
The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 333

01 January 2011 – 07 January 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

Man killed girlfriend before committing suicide

Police believe, Jiri Stuchlik, 23, died in an apparent suicide at Finsbury Park Tube station in London on New Year's Day killed his partner Jitka Nahodilova, 27.

Nahodilova, a deputy manager for a European clothing firm, was found dead with repeated stab wounds at a house in Hampden Way, Southgate rented by the couple the next morning. She died from huge blood loss.

Police said neighbours have reported hearing what seemed to be a fight at the property and the sound of breaking glass at about 4am on New Year's Day.

Police are treating the deaths as murder and suicide.

Source: [Evening Standard](#) 06 January 2011

Women rights campaigner named on New Year's Honours list

Janet Vietch, 55, from Croydon London, was named in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. She received the award for her tireless campaign to stop violence against women and promote gender equality.

Vietch who the vice-chair of the End Violence Against Women Campaign (EVAW) and founder of advisory committee Ministers for Women said, "I'm really pleased, and I think it's an indication of the fact that this sort of work is recognised and acknowledged in the honours system.

"One in four women still suffer from domestic violence in the UK and two women a week are killed by a partner or ex-partner."

Source: [Croydon Guardian](#) 04 January 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

Domestic violence refuges struggled to cope during the holiday season

Domestic violence refuges were overwhelmed with referrals, more than they could accommodate over Christmas and the New Year holidays.

The Portsmouth Refuge which can only house 20 families received 20 % more referrals than they could accommodate and had to help people find somewhere else to go.

Karina Christensen, assistant director of You Trust, which runs Portsmouth Refuge, said, "When people are reaching out for help it's heartbreaking not to be able to give them refuge and safety.

'We connect with other refuges locally or if the person contacting us is in real danger we can connect with the police, or sometimes we can provide outreach services. None of our refuge staff would ever feel comfortable saying 'sorry, there's no space.' We do all we can to ensure they have somewhere else to go.'

She said, "There was a direct impact by having that extended holiday period. A lot more people took three days' leave between Christmas and New Year and had a longer holiday, and what that does to a pressure cooker is just make it even hotter."

Havant Women's Aid's refuge was full and there was a sharp rise in calls to its outreach service. Fareham and Gosport Women's Aid also saw a rise in referrals and staff had to direct about half of the 18 families referred to them elsewhere.

Police in Portsmouth received 323 calls relating to domestic violence over Christmas and New Year which is a 13% year-on-year rise. In total 119 people were arrested for the crimes, marking a 9% rise on the 109 people arrested in 2009. 64 of the crimes were reported between December 30 and January 1.

Inspector Chris Parry said, "Police in Portsmouth work extremely hard to help all victims of domestic abuse and maintain contact with our partners to ensure they receive the support they need.

"In Portsmouth we use body-worn cameras to help gather evidence at the scene of domestic incidents and have a positive action policy which seeks to separate the victim and the suspect and help defuse any tension. I'd say to anyone who's suffered any form of domestic abuse that you're not alone."

Christensen explained that domestic violence refuges are often the last resort for victims. She said, "Most people come to us suffering from some form of physical abuse. The common theme is emotional, psychological and financial abuse. Other people have suffered very, very extreme sexual abuse and control. A lot of the children we see have either witnessed this happening to mummy or have tried to step in and protect them.

"For some people it's gone on for years before they seek help, but what we can safely assume is people coming to the refuge have probably explored anything else they can, and are really at the end of their tether."

Source: [The News](#) 06 January 2011

Stephen Griffiths sentenced to life for the murder of three women

Stephen Griffiths, 40, appeared in Leeds Crime Court in December 2010 and pleaded guilty to murdering and dismembering three women; Suzanne Blamires, 36, Shelley Armitage, 31, and Susan Rushworth, 43 and was sentenced to life in prison.

Griffiths was charged in May 2010 with three counts of murder. At the time of his arrest he was working on his PhD in criminal justice studies at Bradford University.

