



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) newsletter

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I am pleased to welcome you to the Summer edition of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) newsletter.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in March and we have made progress in several areas on the VAWG Action Plan, which would not have been possible without constructive engagement from the voluntary sector and we are particularly pleased with the input into our planned regional commissioning events and continued engagement with Ministerial priorities.

If you have any questions relating to violence against women and girls, please email us at:

VAWGenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Christian Papaleontiou
Head of Interpersonal Violence Team

Girl Summit

On 22 July, the Prime Minister hosted the first Girl Summit, aimed at mobilising domestic and international efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) within a generation. UNICEF co-hosted the event.

The Prime Minister has identified tackling female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) as a priority with the aim of ending both within a generation. Girls and women have the right to live free from violence and discrimination and achieve their potential, but some are being prevented from doing so by harmful practices such as FGM and CEFM, which are illegal in the UK.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Home Secretary Theresa May and Secretary of State for International Development Justine Greening also attended the event, alongside heads of state, practitioners, survivors, charities and community groups both from international and domestic organisations.

The summit secured new commitments from the private sector, faith leaders, other civil society organisations and international governments. It was also an opportunity to share success stories and spread good practice in tackling these issues. Attendees heard from girls and women who have lived through the ordeal of FGM or CEFM, and from many inspiring individuals from affected communities who are now driving through changes so that other girls and women can enjoy greater opportunities in the future.

A new package of action and funding to protect millions of girls at home and abroad from female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage was announced at the Girl Summit including:

- A £1.4m FGM Prevention Programme, launched in partnership with NHS England to help care for survivors and safeguard those at risk;
- Public consultation on mandatory reporting for health, education and social work professionals in known FGM cases.
- New police guidance from the College of Policing and an inspection programme by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) that will look at how the police handle cases of FGM
- A consultation on proposals to introduce new civil orders designed to protect girls identified as being at risk of FGM



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- New legislation that will mean parents can be prosecuted if they fail to prevent their daughter being cut
- New legislation to grant victims of FGM lifelong anonymity from the time an allegation is made
- A new specialist FGM unit to promote training materials, guidelines and communications campaign.
- New programmes to prevent child, early and forced marriage in 12 developing countries
- An International Charter — calling for the eradication of these practices within a generation

You can read more about the Girl Summit and the speeches at [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk)

HMIC Review of Domestic Abuse

In September 2013, the Government commissioned Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to review the police response to domestic violence and abuse. The review was commissioned as the Home Secretary was concerned that the police response was not as good as it should be.

The review looked at the performance of forces across England and Wales to identify where improvements need to be made and examined four key areas: the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse; whether victims deemed to be at risk in the future are appropriately managed; whether police are learning from past experiences and adapting their response; and whether any changes need to be made to the overall police approach.

On 27 March 2014 HMIC reported its findings to the Home Office and exposed significant failings in the way police respond to victims of domestic violence. The report highlighted that poor management and supervision fails to reinforce the right behaviours, attitudes and actions of

officers. The overall police response to victims of domestic abuse is not good enough. This is despite considerable improvements in the service over the last decade, and the commitment and dedication of many able police officers and police staff. In too many forces there are weaknesses in the service provided to victims; some of these are serious and this means that victims are put at unnecessary risk. The full review can be seen at <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/inspections/police-response-to-domestic-violence-and-abuse/>

In response to HMIC’s report, the Home Secretary is leading a package of measures to drive improvements in the police response to domestic violence and abuse. This includes the establishment of a National Oversight Group to monitor delivery against HMIC’s recommendations which the Home Secretary is chairing. The Group comprises PCCs, senior representatives from the police, the College of Policing and representatives from the Third Sector. The first meeting of the Group took place on 10 June 2014. The Group will convene 4 times to report on progress on the delivery of actions against the recommendations from the HMIC Review. The Home Secretary has also written to domestic abuse leads within police forces, Chief Constables and PCCs underlining her expectation that forces have plans in place by September to address HMIC’s findings.

In June, the Home Office held a workshop inviting representatives of the voluntary and social community enterprise sector, academics and interested individuals to explore ways in which the police response to domestic abuse can be improved. The findings of the workshop will be fed back to the National Oversight Group for their consideration.



Violence Against Women and Girls Communications Insight Pack

The Home Office has published a Communications Insight Pack which has been developed to provide partners with key insights into violence against women and girls (VAWG) which can help to inform local communications activities.

The pack covers a wide range of VAWG areas and includes key national statistics, background information on policy, government and partner campaigns which tackle VAWG. It also signposts other useful research and how to access various free support materials which are currently available to partners. The pack will be updated on a regular basis as new statistics and campaigns become available. The pack is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-communications-insight-pack>

We would like to hear what you think about this pack, any comments you provide will be used to evaluate the pack to inform future updates. Once you have read the pack you can access the online survey to let us know your views via this link <http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/115218PQBRR>

Campaign to tackle Female genital Mutilation (FGM)

On 2 June the Home Office launched **a campaign to tackle female genital mutilation** within the UK. Posters aimed at mothers and carers who suspect a girl in their community is at risk of FGM can call the NSPCC’s free, 24-hour FGM helpline for advice and support. The helpline is available to anyone and people can report their suspicions of FGM anonymously and can also ask for advice and support if their own child is at risk of FGM.

Online advertising also targets professionals such as doctors, teachers and midwives, reminding them of their role in helping to prevent FGM and their duty to report it. Educational materials, including factsheets on FGM, are available to download from the NSPCC website.

