

## The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 344

21 March 2011 – 25 March 2011

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

#### **“Night Stalker” receives 4 life sentences**

Delroy Grant 53, was convicted of 29 offences, just a fraction of the crimes police suspect he committed. Police believe he was responsible for 203 crimes targeting older victims, all having been between the ages of 68 and 89. He was given 4 life sentences and told he would serve a minimum of 27 years.

Grant was dubbed the "night stalker" because he would strike in darkness, attacking his victims after watching them sometimes for hours, cutting phone lines and electricity, sometimes carrying out ferocious assaults, sometimes heeding pleas for mercy. The victims were all elderly and they lived alone. Police believe the trauma hastened the deaths of some of his victims.

Sometimes he would break in by exploiting a flaw in a double-glazed window. He researched the homes they lived in, sometimes stalking them for hours before striking. The homes were bungalows, built in the 1930s, and in some attacks he spent hours talking to the victims. Grant's choice of victims – elderly, living alone and all too often overcome by feelings of humiliation after their ordeal – helped him stay free for as long as he did. Grant struck across south-east London, Kent and Surrey, including Bromley, Shirley, Addiscombe, Orpington, West Dulwich and Beckenham.

Grant's conviction also means police failings in the case can be revealed. Grant began offending in 1991, he was convicted at Leicester magistrates court of handling stolen goods, but is believed to have carried out his first sexual assault one year later, and his crimes stretched to 2009. They missed the chance to catch him in 1999; the bulk of his crimes were committed after that date. Police say 146 offences were committed after they missed that chance to catch him. Among those offences were 23 sexual assaults.

Until today, he had only the one criminal conviction. Grant was not on the DNA database, nor were fingerprints ever recovered from the scores of homes he turned into crime scenes. Although the attacks began in 1991, police say between 1992 and 1996 there is no evidence of his offending. Detectives are not sure why he stopped. By 1997 he had restarted his crimes, and police linked a series of attacks. They launched Operation Minstead, and the hunt for the "night stalker" began. His capture came after a fresh look at the case, and was a mix of inventive police work, hard graft, and luck.

In 2009 the investigation asked for and was granted more resources. The suspect had returned to offending at regular intervals. Around the area he had been striking in most, in Shirley, police mounted a large surveillance operation involving 70 officers. Detectives got a CCTV image of a car which was confirmed as a silvery grey Vauxhall Zafira, the kind of car the suspect drove. At midnight a man was seen running to the car. It was followed by police to Penge, where Grant was stopped and arrested. In the car boot and glove compartment were found clothing worn by Grant during the attacks and a crowbar linked to a break-in. A police dog was brought in. Tracing the scent backwards from the car, it found police had seen Grant after attempting to break in trying to force a window. Other tests, including DNA, would also link him to previous crime scenes.

**Guardian 24 march 2011**

**Channel 4 News 25 March 2011**

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## **Olympics raises awareness of trafficking among London councils**

It is difficult to predict the scale of trafficking of adults and children which may occur during the 2012 London Olympics, according to new research. However, the Games will raise awareness of trafficking and ensure support systems to help victims are robust.

London Councils commissioned GLE to review the potential impact of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on trafficking. The research, entitled The 2012 Games and Human Trafficking, finds little tangible evidence to suggest trafficking will increase at Games-time. However, it highlights the very real problem that trafficking poses now. Trafficked adults and children can be subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ removal. They can be forced into drug dealing and other criminal activity by the organised gangs or individuals who

have brought them into the country. They can then be trafficked between cities within the UK, or sold to buyers abroad.

The research highlighted the run up to the Olympics as an opportunity for a range of organisations to ensure existing resources designed to help trafficking victims are working in the most effective way and are being used to their full potential. Researchers emphasised support must be tailored to the individual needs of trafficking victims when they have been identified and assessed.

Building up trust is essential in making victims aware of services available to them, as many will be extremely mistrusting of the authorities.

It also looked at the extent of trafficking during recent world sporting events including the 2010 Winter Games in Canada and the World Cup in South Africa. They concluded that it was difficult to predict the impact of past case studies on future sporting events due to the importance of the unique context of each country, as well as highlighting the need for sustainable strategies in place of temporary anti-trafficking measures attached to sporting events.

