

SVAAN Update – January 2011



Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) monthly 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.

Harassment and Stalking

Terminology

There is no legal definition of harassment or stalking. However it is generally accepted that harassment includes repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and/or contacts through, for instance, telephone calls, emails, letters, unsolicited gifts, messages on social networking sites, etc on a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress and/or fear in any reasonable person. It could also be any unwanted intrusions like following, waiting for, spying on, approaching, accosting, etc.

Section one of the [Protection from Harassment Act of 1997](#) states:

“A person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another, and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. The person whose course of conduct is in question ought to know that it amounts to harassment of another if a reasonable person in possession of the same information would think the course of conduct amounted to harassment of the other.”

To establish harassment there should be a ‘course of conduct’ amounting to harassment or fear of violence, of another which the suspect knows or ought to know amounts to harassment or fear of violence. According to the law **‘a course of conduct’ is conduct that occurs on at least two occasions.**

There is no specific requirement by the law that the activity making up a ‘course of conduct’ should be of the same nature. Different types of behaviour by a stalker such as making a telephone call on one occasion and damaging the victim's property on another or following a victim on one occasion and sending unsolicited gifts on another might suffice.

Stalking is used to describe a particular kind of harassment. It is normally used to describe a long-term pattern of persistent and repeated following of the victim, communicating with them or other intrusions into the privacy of the victim.

Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act, which is the most relevant section to stalking, deals with the offence of "causing a fear of violence". The criterion set in this section is that the individual incidents must cause a fear of violence on the victim.

"A person whose course of conduct causes another to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against him is guilty of an offence if he knows or ought to know that his course of conduct will cause the other so to fear on each of those occasions."

In many cases a conduct might appear innocent if it is taken in isolation, but when carried out repeatedly so as to amount to a 'course of conduct', it may then cause significant alarm, harassment or distress to the victim.

Stalking by proxy - Harassment of an individual can also occur when a person is harassing others connected with the individual, knowing that this behaviour will affect their victim as well as the other people that the person appears to be targeting their actions towards.

Cyber stalking – a victim can be targeted through the internet and through the misuse of email. This is also known as 'cyber-stalking'. This can include the use of social networking sites, chat rooms and other forums facilitated by internet technology. The stalker can use the internet to locate personal information about a victim, to communicate with the victim, to spy on the victim, to damage the reputation of the victim, to trick other internet users into harassing or threatening a victim, etc.

Some Facts on harassment and stalking

- Every year in the UK 1.2 million women and 900,000 men are victims of harassment. (**British Crime Survey 2004**)
- The majority of stalkers are known to their victims either as ex-partners or acquaintances but some people are stalked by complete strangers. A Home Office study found 37% of cases of aggravated stalking (with violence additional to the stalking) against women were by an intimate individual, 59% by other known persons and 7% by strangers. (**Home Office Research Study 276 – 2004**)
- Around 80% of stalkers are male and around 80% of victims are female. Young women are particularly a group at risk with 16.8% of women aged between 16 and 19 reporting an incident in a further Home Office study. (**Home Office Research Study 210 - 2000**).
- Almost 1 in 20 women was stalked last year and 1 in 5 women will experience stalking in their lifetime. (**British Crime Survey 2009/10**)
- The most common reasons given for stalking are that a perpetrator wished to start a relationship (22%), the offender wanted to annoy or upset the victim (16%) or the offender wished to continue a relationship. Women were more likely than men to say the offender wanted to start or continue a relationship. Among men the most common reason given was that the offender wanted to annoy or upset them (**Home Office Research Study 210 - 2000**)
- Many victims experience multiple, repeated stalking behaviours before they report this to the police. On average victims will suffer 100 incidents before they report. (**British Crime Survey 2009/10**)
- There are overlaps between domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Women experiencing stalking were most likely to have also experienced other forms of violence – 17% of those who had been stalked had also experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. Men were less likely to have experienced multiple forms of 'inter-personal' (domestic and sexual) violence. (**Home Office Research Study 210 - 2000**)
- Stalking is life changing injuring the victim psychologically, physically and socially. 71 % of victims said they had changed their behaviour in at least one way or another; avoiding certain places or people, taking additional personal security measures or going out less than they had previously. Women, however, were more

likely to have changed their lifestyle than men (76% to 59%). (**Home Office Research Study 210 - 2000**)

