

---

**WNC Violence Against Women Working Group and E-Network  
NEWS UPDATE – 22 October 2008**

---

*Responsibility for the content of these notices belongs to the partner organisations submitting them.  
While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, WNC cannot be held responsible for the content of  
those pages referenced by an external link*

**News, legislation and policy update**

**From Welsh Women's Aid**

Nerys Evans, the Plaid Cymru Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales, has set up an internet blog for women to talk about their experiences of domestic abuse and show the human stories behind the domestic abuse statistics. Anyone can contribute anonymously by e-mailing Nerys at [nerys.evans@wales.gov.uk](mailto:nerys.evans@wales.gov.uk)

Nerys Evans states 'This blog's aim is to give an opportunity for women to talk about their experiences of domestic abuse and show the human stories behind the domestic abuse statistics. I'm calling on the One Wales Assembly Government to fund an awareness raising campaign to challenge attitudes towards violence against women, both domestic abuse and otherwise'.

The blog can be found by clicking on the following link

<http://storiesbehindthestats.blogspot.com/2008/10/south-wales-womans-personal-experience.html>.

---

**From Lesley Orr, Scottish Women's Aid**

Lesley would like to hear from anyone who has heard reports or allegations of asylum-seeking women who are pregnant being given drugs to induce miscarriage, thereby making it possible to deport the women concerned.

If anyone has any information on this please contact Lesley by e-mailing [lesley.orr@scottishwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:lesley.orr@scottishwomensaid.org.uk)

---

**From: End Violence Against Women Coalition**

EVAW has signed up to the Children are Unbeatable Alliance which is seeking to remove legal provisions which allow for children to be hit <http://www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk>

---

**From: Rape Crisis Scotland**

**THIS IS NOT AN INVITATION TO RAPE ME**  
**New campaign launched to tackle 'women-blaming' attitudes to rape**

This is supported by the Scottish Government and in the first stage will be running a high profile billboard and poster campaign, over the next two weeks.

Attached is the Press Release from Rape Crisis Scotland, the press release from the STUC, and a link to the campaign website.

<http://www.thisisnotaninvitationtorapeme.co.uk/home/>

---

**From: European Women's Lobby**

**Support the European Women's Lobby 50/50 Campaign "No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality!"**

The European wide Campaign aims to increase the presence of women at the highest level of European politics and to encourage women and voters in general to cast their votes in the next European elections. Now the EWL invites people from across Europe to support their campaign by signing the petition and by taking part in lobbying action.

The Campaign website [www.5050democracy.eu](http://www.5050democracy.eu) offers different tools to be involved and influence political parties and decision-makers in view of the European elections 2009 and the nominations for the European Commission and other EU top jobs.

---

**From: Feminist Coalition Against Prostitution (FCAP) UK**

FCAP UK have created a petition on the 10 Downing Street website calling for the Prime Minister to criminalise the purchase of sex as well as to fund services to help women exit prostitution. You can see the full petition here:

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/FCAPpetition1/>

---

**Publications and newsletters**

**From: Eaves Housing**

Please find this week's Women's Weekly News from Eaves Housing attached.



WWN331.doc

**From: the Race Equality Foundation**

*Better Housing Briefing 9 on Domestic Violence and Housing Issues in BME communities* published by the Race Equality Foundation, October 2008.

<http://www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/housing/files/housing-brief9.pdf>

---

**From: Women's Resource Centre**

Please find attached a briefing from WRC on Violence Against Women, Health and the women's voluntary and community sector, just published.