London Councils Executive Member for Crime and Public Protection, Councillor Claire Kober said:

“Trafficked people are at increased risk of significant harm because they are largely invisible to the professionals and volunteers who would be in a position to assist them. Those who traffic them take trouble to ensure that their victims do not come to the attention of the authorities, or disappear from contact with statutory services soon after arrival in the UK, or in a new area within the UK.

The international nature of the Olympic and Paralympic Games makes them an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about trafficking among a range of agencies who work on the frontline. They need to know that there are resources to support them in making the critical decisions which must be taken quickly when a suspected victim of trafficking is identified. Trafficking is a big problem now. It is difficult to predict the scale of trafficking which may occur during the Olympics, so multi agency work and strong communication will be vital in safeguarding suspected victims.”

Managing Director of GLE Consulting, Madeleine Williams said: “Our research began as a response to concerns in local authorities about increases in human trafficking. Whilst our research has not been able to quantify the extent to which this will occur, it has highlighted the wealth of resources available to local authorities and their partners to counter trafficking that might occur in their area.”

**London Councils press release 18 March reported at Women’s Grid 22 March 2011**

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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK**

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## **Glasgow rape unit set up after series of attacks**

A dedicated rape investigation unit has been set up in Scotland's biggest city, following a string of attacks on women in the past three months.

The unit will comprise 10 specialist officers, led by a detective inspector.

Strathclyde Police said 100 officers were patrolling the streets in Glasgow city centre on Friday and Saturday nights in the wake of recent attacks.

Det Ch Insp David Halliday told a newspaper he was "100%" certain there is not a serial attacker in the city. The detective called for calm and said police were working hard to trace the attackers. Taxi drivers and door stewards were also being asked to keep an eye out for lone women who may need help.

### **Busiest streets**

In the latest incident, on Thursday 10 February, a 23-year-old was raped in Gibson Street, a student area in the west end of the city, when she was making her way home from a nightclub. About three weeks earlier, a 43-year-old woman was attacked in Wilton Crescent Lane, again in the west end of the city.

Last month, a 38-year-old woman was allegedly raped in the city centre's Renfrew Lane. Two teenagers, aged 14 and 16, have been arrested in connection with the attack. And in January, an 18-year-old was walking along Buchanan Street, one of Glasgow's busiest streets, when two men pulled her into McCormack Lane and raped her.

**BBC, 20 March 2011**

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## **Police searching for a second body in the murder of Sian O'Callaghan**

Detectives searching farm fields in Gloucestershire for a second body in the O'Callaghan case have confirmed that they are liaising with Wiltshire police over possible links to unsolved crimes or missing people. They are known to include Avon and Somerset officers investigating the murder of Melanie Hall, who vanished from a Bath nightclub in 1996. Though Hall's body was found in 2009, sources at Avon and Somerset police confirmed detectives involved in the case were looking at any possible links with her murder. Police have also spoken to organisations that help publicise cases of missing people.

O'Callaghan went missing after leaving a nightclub in Swindon early last Saturday. She was found near Uffington in Oxfordshire, 12 miles east of Swindon, on Thursday after a man, arrested on suspicion of her kidnap, led police to the site. DS Fulcher said her body was undergoing a postmortem examination. The man also led the officers to the farmer's field at Eastleach, Gloucestershire, about 15 miles north of Swindon.

Police would not give details or speculate about the possible identity of any body at Eastleach. Local murder cases in which no body has been found include that

of college worker Linda Razzell, 41, who vanished from Swindon in 2002. Her husband, Glyn, was convicted of her killing but protests his innocence. Razzell's family said police had not been in touch. The body of retired teacher Kate Prout has never been found after she went missing from a Gloucestershire farm in 2007. Her husband, Adrian, was found guilty of her murder last year but also insists he is innocent. The only Wiltshire person listed as missing on the Missing People website is a 53-year-old man called Anthony Fryer, who vanished from Swindon in 2005.

