

## **WNC Violence Against Women Working Group and E-Network NEWS UPDATE – 12 November 2008**

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### **News, legislation and policy update**

#### **From: Womens Aid**

##### **Women's Aid launches The Expect Respect Toolkit**

The Expect Respect Educational Toolkit consists of one easy to use 'Core' lesson for each year group from reception to year 13 and is based on themes that have been found to be effective in tackling domestic abuse.

Although the Expect Respect Education Toolkit is targeted for use by teachers within schools, it can just as easily be used by a range of other professionals working with children and young people in a variety of settings such as youth clubs or play schemes. You do not need to download the whole toolkit. You can just download the introductory section and the year that is appropriate to the age group you are working with.

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100280001&sectionTitle=Educational+Toolkit>

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#### **From: Refuge**

##### **You can afford to leave: a financial guide for women and children experiencing domestic violence** (funded by HBOS Foundation)

Please see attached the research and financial guides launched by Refuge on Tuesday 11 November 2008.



Addressing Needs  
(Web).pdf



Whats yours is mine  
(Web).pdf



You can afford  
(web).pdf

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#### **From: Warwick University**

Please see the attached project information sheet about a new project on child contact in BMER communities in the UK.



Child Contact  
Research Project Info

**Source: The Guardian Tuesday October 28 2008**

## **Victims of domestic violence left out of social exclusion agenda**

### ***Cabinet office admits information too patchy for domestic violence to be included***

Women's groups are outraged that victims of domestic violence have not been included in the government's social exclusion agenda.

Ann Watt, deputy director of the Social Exclusion Task Force, told a national, cabinet-supported conference last week that information was too patchy for domestic violence to be featured in a public service delivery agreement that aims to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and employment, education or training.

But women's groups are incensed because they argue that victims of domestic and sexual violence under-report and are already marginalised from mainstream services.

Helen Rice, chair of the Women's Resource Centre (WRC), said: "Are they really saying that victims of domestic violence are too socially excluded to be included by the Social Exclusion Taskforce? Basically what they're saying is that we can't be bothered to find out any more data because actually it's too hard. If they haven't got the data, then it's their job, surely, to get the data, otherwise that group will remain socially excluded."

She warned that the omission meant that, "When local area agreements are formed, it won't be a priority for local authorities to include domestic violence in their strategic planning."

The WRC, which supports and trains women's organisations, argues that sufficient data does exist and it criticises the government for pigeon-holing violence against women into criminal justice, which it says misses out other crucial impacts domestic violence can have on women's health, employment and education.

Nicola Harwin, chief executive of Women's Aid, said her organisation had been collecting data for the past 35 years and called for a review of the entire public service delivery agreements (PSAs), in which she believed that domestic violence suffered too low a profile.

PSA 16, from which domestic violence is excluded, is one of 30 PSAs set out in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review that reflect the government's top priorities and help determine which issues local authorities will fund. It focuses on four vulnerable groups: adults with secondary mental health problems, adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities, offenders under probation supervision and care leavers.

A cabinet spokesman said: "At the time we were developing this PSA, we had to find robust local authority level data on employment and accommodation rates for each of the target groups. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the data we needed on victims of domestic violence. It's the first PSA on socially excluded adults, and we knew that it would not include every vulnerable group."

**From: OBJECT**

150 people flocked to a meeting in Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> November, urging the Government to move quickly on plans to toughen the licensing of lap dancing clubs. The meeting, organised by Object and the Fawcett Society, saw overwhelming support for closure of a licensing loophole which means that since introduction of the Licensing Act 2003, lap dancing clubs have been licensed as cafes or restaurant. The number of UK lap dancing clubs has subsequently doubled since 2004, feeding what speakers at the meeting highlighted as a sexist culture of seeing women as sex objects, not human beings.

The Government has announced that it plans to give local councils greater powers to control the number of lap dancing clubs in their area and speakers, ranging from cross-party MPs, leading women's rights campaigners, a licensing expert, a woman with long term experience of working in lap dancing clubs and a representative from the Local Government Association, all urged for licensing reforms to be included in the Policing and Crime Reduction Bill, due to be introduced later this month by the Home Office.

**The meeting was chaired by Polly Toynbee, Guardian commentator, who said:**

"Lap dancing clubs are springing up in residential areas and there is nothing we can do about it. There is no doubt at all about the urgent action that must be taken by Government."

