

SVAAN Update – November-December 2010



Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) email update. 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 please email nisan.kesete@eaveshousing.co.uk. Feel free to quote or circulate information from the update, but please credit the Lilith Project if you do so.

Spending cuts, public sector duty and a judicial review

When the Chancellor, George Osborne, presented the Government's Spending Review on the 20th of October 2010, the analysis of the budget showed that women will bear the brunt of the cuts.

A research finding into the budget showed that 72 per cent of the savings identified will come from women's pockets. Many of the benefits to be cut or frozen are benefits that more women than men rely on. Besides, the impact of the public sector pay freeze which will also hit women disproportionately as 65 per cent of public sector workers are women.

The Fawcett Society, an equality campaign group, filed papers with the High Court seeking a judicial review of the budget, regarding the failure of the government to carry out the necessary Gender Equality Impact Assessment.

Karon Monaghan QC, the Fawcett Society's barrister, said spending cuts were having a 'grossly disproportionate and devastating' impact on women. She said, of the £8.1bn in savings identified in the Budget, £5.7bn or 72% were being borne by women, compared to 28% by men.

Where decisions are found to have a disproportionate impact on a particular group, public bodies including the Treasury must consider what actions can be taken to avoid, mitigate or justify that impact.

The government's lawyers have also admitted that the government had not carried out the necessary assessments before the Budget in some areas, including the public sector pay freeze and benefit cuts, which they said is 'regrettable'.

Unfortunately, on the 6th of December the High Court has blocked the Fawcett Society's attempt to challenge the Budget and ruled that there will now be no further court hearing. The judge, Justice Ouseley, dismissed the case as 'unarguable or academic'. He also added that there had been too long a delay in the court application and there was now 'no prospect' of the court declaring the Budget unlawful.

Following the hearing, Ceri Goddard, Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society, said, "Today's hearing saw the government admit they had not carried out an assessment of how the budget will impact on women and men, something they've described as 'regrettable.'"

"While we are disappointed not to have been granted a judicial review of the budget, we are pleased the government has today heard that budgetary decisions are not above equality law and that a court of law agreed with us that the government's economic processes need to be looked at again.

"Outside of the courts, our action has already made an impact. There is increased recognition and understanding of the role of equality law generally, and growing demand that women are not forced to bear the brunt of cuts. We hope our case has ensured that neither the government nor any other public body will in future think it appropriate to bypass equality law."

She added that the judge stated that policies set to have such a dramatically different impact on women and men merit further scrutiny. The judge said the Equality and Human Rights Commission was best placed to conduct this kind of analysis.

On the 25th of November 2010, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) started a process to carry out a formal, independent assessment of the extent to which the Treasury has met its legal obligations to consider the impact on protected groups of decisions contained in the Spending Review.

Once the assessment is complete, the EHRC will report its findings and may make recommendations. If the assessment finds a breach, the Commission can serve a compliance notice, or enter into a binding agreement with the Treasury for it to take steps to avoid further breaches.

If the Treasury fails to comply with a compliance notice or the binding agreement, EHRC can apply to a court for an order compelling them to comply.

The final report of the assessment by EHRC would be published next summer.

Campaigns

Lap dancing: Lobby your council now with OBJECT's Guides

Since April 2010 local authorities have had the option to stop licensing lap dancing clubs like cafes and instead regulate them as part of the sex industry. Some local authorities and police are consulting on the issue now.

OBJECT has now published two toolkits to help you lobby your local authority to make sure they use these new powers effectively.

The first toolkit will help you make sure your council takes up the new licensing in the first instance.

The second can be used only once your council has introduced the new licensing but is critical in ensuring they make full use of it.

Take action now! Help tackle the growth of lap dancing clubs.

Step 1: Find out if your council has already adopted the new licensing regime for lap dancing clubs

Find out if your council has passed any resolutions by the full council on 'Sexual Entertainment Venues' (lap dancing clubs) by:

- Contacting the licensing department of your local council (the telephone number for the main switchboard will be on your council's website)
- Or searching your council's website

Step 2: Download the relevant Toolkit and take action!

Toolkit 1: How to get your local council to adopt new licensing for lap dancing clubs

- To be used if your local council has not already taken up the new licensing regime.

Toolkit 2: How to make sure your council makes full use of new licensing regime for lap dancing clubs

- To be used after your council has adopted the new licensing regime.

Downloads available at <http://www.object.org.uk/index.php/beinvolved>

Online Petition - London Councils - keep your commitment to funding lifesaving services for women and children

The online petition condemns the threat to violence against women and children services and calls for London Councils to honour current funding arrangements and to involve the sector in full and proper consultation before any changes to the borough grants scheme.