At a press conference, Fulcher outlined events leading to the arrest of the man now in custody on suspicion of kidnapping and murdering O'Callaghan. He described how CCTV footage and analysis of O'Callaghan's mobile phone indicated that she had left the Suju nightclub at 2.52am last Saturday and 32 minutes later was in Savernake forest, near Marlborough, around 12 miles south of Swindon. CCTV footage also established that a green Toyota Avensis was near the club at the relevant time. Further analysis enabled officers to identify the registration of the vehicle. "I believed that it was likely that Sian had been abducted and taken away in this vehicle," said Fulcher. He said police had concentrated on searching the forest and finding the Avensis and the driver.

A man – named locally as taxi driver Chris Halliwell – was arrested in an Asda car park in Swindon on Thursday and a green Toyota Avensis towed away. He was initially arrested on suspicion of kidnap. But Fulcher said: "He led me to two locations, one near Uffington, where we discovered the body of a woman whom we believe to be Sian, and also to another location where we believe that a second body may be." Fulcher said he believed O'Callaghan's body had been moved to the spot where it was found. A house in Swindon continued to be searched and officers removed items including two spades.

The suspect was being held at Gablecross police station near Swindon. He was taken to the town's magistrates court, where police asked for extra time to question him. A police spokeswoman said: "A 24-hour extension of detention was granted and the man remains in custody at Gablecross police station."

The Wiltshire Gazette and Herald adds to this Guardian report with the information that Sian O'Callaghan knew her murder suspect Chris Halliwell through his three children and 2 step children all aged between 12 and 29.

The 22-year-old was friends with the taxi driver's daughters Natasha, 19, Carissa, 17, and 12-year-old son Shane, according to the Daily Mirror.

A friend told the Mirror that Miss O'Callaghan would have been comfortable in his company, saying, "Chris knows Sian so she would have not had a second thought about getting into a car with him." .

**Guardian, 25 March 2011**

**National action required to address countrywide impact of gang violence on girls and women**

Young girls caught up in gang violence and raped, tortured, kidnapped or used or sold to pay off debts often believe there is no way of escaping their lives according to new research. They also believe that telling anyone in authority will only make things worse.

The current focus on male violence means exit and knife intervention strategies offer girls no specific support. So girls and young women who suffer violence, sexual violence and abuse because family members or their partners or peers are involved in gangs have nowhere to turn to, said the author of new research just released by Race on the Agenda (ROTA).

“There is a lack of consideration of the female associates of gang members and injunctions” said Carlene Firmin, author of the report. Three hundred women, girls and men and boys in major English cities - Manchester, London, Birmingham and Liverpool - were interviewed for “This is it, this is my life”, Female voice in violence report. The girls and young women who took part spoke of being beaten, raped and tortured by not only their partners but by their associates and by rival gangs. A number had been kidnapped or raped in revenge attacks. Others felt they had no choice other than to carry drugs or guns or engage in other criminal activity because of the threat of violence. Girls who talk about what happened to them or sought help are vulnerable to repeated abuse and victimisation, and they have nowhere that they could go that would offer real protection.

“I spoke to people who said they knew someone who had experienced violence but they didn’t know who to go to,” said Carlene Firmin.

“There was an awareness among the young girls that there is nothing that can be done if they talk about their experiences. There is no point in going to talk to young women if you can’t get them out.”

She has called for training to be provided for everyone who works with young people - learning mentors, sexual health nurses and teachers etc. The government should issue clear guidance and set national minimum standards to tackle gang-related and serious youth violence, she said.

It was, she added, a child protection issue that required greater communication between the various agencies and services that could be involved. At a launch which was attended by Marcia Shakespeare, whose teenage daughter Letisha

was shot dead in Aston, in Birmingham, in January 2003, Rota also called on the Department for Education and Ministry of Justice to commission an independent inquiry into experiences of vulnerable girls in male-dominated settings. "A lot of people don't understand the ways that girls are forced into situations and manipulated," said Ms Shakespeare. "It's a hidden problem."