Free resources, which include a DVD which features survivors of FGM, doctors and Kam Thandi from the NSPCC FGM helpline, discussing the issue and warning mothers and carers of the health dangers of the procedure, are also available. You can request a copy of the campaign brief, which has details of the free resources available and how to order them, by emailing FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

The campaign will run until the end of August and is being funded through the PROGRESS Programme of the European Union and the Home Office.

Campaign to tackle domestic violence

On 9 June the Home Office launched **a new campaign** which ran alongside the 2014 World Cup, urging young men to think about the devastating consequences of domestic abuse. Posters were placed in hundreds of male toilets across pubs and bars in England, and digital adverts are also featuring on the Sky Sports website and app. Aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds, the campaign reminds men that abuse doesn’t have to be physical – as threats and controlling behaviour also count.

The adverts remind potential perpetrators of the terrible impact of domestic abuse – both physical and psychological – on relationships. It signposts to support available through the charity Respect who run a dedicated phonenumber – 0808 802 4040 – that gives perpetrators and potential perpetrators help and advice on how to change

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their behaviour and build a better future for themselves and their family.

You can download a copy of the poster from the GOV.UK website.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS): VAWG Annual Crime Report and New Programme of Work on Rape

The effective prosecution of VAWG cases continues to be a priority for the CPS. On 2 July 2014, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) launched the CPS VAWG Crime Report for 2013-14 (available [here](#)). The report confirms the highest ever recorded conviction rate for domestic violence (74.6%) for the third year running; with 58,276 defendants convicted, a rise of nearly 6,000 defendants since 2012-13.

Across VAWG, the CPS has worked with the police to address the fall in volumes identified in the CPS VAWG Crime Report for 2012-13; succeeding in an overall turnaround during 2013-14. However, for cases flagged as rape, despite beginning to see a rise in volumes with a 25% rise in defendants charged during 2013-14, the conviction rate fell.

There is work underway across the criminal justice system which will help address this fall. For their part, on 6 June 2014, the DPP and the National Policing Lead for Rape published a joint CPS/Police National Rape Action Plan (available [here](#)). The Action Plan outlines a number of important steps to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of rape cases under three broad areas:

1. Striking the right balance between offender-centric investigations and ensuring an effective response to victims;

2. Ensuring that investigators and prosecutors have the right tools for handling rape cases;
3. Achieving continuous improvement through robust oversight and accountability.

The Action Plan was informed by a National Scrutiny Panel which met in April 2014. The Panel was co-chaired by the DPP and the National Policing Lead for Rape and made up of third sector organisations, police and prosecutors.

Alongside the Action Plan, Dame Elish Angiolini QC is conducting an independent review into the investigation and prosecution of rape in London. The review will take an evidence-based and victim-centred approach to developing a range of recommendations for the Metropolitan Police Service and the CPS by February 2015.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

DWP directly offers support to domestic violence and abuse victims in a number of ways. We work with officials in the Home Office and UK Visas and Immigration to ensure migrant spouse victims of domestic violence, who have been granted leave to remain outside the immigration rules under the 'Destitute Domestic Violence Concession', are able to access eligible income-related benefits.

We also have a specific easement from jobseeking conditions for Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who are victims of actual or threatened domestic violence. This means an initial 4 week exemption from jobseeking conditions and requirements to be actively looking for employment, providing certain conditions are met, which can extend to a total of 13 weeks where relevant evidence is provided. As well as these initiatives our operational staff signpost domestic violence victims to local support organisations. They are also developing partnership working opportunities with local voluntary and community support groups.

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We have been raising awareness of these policies across the country to the domestic violence and abuse champions we have in place in local areas. We have produced products, for operational colleagues and external stakeholders, which we hope will encourage disclosure from victims.

Becky Milsom, a domestic violence and abuse champion explains her experience with a vulnerable victim Anita (not her real name).

“Anita came to the Housing 4 Women refuge after her family stopped her from going to work or interacting with people as they wanted her to marry a man of their choice and not ‘dishonour’ the family. When I first met Anita, her confidence was wrecked and she was feeling really despondent. She didn’t feel capable of doing anything.

However, as we worked together during my visits to the refuge I gained Anita’s trust and put in place available measures for a DV victim such as the 13-week Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) easement, excusing victims from labour market conditionality requirements.

The easement period allowed Anita time to sort out her life. It allowed her the flexibility to move and settle into a new area, time to speak to a local charity specialist advice centre, and time to seek legal advice. She went on to complete an English language course and then an Adult Social Care course, which she passed, gaining a BTEC qualification.

Following this I prepared CV writing and interview preparation sessions for Anita and fellow residents at the refuge. She began applying for jobs and only a month later was employed by a local care provider. That was fantastic.”

Department for International Development (DFID)

‘What Works to Prevent Violence’ – the Research and Innovation Programme

DFID is investing £25 million (2013 to 2018) in the global ‘What Works to Prevent Violence’ research and innovation programme, which will create ground-breaking, robust new evidence on what makes effective interventions to end violence against women and girls. This will be a global public good, available to all.

The first component of the programme is led by South Africa Medical Research Council, which has published five new documents summarising the current state of knowledge on what works to prevent violence. The findings of the four evidence reviews are summarised in:

- [Summary of the Evidence and Research Agenda for What Works: A Global Programme to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls](#)

The individual evidence reviews are also available here:

- [What do we know about VAWG and what more do we need to know to prevent it?](#)
- [Effectiveness of interventions to prevent VAWG: a summary](#)
- [Effectiveness of response mechanisms to prevent VAWG: a summary](#)
- [Approaches to assess value for money and scale up of VAWG prevention](#)

The second component of the What Works programme is on VAWG in conflict and humanitarian crises and is now underway, led by the International Rescue Committee with CARE and George Washington University. The third component on economic and social costs of VAWG is currently being tendered.



