

Susie Orbach, Beatrix Campbell, Gunilla S. Ekberg, Marai Larasi, Claudia da Silva, Sabrina Qureshi, Denise Marshall, Rebecca Mott, Kate Smurthwaite, Finn Mackay, Southall Black Sisters and more.

Workshops include

Activism training, What's wrong with prostitution?, Raising children in the age of porn, What are the issues for pro-feminist men?, Racism and sexism, Poverty and motherhood: How society undervalues women's work, Feminist self defence, Media training with camera, and more.

This is a child-friendly event, with a crèche organised by the London Pro-Feminist Men's Group.

"[Last year's Feminism in London] was a huge success - so many people came which was great. Fantastic selection of workshops and speakers. Excellently organised. A day to be proud of."

9:30am-5pm, Saturday 10 October

**Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,
Holborn, WC1R 4RL**

Nearest tube: Holborn

£4.50 waged, £2.50 unwaged

£1 discount if you register in advance

Find out more and register at: www.fil.btik.com

Email: feminismlondon@yahoo.co.uk

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Brought to you by the London Feminist Network

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 Navaï, 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

Safe Choices: the nia project in partnership with The Children's Society & The Makeda Weaver Project (Shian Housing Ltd)

Safe Choices aims to 'reduce and prevent violent offending by young women'.

Safe Choices is a unique service which reduces and prevents young women's violent offending by considering the context of this behaviour. They offer young women experiential group work programmes and intensive 1:1 support that focuses on developing resilience as well as positive support networks and challenging patterns of offending behaviour.

Safe Choices recognises that part of the context of young women's offending is their relationship with young men, they also offer group work that challenges young men's behaviour and attitudes towards young women, specifically challenging sexual violence and sexual exploitation within the context of group and gang offending.

Safe Choices operates in Hackney, Haringey, Greenwich and Lewisham – each borough with its own dedicated Young Peoples Worker.

Specifically Safe Choices works to:

Improve young women's life opportunities:

- Work around issues of identity and healthy and safe relationships;
- Support young women to develop a resilience to better resist and negotiate pressure and offending patterns of behaviour;

- Explore issues around coercive and exploitative relationships;
- Offer experiential and participatory processes where young women have a safe space to develop empowerment, aspirations and a sense of their own self worth.

Enable young men and women to develop healthy and safe relationships:

- Work with young men to understand their involvement in, and influence over, young women's violent offending;
- Offer experiential and participatory processes where young men can explore issues around the implications of coercive and exploitative relationships;
- Explore issues around healthy relationships and attitudes towards women and girls;
- Support young women and young men to explore issues of gang culture and group offending.

Safe Choices is funded by Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) through the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Safe Choices is led by the nia project in partnership with The Children's Society and The Makeda Weaver project.

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>

**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](#).

True Cost to Families of Sexual Exploitation

Keynote address by Alan Campbell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction

The conference aims to:

- Raise awareness of the true cost of child sexual exploitation to families;
- Explore ways to minimise the cost of child sexual exploitation to children and families;

- Provide a forum for parents, practitioners and policy-makers to share their experiences and expertise.

The Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP) is a national charity working with parents and carers to end the sexual exploitation of children and young people. CROP is the only national organisation supporting parents and highlighting the disastrous effects of sexual exploitation not only on the exploited child but on parents, siblings and other family members. CROP supports parents to enable them to become active agents alongside the agencies working to safeguard their children.

The conference will include:

- CROP's report on the "True cost to families of sexual exploitation;"
- Parent presentations;
- Ministerial response;
- Panel discussion with representatives from agencies with safeguarding responsibilities including police, social care, health, education and the Crown Prosecution Service;
- Discussion groups on ways forward.

The conference is relevant to parents, policy-makers, academics and practitioners working to safeguard children from sexual exploitation.

The conference will take place on **Wednesday 25 November 2009, 10am-4pm, Thackray Museum, Leeds.**

Conference fees, including lunch:

Statutory Agencies £125.00 per delegate

Voluntary Organisation £ 85.00 per delegate

For a booking form contact:

Pam Butcher

CROP

1st & 2nd Floor

34 York Road

Leeds

LS9 8TA

Telephone: 0113 240 3040

Email: info@cropuk.org.uk

www.cropuk.org.uk

Closing date for bookings: **Friday 6 November 2009**

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

Rights of Women: training courses

Half Day Courses in London

Supporting survivors of domestic violence: domestic violence injunctions and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004

Update yourself on recent developments in the law on domestic violence.

This course will give you an understanding of domestic violence injunctions, who can apply for them, how to apply and how to enforce them. The course also examines recent changes to the law brought in by the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of our *Domestic Violence DIY Injunction Handbook* (2nd edition).