Measures taken

The National Stalking Helpline was launched in April 2010. Since then it has received over 1000 calls and emails. The Helpline provides practical advice and information to anyone who is currently or previously has been affected by harassment or stalking. To find out more visit the following link <http://www.stalkinghelpline.org/>.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) set up a Stalking Working Group in 2008, which helped identify the risk factors for stalking, and there is now best practice advice on investigating stalking and harassment for frontline officers. In 2009 ACPO and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) published a practice advice on [Investigating Stalking and Harassment](#). ACPO has also appointed single points of contact (SPOC) in police forces in the country that have responsibility for stalking and harassment cases.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) produced guidance on stalking and harassment for prosecutors in September 2010, including the latest advice on cyber-stalking. The guidelines are aimed to equip prosecutors with a better understanding of what stalking is and provides them with a framework to build stronger cases and to apply for more effective restraining orders. Visit the following website for more information. http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s_to_u/stalking_and_harassment/

The coalition government recently published strategy on VAW [Call to End Violence against Women and Girls](#) states the governments pledge to work closely with ACPO and CPS to ensure that effective practice in relation to stalking is shared between all police forces and CPS regional areas.

Theresa May, the Home Secretary, recently said the government should be a strong advocate for action, should bring organisations together and break down barriers, and should put in place a framework of policies that help the professionals. She said that why stalking was included in the recent strategic narrative to end violence against women and girl. She also said there would be a follow up on this with specific actions being predicted to be issued in the spring.

She further stressed the huge effect stalking has on victims. She said, "The effect of stalking on victims' lives can be devastating. The cold, hard statistics make that abundantly clear, a third of stalking victims said they had lost their job, they had lost their relationship or they had been forced to move house as a result of the stalking.

"Almost all reported serious emotional effects including: anxiety, sleep disturbance, suicide attempts, depression, paranoia and post-traumatic stress disorder. As well as these debilitating psychological effects, over 90% of stalking victims reported physical effects - some of them, of course, extremely serious."

She said, "Attitudes towards stalking are at a similar stage now as attitudes to domestic violence were thirty years ago. And the response to stalking is at a similar stage now as responses to domestic violence were thirty years ago."

The Home Secretary, admitted, "There is more that the government can do to improve the overall response to stalking. Stalking is a priority for me and I will make it a priority for this government."

Organisations providing support and useful links:

The National Stalking Helpline
www.stalkinghelpline.org

Protection Against Stalkingwww.protectionagainststalking.org**Network for Surviving Stalking**www.nss.org.uk**The Suzy Lamplugh Trust**www.suzylamplugh.org**Victim Support**www.victimsupport.org.uk

Parliamentary Updates

Shrinking the Quango State

Public Administration Committee Report

As part of the Government's drive to cut costs the role, size and scope of government quangos have formed part of a broad Coalition Government review to identify those which it felt were no longer necessary.

As a result of the review 192 quangos including the Women's National Commission (WNC) which was set up in 1969 as the national, independent organisation to present the views of women to government were axed.

The cross party Commons public administration select committee report however revealed that the review was poorly managed. ***There was no meaningful consultation, the tests the review used were not clearly defined and the Cabinet Office failed to establish a proper procedure for departments to follow.***

It stated, " The Government's stated intention for the review was to increase accountability by bringing functions previously discharged by public bodies back in to central departments, thus making ministers directly responsible for the decisions taken. But the Government has failed to recognise the realities of the modern world.

"Stakeholders and civil society play an important role providing challenge and criticism to public bodies on a day to day basis and it is easiest for them to perform this role when they have a clearly identified body to engage with, not a homogenous central department."

A Conservative MP and chairman of the Committee, Bernard Jenkin, said, the process was "rushed and poorly handled", the process for testing quangos had been too "vague" and "inconsistent".

"This was a fantastic opportunity to help build the Big Society and save money at the same time, but it has been botched."

Read the full report [here](#).

Consultations

Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing

A consultation to set 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.