For more information on the programme, please contact [Katie Chapman](#) and [Zaza Curran](#).

Office of the Children Commissioner – Inquiry into intra-familial child abuse

On Thursday 3 July 2014, the Office of the Children Commissioner’s (OCC) launched a two-year Inquiry into intra-familial child sexual abuse This follows its Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups which found that many victims of child sexual exploitation had been sexually abused in the family context, and that this abuse was often not identified nor addressed.

The Inquiry into Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse will:

- Assess the scale and nature of this form of abuse in England including among BME, LGBT, disabled and other minority groups of children and young people estimating the prevalence of that which is detected and undetected by statutory agencies
- Assess inter-agency and individual practice for preventing and responding to CSA in England, and its impact on children and young people
- Make recommendations for improving identification and prevention of CSA and child protection/law enforcement responses to CSA.

The Inquiry has defined intra-familial child sexual abuse as that which is perpetrated by a family member or which takes place in a family context or environment, whether or not by a family member.

To inform the Inquiry, the OCC commissioned the University of Middlesex to conduct a review of academic research, articles and other data on this type of abuse. The Rapid Evidence Assessment into Intra-familial Child Sexual abuse reviewed 57,000 papers and found significant gaps in what

is known about child sexual abuse in family environments, including:

- a lack of information about the first-hand opinions and experiences of the child protection system from children who have been sexually abused
- a lack of information on boys and young men who have been sexually abused in the family environment
- a lack of knowledge about the experiences of disabled children and those from ethnic minority groups.

The Inquiry will address these issues, and make recommendations to ensure that intra-familial child sexual abuse is properly identified and addressed by the relevant statutory and non-statutory agencies.

The Inquiry will be undertaken in accordance with the OCC’s statutory duty to promote and protect the rights of children in England.

If you have any questions about the Inquiry, please contact Dr. Graham Ritchie (graham.ritchie@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk).

Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

New places available on outcome measurement programme

Thirty new subsidised places are now available on CAADA’s outcome measurement programme for both commissioners and voluntary domestic abuse services. This tried and tested tool is already being used across England and Wales by over 35 services.

CAADA Insights ensures that evidence of “what works” is at the heart of the commissioning process. It helps commissioners discover exactly what local victims’ need

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and to assess the impact of domestic abuse services in improving outcomes. In turn, services find out how they compare to others in the sector and the difference their work is making to the lives of victims. This helps them evidence and develop good practice, and make the case for funding. The programme is used by the full range of community-based services and some refuges.

Subsidies are offered thanks to extra funding from the major grant making trusts. CAADA has also recently secured additional funding for the children’s version of Insights which will be rolled out from October.

Learn more about the subsidised Insights programme: www.caada.org.uk/commissioners/Insights-for-commissioners or contact CAADA’s team directly on insights@caada.org.uk to find out more or express interest in either the adult and/or the children’s Insights programmes.

CAADA is currently actively advising a number of commissioners across the country. Email commissioning@caada.org.uk to learn how your area can benefit or find out more on CAADA’s website: www.caada.org.uk/commissioners/information-for-commissioners.

Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA): New initiative to improve police training on domestic abuse

Domestic abuse victims will benefit from an improved police response thanks to a new review of police training on the issue. CAADA and the College of Policing are working in partnership to assess and improve the training that frontline and specialist officers receive, with the aim of driving up standards across the service.

The work, which will complete by early 2015, is part of a package of recommendations made by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in a recent review of the police

response to domestic abuse, published in March this year. HMIC also recommended that the experience of domestic abuse victims should play a central role in the new improved training, to ensure that police officers fully understand the complex nature of domestic abuse and are equipped to respond in the most effective way.

The partnership includes the secondment of a CAADA employee to the College of Policing for 6 months to:

- Review existing police training materials and revise as necessary.
- Design/deliver new train the trainers pack to up skill frontline and specialist officers.
- Design/deliver new qualification for chairs of multiagency forums, such as Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs).

To find out more about CAADA and the College of Policing, visit: www.caada.org.uk and www.college.police.uk.

Women’s Aid launch Football United Against Domestic Violence

On 10 June, Women’s Aid launched a new campaign, Football United Against Domestic Violence, in Parliament. Women’s Aid is working with national footballing bodies, sports media, football clubs, the police, players and fans to send a clear message that **domestic violence is always unacceptable**.

The campaign also aims to **call out sexist behaviour** that can underpin violence towards women and girls. Women’s Aid are asking the footballing community to join with us to **make a positive difference now** to raise awareness and **reduce the amount of domestic violence in the future**. Crime Prevention Minister Norman Baker, MP spoke at



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the launch, and voiced the Home Office’s support for the campaign’s aims.

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100030§ionTitle=Football+United>

Women’s aid training

The Women’s Aid National Training Centre continue to run the Award and Certificate in Tackling and Preventing Domestic/ Sexual Violence/ Abuse and for the first time the Diploma.

The Centre also offers a number of CPD courses:

- Courses for Facilitators of support groups for adult and child survivors of domestic abuse including Power to Change, Helping Hands and You & Me Mum
- Domestic Abuse and Teenage Relationships
- Supporting Survivors from the European economic area
- McKenzie Friend
- Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children and Young People.

