

## The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 380

02 December 2011 – 08 December 2011

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

#### **Women need to be promoted in the Ministry of Defence**

Ursula Brennan, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, speaking at a conference on women in defence and security, has urged the military to promote women into senior posts in the armed forces.

She said: "They are not going to hit the nuclear trigger button by mistake". She added "the world will not end" if women move up into roles that so far have been preserved for men.

"Most of the senior roles in the military are exclusively male. There are some notable exceptions but it is not a place that is awash with senior women", she said.

According to Brennan 10% of the armed forces were now women, and 12% of those in service were officers, though none at the coveted two, three and four star level, which is the highest in the military.

She added that the important thing is "to convince people that this is a problem worth solving." She said the people who tended to think gender equality wasn't a problem were men.

Speaking at the same conference, Lady Pauline Neville-Jones, a former diplomat and security advisor to David Cameron, said women were regarded as "second class citizens" when she joined the Foreign Office.

Source: [Guardian](#) 02 December 2011

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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

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### **Police officer, sacked for abusing a woman, to be reinstated**

Sergeant Mark Andrews, a police officer in Wiltshire, who was sacked after being jailed for throwing Pamela Somerville, a 60-year-old woman on to a concrete cell floor is to be reinstated to his job.

Andrews was dismissed in January by Wiltshire Police after being seen on CCTV dragging Somerville across the floor. However, the decision has now been overturned on appeal and he must be reinstated.

Wiltshire Police said it was "surprised and disappointed" by the ruling. They are also considering whether to appeal against the decision by the independent Police Appeals Tribunal.

Somerville was arrested after she was found asleep in her car near her home and failing to provide a sample for a breath test. The charges against her were later dropped due to insufficient evidence.

In September 2010 Andrews was found guilty of causing Somerville actual bodily harm and was jailed for six months.

He was however released on bail after six days, pending an appeal at Oxford Crown Court, which he later won.

Source: [BBC](#) 02 December 2011

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### **'Honour Killing' on the rise in the UK, suggests first ever national database of reported 'honour killings' in the UK**

The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) has reported a total of 2,823 incidents of honour based violence in the UK, as a result of the

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information gathered by it through freedom of information. The highest number of such cases has been recorded in London. The figures were compiled from 39 out of the 52 British police forces. Compared with 2009 figures released by 12 police forces, there was a 47 percent rise in incidents.

According to Diana Nammi, IKWRO director, the British government does not have a proper national strategy to deal with honour-based violence. Though IKWRO believes awareness of the issue has increased in recent years among police, teachers, social workers and other professionals, Nammi says that they "still don't really understand it".

Source: [AFP](#) 03 December 2011

## INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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### **Bill introduced to strengthen ban on FGM**

A bill has been introduced by Senator Harry Reid, the Senate Majority Leader, to introduce legislation that would criminalise the transportation of girls out of the United States for female genital mutilation (FGM) procedures.

The Girls Protection Act would serve as a follow up to legislation passed in 1996 that outlawed FGM in the United States. The bill proposes fines and up to five years in prison for those who violate the law.

Reid said: "While it is difficult to know precisely how many girls in the United States are at risk of being subject to FGM, estimates from various sources suggest that approximately 200,000 women living in the United States have been, or are, at risk of being subject to FGM."

An estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls have undergone FGM worldwide, a practice widely being regarded as a human rights violation.

FGM is designed to decrease women's sexual desire and is seen in many cultures as essential for a women's suitability for marriage. FGM also increases the risk of HIV transmission and infant and maternal mortality.

Source: [Feminist News](#) 02 December 2011

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## **Resolution to be moved in France's Parliament to debate criminalization of payment for sex**

A resolution drafted by a cross party commission will be voted in the National Assembly in France that would make prostitution a crime punishable by six months in prison. Anyone caught buying sex would face a €3,000 (£2,600) fine. The commission has argued that the criminalisation of clients is "the best way to see prostitution reduced in France, given that all the countries that have regulated this activity have seen an increase". According to Mr. Geoffroy, member of the ruling party, UMP and a member of the cross party commission, "From now on prostitution is regarded from the point of view of violence against women and that has become unacceptable for everyone". If successful, it will be followed by a bill in January.