Full consultation could be accessed [here](#).

Closing date - 17 January 2011

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

CAWN

New toolkit on Violence against Women and Girls

The UK Gender and Development Network (GADN), of which CAWN is a member, has published a fascinating booklet entitled '*Violence Against Women and Girls: Your Questions, our Answers*', as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' (25th Nov - 10th Dec). This will be a great tool for campaigning and for anyone who would like to know more about violence and how it affects women and girls around the world.

The booklet is now available to download from CAWN's website

(www.cawn.org), or by [clicking here](#).

Questionnaire - Exploring the category of gender within hate crime policy

Deadline: 12th February 2011.

In Britain the government has created legislation and policy designed to combat different forms of hate crime. It mandates that crimes which might be motivated by prejudice should be punished more harshly and that the victim should receive a higher standard of care.

The victim categories included in current hate crime policy are race, religion, sexual orientation and disability. To date, there has been little discussion about the merits of including gender within hate crime legislation. This questionnaire seeks to find about the potential for such an approach, and the limitations.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2XZXM3M>

Funding Opportunities

Department of Health

Third Sector Investment Programme Financial Assistance Fund 2010-2011

The Department of Health's Financial Assistance Fund has now opened for applications from charities at risk, with the **closing date for completed applications being noon on Wednesday 19 January 2011**.

The Financial Assistance Fund provides support to third sector organisations in 2010-11 who are experiencing financial difficulties that threaten their ability to continue activities. Available funding is limited and, to be successful, organisations will need to demonstrate clearly the impact this funding will have on the organisation's ability to continue activities

All funding must be committed by 31st March 2011.

Information and application packs can be found on the DoH's website [here](#) or go to: www.dh.gov.uk/thirdsectorinvestment

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

Rights of Women

Seminar and Debate: Understanding current proposals on legal aid and the implications for women's access to justice

Date: Thursday 3 February 2011

Time: 3.15-4.45pm

Venue: National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL

The Government's current consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid closes on 14 February 2011. This seminar will equip you with a better understanding of the way that the proposed changes will affect the women that you work with and enable you to respond to the consultation. Participants will engage in a question and answer session on the current proposals and the potential impact of the proposed changes on women's access to justice.

This seminar and debate is open to representatives from voluntary and statutory sector organisations interested in finding out about, and campaigning on, the law and policy related to access to justice and civil legal aid. It is open to women and men and will be publicised widely.

Places are limited so please book your spaces ASAP to avoid disappointment. Contact Katherine Perks on Katherine@row.org.uk

Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Events Series 4

Risk Masterclass March 24th

Objectives:

To Examine and explore:

- the evidence base that informed the compilation of the DASH (2009) Risk Model
- agency responsibility in relation to risk identification, assessment and management
- the risk identification process and the high risk factors for serious harm and homicide
- how this relates to the risk management process
- how the model fits into the wider public protection framework including children and risk
- the profile of the domestic violence perpetrator and nature of serial offending
- how the model fits into partnership working and the risk management panels including the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- lessons learned from homicide reviews using case studies.

'Train the Trainer' Events - April 14th 2011

Ideally, this class should be attended by those who have already been trained in the use of DASH. On completion of the training you will feel confident and competent to deliver training to others. You will receive a certificate following the course to show you are accredited to deliver training to others and accredited trainers will receive all material specified post the training session.

To register for training or to find out more email the Events Co-ordinator, Alison Bird, alison.bird@tiscali.co.uk. To view DASH in more detail please go to www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk

Free Lambeth multi agency domestic violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation programme

Mental Health and Domestic Violence - 28 January 2011
 Advanced Domestic Violence - 2 February 2011
 Female Genital Mutilation - 7 February 2011
 Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence - 7 March 2011

To find out more and to attend please contact Jade Holvey, Domestic Violence Coordinator, on 020 7926 4877 or email her on jholvey@lambeth.gov.uk

Amnesty International – Book Launch

The Whistleblower: sex trafficking, military contractors, and one woman's fight for justice

Date: Tue 25 January 2011 - 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Kathryn Bolkovac served as an International Police Task Force human rights investigator in Bosnia, where she headed the gender affairs unit. At great personal risk, she began to unravel the ugly truth about officers involved in human trafficking and forced prostitution and their connections to private mercenary contractors, the UN, and US State Department. Soon, she was demoted, then fired.

