

SVAAN Update – February 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.

Retraction of rape and domestic violence allegations

Retraction of rape and domestic violence allegations and prosecution of victims

The Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) has recently launched a public consultation on retraction of rape and domestic violence allegations.

Under the proposed new CPS guidelines prosecutors are unlikely to prosecute individuals who retract allegations of rape and domestic violence out of fear of violence or intimidation. e course of justice.

Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said, "These are very difficult cases which need to be handled carefully and sensitively. Our interim guidance aims to protect individuals who retract a truthful allegation as a result of pressure or fear of violence, while taking a firm approach to those who make a malicious allegation against an innocent person. We welcome views on the interim guidance from anyone with an interest in this complex area."

The interim guidance covers three areas:

- where a complainant of rape or domestic violence retracts an allegation
- where a complainant of rape or domestic violence withdraws a retraction
- where a complainant of rape or domestic violence makes a false allegation

Under the law retraction of a criminal allegation could be interpreted as an offence of ***perverting the course of justice*** which is a serious offence that could carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

However, the guidance states that prosecutor should be aware that victims of domestic violence and rape could retract a true allegation as a result of pressure, fear of violence, intimidation, and/or other factors. Though this might amount to an admission to perverting the course of justice, there is a higher risk that the complainant may have been admitting an offence she/he has not committed in an effort simply to bring the prosecution to an end.

Prosecutors are to take into consideration factors such as, that the original allegation was not motivated by malice; the person retracting the allegation has been threatened or pressurised into doing so; there is a history of abuse, domestic violence or intimidation and where the suspect of the original allegation was not charged, detained or convicted.

However in circumstances where a false complaint was motivated by malice; the suspect in the original allegation was charged, remanded in custody, tried, convicted or sentenced; or where the suspect was vulnerable or suffered significant damage to their reputation, it is most likely that there would be prosecution.

Calling for responses, the Director of Public Prosecutions said, "The responses that we receive as a result of the public consultation will help shape the final legal guidance that will be published later in the year. We hope that the finalised document will give the public confidence that we are doing all that we can to ensure that the sensitive and complex issues raised by these cases are recognised and carefully considered".

The consultation is open till the 6th of May 2011.

To access the interim guidance and to respond to the consultation click [here](#).

Consultation Update

Ministry of Justice

Thousands responded to the Legal aid 'reform' consultation

The Government has received more than 5000 responses to the recently closed consultation to 'reform' legal aid in England and Wales.

The proposed reforms which would amount to a substantial reduction in the scope of legal aid would have a significant negative impact on women and other vulnerable groups.

The Ministry of Justice is expected to publish its responses around Easter.

Read Eaves response to the consultation [here](#).

Read the consultation document [here](#).

Communities and Local Government

Local decisions: next steps towards a fairer future for social housing – *Consultation response published*

The document summarises responses to the consultation paper, 'Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing', and indicates the Government's intentions on next steps in the reform of social housing.

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

Parliamentary Updates

Rights Bill 2010-11

A Bill to set out certain principles in a United Kingdom Bill of Rights; to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998; and for connected purposes. This Bill was presented to Parliament on 5 July 2010.

It will be on the Order Paper for a Second Reading debate on 16 December 2011, although the House is not expected to sit on this day.

Read more – click [here](#).

Consultations

Law Commission Consultation

Marital Property Agreements

In this consultation, the Law Commission is asking whether the current legislation provides the right basis for determining the effect of marital property agreements, or whether a new approach is needed. Could reform bring more autonomy and certainty to couples who want to enter into such agreements, while retaining sufficient safeguards to protect vulnerable spouses and children?

The full consultation paper is available at www.lawcom.gov.uk/marital_property.htm

The consultation closes on 11 April 2011.

Department of Work and Pensions

Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance – public consultation

The consultation seeks views on the Government's strategy for reforming the child maintenance system. It is based on the Coalition Government's principle of enabling parents to take responsibility for their families.