Strass, the union for sex workers in France is preparing to demonstrate outside the parliament, opposing the introduction of the resolution. According to Maitresse Gilda, spokeswoman for Strass, the cross-party team behind the bill is trying to impose puritanical northern European sexual and moral mores on France. According to Strass, prostitution is a service that the sex workers provide and such a bill will adversely affect independent prostitutes.

Source: [The Guardian](#) 04 December 2011  
[BBC News](#) 06 December 2011

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## **Black lesbians and transgender men in South Africa live under constant fear of physical and sexual harassment, Human Rights Watch reports**

A Human Rights Watch investigation, 'We'll Show You You're a Woman' reports a high incidence of physical and sexual harassment of black lesbians and transgender men in South Africa including 'corrective rape' and murder.

The research includes interviews with 121 lesbian women, bisexual women and transgender men over two years in impoverished townships. Apart from overt cases of physical and sexual abuse, this group also faced verbal abuse, threat, intimidation and stigmatization from the society that led to their dropping out of school, losing their jobs and becoming economically marginalised. Even though same sex marriage is legal in South Africa, the reality on the ground is very different.

Source: [The Guardian](#) 05 December 2011

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## **EVENTS**

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## **BIHR Human Rights Tour**

### **Making Human Rights Happen**

**Date: 12/12/2011 - 10:00 - 16:30**

**Venue: Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA**

What's the role of human rights in a period of cut backs to public services? What is the role of human rights in protecting the vulnerable? Do human rights offer an effective tool for people wishing to challenge the impact of service cuts or changes? How do we make sure we balance one person's rights against the interests of society as a whole?

These are the questions at the heart of a Human Rights Tour by BIHR.

**To book and for more information click on the following link**

<http://www.bihar.org.uk/events/bihar-national-human-rights-tour-information-page>

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## **DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES**

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### **Equality Now**

#### **Kyrgyzstan: Call to end bride kidnapping**

In 2009, on her way home from university, Vulkan was abducted by a man who wanted her for his wife and imprisoned in his house. When she tried to escape, a female relative of the "groom" threatened that she would be cursed if she dared step over the threshold to leave. Vulkan now reluctantly lives with her abductor as his wife, having been forced to give up university and any thought of a job, and is determined never to allow any sons she may have to kidnap a bride.

**To take action follow this link**

[http://www.equalitynow.org/take\\_action/kyrgyzstan\\_action391](http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/kyrgyzstan_action391)

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## **Eaves**

### **End Detention of victims of trafficking campaign**

Stop detaining trafficked people - Victims of trafficking are victims of crime, not criminals.

Every day men, women and children are trafficked into and within the UK, experiencing slavery, rape, desperation and fear. Some vulnerable victims are identified and helped by Government and charities; however, due to a flawed system, an untold number are improperly detained in prisons and detention centres.

These individuals were lied to and harmed in the UK, but instead of focusing on arresting and prosecuting the criminals who trafficked and exploited them, many who also committed other crimes in our communities across the UK, the Government continues to put victims in prisons and detention centres.

Their crimes? Over 95% of Poppy Project clients in detention or prison lost their freedom because a trafficker gave them a fake passport; others stole food to survive – crimes that only happened because they were trafficked here. We call on the Government to ensure that anyone who may be a victim of trafficking is properly identified and freed from unfair detention or incarceration.

**Please sign and share petition**

<https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/18933>

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## **REPORTS & CONSULTATIONS**

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### **Battered, broken, bereft - new rough sleeping report, St Mungo's**

Three out of five outreach workers across the country say they are seeing an increasing number of rough sleepers, according to new research published today by homelessness charity St Mungo's.

Moreover, almost three quarters (71%) of those surveyed did not believe that there was enough emergency accommodation for rough sleepers in their area

The report highlights relationship breakdowns, domestic violence and mental health conditions as three of the main traumas leading people to sleep rough on the streets today:

- Relationship breakdown is the largest single trigger of rough sleeping cited by outreach workers, leading to 42% of male rough sleeping.
- Among women, 35% slept rough after leaving home to escape domestic violence.
- Perhaps the most shocking finding is that 57% of outreach workers believe that the number of rough sleepers in their area with mental health problems has increased over the last five years.