Please sign the petition and send it out through all your networks– it will be a fantastic weapon in our armoury to show how widespread support is for the maintenance of these services and we can use it to try and influence councillors right up until 14 December.

This will only work if we get a substantial number of signatures – please send it far and wide!

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/londoncouncils>

Consultations

Communities and Local Government

Consultation on social housing reform

22nd of November – 17th of January

The consultation sets out the Government's plans for radical reform to the social housing system. It includes changes on tenure; the management of waiting lists; and the homelessness duty. It also covers the introduction of a new 'affordable rent' tenancy and changes to the system of council housing finance. It includes measures to improve mobility, tackle overcrowding and under-occupation. The reforms will ensure that social landlords can make better use of social housing and target support where it is needed most.

To access the full document visit the following website

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/socialhousingreform>

Ministry of Justice

Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales

15th of November 2010 – 14th of February 2011

The consultation seeks views on proposals for reform of legal aid in England and Wales. The proposals represent a radical, wide-ranging and ambitious programme of

reform which aims to ensure that legal aid is targeted to those who need it most, for those cases in which legal advice or representation is justified.

This consultation is aimed at providers of publicly funded legal services and others with an interest in the justice system.

To access the full document visit the following link

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm>

Reports and Research

Ministry of Justice

Providing anonymity to those accused of rape: An assessment of evidence

A report considering evidence relevant to the issue of whether or not to provide anonymity to those accused of rape has been published by the Ministry of Justice. This report brings together findings from previous reviews and primary research studies as well as statistics to present a summary of evidence relevant to the issue of whether or not to provide anonymity to those accused of rape. It examines a number of key areas to determine whether the likely impact of anonymity can be identified from existing evidence.

Click [here](#) to access the full report.

Government Equalities Office

The Equality Strategy - Building a Fairer Britain

The GEO have published their Equality Strategy. The strategy sets out a new approach to equality. The Minister for Women and Equalities, Theresa May, said, "We will take a new approach by tackling the causes of inequality as well as using targeted action to deal with its consequences. We will ensure accountability by shining the light of transparency on organisations, allowing their performance to be challenged and acting as a driver for change. Equality is key to all our work. That is why I have set up an inter-ministerial group to ensure that we continue to drive work to support this strategy across government, working closely with all those involved: this strategy is just the start of this work."

Click [here](#) to access the full document.

The warrior within – A One in Four handbook to aid recovery from childhood sexual abuse and violence

By Christiane Sanderson, a respected practitioner, trainer and author in this field

The legacy of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) can haunt survivors into adulthood. To have survived so far shows that you possess a number of valuable resources, not least your warrior within. This handbook will support the strength and courage of the warrior within by providing additional resources and exercises to help you take ownership of your recovery and begin to rebuild your life and embrace a better future.

The book aims to help survivors outside counselling sessions to cope and control the pace and direction of their healing. Family and friends, as well as counsellors will also

find this a useful resource to understand the difficulties faced by survivors and the process of recovery.

To order a copy through visit www.oneinfour.org.uk or call 020 8697 2112

The GendeRace project

The GendeRace project, has investigated the combined effects of gender and racial/ethnic discrimination in Europe. The project took place in six countries: France, Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK. It investigated the intersection of racial/ethnic and gender discrimination, and how national and EU law is currently addressing this issue. The research indicated that gender has a significant impact on the experience of racial discrimination.

Read a [summary of the findings](#) or the [full report \(pdf\)](#)

Funding Opportunities

Comic Relief

UK Grants Programme - Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women

Application Deadline: 07 January 2011

Financial assistance is available for charities, social enterprises and community groups in the United Kingdom to undertake projects which support refugee and asylum seeking women who have experienced rape, torture or other forms of abuse.

There are two sub-strands:

- Direct support to women: support services with the aim of helping women cope better with the trauma they have experienced, including counselling, group work or self help support and access to legal support, health care and housing.
- Training: support for organisations to develop training for people working in both refugee and mainstream organisations to increase skills, knowledge and practice in this area.

Comic Relief is particularly interested in working with organisations that have a proven track record of working with vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

UK Grants Programme – Reducing harm to young people aged 18-25 through sexual exploitation and/or trafficking

This is a fund for a wide variety of work including direct services for young people which meet both immediate and longer term needs, especially in areas where there are no services or which are aimed at young people who are poorly served. The grant could also fund prevention work, training for workers and professionals, and work that raises awareness of the issues surrounding sexual exploited and trafficked young people.