Deadline to the consultation is **7 April 2011**.

For more information and to access the consultation document click [here](#)

International Women's Day Events

Her Centre

International Women's Day - 100th Anniversary 8 March 2011

10.00 – 15.00 - Charlton House/Library, Charlton Village, SE7 8RE

You are invited to Her Centre's free special event for the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. The theme for this year's celebrations is "**Women's Wellbeing—Body & Mind**".

The event includes Massage, Arts Therapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Workshops on Self Confidence, Mindfulness, Healthy Living Information Stalls, & much more Entertainment.

Limited spaces available for workshops so please RSVP to Dorothy & Rinaani on 0208 858 0748 or dorothy@hercentre.org or rinaani.musutua@hercentre.org

One World Action welcomes UNWomen

9th March, 6:30-8pm Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament

To mark the 100th anniversary International Women's Day, One World Action and Young Fabian Women will be hosting a meeting to discuss the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the new agency with a panel of experts, including: Baroness Glenys Kinnock, Emily Sikazwe, Director of Women for Change, Zambia, Kathy Peach, Head of External Affairs at VSO UK, and Rushanara Ali, MP.

For more information and If you would like to attend, please contact:
mwmp@oneworldaction.org

International Women's Day - Champagne Breakfast, City of London

11th March Guildhall, City of London

This champagne breakfast will raise money for Refuge, a charity that assists women and child victims of domestic violence.

For more information or to sponsor a table contact safercity@cityoflondon.gov.uk
 or for an individual seat at the event contact Belinda.Harding@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk

International Women's Fair

12th March, all day Spitalfields Traders Market

Celebrate International Women's Day with a wonderful collection of creative women including artists exhibiting paintings and photography, handmade crafts, books, fashion designers, music, poetry, participatory workshops, fabulous food and great entertainment.

For more information go to www.alternativearts.co.uk

Southbank Women of the World (WOW)

Festival 11th-13th March Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

Launching this year, Women of the World, WOW is a joyous celebration of the formidable strength and inventiveness of women. This festival will present, recognise and celebrate women, and act as a conversation space for issues of all kinds.

For full listings of events and how to book go to:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/festivals-series/wow-%E2%80%93-women-of-the-world-0

One Law for All

Women's Rights, Sharia Law and Secularism

International Conference on Women's Rights, Sharia Law and Secularism on 12 March at the University of London Union from 10.00-19.00

The one-day conference marking International Women's Day will discuss religion's impact on women's rights; religion and secularism and religion and the law. Speakers include Philosopher A.C. Grayling, Honorary Speaker of the Belgian Senate Anne-Marie Lizin; National Secular Society Vice President Elizabeth O'Casey; and women's rights campaigner Yasmin Rehman.

There will also be a showing of Ghazi Rabihavi's play, Stoning, which Harold Pinter has described as 'a very strong and powerful piece of work, beautifully constructed.'

You can find out more about the conference and booking a space via our website: <http://www.onelawforall.org.uk/12-march-2010-international-conference-on-women%e2%80%99s-rights-sharia-law-and-secularism-london/>. You may register on the day at the door but it would help us if you could pre-register.

MILLION WOMEN RISE UNCUT 2011 - Saturday 5 March 2011

Because Male Violence Continues, So Too Does Million Women Rise. This year we will also be celebrating 100 years International Women's Day - JOIN US!

Meeting -12pm Meet Hyde Park (Speakers Corner End Nearest Tube: Marble Arch)

Rally and Celebration - 3.30 – 5.30pm Rally and Celebration in Trafalgar Square (Nearest Tubes: Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, and Charing Cross)

Food and Networking -5pm - 1am Food and Networking Party at The 52 Gower Street [WC1E6EB](#), please note this is a wheelchair accessible venue

Suggested Donation

£5 low waged

£12 high waged

Or what you can afford

This is an All Women Event Only

If your organisation would like to book a stall for the rally at Trafalgar Square, please contact [0207 3243039](tel:02073243039) or email Skye@wrc.org.uk

INNER SPACE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Life in a Handbag - Saturday 5 March - 1.30pm – 4pm

Wallace Space, Duke's Road, London WC1H 9PN (nearest tube stations, Kings Cross & Euston)

Free event!