The Centre also offers **Bespoke Training and half day workshops** on Clare’s Law and Coercive Control.

For further information please visit <http://www.nationaltrainingcentre.org.uk/>

The Home Office endorses the Women’s Aid National Certificate and Diploma in Tackling and Preventing Domestic Violence that is run through the National Open College Network (NOCN), as suitable for the IDVA role.

Dates and Locations for the Certificate:

Bristol 2014-2015

Unit 1- 7, 8 & 9 October

Unit 2- 4 & 5 November

Unit 3 - 27, 28 & 29 January 2015

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Unit 4- 11 & 12 March

Women’s Aid and the Domestic and Sexual Violence APPG Inquiry into Women’s Access to Justice Report is released.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic and Sexual Violence report reveals that the criminal justice system continues to fail women when they experience domestic violence. The Inquiry received both written and oral evidence from 90 organisations and nearly 50 survivors of domestic violence. **Women’s Aid is urging every criminal justice agency and government department to sign up to the joint All Party Group and Women’s Aid Survivor’s Charter**, and pledge to implement the report’s recommendations, to ensure that women and children are not being left at the mercy of perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

The report claims:

- The criminal justice system frequently fails to hold perpetrators of domestic violence to account. When sanctions are imposed they are often so limited and



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the violence so pervasive that perpetrators are able to continue abusing their victims;

- 89% of respondents to the APPG Inquiry felt there were barriers to women disclosing domestic violence to the police and/or other criminal justice agencies;
- Where criminal justice agencies fail to respond appropriately to domestic and sexual violence, women pay with their lives.

The report recommendations include:

- Data collection: Members of the group found the government is failing to collect vital statistics relating to domestic violence. The government should review its data collection procedures as a first step to building a greater understanding of domestic violence.
- Training and awareness: All front line police officers and justice officials should receive domestic violence awareness training to ensure a change of culture in the way victims, particularly women, are treated.
- Closing legislative loopholes: Government should review the current legislation around domestic violence to close legislative gaps, such as giving consideration to criminalising coercive control and patterns of abusive behaviour.
- Effective prosecutions: Law enforcement agencies should move away from evidence solely based on victim testimony. The police should begin to build a case against a perpetrator the moment they walk through the door.
- Victim-centred approach: Government should work to break down barriers to justice, increase information and communication with survivors about their case, invest in court facilities and technology.

For the full report and to sign up the Survivor’s Charter please follow this link:

www.womensaid.org.uk/accesstojustice

Finding the Costs of Freedom: how women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence

Whilst crisis interventions for women and children experiencing domestic violence are well developed, little is known about the process of rebuilding lives, including what longer term support needs might be. Working in partnership with the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University, Solace Women’s Aid successfully applied to the Research Grants Programme run by the Big Lottery to track 100 women and their children over a three year period (2011-2014).

Through a multi-layered research methodology we explored how women and children are able to grow their ‘space for action’ after physically removing themselves from the ‘coercive control’ exerted by the perpetrator over their everyday lives.

We also measured post-separation abuse (experienced by nearly 90 per cent of women), experience of services and the legal system (only 25 per cent of women thought the police were helpful), changes in housing situation (25 per cent of women had to move three or more times to access safe accommodation) and how informal networks facilitated or interfered with efforts to create safety and freedom.

Although there was no singular, shared story for women and children as they laid the foundation stones required to ‘move on’ from the abuse they had experienced, we were able to identify common themes within their experiences with respect to challenges, enablers and barriers.

A key finding was that, across all agencies domestic violence is still being reduced to incidents of physical assault, leading not only to the exclusion of some women from services and support when their abuse was more



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characterised by coercive control, but also a minimising of post-separation abuse.

This misunderstanding also meant that many professionals underestimated the toll living with abuse had on women and children, expecting that separation, in and of itself, would not just create safety but also lift all the other burdens. The current policy focus on short term risk reduction contributed to this misunderstanding and the failure to recognise women’s current and persisting support needs.

The executive summary and full research report can be found at: <http://www.cwasu.org/> and

<http://www.solacewomensaid.org/press-release-finding-the-costs-of-freedom/>

Working towards an ‘Ideal’ Bristol, free from violence and abuse

A ground-breaking project, that aims to prevent domestic violence through schools, launched in March this year with the full backing of the city’s Mayor, Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner and all four of the city’s MPs.

‘The Bristol Ideal’ calls on local primary and secondary schools to take seven simple actions that will make a lasting impact on shocking domestic abuse figures: 14,000 women and girls become victims each year in the city of Bristol.

The actions cut across the whole school, from setting in place policies to ensuring staff are well trained, having a dedicated champion and, crucially, providing pupils with high quality Relationship Education, delivered by trained professionals.

Furthermore, the project team are providing all head teachers with a pack of guidance and resources that

will enable schools to implement the actions simply and effectively. These are also available online at the new website www.bristolideal.org.uk.

Jess Dicken, Chair of The Bristol Ideal and A Public Health Specialist in Bristol City Council said: “We’re well known in Bristol for our innovative work tackling domestic and sexual violence but more can and should always be done. Time and money is always best spent on prevention work and this innovative project will really push that agenda. If done well, this will have quite amazing results in the future. It will take time of course, this is about changing culture and re-educating, but we are absolutely in it for the long run.”

Bristol’s definition of Domestic and Sexual violence covers; domestic abuse, teen abuse, sexual violence, rape, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, forced marriage, so called honour violence, sexual harassment. Lesson plans and resources are available to schools on all these topics.