**Dr Sasha Rakoff, Director of Object, said at the meeting:**

"It's great to see so many people here making a stand against sexism. Lap dancing clubs should be licensed in the same way as sex shops and peep shows. The Government must act now and change the law in the Policing and Crime Reduction Bill."

**Dr Katherine Rake, Director of the Fawcett Society, said at the meeting:**

"There has been a normalisation of the sex industry. We've sleepwalked into a situation where sex is bought and sold like a commodity. It is time to take the power from the hands of the very few that own and run lap dancing clubs and give it back to local communities."

**Nadine Stavonina-de Montagnac, award-winning screenwriter and a survivor of the sex industry, said at the meeting:**

"Because it gets glamourised women get tricked into the industry. The reality is horrific. It's time to call a spade a spade and licence lap dancing clubs as Sex Encounter Establishments."

**Beatrix Campbell from the Women's National Commission said at the meeting:**

"The problem isn't sex, it's sexism."

**Richard Kemp from the Local Government Association said at the meeting:**

"If you can't control lap dancing clubs it affects culture. I don't believe a proliferation of lap dancing clubs is good for the city."

All speakers supported the key call that, given the current rate of expansion of UK lap dancing clubs, legislation must be introduced urgently.

**From: Lilith**

Please find enclosed the November Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) monthly email update. Sent on the last Friday of every month, the update is full of information for organisations who work in the sexual violence sector. If you have events or information you would like to be included email [cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk).



SVAAN Update  
November 08.doc

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**From: Home Office**

Victims of domestic violence will receive extra help and support from six new Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. The new courts will be in Wales, the East Midlands, North East, North West and South East. They will add to the 98 SDVCs across England and Wales that are now a fundamental part of the government's efforts to improve the support and care provided for victims of domestic violence.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease201008b.htm>

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**From: UNIFEM**

The ***Say NO to Violence against Women*** campaign will run until 25 November 2008, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, when UNIFEM will hand over all signatures to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Signatures are collected at [www.saynotoviolence.org](http://www.saynotoviolence.org).

Please find attached a Power point which through a quiz provides basic info on violence against women.



Say NO PPT1.ppt

***Heads of State from 16 countries joined UNIFEM's Say NO campaign: More than 51 Governments have signed call to action***

Heads of State of 16 Ibero-American countries have signed on to UNIFEM's [Say NO to Violence against Women](http://www.saynotoviolence.org) campaign at the XVIII Ibero-American Summit in San Salvador that is concluding today. The Say NO initiative is an online advocacy initiative to make

ending gender-based violence a top priority worldwide. It was developed to feed into and support UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's [multi-year campaign](#) on the same issue.

"This unprecedented show of resolve at the highest level demonstrates that Governments are determined to take decisive action," said UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi. "We know that violence against women is a problem with a solution," she added. "It takes laws to end impunity; resources to provide protection and services to survivors. Yet above all, it takes political will and leadership, and this is what we have seen in San Salvador."

At the invitation of Enrique Iglesias, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat, the following Heads of State added their names: Cristina Fernández, Argentina; Albert Pintat Santolària, Andorra; Evo Morales, Bolivia; Michelle Bachelet, Chile; Oscar Arias, Costa Rica; Leonel Antonio Fernández Reyes, Dominican Republic; Rafael Correa, Ecuador; Elías Antonio Saca, El Salvador; Álvaro Colom, Guatemala; Manuel Zelaya, Honduras; Felipe Calderón, Mexico; Martín Torrijos, Panama; Alan García, Peru; José Sócrates, Portugal; and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Spain. President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela had signed on earlier in the week.

Government Ministers from throughout the region, along with high-ranking UN officials, joined the Heads of State in San Salvador by adding their names. Worldwide, representatives at the ministerial level or higher from 51 Governments have now expressed their support and signed on to the Say NO campaign. Parliamentarians from more than 70 countries have joined the effort as well. In particular, the Say NO campaign has served as a platform for hundreds of thousands to show that there is an ever-growing movement of people who are determined to put an end to this pandemic human rights violation that affects as many as one in three women and girls.