East (Stratford) Wednesday 21 October 9.30am – 1pm

West (Hammersmith) Wednesday 11 November 9.30am – 1pm

Supporting survivors of sexual violence: the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the criminal justice system

Increase your ability to support survivors of sexual violence. This course will explore the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence, the support that is available for survivors together with an essential grounding in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and relevant case law. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of *From Report to Court: a handbook for adult survivors of sexual violence*.

East (Stratford) Thursday 22 October 9.30am – 1pm

West (Hammersmith) Thursday 12 November 9.30am – 1pm

1 Day Courses in London

Taking action on domestic violence: using the law to protect women and children

Update yourself on developments in the law on domestic violence injunctions and child contact. This course will give you an understanding of recent changes to the law including choosing a civil or criminal law remedy, the enforcement of non-molestation orders and restraining orders. The course will also explore the law on child contact in domestic violence cases, the role of CAFCASS and the new law on the enforcement of contact orders. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of both our *Domestic Violence DIY Injunction Handbook* and *Child Contact Handbook*.

London (Kings Cross) Monday 26 October 2009 10.00 – 4.30

Asylum and immigration law: protecting women from violence and securing their position in the UK

Learn how you can support asylum-seeking women, European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, and women with no recourse to public funds to access services. This course will give you an understanding of the law that determines who is entitled to remain in the UK and access financial support, in particular women affected by violence. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of our latest publication *Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law*.

London Thursday 29 October 10am – 4.30pm

In partnership with Asylum Aid

Protecting women from persecution: supporting asylum-seeking women in the UK

Increase your understanding of women in the asylum system and the issues they face. This course will enable you to support women who have claimed asylum in the UK giving you an essential overview of asylum law and the way that cases are decided. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of our latest publication *Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law*.

London (TBA) Thursday 26 November 10.00 – 4.30

To be followed by the launch of our latest publication

1 Day Courses in the Regions

Supporting survivors of sexual violence and meeting the needs of trafficked women

Increase your ability to support survivors of sexual violence and trafficked women. This course will explore the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence, the support that is available for survivors together with an essential grounding in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Coinciding with the ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 you will also learn about the immigration law affecting trafficked women. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of *From Report to Court: a handbook for adult survivors of sexual violence* and *Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law*.

Cambridge Wednesday **23 September 10am – 4.30pm**

Southampton Wednesday **18 November 10am – 4.30pm**

Asylum and immigration law: protecting women from violence and securing their position in the UK

Learn how you can support asylum-seeking women, European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and women with no recourse to public funds to access services. This course will give you an understanding of the law that determines who is entitled to remain in the UK and access financial support, in particular women affected by violence. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of our latest publication *Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law*.

Cambridge Thursday **24 September 10am – 4.30pm**

Southampton Thursday **19 November 10am – 4.30pm**

Helping women through the law

London Councils

Seminar

Sexual Violence against Women – What's the policy?

This seminar aims to increase awareness in the women's sector of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence and of current policy developments. Benefit from an awareness of violence against women as part of the struggle for women's equality. Learn how your organisation can become part of the wider debate on violence against women and increase women's equality.

NCVO, Kings Cross, London 5 October 2009 10am–1pm

Workshop.

Sexual Violence against Women – What's the Strategy?

This workshop will focus on how the women's sector is contributing to policy and shaping developments on sexual violence to protect women's rights

- Learn about the process of influencing policy
- Share your thoughts on what more needs to be done
- Develop your own response or be part of our ongoing work.

NCVO, Kings Cross, London 5 October 2009 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Please note these events are open to women's organisations only.

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

Respond: Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA)

£30 000 pro rata 0.6 FTE moving to full-time as new funds become available

Respond is the lead voluntary organisation in the provision of psychotherapeutic support to people with learning disabilities whose lives have been affected by trauma and abuse.

With part funding from the Home Office Respond is looking to employ an ISVA to work across central London boroughs. The role requires working within a multi-agency setting, providing a pro-active service to victims of sexual violence through risk assessment and safety planning, enabling victims to access those statutory and other services they need, and ensuring victims are kept informed and supported as their case progresses through the criminal justice system.

This role is new and requires applicants to have experience of supporting people with learning disabilities. The post will be based at Respond's offices in Euston but need to be able to travel to other sites including the 3 London Haven's, victims' homes and the inner London courts.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 25th September 2009

Interviews will be week commencing: Monday 5th October 2009

For more information and an application form please contact:

Richard Curen on 020 7874 5483 or email richard.curen@respond.org.uk

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