To apply and for more information visit the following link <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant> or contact Comic Relief on:

**UK Grants Team
Comic Relief
1st Floor
89 Albert Embankment**

**London
SE1 7TP
Telephone: 02078202000**

Big Lottery

Reaching Communities – England

The Reaching Communities Programme has been developed by the Big Lottery Fund following extensive public consultation which recognised a strong demand for a lightly prescribed, demand-led funding programme that allowed communities to bring real improvements to the lives of those most in need. The programme is largely aimed at benefiting the work of voluntary and community organisations.

This fund has limited resources available and is expected to be competitive, therefore only areas classified as 'Lower Super Output Areas' are eligible. All applicants must complete an [online postcode checker](#) to ensure they are situated in eligible areas.

Applicants in eligible areas must complete an outline proposal form. If successful at this stage they will then be provided with the full application forms to proceed with a stage two application. If successful at stage two applicants may then be awarded development funding to enable them to complete a stage three application including a business plan and capital project delivery plan.

For more information and to apply click [here](#)

Trainings, Meetings and Events

New group – Black Feminists meeting 14 December

Black Feminists is a group for all women (including trans-women) who are African, Asian, indigenous, Latin American and/ or Middle Eastern or of these backgrounds.

It offers a safe space for women to meet, discuss and explore our experiences, including the intersections of race and gender as it affects us.

We meet next on Tuesday 14th December at 7pm in the Waterstone's Piccadilly 5th floor cafe.

Please email blackfeministsuk@gmail.com

'Abortion: Decisions and Dilemmas'

Tuesday, December 14 from 9:15am to 4:15pm

**Venue: London (356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA).
Cost: £110.**

Course aims:

- To raise awareness and understanding of teenage pregnancy and abortion so that professionals can facilitate constructive discussion of the issues and equip young people to make and act on informed choices
- To enable practitioners to provide clear information and supportive advice about abortion to young people
- To facilitate reflection of personal attitudes and values and how they impact on professional practice

Outcomes - by the end of the course participants will:

- Be able to explain the importance of addressing abortion with young people and professionals
- Have considered their own and others' view points on pregnancy and abortion and reflected on how these might influence their work with young people
- Be better able to take a client focus
- Be able to use a range of exercises to facilitate discussion of abortion with young people in group work
- Feel more confident in delivering abortion education with Sex and Relationships Education
- Have considered practical ways of supporting a young person to make an informed decision about pregnancy and feel more confident in doing so
- Understand key policies relating to young people, abortion, confidentiality and the law
- Know about abortion provision and understand abortion in relation to physical and emotional health

To register visit the following link: <http://actevarsvp.com/event/a0LA0000002HVwI>

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

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

Cost: £150 (statutory) or £110 (voluntary)
Dates in February and March

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

Vacancies and Volunteering

Asian Women Resource Centre

Volunteer

Closing Date: 22 December 2010

The Centre relies heavily on the talent of volunteers. The principle of volunteering is inherent in the Asian Women's Resource Centre's commitments to valuing and developing resources from within its own communities. The volunteers at the Centre take responsibility in varied tasks. These roles include conducting research, undertaking administration duties, supporting the development of current and future projects whilst at the same time developing their own knowledge and skills. Many volunteers who have enjoyed time with us gained greater confidence and inter-personal skills through interacting with out support of staff.

Currently we are looking for volunteers with IT skills, PR/marketing skills, researchers for social enterprise projects, administrators , and people with report writing skills and finance experience.

To apply contact Veda Dhond asianwomenscentre@aol.com or 020 8961 6549/5701

The nia project – Manager

Closing Date: 15 December 2010

Salary: £34,785

The nia project has received funding from the Mayor of London in association with LB Redbridge and 6 other East London Boroughs in order to provide a comprehensive service for survivors of sexual violence. The ELRC Manager will play a key role in developing a new service and maintaining high levels of quality and contract compliance. She will take responsibility for staff management and supervision and day to day delivery of the service. The Manager will have experience of line managing in a violence against women organisation or similar and extensive knowledge of sexual violence.

To apply download an application pack from www.niaproject.info or call 0207 683 1270.

NCB Research Centre

Assistant Director of Research - Part time (21 hours p/w)

Closing Date: 10 December 2010

Salary: £45,785 - £50,393 pro-rata

The Assistant Director will work closely with the Director, deputising in her absence in the strategic and day-to-day management of the centre. They will be responsible for managing and developing projects, work streams and associated staff within the centre to ensure NCB works from an evidence-based perspective. They will assist the director in the development and implementation of the Centre's income generation strategy. The post holder will represent the work of NCB externally to professionals, policy makers and children and young people and their families. We are looking for a highly skilled individual with extensive research experience, preferably at a similar level and within a similar organisation.

To apply and for further information click [here](#) or contact Ivana on 020 7843 6072