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### **From: Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**

The fifth issue of Equality News from EHRC has just been circulated. The following link gives further details about the Commission's 1st anniversary, their legal strategy, regional news, future events and more –

<http://cecollect.com/ve/ZZpUI71V31iV65j8798/VT=0/page=11#2>

### **Consultations**

#### **From: EHRC**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is currently consulting on it's:

- **Strategic plan** for 2009-12 (deadline for phase 1: 7 December. There will be second phase to this consultation.)
- **Equality Scheme** (deadline: 7 December)
- **Grants Programme** (deadline: 21 January)

In November and December 2008 EHRC is holding about 30 consultation and involvement events across England, Scotland and Wales as well as running an online consultation, in order to capture a wide range of views on these areas of work at an early stage in their development. For further details –

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/Pages/Consultnov08.aspx>

## Conferences, training and events

### From: The House Magazine

#### **Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable: Supporting Victims of Private Space Violence 10 December 2008**

Enclose speaker details for the forthcoming **Westminster Briefing** conference entitled “**Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable: Supporting Victims of Private Space Violence**” which will be hosted by **The House Magazine** on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 in Westminster. The conference will be chaired by **Anthony Wills** (Chief Executive, *Standing Together Against Domestic Violence*) with speakers including:

- Margaret Moran MP (Chair, *All Party Group Domestic Violence*)
- Gillian Guy (Chief Executive, *Victim Support*)
- Nicola Harwin (Chief Executive, *Women's Aid*)
- Gillian Harrison (Head of Court Procedures and Evidence Section, Better Trials Unit - *Office for Criminal Justice Reform*)
- Dave McCallum (Bristol Child Protection Unit, *Avon and Somerset Police*)
- Steve Allen (City of Westminster Borough Commander, *Metropolitan Police Service*)
- Diana Nammi (Director, *Kurdish and Iranian Women's Rights Organisation*)

Fewer victims are in need of more support than those who suffer crimes at the hands of their ‘nearest and dearest’ in their own homes. Organisations offering support to such people then commonly face a number of challenges. These include encouraging the victim to recognise their victimhood and report their crime, providing specialist emotional support and gathering hard to obtain evidence. Participants at this Westminster Briefing conference will have the opportunity to consider latest government measures to support victims of private space violence including **survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, trafficking/sexual exploitation and honour crime**. Delegates will investigate best practice in supporting the most vulnerable throughout the legal process and examine measures to reduce the associated trauma experienced by ‘victims on trial’.

For further information, please see an attached agenda.

Should you/your colleagues wish to attend please complete and return (by email or fax) the attached reservation form at your earliest convenience in order to secure your delegate place(s). If you prefer, you can also **book online by clicking here**. Please forward the details of this event to relevant colleagues within your organisation.



Westminster Briefing -  
Supporting Victims Co



Westminster Briefing -  
Supporting Victims Co



Westminster Briefing -  
Supporting Victims Co



BK Form CD128.doc

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## From: Refugee Support

### **Disabled refugees & asylum seekers: opportunities for new approaches**

Women from WinVisible and network will be speaking at: **Supporting disabled refugees and asylum seekers: opportunities for new approaches**

**Friday 14 November 2008, 9.30am – 1pm**

Greater London Authority, City Hall Committee Rooms 4 and 5 The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA (Fully wheelchair accessible)

WinVisible was invited onto the Steering Group for this research, which is a project of the Metropolitan Support Trust. We helped to ensure that women's experiences were brought out, disabled asylum seekers were included alongside people with refugee status, and that invisible disabilities were taken into account. Women in our network gave in-depth interviews for the main research.

There is much more we would have liked this project to accomplish, and we hope to raise some of it when we speak. We would be delighted if you were able to come.

Please contact Sarah Walker of MST to book your place – she has confirmed that places are still available. You can email her on: [Sarah.Walker@mst-online.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Walker@mst-online.org.uk) and/or call her on tel: 020 7501 2234. More information is in the attached invitation and letter, and you can find transport directions on the GLA website [http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/city\\_hall/index.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/city_hall/index.jsp)

Lunch is provided afterwards, for free. If you are staying for the lunch, please specify any dietary needs.

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## From: Comfort Momoh

### **25 November - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Awareness Day and Launch of the National Action Plan for UK**

FGM is an attack on women's sexuality and autonomy as well as being a Child Protection issue. We must all join together to ensure that FGM is eradicated in the UK and abroad. We have had consultations, meetings and work-shops to get together the practising communities and professionals who have been working with women and girls affected by FGM for many years.

Please see attached for full details of the event – cost: £25.



NAP -25TH NOV  
2008.doc

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### **From: Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP)**

CROP's campaign seeks to raise public awareness about one of many challenges confronting parents whose children are sexually exploited, especially children in the age group of 16 to 18. Safeguarding needs of this particular group of children is not a priority in the work of child protection agencies across the country as evidenced from CROP's experience and that of other organisations. Once 16 (age of consent) children are perceived as making a choice, consenting to be with the perpetrators and so cannot be disenthralled. This new campaign highlights the fact that when groomed and controlled, a child's freedom and capacity to chose is grossly limited; it asks the leaders of local councils if and how their local authorities are delivering their legal obligation to **safeguard all children under the age of 18 from sexual exploitation.**

#### **Want to add your support to the campaign?**

All you need to do is to obtain a copy of the letter from CROP and send it to the leader of your local council.