He told police officers that although he didn't know exactly why he killed the three women, he didn't have "too much time for the human race." He told police that

has killed “loads more” than the three women whose deaths he was charged and convicted of although he refused to say where their bodies are.

His friends and acquaintances said his heroes were serial killers such as Jack the Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, Fred and Rosemary West, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley. He also idolized Nazis, terrorists and pretty well anyone who was a criminal.

Sentencing him Justice Peter Openshaw said, “The circumstances of these murders are so wicked and monstrous they leave me in no doubt the defendant should be kept in prison for the rest of his life. He has never said he regretted his actions or said in even the most perfunctory way he was sorry.”

Griffiths was also told by the judge that he would never be released from jail.

Source: [Suite 101](#) 01 January 2011

Ringleaders of a gang which groomed and abused young girls jailed

Mohammed Liaqat, 28, and Abid Saddique, 27, ringleaders of a gang which groomed and abused teenage girls in Derby have been jailed.

The case involved twenty-six 12 to 18 year old girls. The victims were given alcohol or drugs before being forced to have sex in cars, rented houses or hotels across the Midlands.

Liaqat was found guilty of one count of rape, two of sexual assault, aiding and abetting rape, affray and four counts of sexual activity with a child.

Saddique was convicted of four counts of rape as well as two counts of false imprisonment, two of sexual assault, three charges of sexual activity with a child, perverting the course of justice and aiding and abetting rape.

Derbyshire Police Detective Superintendent Debbie praised the victims for coming forward and said that "without their bravery we would not have seen the outcome we saw today".

Police also said the girls were from a variety of backgrounds and urged all parents to be aware of the risks of sexual exploitation.

Six other men have already been sentenced for their part in the abuse.

Source: [BBC](#) 07 January 2011

INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Hundreds of women sexually assaulted in Haiti

Following the devastating earthquake last year which killed 230,000 people and injured 300,000, hundreds of women and girls in Haiti have been sexually assaulted and raped, said a report by Amnesty International.

According to the report more than 250 cases of rape in several camps were reported in the first 150 days after the earthquake. More than 50 survivors of sexual violence shared their experiences for the study.

A 14-year-old girl, who lives in a camp was raped when she went to the toilets said, “A boy came in after me and opened the door. He gagged me with his hand and did what he wanted to do. He hit me. He punched me. I didn’t go to the police because I don’t know the boy, it wouldn’t help. I feel really sad all the time. I’m afraid it will happen again.”

A woman lost her parents, brothers and husband in the earthquake also shared her ordeal, how she and her friend were both blindfolded and raped in front of their children by a gang of men who forced their way into their shelter.

She said, “After they left I didn’t do anything. I didn’t have any reaction. Women victims of rape should go to hospital but I didn’t because I didn’t have any money. I don’t know where there is a clinic offering treatment for victims of violence.”

Gerardo Ducos, Amnesty International Haiti researcher, said, “There has been a complete breakdown in Haiti’s already fragile law and order system since the earthquake with women living in insecure overcrowded camps.

“There is no security for the women and girls in the camps. They feel abandoned and vulnerable to being attacked. Armed gangs attack at will; safe in the knowledge that there is still little prospect that they will be brought to justice.”

She added, “Women already struggling to come to terms with losing their loved ones, homes and livelihoods in the earthquake, now face the additional trauma of living under the constant threat of sexual attack”.

She further urged, “For the prevalence of sexual violence to end, the incoming government must ensure that the protection of women and girls in the camps is a

priority. This has so far been largely ignored in the response to the wider humanitarian crisis.”

Amnesty is calling on the Government of Haiti to take immediate steps to improve security in the camps and ensure that police are able to respond effectively and that those responsible are prosecuted.

Read the full report [here](#).