A handbag is a woman's best friend, a woman's own private little sanctuary; a mystery to everyone but herself! As bits and pieces of a woman's personality and life come together in her handbag. Explore self-development using the 'handbag' metaphor. An event for women by women.

Attend 4 SESSIONS (20 min each) from the following:

short talks . . .

- Fit Everything, Mary Poppins Style! - creating a diverse life portfolio
- The Mobile Phone - talking is good, too much talking may not be
- What your Handbag says about You? - organised or a disorganised free spirit?

meditations . . .

- De-clutter your Bag - get rid of things that don't work for you
- The Make-Up - sparkle with confidence
- Put your Handbag Down - give your back a break

- Refill your Purse - recharge for abundance

reflective exercises . . .

- Pack Smart - essentials you just can't live without
- Handbag Wars - stop being a drama queen
- The Umbrella - ready for a rainy day, for every eventuality
- Forward Planner - what's next

Registration essential - email event@innerspace.org.uk

Once you have registered, you will receive an e-form to choose your 4 sessions.

CoolTan Arts

Celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day with CoolTan Arts' Conference and new art exhibition 'Women's Stories'

Arts and mental health charity CoolTan Arts celebrates 100 years of International Women's Day with a conference celebrating women of the last century and their narratives, personal, historical or artistic.

We will explore and celebrate the lives and works of inspirational local women from the past 100 years, and personal stories of women we know. There will be particular emphasis on stories of women from marginalised and excluded groups, including disabled women, women with mental distress and refugee women.

Date and Time: Wed, 09 March 2011 at 11am – 4pm

Venue: CoolTan Arts Independent Gallery, Unit B 237 Walworth Road, London SE17 1RL

Entrance to the conference, film screenings and exhibition is free, but there will be a small charge for refreshments and £1 for each workshop.

Get creative, have fun, meet like-minded people and make friends. All welcome! Please RSVP to info@cooltanarts.org.uk or call 020 77012696.

HOUSING FOR WOMEN

Re-Place Project for Trafficked Women

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

On International Women's Day, 8 March, the London Oriana Choir, is doing an exciting concert of music by women composers including a great variety of styles, some contemporary, some ancient and some in between. The daughter of one composer, Elizabeth Lutyens, is one of our long standing tenants.

Most excitingly the retiring collection is going to be for Housing for Women, for our trafficked women project. So if you can't come to the concert, you can always donate the price of a ticket instead. Our website www.hfw.org.uk will lead you to VirginMoneyGiving or you can give a cheque to Housing for Women.

Please support them if you can at www.hfw.org.uk and follow the link to VirginMoneyGiving.

Reports and Research

Gender and Development Network

Violence Against Women and Girls – Your Questions and Our Answers – an advocacy toolkit to raise the public profile of violence against women on an international scale. It makes the facts about violence against women more accessible and is a valuable resource in increasing awareness of the actions that have been taken to tackle this issue and the struggle to end all types of violence against women.

Click [here](#) to download the booklet.

Perpetuity Research

Perpetuity Research are undertaking a scoping exercise on behalf of the **Metropolitan Police** and their partners to inform the development of the **Healthy Relationships Training (HEART) programme**.

As part of HEART we are compiling a directory of services able to provide support to vulnerable young people. Our particular focus is on **Lewisham, Newham and Waltham Forest**, but we are also interested in services elsewhere in London able to provide services to young people in these areas.

We are now in the process of compiling this directory of services that can be used to signpost young people to relevant services. We are gathering information for the directory via an online survey and we would be grateful if someone could complete this on behalf of your service. There is no cost attached to being part of the directory but it will help to publicise the invaluable work you do.