She was threatened and forced to flee the country under cover of darkness - bringing incriminating documents with her. Thanks to the evidence she had collected, Kathryn won a lawsuit against private military contractor DynCorp, exposing their actions.

Kathryn will talk about her experiences and then take questions from the audience.

Copies of the book will be on sale.

To book a place please visit the following website

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_booking.asp?ID=1735&#booking

London Metropolitan University

Human rights and social justice seminars – 26 January-7 July 2011 December 3, 2010

The Human Rights and Social Justice Research Institute at London Metropolitan University is holding a series of public seminars to debate the value of human rights standards and principles as a means of scrutinising the impact of public policy, identifying its true cost and, where necessary, proposing alternatives.

The series will also explore what it means in practice to integrate equality and human rights approaches in legal, policy and political responses to austerity. Speakers at the fifth seminar in May on 'Integrating human rights and equality in responses to austerity' include Professor Sandra Fredman, University of Oxford and Sarah Spencer CBE, Chair, Equality and Diversity Forum.

The registration fee for each seminar is £5, payable on the door, which includes a glass of wine.

For more information and to book a place click [here](#)

London Metropolitan University

MA Woman and Child Abuse – One year (Full-time) or Two years (Part-time)

The aim of the MA programme is to provide a comprehensive grounding in theoretical frameworks, research, policy and practice approaches to woman and child abuse.

The programme aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of all forms of violence against women and child abuse, including sexual exploitation, domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful traditional practices.

Entry Requirements: A good Honours degree in a relevant subject and/or experience of developing/delivering policy or service provision in the field. A degree in an unrelated subject and lower qualifications may be acceptable if balanced by extensive relevant experience. All applicants are normally interviewed, but importance is also placed on the statement of application.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in both written and spoken English.

To find our more please contact Maddy Coy Deputy Director / MA Coordinator on 020 7133 5024 or m.coy@londonmet.ac.uk or visit the website www.cwasu.org

Postgraduate Short Courses - Short Courses on Violence Against Women and Girls

These courses are aimed at professionals currently working in the statutory or voluntary sector who wish to:

- Conduct internal evaluation, monitoring and small scale research projects;
- Develop and extend specialist services dealing with child and/or woman abuse;
- Undertake policy development at a local, regional or national level where they have responsibility for delivering support and advocacy services, coordinating multi-agency for and/or improving the response of the criminal justice and/or health sectors
- Deliver government and/or agency policy commitments with respect to

Safeguarding Children, addressing domestic violence, rape, FGM, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and other forms of violence against women.

This course will focus on forms of sexual violence in child and adulthood including:

- sexual abuse in childhood
- rape and sexual assault of adults
- sexual exploitation including pornography
- prostitution
- trafficking and other aspects of the sex industry
- sexual harassment

The course will be delivered over 6 days and the areas covered will be: definitions and prevalence; impacts and meanings; legislative frameworks and the criminal justice response; sexual cultures; perpetrators and approaches to prevention

Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People

The course will extend the student's knowledge base in relation to:

- sexual exploitation of children & young people

- definitions and prevalence of sexual exploitation
- intervention and protection
- managing perpetrators
- policy and legislation

Historical continuities in the form and nature of sexual exploitation will be examined, in a national and international context. The impact of sexual exploitation on the child or young person will be examined, and good practice in working with young people explored. Particular examples of exploitation will be analysed,

Teaching dates for the next course in the 2011 spring semester are:

Thursday 17th February

Friday 18th February

Thursday 3rd March

Friday 4th March

Thursday 31st March

Friday 1st April

Course Fee: £600

To find out more please contact Maddy Coy Deputy Director / MA Coordinator on 020 7133 5024 or m.coy@londonmet.ac.uk or visit the website www.cwasu.org

Eaves

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:

February – 2nd and 3rd (Wed & Thu) 2011

March – 9th and 10th (Wed & Thu) 2011

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

Women's Resource Centre & Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Using CEDAW in the UK