The findings were presented on 22nd March 2011 at a well attended event held at Centrepoint with Report Author, Carlene Firmin, MBE and Deputy Children's Commissioner, Sue Berelowitz on Tuesday 22 March.

### **Women's views on news 23 march 2011**

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## **INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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### **Egyptian Women Protestors forced to have "virginity tests"**

Amnesty International has today called on the Egyptian authorities to investigate serious allegations of torture, including forced 'virginity tests', inflicted by the army on women protesters arrested in Tahrir Square earlier this month.

After army officers violently cleared the square of protesters on 9 March, at least 18 women were held in military detention. Amnesty International has been told by women protesters that they were beaten, given electric shocks, subjected to strip searches while being photographed by male soldiers, then forced to submit to 'virginity checks' and threatened with prostitution charges.

'Virginity tests' are a form of torture when they are forced or coerced.

"Forcing women to have 'virginity tests' is utterly unacceptable. Its purpose is to degrade women because they are women," said Amnesty International. "All members of the medical profession must refuse to take part in such so-called 'tests'."

20-year-old Salwa Hosseini told Amnesty International that after she was arrested and taken to a military prison in Heikstep, she was made, with the other women, to take off all her clothes to be searched by a female prison guard, in a room with two open doors and a window. During the strip search, Salwa Hosseini said male soldiers were looking into the room and taking pictures of the naked women.

The women were then subjected to 'virginity tests' in a different room by a man in a white coat. They were threatened that "those not found to be virgins" would be charged with prostitution.

According to information received by Amnesty International, one woman who said she was a virgin but whose test supposedly proved otherwise was beaten and given electric shocks.

"Women and girls must be able to express their views on the future of Egypt and protest against the government without being detained, tortured, or subjected to profoundly degrading and discriminatory treatment," said Amnesty International.

"The army officers tried to further humiliate the women by allowing men to watch and photograph what was happening, with the implicit threat that the women could be at further risk of harm if the photographs were made public."

Journalist Rasha Azeb was also detained in Tahrir Square and told Amnesty International that she was handcuffed, beaten and insulted.

Following their arrest, the 18 women were initially taken to a Cairo Museum annex where they were reportedly handcuffed, beaten with sticks and hoses, given electric shocks in the chest and legs, and called "prostitutes".

Rasha Azeb could see and hear the other detained women being tortured by being given electric shocks throughout their detention at the museum. She was released several hours later with four other men who were also journalists, but 17 other women were transferred to the military prison in Heikstep

Testimonies of other women detained at the same time collected by the El Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence are consistent with Rasha Azeb and Salwa Hosseini's accounts of beatings, electrocution and 'virginity tests'.

All 17 women detained in the military prison were brought before a military court on 11 March and released on 13 March. Several received one-year suspended prison sentences.

Salwa Hosseini was convicted of disorderly conduct, destroying private and public property, obstructing traffic and carrying weapons.

"The Egyptian authorities must halt the shocking and degrading treatment of women protesters. Women fully participated in bringing change in Egypt and should not be punished for their activism," said Amnesty International.

"All security and army forces must be clearly instructed that torture and other ill-treatment, including forced 'virginity tests', will no longer be tolerated, and will be fully investigated. Those found responsible for such acts must be brought to

justice and the courageous women who denounced such abuses be protected from reprisals.”

**Amnesty International, 23 March 2011**

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### **Escort found dead**

TORONTO – Calgary call girl Kera Freeland may have been killed by a "bad date" as she desperately fought for her life, her friends say.

Freeland, 20, who moved to Toronto from Alberta several months ago, was sharing a west-end apartment with a fellow sex-trade worker, and the friends often went out together on dates for protection, friends said. Freeland was working by herself last week when her body was found Thursday in a ditch in Caledon, Ontario, about 60 kilometres north of Toronto. Police are still investigating what caused her death. Constable Jonathan Beckett said officers are awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination.

"This is still being treated as a death investigation," Beckett said. "We can't confirm any information on a cause of death."

Her friends are trying to figure out how she met the client, or if he was a regular customer.

"She called her roommate earlier that night and told her she was having a bad date," said Tim Lambrinos, of the Adult Entertainment Association of Canada.