The project is embedded into the city’s Domestic Violence Strategy, Bristol Safeguarding Children’s Board’s Strategic Priorities 2013-16, Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner’s Priorities and Bristol’s Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy. Once schools achieve all seven standards, they will be given Bristol Ideal Status.

For more information, visit the website: www.bristolideal.org.uk

or you can tweet us at @thebristolideal.

Powerful campaign challenging views about rape and DVA in Bristol

Bristol have now completed two parts of a powerful publicity campaign which confronts the myths and excuses surrounding both rape and domestic abuse.



“This is not an excuse” included billboards, bus stop ads, radio ads, a twitter campaign, website and posters and leaflets:



The campaigns were funded by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and Bristol Public Health.

The campaign was multi-agency and was developed from feedback and consultation with a range of organisations including Safer Bristol, Public Health, The office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, SARSAS, Victim Support, The Green House & Bristol against violence against women (BAVA), Next Link and Bristol Fawcett and has been adapted from a highly successful campaign run by Rape Crisis Scotland.

Feedback from the public was overwhelmingly positive with people saying how proud they were to live in a city that does campaigns like this and it empowered survivors too.

Plans are underway for the campaign to be repeated during 2014 and 2015. More information can be found at the campaign website <http://www.thisisnotanexcuse.org.uk>

Karma Nirvana: specific training and a risk assessment tool for police forces

We were delighted that Government announced the criminalisation of forced marriage which makes forced marriage a criminal offence in England and Wales. The breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order also becomes a criminal offence. We set ourselves a target to deliver 21 Roadshows in partnership with The Forced Marriage Unit this year to highlight awareness about the new law. We have delivered 14 reaching thousands of professionals that has resulted in increased confidence from both professionals and victims. Calls to the helpline have doubled in comparison to last year, awareness works! Karma Nirvana are now delivering training to police forces that includes a specific risk assessment tool that will improve policing responses and further safeguard victims. This has been developed with survivors who also take part in the delivery of the training and to date we have 9 police forces on board and have set a goal to deliver to all 43.

If anyone wishes to host a roadshow next year or enquire about the training/risk assessment please contact a.manota@karmanirvana.org.uk

Internet Watch Foundation and ChildLine

The Internet Watch Foundation and ChildLine have recently collaborated to launch a service for young people who have had explicit images of themselves distributed online beyond their control. We can work together to prove the child’s age and get the images removed from the internet.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/media-centre/press-releases/2013/childline-internet-watch-foundation/childline-tackling-sexting-internet-watch-foundation_wdn98995.html

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CIS'ters 2014 Training Programme

The impact of sexual exploitation/abuse

3 Linked Workshops (9.30-4pm)

£180 combined fee

Session 1 – Monday 29th September 2014

Defining sexual exploitation/abuse

Prevalence – Victims/Survivors

Victim – Myths & Stereotypes

Offender – Behaviours/Patterns

Session 2 – Monday 13th October 2014

Prevention and/or Detection Strategies/Outcomes

Counting the Losses

Survival Skills (including self-harm)

Session 3 – Monday 10th November 2014

Responding to disclosures from victims/survivors

Retraumatization/Revictimization/Secondary Trauma

Brain – responding to Trauma

Unresolved Issues / The Reality of Letting Go

A certificate of attendance will be provided at the end of the course for completion of all three sessions; and can be used for CPD purposes.

Target audience – All Sectors

Individuals working with/supporting children & young people who might be victims of sexual exploitation/sexual abuse; or with adults who might be survivors of such experiences during childhood. These workshops are linked, providing delegates with an opportunity to discuss/explore key and related issues. All sessions need to be attended as they provide delegates with a linked training event.

The course is designed for workers who come into contact (knowingly or unknowingly) with victims/survivors and/or perpetrators of sexual violence / abuse. There are obvious links to safeguarding agendas for both children and vulnerable adults.

Whilst the course includes reference to the behaviour of offenders, the workshops are focused throughout on the experience of their victims i.e. child victims/adult survivors



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and the enduring impact of such crimes on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The sessions will be of relevance to workers within criminal justice processes, social and health care, substance misuse and also education services (all ages). The course should also be particularly helpful to psychotherapists and counsellors (including those working within IAPT programmes); or individuals working with clients who are teenagers/young adults who might have experienced sexual exploitation/abuse.

Lunch is not provided. **Venue:** Southampton, Hampshire

How to book: All three sessions need to be booked at the same time i.e. they are NOT book able individually.

Cancellation policy:

1. Fee is non refundable if delegate is unable to attend all or some of the sessions.
2. However, if we are able to offer the course placement to someone else on a waiting list, then a cancellation fee of £25 will be made.
3. In exceptional circumstances if one session is missed, we will attempt to offer a session on a future course, though this cannot be guaranteed.
4. We reserve the right to reschedule dates if exceptional circumstances arise beyond our control.

Training Organiser: CIS’ters, PO Box 119, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9ZF

Tel: 023 80 338080 Email: admin@cisters.org.uk

Please note that CIS’ters can also provide bespoke training sessions.

White Ribbon Campaign

The Government of Wales received their White Ribbon status on July 1st 2014.

The Minister for Local Government Lesley Griffiths and the Permanent Secretary Sir Derek Jones received their award from Chris Green Director of White Ribbon Campaign on the same day that the Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Welsh Assembly. The Permanent Secretary also signed up as a White Ribbon Ambassador willing to spend time and energy promoting the campaign, and is joined by four other men who are Directors of service.