**Join CROP in their efforts to *Make Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation a Performance Target for Police and Local Safeguarding Children Boards*** by signing our online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/PTONE/petition.html>

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### **From: Action Aid**

Action Aid is launching a campaign on HIV and Violence Against Women on World AIDS Day - 1 December. They are developing a campaign action that they want to get out to as many people as possible. Below are the details of the campaign, They hope this will be something will resonate with your membership. Would you be interested in feature the campaign in your December newsletter or on the website?

#### **Put your foot down**

*Take action on HIV and AIDS and violence against women*

#### **Context**

More than 15 million women are living with HIV globally. Every half a minute another becomes infected.

Widespread violence against women and girls increases their risk of HIV infection. For example in South Africa, the country with the highest number of people living with HIV, a girl has a higher chance of being raped than of learning to read. The women ActionAid works with have told us that the threat of violence deters them from refusing sex or asking their partners to use a condom even when they suspect the men are HIV positive. Up to a

sixth of women face violence in the home. These statistics cannot be divorced from the fact that a quarter of pregnant women in South Africa test positive for HIV.

### **Our campaign ask**

In their new strategy on HIV and AIDS in developing countries, the UK government acknowledged the need to tackle violence against women and girls in order to combat HIV and AIDS. But so far, they have been slow to take action. We are asking supporters to **put their foot down** and tell DFID to take action on HIV and AIDS and violence against women. We want 2950 to take part, to represent the number of women who contract HIV each day.

### **Online action**

We are developing an exciting web package, including a viral email, widgets for social websites, web pages and online case studies. We will be asking the public to *put their foot down* on the website. We are aiming to get around 2000 actions online.

### **Offline action**

More committed campaigners will be sending us a shoe tagged with their name and where they're from to us, to add to our Put Your Foot Down petition. We'll develop these shoes into an installation to hand in to the government for International Women's Day on March 8. Potentially, we may work with a well known artist on this.

We'll be creating materials, to drive people to the website to take action and to help them along if they want to get more involved. This could involve organising a party to collect shoes or taking photos or videos of them *putting their foot down*.

### **What we'd like you to do**

We'd like you to spread the word about the campaign amongst your supporters and networks and get them taking action.

This could involve

- a link to the action from your website/e-newsletter/blogs/facebook pages
- A mention in a regular newsletter
- Materials or a stall at your conferences/events

We will be happy to list all our partners who have worked with us during the campaign, both on our website and with the final hand-in and installation.

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### **From: MOSAC**

Please find attached invitation to Mosac's afternoon conference and AGM



mosac invitation.pdf



Booking form mosac  
agm 2008.doc

**From: University of Bristol**

Please find attached information about forthcoming seminar on domestic violence and disability. Places are free but limited. Therefore there is a charge for those who book a place and do not attend or cancel. Please see the attached for booking information



IAS seminar Nov 08  
plus Gill.doc

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**From: Wales Women's National Coalition**

Please find attached a flyer for our forthcoming event on Wednesday 26 November, **Light a Candle**, to mark International Day to End Violence against Women. There is also a response form underneath the flyer for your RSVP.

The event will take place in Llandaff Cathedral from 10.30—11.30am. Special guest **Rhodri Morgan AM** will be in attendance, and two inspirational women from our member organizations will be speaking: **Jan Pickles OBE** (Cardiff Women's Safety Unity) and **Morgan Fackrell** (Cardiff Women's Aid).

This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year running that WWNC has organized this multi-faith event, and we're hoping to make it bigger and better than ever, in order draw people's attention to the huge and ongoing problem of violence against women, and to show support for those women who have been and continue to be victims of violence. Please forward this flyer widely to your networks, and to anyone who you think may be interested. We want to see as many people there as possible to support this extremely worthwhile cause!



Light A Candle 2008  
flyer\_FINAL\_bilingual.

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If you have any news, information or publications you would like circulated to the WNC Violence Against Women Working Group, please e-mail Maria Turay [maria.turay@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:maria.turay@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or Eleri Butler [Eleri.Butler@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Eleri.Butler@communities.gsi.gov.uk)