Activists protest against “corrective rape” in South Africa

A group of activists in the townships of Cape Town, South Africa have collected more than 108,000 signatures calling on the Justice Minister, Jeff Radebe to combat the rampant sexual violence called "corrective rape".

“Corrective rape” is when men rape lesbian women to "turn" them heterosexual or "cure" them of their sexual orientation.

Luleki Sizwe, the volunteer anti-rape advocacy group that initiated the petition on Change.org said, "Our fight against corrective rape has been going on for so long, under the most harrowing circumstances, with only a few volunteers to help.

“It just seemed as if nobody was listening, nobody cared and our sisters were getting raped, beaten up and murdered without anyone doing anything about it.”

The petition describes that most of the victims are tortured, grievously assaulted and murdered. Besides, they are prone to getting HIV/AIDS from the assault, and many of them commit suicide.

It further states, that in the last 10 years 31 lesbian women have been murdered because of their sexual orientation, more than 10 lesbians a week are raped or gang raped in Cape Town alone, 150 women are raped every day in South Africa and for every 25 men accused of rape in the country, 24 walk free.

A chief of the Justice minister said that the petition that was set up to automatically generate individualised e-mails to the minister's senior staffers, had flooded the ministry's e-mail system.

This is hoped to increase the pressure on the Government to take immediate actions in prevention and get it declared a hate crime.

Activists are pushing for a meeting with the minister to discuss this heinous crime.

To find out more and sign the petition click [here](#).

Irish government considering change in prostitution law

The Irish government is considering new legislation that targets those who buy sex while decriminalizing those in prostitution.

Last year, an Irish delegation including the Dignity Project which helps trafficked women and officials from the Department of Justice visited Stockholm to look at the effect of 1999 legislation in Sweden which put the attention of law enforcement officers on those buying rather than on those selling sex.

Dermot Ahern, the Justice Minister has charged Attorney General Paul Gallagher with looking at the delegation's findings. The Attorney General is to draft an outline law based on Swedish legislation which has halved prostitution over the past ten years.

Under the current law it is a criminal offence to solicit sex in any public place. However, buying or selling sexual services is not an offence.

Ireland has a huge sex trade, usually serviced by foreign women working in massage parlors and apartments that function as brothels.

The move in drafting a new law is partly in response to fears that many young women, some of them children, are being trafficked into Ireland for prostitution.

Under the new legislation telephone records and e mail messages of clients who call or email prostitutes could be used to prosecute them.

Source: [Irish Central](#) 03 January 2011

EVENTS

Amnesty International – Book Launch

The Whistleblower: sex trafficking, military contractors, and one woman's fight for justice

Date: Tue 25 January 2011 - 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Kathryn Bolkovac served as an International Police Task Force human rights investigator in Bosnia, where she headed the gender affairs unit. At great personal risk, she began to unravel the ugly truth about officers involved in human trafficking and forced prostitution and their connections to private mercenary contractors, the UN, and US State Department. Soon, she was demoted, then fired.

She was threatened and forced to flee the country under cover of darkness - bringing incriminating documents with her. Thanks to the evidence she had collected, Kathryn won a lawsuit against private military contractor DynCorp, exposing their actions.

Kathryn will talk about her experiences and then take questions from the audience.

Copies of the book will be on sale.

To book a place please visit the following website

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_booking.asp?ID=1735&#booking

London Metropolitan University

**Human rights and social justice seminars – 26 January-7 July 2011
December 3, 2010**

The Human Rights and Social Justice Research Institute at London Metropolitan University is holding a series of public seminars to debate the value of human rights standards and principles as a means of scrutinising the impact of public policy, identifying its true cost and, where necessary, proposing alternatives.

The series will also explore what it means in practice to integrate equality and human rights approaches in legal, policy and political responses to austerity. Speakers at the fifth seminar in May on 'Integrating human rights and equality in responses to austerity' include Professor Sandra Fredman, University of Oxford and Sarah Spencer CBE, Chair, Equality and Diversity Forum.