Sussex Police helped promote challenging domestic abuse when they worked to obtain a full page promotion for White Ribbon Campaign in Want you Dead, Peter James latest thriller, about Stalking. The book is already Number 2 in the hardback fiction charts ensuring that the message reaches a whole new audience through unique channels.

At the launch Peter James spoke passionately about his support for White Ribbon Campaign, and the campaign was represented at all of his book signings.

Tour de France

“Amour Respect Egalite” says the 5000 free posters distributed by White Ribbon Campaign to go with the Tour de France.

Hundreds of commemorative badges were sold, and at the Civic reception on July 5th to mark the Tour’s passage through Calderdale, all the attendees wore White Ribbon Cycling badges.



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Nottingham Rugby Club will be launching their new White Ribbon strip next month.

As part of a Sports initiative by Nottingham Councils, Players will be mentoring school groups, and the Rugby Club will have an article in each week about challenging violence against women.

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence – training courses

2 New multi-agency domestic abuse courses

Skills and Tools for Enabling Safe Disclosure, Risk Identification and Safety Planning*

Monday 29th September 2014, 09.30 – 16.30

A highly interactive course building upon participants’ skills and knowledge by introducing and practising practical tools that are relevant to situations where domestic abuse is present, and by exploring best practice within a multi-agency context.

Engaging with Domestic Abuse Perpetrators*

Thursday 23rd October 2014, 09.30 – 16.30

Designed for managers and staff who wish to enhance their skills in engaging domestic abuse perpetrators, in order to safely challenge and support changes in abusers’ behaviour. Many agencies have an opportunity to engage with perpetrators, however many staff feel unsure about what a safe and effective approach looks like in practice, and therefore rarely engage or work with the person who is responsible for the risk and harm to survivors and children. This intensive course will provide you with the opportunity to add to the knowledge, practical tools and skills available within your organisation.

Course costs per delegate: 1 course £75

2 courses £140 (saving of £10)

Book online now simply by filling out our online booking form

(alternatively you can enter <http://form.jotformpro.com/form/41623409446959> into your internet browser)

Places are limited, so book early. Light refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Venue: Near Hammersmith Tube Station – More information **TBC**

***Eligibility:** Because these 2 skills courses are more advanced, places are only available to those who have completed one of the following: The one-day Domestic Abuse Dynamics (Foundation) course run by Standing Together OR an equivalent domestic abuse course in the last 2-3 years that is based upon the Power & Control model for understanding domestic abuse OR Substantial experience of working with domestic abuse survivors or perpetrators using an abuse prevention approach such as the Power & Control/Duluth model.



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Ruth Jones OBE has been named as the Founding Director of the University of Worcester’s National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse (NCSPA), which officially launched on June 20th 2014.

Ruth, who was awarded an OBE in the 2014 New Year’s Honours List for services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, will lead the strategic development of the Centre which will play a significant role in the continuing education of practitioners and professionals.

As Director, Ruth will lead the Centre as it campaigns to raise public and professional awareness of how to prevent violence and abuse and to support victims. The National Centre will make a major national contribution to public discussion and local, national and international policy formation whilst undertaking research to establish the evidence and then develop, disseminate and evaluate best practice interventions.

Ruth Jones says: “We have been providing taught courses, research and evaluation; knowledge transfer and consultancy on domestic and sexual violence at the University of Worcester for almost ten years and with great success.

Our work has achieved local, national and international recognition and we have been awarded a number of accolades along the way; the latest being the OBE. Launching NCSPA is a natural and exciting progression of this work and one which will allow us to not only continue with our work on domestic and sexual violence but expand and encompass wider and cutting issues of violence and abuse. Our vision is to create a centre of excellence that will

make a significant contribution to knowledge, knowledge transfer, evidence based policy and practice and ultimately to prevention.”

Professor David Green, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Worcester, said: “The University of Worcester actively supports those who are the victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence.

“We are deeply committed to providing the most relevant possible courses for the volunteers and professionals who work in this important field. We are equally committed to doing all we can to research how best to prevent such violence from occurring in the first place.

“Ruth has been carrying out inspirational work for many years and we are delighted to be launching this new Centre with Ruth as its Founding Director. I am sure it will make a real difference for the good for many people, children as well as adults.”

For information on courses at University of Worcester visit www.worcester.ac.uk or for application enquiries telephone 01905 855111 or email admissions@worc.ac.uk.

Postgraduate certificate/diploma/Masters degree in professional development: The Dynamics Of Domestic Violence

These courses are for those who currently work in the domestic violence sector, multi-agency professionals for whom domestic violence is a key part of their role and those who wish to work supporting those who have experienced domestic violence. They are also courses that are suitable for anyone with an interest in domestic violence.



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This course is taught by staff who are specialists in this field and can be studied over 1 year (Postgraduate Certificate); 2 years (Postgraduate Diploma) or 3 years (Masters Degree)

Though this is a Postgraduate course, those wishing to apply do not have to have achieved education at degree level. This course is open to anyone who has an interest in domestic violence as outlined above.

Scholarship information

There is one fully funded scholarship for the Masters Degree in Professional Development: the Dynamics of Domestic Violence for the academic year 2014/15. The scholarships are funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and thus applicants must be living or working in the West Mercia region.