[Battered broken bereft St Mungos rough sleeping report October 2011](#)

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### **Homeless Link**

Homeless Link has published a Domestic Violence page:

The page contains statistics around domestic violence and homelessness, indicators that someone may be experiencing DV, how to raise the issue of domestic violence – what to say and what to avoid saying.

For more information follow this link [www.homeless.org.uk/domestic-violence](http://www.homeless.org.uk/domestic-violence)

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### **E-Learning: Sexual, reproductive and mental health**

A resource developed for busy mental health professional, as an easy-to-use guide to key aspects of sexual and reproductive health in the context of mental illness, with clear sign-posting for those of you who want to take this subject further.

Some people say that sexual health (SH) is as integral to a person's life and relationships as is mental health (MH). We know how mental illness, sexual violence and abuse, are often side-lined, not least because of prejudice, stigma, misunderstanding and fear.

The e-learning resources will help you identify ways in which sexual health matters for the people you work with, as well as assist you to overturn some of the negatives, as you strive to improve their holistic health and well-being.

For more information follow the following link  
<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/sexualhealth/index.asp#>

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### **Home Office – Consultation**

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## **Domestic violence disclosure scheme**

The Home Office is launching a consultation asking whether the protection of victims of domestic violence can be improved by the establishment of a national domestic violence disclosure scheme and, if so, how such a scheme could work in practice.

This consultation seeks views on whether to introduce a scheme for disclosing information about an individual's history of domestic violence to a new partner.

**The consultation closes on 13 January 2012.**

**For more information and to respond to the consultation click [here](#)**

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## **TRAINING**

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### **Rights of Women**

**Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence**

**29 February 2012  
1 day course, women only  
London**

All too often women receive only partial information as to their legal options when experiencing domestic violence. This popular course has been compiled so that you gain a full knowledge of legal remedies possible for victims of domestic violence and learn how to tailor your advice on available options for each individual woman you are supporting. You will be provided with a thorough knowledge of non-molestation and occupation orders, including enforcement options and how to apply. An evaluation of remedies available from the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 will also be given.

You will then be guided through the available criminal law remedies and will receive specific opportunities to increase your knowledge of protections available to victims in criminal law proceedings.

The course has been updated to include a legal overview of the newly piloted Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs), crucial information for anyone supporting victims of domestic violence.

Each participant will receive a copy of the Domestic Violence Injunction handbook and a copy of From Report to Court, a widely acclaimed legal guide to the criminal justice system for women who have experienced sexual violence.

### **Just married? The law on marriage, divorce and forced marriage**

**21 March 2012**

**1 day course, women only**

**London**

This “myth-busting” one day course will enable you to support women from the UK and abroad to understand marriage, divorce and forced marriage. The morning session will enable you to identify a legal marriage, and understand the law on foreign and religious marriages, as well as explaining the legal consequences of marriage. The course will then clarify the ways in which a marriage can be ended (divorce, judicial separation and annulment) and finally give an overview of the law on financial relief further to the breakdown of a marriage.

The afternoon session will focus on forced marriage and aims to enhance your knowledge of the law and enable you to support women at risk of, or who have experienced, forced marriage. The session will explain the legal remedies that exist to protect victims of forced marriage and will give you an understanding of the procedure for getting a forced marriage protection order.

Participants will receive a copy of the Government’s Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage and a range of Rights Of Women legal guides including, A Guide to Divorce, a Guide to Marriage and a Guide to Financial Arrangements on Marriage Breakdown.

#### **Costs:**

Small voluntary sector organisation (income less than £250k) - £75

Voluntary sector organisation (income between £250 and £500k) - £100

All other organisations - £125

#### **Lunch and refreshments provided**

**For more information contact the training officer: 0207 251 6575**

**[training@row.org.uk](mailto:training@row.org.uk)**

**<http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/training.php>**

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## **Tender Training Update**

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

**Dates: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £75**

This training will equip participants with an understanding of the issues for women experiencing violence from men they know. This will include exploring the pressures on women to stay in violent relationships and what might prevent them from seeking and securing the help they need.