Log onto <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/heart-directory> to take part.

For more information please feel free to contact Jon Adamson (j.adamson@perpetuitygroup.com) or Amy Burrell (a.burrell@perpetuitygroup.com)

Funding Opportunities

Southwark - Transition/Sustainability Fund 2011/12

Southwark Council has established a Sustainability fund for third sector organisations in the borough. The purpose of the fund is to help organisations adapt to a changing and challenging funding environment at a time when they are at risk from reductions in Southwark Council funding.

Grants will normally be less than £25,000, and are for activities that may include support with developing:

- Fundraising strategies / funding bids
- Business plans
- Mergers and collaborations
- Sharing back office costs

- Initiatives around personalisation
- Innovation and new models of more effective / efficient service provision and realising savings

Only organisations who are currently in receipt of Southwark Council funding and can provide evidence, or have substantial reason to believe, that this funding will be significantly reduced in 2011/12, are eligible.

Priority will be given to multi-funded organisations which are likely to lose funding from more than one council funding stream.

To find out more visit <http://casouthwark.org.uk/category/funding-news/>

The Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation, a new organisation dedicated to aiding charitable organisations that promote self esteem and confidence in disenfranchised women and girls in the UK and educating the membership about effective and transparent charitable giving, has launched its first grant round.

The foundation, launched in spring 2010, is based on the Giving Circle concept, which requires the same level of designated financial contribution from each member and a democratic approach to decision making.

Each year the foundation will award a grant to a UK-based organisation that provides programming and services with a proven track record for positive results. Grant criteria requires the grantee to demonstrate clear knowledge and experience in the chosen area of funding, including specific programme details as well as a competent and dynamic staff. Details of the grant criteria can be requested from womensfoundationuk@gmail.com.

The Women's Foundation is also welcoming new members - visit their website for more information and easy access to membership forms online or check out their website: www.womensfoundation.org.uk

European Youth Foundation

Fund Value: € 2,566,000

Application Deadline: 01 April 2011

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) was established in 1979 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities.

The purpose of the fund is to encourage co-operation in young people throughout Europe by supporting European youth activities which promote peace, understanding and co-operation whilst adhering to the Council of Europe's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

Financial support is available to non-governmental youth organisation or networks or other non-governmental structures involved in areas of youth work which are relevant to the schemes objectives.

The types of activities that are eligible for financial support are as follows:

- Educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character.
- Activities aimed at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe.
- Activities designed to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing the exchange of information.
- Activities intended to stimulate mutual aid in Europe and in the developing countries for cultural, educational and social purposes.

- Studies, research and documentation on youth matters.

For further information contact:

European Youth Foundation
 Directorate of Youth and Sport
 Council of Europe
 30, rue Pierre de Coubertin
 F- 67000 Strasbourg

Telephone: (33) 03 88 41 20 19

Trainings, Meetings and Events

Women and Girls Network

Women and Girls Network is providing an **Introduction to Counselling and Supporting Refugee Women training course**

This **FREE** accredited course has been designed for refugee women who wish to develop understanding of principles and practice in counselling. No prior knowledge of counselling is required.

Candidates who successfully complete this course will be eligible for access to the Diploma in Counselling and Supporting Refugee Women.

To download the flyer and for an application form please click on this link
<http://tiny.cc/znm8n>

Please return **two hard copies** of your application form **by 4th March 2011** to:

Gona Saed
 Refugee Women's Project Development Worker
 Women and Girls Network
 P.O.Box 13095
 London W14 0FE

For enquires/further information please email Gona on gona@wgn.org.uk

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

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

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

Human Rights Watch

Film Festival - London, 23 March - 1 April, 2011

Returning to London from 23 March to 1 April, the 15th edition of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival brings to UK audiences a powerful line-up of 16 documentaries and 5 dramas — many attended by filmmakers and film subjects.