The registration fee for each seminar is £5, payable on the door, which includes a glass of wine.

For more information and to book a place click [here](#).

WEBB

Celebrating our Similarities – Respecting our Differences

Date: 16 January 2011 (2pm - 6pm)

Venue: Queens Crescent Community Centre, 45 Ashdown Crescent, NW5 4QE

Join us for an extraordinary conversation with women from different cultures. That will enable each of us to: Understand each others' ways of doing things Support each other more effectively Enjoy living in our multi-cultural neighbourhood. We will explore what we have in common as well as why different communities have different ways of thinking about and managing important community aspects such as: Relationships; Education And Marriage; Faith And Culture.

Each discussion will be run by women volunteers from diverse cultures. The final event will be a cultural celebration with food, music, art and fashion from the different cultures that women participating in the workshops have come from. We promise that everyone who joins the discussions will be inspired by the people in our neighborhoods, have new perspectives to take back to our families and make friends who will contribute to our families and our lives.

To attend or for more information contact Jean on 0207 328 1533 email info@webb-uk.com

Eaves

Workshops! Prostitution, exit strategies and good practice in supporting women.

Eaves is running a series of workshops for borough-level statutory agencies and voluntary service providers who focus on prostitution. The aim is to equip attendees with the knowledge required to assist individuals who want to leave prostitution – including victims of trafficking – through facilitating access to appropriate services. Workshops will be run over a day and a half, attendees are expected to attend both days.

Cost: £150 (statutory) or £110 (voluntary)

Dates in February and March 2011

For more information on dates and workshop contact Louise Jenkins 0207 840 7103 or Louise.jenkins@eaveshousing.co.uk

DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES

Rights of Women

10 Minutes to Save Legal Aid!

As you may know, the Ministry of Justice is proposing to make a number of changes to legal aid which will have significant negative effects on women, particularly women experiencing violence including:

- Changing the legal aid scheme so the legal aid will no longer be available to deal with certain types of legal problems including private children law, financial relief, immigration law and welfare benefits law. Those with problems in these areas of law will have to pay privately for advice, seek advice from charities or other organisations or represent themselves.
- Limiting the availability of legal aid in relation to debt and housing so that it will only be available when a person's home is immediately at risk.
- Changing the rules on eligibility to make it more difficult to qualify for legal aid (including for those on welfare benefits) and to increase the level of financial contributions to legal fees that have to be made by those who are still eligible.
- Reducing the amounts paid to lawyers (this will further reduce the number of providers doing legally aided work).
- Changing how legally aided legal advice is accessed so that women would no longer be able to approach solicitors directly for advice. Instead there will be a single point of access to legally aided legal advice through a telephone line.

Rights of Women will be campaigning against the changes and is developing a template consultation response with the **Women's Resource Centre** so that women's organisations and other groups can make their views on the proposals known (this will be circulated in late January 2011). We need your help to do this.

Please complete the relevant surveys to you; you can complete more than one. For example, you may be a professional working on violence against women issues (such as a outreach worker or social worker) who has also has individual experience of dealing with a legal problem. Each survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

- Survey for individual women <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KVPG3X6>
- Survey for professionals who respond to violence against women issues <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZHWGLMD>

- Survey for legal professionals <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VV3KD3Z>

Rights of Women will also be holding a **seminar and debate in London on Thursday 3 February 2011** to provide an opportunity for women's groups and other interested voluntary and statutory sector organisations to engage in a question and answer session on the current proposals and the potential impact of the proposed changes on women's access to justice. This event will equip participants with a better understanding of the way that the proposed changes will impact on women's access to justice, and provide a forum for discussion about how to most effectively respond to the consultation.

Further details, including how to book, will be on the Rights of Women website shortly: <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php>.