Short courses for continuing professional development:

Many of the individual modules that make up the courses can be studied as stand-alone short courses that individuals can take as part of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Further details on scholarship criteria can be obtained from the Director of the National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse; Ruth Jones OBE. Please contact r.jones@worc.ac.uk

What past students have said about the course

- “I have worked with children who have been affected by domestic abuse for 25 years but I learnt so much in just one weekend on MDVM4011(Children, Young People and Domestic Violence) that my professional practice will change forever”
- “I was concerned about the academic level of the course as I hadn’t studied at this level before. I hadn’t even studied at all for many years. Tutors were so supportive

though that they gave me confidence in my abilities and I have achieved at an academic level I never thought possible”

Now taking applications for 2014

The Postgraduate Certificate in Advocacy for Victims of Sexual Violence is designed to enhance knowledge of the different forms of sexual violence, the theoretical perspectives on causation and the impact of it as well as the skills necessary to undertake the ISVA role effectively and professionally in line with Skills for Justice National Occupational Standards

The ultimate aim is to support students to establish a firm knowledge and evidence base for practice which is rooted in theory, legislation, policy and good practice. This course also develops transferable skills, including effective communication skills, group work and individual interventions.

This course is taught by staff who are specialists in this field. It is delivered over one year and consists of 3 modules (one per semester). Each module is taught over 2 X 3 day blocks. Students must attend both blocks (total of 6 days).

- Why Level 7 (Postgraduate Level)?

Successful completion of the course gives professional recognition and status to the role of Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA).

The course is at Postgraduate Level to reflect the level of professionalism of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and allows for students to publish their assessed work and use it for wider dissemination of the ISVA role.

Entry requirements

Though this is a Postgraduate course, those wishing to apply do not have to have achieved education at degree level.



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Scholarship information

There are two fully funded scholarships for the Postgraduate Certificate in Advocacy for Victims of Sexual Violence for the academic year 2014/15. The scholarships are funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and thus applicants must be living or working in the West Mercia region. Further details on scholarship criteria can be obtained from the Director of the National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse; Ruth Jones OBE.

What past students have said about the course

- “I really liked gaining some theoretical underpinning knowledge to the work I am doing”
- “Meeting other ISVAs and sharing practice, knowledge, resources and gaining support was invaluable”
- “Doing this course gave me the opportunity to come out of practice for a short while and take the time to re-visit practice”
- “The course tutor was approachable and very supportive”
- “It was really useful to looking at best practice models and this has helped me think about my practice”.
- “This course is challenging and informative. It prepares you for the ISVA post effectively”

Please contact r.jones@worc.ac.uk for more information

16 students graduated from the University of Worcester in November 2013 with a Postgraduate Certificate in Advocacy for Victims of Sexual Violence.

The students; existing Independent Sexual Violence Advisors who wished to expand and enhance on existing knowledge and gain a postgraduate qualification that would reflect their professional status and those who wished to become Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and indeed gained jobs post-graduation; were “delighted” to complete the course and graduate.

The course was developed by Ruth Jones OBE, Principal Lecturer and Director of the National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse at the University of Worcester in consultation with Rape Crisis England and Wales.

Ruth said she said she was “very proud to see the first cohort of student through graduation” and that “it had been an honour to work with them”.

Ruth is currently teaching the second cohort of students and the course will be offered again in October 2014. Please contact r.jones@worc.ac.uk for more information.

Paladin launches new accredited training to support high risk victims

Paladin, the UK’s first National Stalking Advocacy Service, have developed an accredited Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) training course through the University of Brighton. This training will enable us to establish a network of specialists locally to ensure victims are given the right advice and supported through the Criminal Justice System, much the same as Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) who play a key role in keeping victims safe, supporting victims. We know from research there is a much higher prospect of a conviction with specialist support.

Using our specialist knowledge, we have already made a difference and have assisted in some of the highest of risk cases. Some cases are domestic violence related but we have seen an increase in ‘stranger’ related cases and there are currently no local specialist services for these cases apart from Paladin. These cases fall between the stalls when it comes to public protection and that is why ISACs are needed. With stalking only set to increase, particularly



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with the advent of IT that facilitates stalking, it is right to roll out accredited training so there are experts on the ground to assist professionals from other services with risk assessment as well as how best to collect the evidence when digital and cyber stalking occurs and advise victims.

Early identification, intervention and prevention is vital in cases of stalking and ISACs save both lives and money. This cutting edge course will be delivered by leading specialists in the field including Paladin’s Chief Executive, Laura Richards; Dr Roxane Agnew Davies, a clinical psychologist, as well as key inputs from cyber-expert Richard Hollis and victims.

The first course begins on 16th September 2014. For further information on the course and how to apply, visit Paladin’s [website](#).

Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk
 Telephone: 0207 840 8960
 Address: P.O. Box 64640, London, SW8 9DJ
 Twitter: @paladinservice
 Website: <http://www.paladinservice.co.uk>

Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform Trust has published a report calling for co-ordinated multi-agency responses to women in trouble with the law, highlighting that many women in the criminal justice system are themselves victims of violence. More than half of women in prison have suffered emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child, and a similar proportion report experiences of domestic violence in their adult relationships. The report calls for more women-specific interventions and profiles good practice, including a number of early diversion initiatives and ‘women’s pathfinder’ Integrated Offender Management projects. Read all about it here: [Brighter Futures – working together to reduce women’s offending](#). The Prison Reform Trust

briefing for the Westminster Hall debate on the HMIC report ‘Everyone’s business’ (10 April) also highlighted the links between domestic violence and women’s offending: www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/WestminsterHalldebate.pdf

Recognition of the impact of domestic violence was expressed by many speakers in the [House of Lords Question for Short debate](#) on 26 June when Baroness Healy asked the Government what measures are being taken to reduce the number of women given a custodial sentence.