"She said 'she was going to leave the date' and was returning home."

That was the last time her roommate heard from Freeland until finding out about her death the next day. The "friendly and outgoing" woman had only moved to Toronto a few months ago to work as a call girl for an escort agency. Freeland worked for Cachet Ladies escort service. Its website describes her as a "top model" whose daily rate started at \$4,000. Known as Chloe, Freeland left Cachet Ladies in December to return to Alberta for cancer treatment.

**Ottawa Sun, 22 March 2011**

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### **Madagascan maids escape abuse in Lebanon**

A plane carrying 86 Madagascan domestic workers, who say they have suffered abuse in Lebanon, has arrived in the capital, Antananarivo. Madagascar's

government chartered the plane following the death of 17 maids in the past year, reports the AFP news agency.

"My boss used to hit me and didn't give me my salary. I'm very, very happy to be back home," said Leonie, 25.

Some 7,000 Madagascans are said to be working in Lebanon.

"There have been a lot of deaths," said Prime Minister Camille Vital. The population ministry said it had received 600 requests to be sent home from maids who had fled their employers, AFP reports. In 2009, Human Rights Watch called on the Lebanese government to investigate the deaths of foreign domestic workers in the country. The previous year, it said that one foreign maid was dying each week.

**BBC, 24 March 2011**

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## EVENTS

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**Jeremy Corbyn MP with Liberation and the APPG on the Great Lakes Region of Africa**

**WHERE WOMEN STAND - The challenges for women in the DRC**

**Monday, 28 March 2011, 19h00 – 21h30**

**Boothroyd Committee Room, Portcullis House**

**RSVP: Sophia Pickles, [pickless@parliament.uk](mailto:pickless@parliament.uk)**

The UK-based Congolese community urges the UK to use its influence as a Member of the UN Security Council to promote justice and help end impunity in the DRC.

Members are invited to a panel event that focuses on ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence in the DRC, and strengthening the role of women in the democratic process in the upcoming elections. The meeting will also examine the implications of the DFID Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews for UK policy in the DRC.

**Speakers to include:**

- Jeremy Corbyn MP (chair)
- Stephen Twigg MP (Shadow Minister for Africa and the Middle East)
- Victoria Dove Dimandja (Liberation)
- Jean Roger Kaseki (to be confirmed)

**To be followed by a viewing of the short film, *Women's Voices 2011*, an interview-based documentary of eastern Congolese women's aspirations for the future by investigative filmmaker Fiona Lloyd-Davies.**

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**CSJ Alliance Conference 2011**

**Tuesday 29 March 2011**

**10.15am-4.30pm (Registration from 9.45am)**

**Kindly hosted by Microsoft UK, 80-100 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5JL**

The Centre for Social Justice is delighted to invite you to attend the CSJ Alliance Conference 2011. The purpose of this one-day event is to equip and inspire those who are leading the way in transforming communities and turning lives around for those in poverty around the UK. This is a free event put on exclusively for CSJ Alliance member organisations.

Sessions will be specifically geared towards grass roots, frontline charities and social enterprises, and will give practical solutions for overcoming the main challenges faced by CSJ Alliance members.

There will be plenty of networking opportunities throughout the day. Lunch and other refreshments will be provided. **R.S.V.P. is essential as space is limited.**

**For more information and to attend please email Emma Colthup on [alliance@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](mailto:alliance@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)**

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**The Anti-Trafficking Legal Project and The AIRE Centre invite you to:**

**Safety Through Justice - A full day conference addressing key legal issues affecting victims of trafficking**

**Friday, 27 May 2010 from 9.30am – 4pm**

**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HT**

This Conference, for Third Sector and Refugee Community organisations, is aimed at building individual and organisational capacity to identify victims of trafficking and respond effectively. Specialist legal practitioners working in the

field of human trafficking will lead practical and interactive sessions on identifying victims of trafficking and their rights under a range of protective measures.