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are running FREE regional training on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in February 2011 in **Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle.**

Further information and booking forms please visit the following websites:

- **Cardiff - Thursday 3rd February 2011**

http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_cardiff.aspx

- **Birmingham - Thursday 10th February 2011**

http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_birmingham.aspx

- **Manchester - Wednesday 16th February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_manchester.aspx
- **Newcastle - Friday 25th February 2011**
http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/cedaw_events/using_cedaw_in_the_uk_newcastle.aspx

For more information, please contact Charlotte Gage at the Women's Resource Centre on charlotte@wrc.org.uk or call 020 7324 3042.

Rights of Women

New & Updated Training Courses – March & April 2011

No recourse? EEA national? The permanent solution - London 2nd March

Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence - London 9th March

Protecting children from domestic violence: children and the law - London 16th March

Supporting survivors of sexual violence - Manchester 23rd March

Stop the traffic! Supporting women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation - Birmingham 30th March

For more info contact the training officer: 0207 251 6575 training@row.org.uk

Further course details: <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/training.php>

Vacancies and Volunteering

Housing for Women

Director of Support Housing

Salary £47,000 - One year contract initially

Housing for Women is a leading women's housing association, providing innovative solutions to women's housing needs in the capital. We provide secure, quality accommodation and support for women and their dependants in eight London boroughs.

We are offering a varied and challenging role as Director of Supported Housing. This is a new post with responsibility for developing and securing the sustainability of our supported projects and provides a real opportunity to shape services to meet emerging needs. We currently provide refuges and ancillary services for women and their children rejecting domestic violence; accommodation and support for trafficked women and we work with women ex-offenders and their children.

To apply download an application pack from the following website www.hfw.org.uk or write to Sixth Floor, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 28 January 2011

Re-Unite Project Co-ordinator

Salary £32,000 - £33,000 - Three year contract

Our Re-Unite project provides temporary accommodation and floating support to women leaving prison, to successfully re-unite them with their children and resettle them within the community. We are offering a varied and challenging role as Project Co-ordinator. You will have experience working with women offenders and providing support to socially excluded women and their dependants. You will also have experience in managing staff and working with statutory and voluntary agencies.

This position is restricted to women and subject to section 7(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The successful candidate for this position will undertake an enhanced CRB check.

Closing date for applications 12 noon Monday 31 January 2011

To download an application pack please visit the following website www.hfw.org.uk or write to Sixth Floor, Bluestar House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP

Estate Services Officer (Caretaker) – Part-time (21 hours per week)

£12,600 - £13,500 per annum

We are looking for an Estate Services Officer to provide a quality estate and property management service as part of our busy, committed staff team.

This is a varied and challenging post. Reporting to the Housing Team Leader you will be the main link between our estate properties and head office. You will have good communication skills, an ability to juggle multiple tasks and be physically capable of using ladders. A full clean driving licence is essential.

Closing date: Friday 21st January 2011

Interviews: Wednesday 26th January 2011

An application pack can be obtained by faxing, writing or emailing:

Housing for Women, Sixth Floor, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London, SW9 9SP Fax: 020 7924 0224 Email: info@h4w.co.uk

Central America Women's Network (CAWN) - Co-Director

CAWN is seeking new Co-Directors to join the Management Committee and support the overall management of the organisation as well as an exciting EU-funded development education project for 2011 which will focus on Women, Social Exclusion and the Media.

Co-Directors are responsible for the governance of CAWN and are expected to provide hands-on support to the work of the organisation. A commitment to women's rights and knowledge of Latin America, gender and development are essential. Knowledge of alternative media as a tool for development, or experience of managing EU grants or of working in the U.K. university sector on development education projects would be beneficial.

Co-Directors are expected to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours per month on duties related to CAWN and to be able to commit to at least 2 years in the role.

The closing date for applications is 21st January 2011.

If you are interested in the position please send a copy of your CV and expression of interest to CAWN either by post for the attention of Marilyn Thomson or by e-mail to info@cawn.org.

For the full description of the role and person specification please [click here](#) for the Terms of Reference or go to www.cawn.org