The Prison Reform Trust responded in July to the Sentencing Council consultation on its new Theft Offences Sentencing Guideline and recommended inclusion of [‘Involvement due to coercion, intimidation or exploitation’](#) as a mitigating factor. To receive monthly updates on the programme to reduce the unnecessary imprisonment of women you can sign up for the Prison Reform Trust newsletter <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Publications/Newsletter>

MsUnderstood Partnership

MsUnderstood (MSU) is a partnership between the University of Bedfordshire, Imkaan, and the Girls against Gangs project to address young people’s experiences of gender inequality. The partnership has been funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Trust for London and Samworth Foundation to deliver a three year programme of work on peer-on-peer abuse: teenage relationship violence, peer-on-peer exploitation, and serious youth violence.

The team

The core team at MSU has grown significantly since the beginning of the year. We are now in our third internship cycle, welcoming Asaybi Snape whose focus will be administration



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and engagement, taking over from Paris Black who was with us between April and July. Paris has gone on to join our girls and young women’s engagement sub group, a group set up to ensure that girls and young women’s voices are reflected throughout our work. Jashmin Patel has been with us since January and has been key to the development of the programme for subsequent interns, the engagement sub group and managing our first event this October.

We welcome George Curtis as our London Programme Manager, whose addition has allowed us to expand our site work. We are also joined by Lia Latchford as Policy and Campaigns Co-ordinator and Ikamara Larasi as Research and Communications Co-ordinator, both from the young women’s team at Imkaan.

Local sites

We are currently working with Croydon, Greenwich and Lambeth, in addition to our first three sites; Buckinghamshire, the North London Cluster (Haringey, Hackney, Islington, Camden, Barnet and Enfield), and Sheffield. We plan to run lesson learning seminars later in the year, please contact George to express your interest (georgina@msunderstood.org.uk).

‘Our Version of Events’

We are delighted to announce that MsUnderstood will be hosting our first conference, ‘Our Version of Events’, on the International Day of the Girl, Saturday 11th October 2014. The day is dedicated to amplifying young women’s voices and engaging them in shaping policy through involvement in presentations and workshops. This is the first MsUnderstood event, which we hope to be an annual conference for young women to help change policy and services that affect their lives. For more information about this event please contact Jashmin (jashmin@msunderstood.org.uk).

Contact information

For further information about the work of the MsUnderstood Partnership please contact info@msunderstood.org.uk or visit www.msunderstood.org.uk.

LimeCulture

National Audit of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs)

LimeCulture Community Interest Company (CIC) is working with Professor Susan Lea of King’s College London to conduct a comprehensive audit of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) in the UK. ISVAs are pivotal in supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence, yet there has been very limited research into their role. The audit will collect information about services provided by ISVAs and where they are located. It is hoped the audit will further the case for increased support and investment into the ISVA workforce. Professor Susan Lea from King’s is developing the online survey which is currently being piloted on a small group of ISVAs who are testing the questions and method of data collection. Once the testing phase is complete, the survey will go live in August 2014 and there will be a three-week window for ISVAs to contribute to the audit. LimeCulture and Professor Lea are aiming to make the findings of the national audit of ISVAs available in the autumn.

There is no complete register of ISVAs in the UK and we would like to include all ISVAs in the audit. Therefore, LimeCulture are asking ISVAs to contact them via email with their contact details so that they can ensure that as many ISVAs are included in the audit as possible. The survey details and further information will then be sent directly to the ISVAs via email.



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ISVAs are asked to email info@limeculture.co.uk as soon as possible to provide their contact details and ensure their inclusion in the audit. Please use the title ‘ISVA Audit’ in the subject box.

If you have any queries about the audit, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie.Reardon@limeculture.co.uk

LimeCulture launches further accredited professional training for experienced ISVAs

LimeCulture is currently the leading provider of training for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), having trained over 120 ISVAs since 2011 when their 6-module accredited ISVA training course was originally launched (bookings are now being taken for their 7th ISVA Development Programme, which will run between October 2014 and March 2015).

LimeCulture has now launched a further accredited professional training course for ISVAs, as a result of requests from ISVAs wanting to continue their professional development and have access to more in depth training that is tailored specifically to the ISVA role. The Advanced Development Programme (ADP) has been developed and designed especially for experienced ISVAs and is the only course of its kind.

The ADP is an intensive 3-day training programme for experienced ISVAs leading to a professional certificate of accreditation. The ADP is practice-oriented and aims to strengthen the competencies and skills of ISVAs wishing to continue their professional development. The first ADP took place on 14, 15 and 16 July in Manchester and the feedback from the ISVAs who attended has been overwhelmingly positive.

Experienced ISVAs are encouraged to enroll for the ADP to upgrade their skills and knowledge to enable them to appropriately support victims of sexual violence with complex needs. The ADP is directly relevant to the needs of ISVAs located within the voluntary and community sector (third sector), SARC’s, NHS, Local Authority and Police. It is only open to ISVAs who have completed their accredited ISVA training or can demonstrate practical experience of working as an ISVA for over 2.5 years.

Each unit contains a comprehensive syllabus of challenging content aimed at equipping ISVA’s with further practical skill and knowledge in which to embed and influence their everyday practice. For further information about the course please visit our website <http://www.limeculture.co.uk/training-development/advanced-development-programme-for-isvas/>

The course is delivered by leading UK experts sourced by LimeCulture and appointed based on their depth of experience and knowledge of sexual violence.

The next ADP will take place in February 2015 (dates to be confirmed). If you would like to reserve a place, please email info@limeculture.co.uk