VAW and Health  
Briefing Sept 08.pdf

**Consultations**

**From: Domestic Violence Intervention Project**

The deadline for the **Legal Services Commission consultation** regarding changes to the list of non-allowable disbursements in family cases has been extended to **27 October 2008**. The consultation includes within the proposed new list “*costs of or expenses in relation to risk assessments within section 16A Children Act 1989, including assessments of the risk of harm to a child in connection with domestic abuse to the child or another person*”

**Experts in the field agree that this move could have far-reaching consequences for safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of children.**

The Lord Chancellors Department established guidelines in 2001 which state that wherever domestic violence is established as a concern, the Courts should:

- Decide whether to seek advice as a means of assisting the court in assessing risk
- Decide whether to make treatment for the abuser a condition of future contact
- Decide whether contact should be supervised and if so by whom

Following these guidelines DVIP amongst a handful of agencies across UK developed expert risk assessments for cases in private and public law where Domestic Violence is a concern. These assessments (in private law) are funded by LSC.

Despite the guidelines it has been a continuing battle to get these principles and procedures enshrined in practice. This was highlighted in the Home Affairs Select Committee report into Domestic Violence (May 2008) which noted “*We were moved by some of the accounts of abuse in child contact cases expressed in our eConsultation. We support the call by the Family Justice Council for a move away from the presumption that*

*the violent partner will obtain contact or unsupervised contact in domestic violence cases. We further recommend that the Ministry of Justice, in partnership with the Family Justice Council, carries out a full investigation to determine the risk posed to children by unsupervised contact."* The LSC proposals will make it less likely that the Courts will have access to evidence which would preclude a decision to allow contact which is unsafe.

We enclose a submission which has been drafted by RESPECT, ourselves and Ahimsa and which RESPECT is currently also sending to key agencies within the field to add their voices, including Womens Aid, the Men's Coalition, GLDVP, Action for Children. We ask that you take whatever action you feel appropriate and possible at this late stage to draw attention to the extremely negative consequences of this proposal.

Objections should be sent to: Family Policy Team, LSC, 4th Floor, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London, SW1P 2BS and marked Response to Consultation Paper.

**This is an urgent matter that we seek your assistance with wherever possible. The deadline has been extended to the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008** You can also respond electronically to [family@legalservices.gov.uk](mailto:family@legalservices.gov.uk)



LSCRespect\_1.doc

## Conferences, training and events

### From: Oxfam

#### **Free training for women: Birmingham 3rd and 4th December 2008**

#### **"Making the Gender Equality Duty Work"**

Oxfam are working in collaboration with the **Public Law Project** to hold a series of training sessions in the UK on the recent Gender Equality Duty. On the **3rd and 4th December we will be holding a free 2 day training event for women in Birmingham on gender, the duty and how it can be used.**

Due to limited spaces, please do phone or email me if you would like to attend or indeed if you would like further information about the GenderWorks project and training.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYER.



GW\_Birmingham\_flyer\_Dec.doc

**Moving Forward: Positioning Culturally Sensitive Provision**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Wolverhampton Science Park**

There is only one week left to take advantage of the **early booking discount** on conference prices!

Don't miss out. Make sure you book before **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October** to receive the substantial discount available.

The **Moving Forward** conference is a pioneering conference specifically addressing the provision of culturally competent domestic violence services across the country. You will have the unique opportunity to hear from a range of high profile keynote speakers including:

**Rt Hon Margaret Moran MP** Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence

**Nicki Norman** Deputy Chief Executive, Women's Aid England

**Ceri Hayes** Head of Policy & Advocacy, Womankind Worldwide

**Avantika Hari** Writer & Director of "*Land, Gold, Women*"

**Chief Constable Brian Moore** Wiltshire Police & Domestic Violence Lead, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

To book your place now, please contact Paramjit Singh either by email: [P.Singh6@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:P.Singh6@wlv.ac.uk) or telephone: 01902 322360. Alternatively, please complete booking form attached and return to the address provided.

---

**From Professor Heidi Safa**

Invite to Professor Safa's Inaugural Professorial Lecture, 'Race, Gender and Educational Desire' and the launch of her new book, 'Race, Gender and Educational Desire: Why Black Women Succeed and Fail' on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Hall, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL.

Please RSVP to Elaine Peck [e.peck@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:e.peck@ioe.ac.uk) and let her know if you will be attending this event for catering and seating arrangements.