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

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

**Date: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £125**

This training will practically examine how drama techniques can be used to engage young people in order to explore the early warning signs of abusive relationships, what abuse is and how to seek support.

This very practical day will equip participants with a clear understanding of the key issues of abuse and violence in relationships. Participants will explore a range of drama exercises that can be used to engage young people.

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

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

**Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £125**

This training programme is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge around:

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

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

**Three Day Training: Developing and Delivering Domestic Violence Training**  
**Dates: Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £565**

This is an Open College Network Accredited course (Level 3).

The course will increase participants' understanding of the relevant information, models and theories required to plan and deliver basic Multi Agency Awareness and Best Practice Domestic Violence Training in a range of settings. Participants will gain the research and group work skills required to plan and deliver basic Multi Agency Awareness and Good Practice Domestic Violence Training.

The course is aimed at participants who have a good grounding in the subject and who are planning to deliver training on issues of domestic violence. They should have some training experience or similar transferable skills. The course will also help those who have a strategic or developmental role who want to increase their domestic violence presentation skills.

**For more information or to request a booking form, please contact Dorota Small at Tender [dorota@tender.org.uk](mailto:dorota@tender.org.uk); 0207 431 7227**

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## VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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### UK Feminista

**Project Manager: Grassroots Activism**  
**Duration: 8 months (temporary contract)**  
**Hours of work: 14 hours per week**  
**Salary: £25,000 pro rata**

The Project Manager build a national activist network and support activists to raise awareness about the continued need for feminism. This will be done by supporting UK Feminista's Regional Organisers, developing online training & information resources, and coordinating UK Feminista's annual 'Summer School' event.

**Project Manager: Policy and Campaigns**  
**Duration: 12 months (temporary contract)**  
**Hours of work: 3 days per week (21 hours)**  
**Salary: £25,000 pro rata**

The Project Manager will coordinate a unique, high profile project called 'Building a Feminist Future'. The aim of the project is to develop public and political consensus around where feminism is, where we want to get to, and how we get there. This will be achieved through a series of 'big tent' initiatives and associated campaign actions.

**The deadline for applications is 11th December 2011.**

**For more information about the roles and to apply please visit**  
[www.ukfeminista.org.uk](http://www.ukfeminista.org.uk)

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## **Mosac**

**Operations Director (21 hours per week)**  
**Closing date: 9th December 2011 at 17.00**  
**Salary for 21 hours: £26,700.00 (FTE: £44,500.00)**

Mosac is an established, award winning charity that works at a local and national level to support non abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children.

We are looking to appoint a highly motivated individual with significant knowledge and experience in management; financial accounts; and funding and fundraising. Educated to a minimum of first degree level or equivalent, the ideal candidate will have extensive knowledge of the Voluntary sector.

You will be IT literate with exceptional organisational and interpersonal skills and experience of working in a culturally diverse organisation. Effective communication and influencing skills at a senior level will come naturally to you.

**Please review the full job description and apply by downloading an application form from our website: [www.mosac.org.uk](http://www.mosac.org.uk) Along with details of your eligibility to work in the UK.**

**If you require any additional details please contact**  
[denisehubble@mosac.org.uk](mailto:denisehubble@mosac.org.uk)

**Please also send an electronic copy of your application to this email address.**

**Helpline or Advocate Volunteer**

We are looking for volunteers to work for our Advocacy service and on our National Helpline. We offer:

- 10 week training programme including: Advocacy skills / listening skills, safeguarding children and issues surrounding sexual abuse
- Regular supervision
- Opportunities in specific training areas

**The next training course starts on: 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2012**

**If you are interested in this new and challenging opportunity and would like to know more please contact: Niki Fayase on 0208 293 8582 or [niki@mosac.org.uk](mailto:niki@mosac.org.uk) for an application pack.**

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***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*



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