CAWN

New toolkit on Violence against Women and Girls

The UK Gender and Development Network (GADN), of which CAWN is a member, has published a fascinating booklet entitled '*Violence Against Women and Girls: Your Questions, our Answers*', as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' (25th Nov - 10th Dec). This will be a great tool for campaigning and for anyone who would like to know more about violence and how it affects women and girls around the world.

The booklet is now available to download from CAWN's website (www.cawn.org), or by [clicking here](#).

Questionnaire - Exploring the category of gender within hate crime policy

Deadline: 12th February 2011.

In Britain the government has created legislation and policy designed to combat different forms of hate crime. It mandates that crimes which might be motivated by prejudice should be punished more harshly and that the victim should receive a higher standard of care.

The victim categories included in current hate crime policy are race, religion, sexual orientation and disability. To date, there has been little discussion about the merits of including gender within hate crime legislation. This questionnaire seeks to find about the potential for such an approach, and the limitations.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2XZXM3M>

TRAINING

WRC & EHRC

Using CEDAW in the UK

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are running FREE regional training on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in February 2011 in **Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle**.

Further information and booking forms please visit the following websites:

- **Cardiff - Thursday 3rd February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_cardiff.aspx
- **Birmingham - Thursday 10th February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_birmingham.aspx
- **Manchester - Wednesday 16th February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_manchester.aspx
- **Newcastle - Friday 25th February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_newcastle.aspx

For more information, please contact Charlotte Gage at the Women's Resource Centre on charlotte@wrc.org.uk or call 020 7324 3042.

Rights of Women

New & Updated Training Courses – March & April 2011

No recourse? EEA national? The permanent solution - London 2nd March

Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence - London 9th March

Protecting children from domestic violence: children and the law - London 16th March

Supporting survivors of sexual violence - Manchester 23rd March

Stop the traffic! Supporting women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation - Birmingham 30th March

For more info contact the training officer: 0207 251 6575
training@row.org.uk

Further course details: <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/training.php>

London Metropolitan University

MA Woman and Child Abuse – One year (Full-time) or Two years (Part-time)

The aim of the MA programme is to provide a comprehensive grounding in theoretical frameworks, research, policy and practice approaches to woman and child abuse.

The programme aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of all forms of violence against women and child abuse, including sexual exploitation, domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful traditional practices.

Entry Requirements: A good Honours degree in a relevant subject and/or experience of developing/delivering policy or service provision in the field. A degree in an unrelated subject and lower qualifications may be acceptable if balanced by extensive relevant experience. All applicants are normally interviewed, but importance is also placed on the statement of application. Applicants for whom English is not their first language must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in both written and spoken English.

To find out more please contact Maddy Coy Deputy Director / MA Coordinator on 020 7133 5024 or m.coy@londonmet.ac.uk or visit the website www.cwasu.org

Postgraduate Short Courses - Short Courses on Violence Against Women and Girls

These courses are aimed at professionals currently working in the statutory or voluntary sector who wish to:

- Conduct internal evaluation, monitoring and small scale research projects;
- Develop and extend specialist services dealing with child and/or woman abuse;
- Undertake policy development at a local, regional or national level where they have responsibility for delivering support and advocacy services,

- coordinating multi-agency for and/or improving the response of the criminal justice and/or health sectors
- Deliver government and/or agency policy commitments with respect to

Safeguarding Children, addressing domestic violence, rape, FGM, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and other forms of violence against women.

This course will focus on forms of sexual violence in child and adulthood including:

- sexual abuse in childhood
- rape and sexual assault of adults
- sexual exploitation including pornography
- prostitution
- trafficking and other aspects of the sex industry
- sexual harassment

The course will be delivered over 6 days and the areas covered will be: definitions and prevalence; impacts and meanings; legislative frameworks and the criminal justice response; sexual cultures; perpetrators and approaches to prevention

Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People

The course will extend the student's knowledge base in relation to:

- sexual exploitation of children & young people
- definitions and prevalence of sexual exploitation
- intervention and protection
- managing perpetrators
- policy and legislation