Professor Heidi Safa  
Mirza lecture invite.pdf

### From Public Policy Exchange

The forthcoming Public Policy Exchange Symposium, entitled [Tackling the Hidden Landscape of Domestic Abuse and 'Honour' Based Violence](#), takes place on **Thursday 13th November 2008 at One Whitehall Place, Westminster.**

The speaker line-up includes:

- Deborah Jameson, Policy Advisor, Domestic Violence Unit, Department of Health
- Chief Constable Brian Moore, Domestic Violence Lead, ACPO
- Nazir Afzal OBE, Director (West London), Crown Prosecution Service
- Philip Balmforth, Vulnerable Persons Officer (Asian Female), Bradford District
- Prof. Aisha Gill, Professor of Criminology, Roehampton University

For further details, please see the attached overview or refer to the [official website](#) for this and other forthcoming PPE events. Should you/your colleagues wish to attend, please complete and return the enclosed registration form at your earliest convenience in order to secure your delegate place(s).



Overview.pdf



Programme.pdf



Registration.doc

---

### **From: OBJECT**

Please see the image below for invitation to Object's public meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Don't miss this critical opportunity to spell out why changing the licensing of lap dancing clubs as cafes is a key women's rights issue – the Government has indicated it will act – we need to make that a reality. **So come along and bring a friend!**


Also: Beatrix Campbell – the author, campaigner and social commentator has just been confirmed as a speaker.

You can RSVP for the event by replying to this email. Please circulate this email widely.

**PUBLIC MEETING: 4.11.08**

**REFORM LAPDANCE CLUB LICENSING**

Give local communities greater powers to control and regulate lap dancing clubs



**Date:** Tuesday 4th November 2008  
**Time:** 6.30pm - 8.30pm  
**Venue:** Portcullis House, London, SW1A 2LW  
**Chair:** Polly Toynbee, The Guardian  
**Speakers include:** Dr Katherine Rake, Fawcett Society; Dr Sasha Rakoff, Object; cross-party MPs, Local Government Association rep.

Lap dancing clubs are currently licensed like cafes, leading to the number of these clubs doubling since 2004. However lap dancing clubs are part of the sex industry and promote the sexist view that women are sex objects. Attend this crucial meeting and join in calls for tougher controls and regulation of lap dancing clubs.

RSVP to [sandrine@object.org.uk](mailto:sandrine@object.org.uk)

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**



**OBJECT**  
Challenging Objectification  
**STRIPPING THE ILLUSION**

[www.object.org.uk](http://www.object.org.uk)

**Fawcett**  
closing the inequality gap  
since 1866

[www.fawcettsociety.org.uk](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk)

Meeting organised in partnership by the Fawcett Society and Object

### From: Rape Crisis North East

Places are selling out fast for the 2nd North East Conference on Sexual Violence on Monday 24th November. If you are hoping to attend but haven't yet reserved your place then **don't delay - book today!**

The theme of this year's conference is: **'The impact of sexual violence on health and mental health'**. Please see attachments for more information and booking form.

I would be very grateful if you could forward this information on to your networks. **All proceeds from this conference are donated to Rape Crisis North East.**



2nd North East  
Conference on Sexua



2nd North East  
Conference on Sexua

**From: OBJECT**

**Fundraiser**

Object challenges the objectification of women through the 'normalising' of the porn and sex industries (eg through lap dancing or lad's mags). We are currently running a high profile campaign partnership with the Fawcett Society to reform the licensing of lap dancing clubs (currently licensed as cafes).

In the past we have successfully raised awareness over lad's mags and the Sport, with a Bill in Parliament, extensive media coverage and the drawing up of new retail codes over the display of 'unrecognised pornography'.

We are looking for a fundraiser experienced in sourcing and approaching private donors - such as business women experiencing 'lap dance culture' or public figures antagonised by the press.

Presently we can offer work on a commission basis.

A salaried consultancy fee (£40,000 pro rata) might be possible in future.

**For more information our OBJECT please visit our site <http://www.object.org.uk> or contact us at [ido@object.org.uk](mailto:ido@object.org.uk)**

---

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)