For more information and for the festival programme visit the following link:

<http://www.hrw.org/en/iff>

Southall Black Sisters

Invite you to a panel discussion of the launch of the publication - *'Cohesion, Faith and Gender'*

6.30- 8.30pm Wednesday 16 March 2011
Committee Room 3, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW

The report is based on a pilot study conducted by Southall Black Sisters (SBS) with support from Oxfam (GB.) It examines the impact of the government's 'cohesion' and 'faith – based' approach on vulnerable black and minority women in Ealing. The panel of speakers will discuss the findings of the report against the background of the previous and present government's flagship policies on 'Cohesion' and the 'Big Society' and their implications for equality and racial and gender justice.

Keynote Speakers:

Lord Bhikhu Parekh
 Lord Herman Ouseley
 Faiza Shaheen (New Economics Foundation)
 Pragna Patel and Dr Uditi Sen (Southall Black Sisters)
 Sue Smith (Oxfam GB)
 Chaired by Samira Ahmed (Channel 4 newsreader and presenter)

Please note that the meeting will start promptly at 6pm so arrive at least 30 minutes early to allow for security checks. **As there is limited space, booking is essential.**

To book a place email info@southallblacksisters.co.uk

CAWN - 20th anniversary celebration

Thursday 31st March, 6:30-8:30pm Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

Join us in celebrating this occasion at an evening of talks and discussion with our guest speakers from Honduras, which will be followed by a drinks reception.

To reserve your place at this special event please contact info@cawn.org.

Women reaching Women

Conference 2011 12th April, 11am-4pm The Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP

The conference will showcase the work the WI, Oxfam and The Everyone Foundation have been doing over the past three years. Speakers will include Ruth Bond, Chair of NFWI, Barbara Stocking, Chief Executive of Oxfam GB, members of the current government and the Honduran women's rights activists from our partner organisation CEM-H. The conference will also be an opportunity to share key lessons from the project

on how to engage the wider public on these issues in a way that inspires, informs and empowers. For further information go to: www.thewi.org.uk/standard.aspx?id=12134

To confirm your attendance at the conference email: s.mason@nfwf.org.uk

Refugee Council Conference

'Working together to protect refugees'

23rd March, London

The morning session of the conference (11.00 – 13.00) will focus on the work of five refugee organisations from around the UK who have developed and delivered inspiring projects for the benefit of refugees and asylum seekers in their local communities. Participants include RAMFEL, NILE African Development Organisation, Manchester Refugee Support Network, Churches Together Network and the Gateway protection programme.

This will be followed by a panel discussion.

We will then break for a networking lunch.

In the afternoon (14.00 - 15.30) we will hear from our Keynote Speaker Roland Schilling, UNHCR Representative in London. This will be followed by a question and answer session to discuss challenges facing our sector and how we can work more effectively together to protect refugees and asylum seekers. The panel will comprise Donna Covey, Chief Executive, Refugee Council, Roland Schilling, UNHCR Representative in London and Mike Kaye, Advocacy Manager, Still Human Still Here.

To find out more and to register click [here](#)

GLA

Spotlight Event on Domestic Violence and Rough Sleeping

Friday 18 March 2011, 13.00 – 16.00 in City Hall's Committee Room 5

We would like to invite you to a Spotlight Event on Domestic Violence and Rough Sleeping. This free event focuses on best practice and partnership working. It is hosted by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in partnership with Homeless Link and the East London Housing Partnership and will take place on:

The Mayor is driving forward initiatives which make London a safer city for all. In this context he has prioritised reducing violence against women. He is also committed to ending rough sleeping in the capital by the end of 2012. This event will explore the crossover between these agendas.

This event will bring together professionals from across London to share and improve practice, to influence change in the services for women and girls who have experienced violence and abuse and are rough sleeping, and to consider effective prevention strategies.

Please RSVP to this invitation by contacting Laura Smith at laura.smith@london.gov.uk or 020 7983 4884.