Historical continuities in the form and nature of sexual exploitation will be examined, in a national and international context. The impact of sexual exploitation on the child or young person will be examined, and good practice in working with young people explored. Particular examples of exploitation will be analysed,

Teaching dates for the next course in the 2011 spring semester are:

Thursday 17th February

Friday 18th February

Thursday 3rd March

Friday 4th March

Thursday 31st March

Friday 1st April

Course Fee: £600

To find our more please contact Maddy Coy Deputy Director / MA Coordinator on 020 7133 5024 or m.coy@londonmet.ac.uk or visit the website www.cwasu.org

VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Housing for Women

Director of Support Housing

Salary £47,000 - One year contract initially

Housing for Women is a leading women's housing association, providing innovative solutions to women's housing needs in the capital. We provide secure, quality accommodation and support for women and their dependants in eight London boroughs.

We are offering a varied and challenging role as Director of Supported Housing. This is a new post with responsibility for developing and securing the sustainability of our supported projects and provides a real opportunity to shape services to meet emerging needs. We currently provide refuges and ancillary services for women and their children rejecting domestic violence; accommodation and support for trafficked women and we work with women ex-offenders and their children.

To apply download an application pack from the following website www.hfw.org.uk or write to Sixth Floor, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 28 January 2011

Housing for Women

Re-Unite Project Co-ordinator

Salary £32,000 - £33,000 - Three year contract

Our Re-Unite project provides temporary accommodation and floating support to women leaving prison, to successfully re-unite them with their children and resettle them within the community. We are offering a varied and challenging role as Project Co-ordinator. You will have experience working with women offenders and providing support to socially excluded women and their dependants. You will also have experience in managing staff and working with statutory and voluntary agencies.

This position is restricted to women and subject to section 7(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The successful candidate for this position will undertake an enhanced CRB check.

Closing date for applications 12 noon Monday 31 January 2011

To download an application pack please visit the following website www.hfw.org.uk or write to Sixth Floor, Bluestar House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP

Housing for Women

**Estate Services Officer (Caretaker) – Part-time (21 hours per week)
£12,600 - £13,500 per annum**

We are looking for an Estate Services Officer to provide a quality estate and property management service as part of our busy, committed staff team.

This is a varied and challenging post. Reporting to the Housing Team Leader you will be the main link between our estate properties and head office. You will have good communication skills, an ability to juggle multiple tasks and be physically capable of using ladders. A full clean driving licence is essential.

**Closing date: Friday 21st January 2011
Interviews: Wednesday 26th January 2011**

An application pack can be obtained by faxing, writing or emailing:

**Housing for Women, Sixth Floor, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road,
London, SW9 9SP Fax: 020 7924 0224 Email: info@h4w.co.uk**

Central America Women's Network (CAWN) - Co-Director

CAWN is seeking new Co-Directors to join the Management Committee and support the overall management of the organisation as well as an exciting EU-funded development education project for 2011 which will focus on Women, Social Exclusion and the Media.

Co-Directors are responsible for the governance of CAWN and are expected to provide hands-on support to the work of the organisation. A commitment to women's rights and knowledge of Latin America, gender and development are essential. Knowledge of alternative media as a tool for development, or experience of managing EU grants or of working in the U.K. university sector on development education projects would be beneficial.

Co-Directors are expected to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours per month on duties related to CAWN and to be able to commit to at least 2 years in the role.

The closing date for applications is 21st January 2011.

If you are interested in the position please send a copy of your CV and expression of interest to CAWN either by post for the attention of Marilyn Thomson or by e-mail to info@cawn.org.

For the full description of the role and person specification please [click here](#) for the Terms of Reference or go to www.cawn.org.

If you have any information about new events, consultations, reports, campaigns, direct action, training, vacancies or volunteering opportunities, especially those with a London focus, that you would like us to consider for inclusion in Women's Weekly News please email us at:

Weekly_News@eaveshousing.co.uk