The Scarlet Centre

Domestic Violence Support Group - Starting in March/April 2011

Every Tuesday from 11am - 12.30pm

The group is designed to help you feel more positive about yourself
 Challenge self-blame
 Explore different ideas around violence and abuse

Sexual Violence Support Group - Starting this March/April 2011

Every Tuesday from 11am - 12:30pm.

This group is designed for women overcoming experiences of sexual violence and abuse.

To book an assessment, please ask at the centre reception –

**Eaves Scarlet Centre
 Unit 3.12
 Canterbury Court
 1-3 Brixton Road
 SW9 6DE
 0207 8407 142**

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 and attendees are expected to attend both days.

Why should I attend?

- Would you like to learn more about how to utilise your existing resources in a cost effective way?
- Do you have responsibility for Community Safety and Engagement in your borough?
- Is violence against women and girls part of your remit?
- Want to understand how to develop a strategy for your borough/ organisation?
- Do you want to learn more about developing policies to help you respond to prostitution in your borough?
- Would you like to develop exit strategies for women involved in prostitution?

If you answered yes to any of these, then this course is for you!

Dates:

**March 9th and 10th 2011
 April 13th and 14th 2011
 May 11th and 12th 2011
 June 14th and 15th 2011**

For further information, or to book a place, please contact: **Louise Jenkins on 020 7840 7103** or louise.jenkins@eaveshousing.co.uk

Cost: £150 (statutory agencies) or £110 (voluntary agencies)

Vacancies and Volunteering

WOMEN AND GIRLS NETWORK

Rape crisis sessional counsellors (female)

You must be BACP or UKCP accredited (or eligible) and have experience of providing a range of counselling interventions for women who have experienced sexual violence. We are particularly looking for therapists from the BAMER community with additional languages. We are also recruiting for an experienced young women's specialist counsellor with a background in creative therapies.

Closing date for applications is 21ST March 2011
Interviews will take place on 24th and 25th March 2011.

Gendered violence specialist sessional counsellors (female)

You must be BACP or UKCP accredited with at least three years' post-qualifying experience working with survivors of violence. You will be competent in a range of interventions working with trauma.

Closing date for applications is 21ST March 2011
Interviews will take place on 24th and 25th March 2011.

1 x Group-worker (female)

Gendered Violence Specialist £150 per day

You must be BACP or UKCP accredited with at least three years' post-qualifying experience working with survivors of violence. You will be confident in delivering themed groups and therapeutic groupwork with survivors of violence. You will have a recognised groupwork qualification or equivalent experience.

Closing date for applications is 21ST March 2011
Interviews will take place on 24th and 25th March 2011.

Honorary counsellors (female)

We are offering a unique development opportunity to counsellors in this specialist field who are completing the final year of their counselling diploma. You will receive regular supervision and CPD.

Closing date: 4th April 2011
Interviews to be advised.

Administration Manager (Female) **up to £30,000**

An expert in administration, ICT systems you will provide executive support services to our Senior Management Team and manage the delivery of reception, administration, facilities and ICT services to WGN's main centre and satellite locations. To support you in delivering these services will be a full time Receptionist/Administrator and a team of exceptional volunteers.

Closing date for all applications is Monday 14th March 2011.
Interviews will take place on Monday 21st March 2011

Reception-Administrator (Female) **up to £21,000**

You will provide a warm, calm and supportive welcome for all visitors and callers to the Rape Crisis Centre. Working with the Centre Manager you will provide a range of reception, administrative and facilities support services enabling WGN to deliver high quality services.

**Closing date for all applications is Monday 14th March 2011.
Interviews will take place on Monday 21st March 2011**

**Download application packs from www.wgn.org.uk join us page
Applications MUST be returned by post.**

If you have any difficulties downloading the pack, please email: gurpreet@wgn.org.uk

WGN is an equal opportunities employer. These positions are open to women only, exempt under S7 (2) (e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. Registered Charity Number 1014300.