**To book your place and for more information please contact Esther Lieu at the AIRE Centre with any enquires: [elieu@airecentre.org](mailto:elieu@airecentre.org) or tel: 020 7831 4276.**

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## **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>

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## **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](mailto:info@cawn.org).**

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## **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](http://www.thewi.org.uk/standard.aspx?id=12134)

To confirm your attendance at the conference email: [s.mason@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:s.mason@nfwf.org.uk)

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## **OBJECT AGM 2 - 5PM Sat 2nd April London**

OBJECT is the award-winning pressure group that has ensured lap dancing clubs are licensed like sex establishments and massage parlours no longer advertise in Job Centres.

Join us at our AGM to find out more about our work and future plans and vote in our Management Committee for the year.

All welcome although only members may vote on Committee Members.

To attend email [ido@object.org.uk](mailto:ido@object.org.uk)

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## **DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES**

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**Support A Point of No Return campaign** -Stop the deportation of lesbian asylum seekers. Please ask your friends to sign the petition as well.

[www.change.org/petitions/a-point-of-no-return-campaign-stop-the-deportation-of-lesbian-asylum-seekers](http://www.change.org/petitions/a-point-of-no-return-campaign-stop-the-deportation-of-lesbian-asylum-seekers)

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## **Rights of Women's legal advice lines are changing!**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 the following new advice lines will be opening at the following new times:

**Family law advice line** for advice on issues including:

- domestic violence and abuse
- divorce and civil partnership dissolution
- relationship breakdown
- issues relating to children, including parental responsibility, child contact and residence

Call **020 7251 6577 (telephone)** or **020 7490 2562 (textphone)** on Mondays between 11am-1pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 2pm-4pm and 7pm-9pm, Thursdays between 7pm-9pm and Fridays between 12noon-2pm

**Criminal law advice line** for advice on issues including:

- sexual offences, including rape and sexual assault
- domestic violence and harassment
- reporting offences to the police and the criminal justice system
- the rights of victims, witnesses and defendants
- criminal injuries compensation

Call **020 7251 8887 (telephone)** or **020 7490 2562 (textphone)** on 020 7251 8887 (telephone) or 020 7490 2562 (textphone) on Tuesdays between 11am-1pm and Thursdays between 2pm-4pm.

**Immigration and asylum law advice line** for advice on issues including:

- the rights of EEA nationals and their family members
- claiming asylum in the UK
- trafficking
- domestic violence and immigration law
- no recourse to public funds

Call **020 7490 7689 (telephone)** or **020 7490 2562 (textphone)** or 020 7490 2562 (textphone) on Mondays between 2pm-4pm and Wednesdays between 11am-1pm.

You can read about our advice lines and other services here [www.rightsofwomen.org.uk](http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk).

You can request free flyers and posters about our advice line services by emailing [info@row.org.uk](mailto:info@row.org.uk).

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### **Please support - Positive Women**

Positive Women is a charity set up to empower women and children in Africa, starting with Swaziland. Our work focuses on supporting communities to change their own lives and circumstances, to alleviate poverty and make significant social change. To achieve this, they must have their basic needs met, choices in their lives and an understanding of their rights. We help make this happen.

We do what we do because someone has to support the amazing women that are literally changing their worlds. We strive to live in a world of fairness and equality and want to support these women to make this a reality.

The life expectancy of women is 35 years in Swaziland, a country with the highest HIV/Aids prevalence rate, the lowest of any country. We're working directly with Swazi led women's organisations and activists to change gender prejudice and discrimination and provide communities in Swaziland with their basic needs. We provide education for orphans and vulnerable children, work

with women's groups to create income generating projects and provide healthcare.

But it is women's rights education that is at the centre of our work. Women will be then change makers in Africa and we want to work with grassroots women's groups to educate and empower women right across the continent, starting with Swaziland.

**You can support us by donating just £5 a month at [www.positivewomen.org/donate](http://www.positivewomen.org/donate)**

**For more information email [info@positivewomen.org](mailto:info@positivewomen.org) or visit [www.positivewomen.org](http://www.positivewomen.org)**

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### **Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan**

On 8 March 2011, Home Secretary Theresa May announced the publication of a set of supporting actions to end violence against women and girls and a full response to Baroness Stern's review into how rape cases are handled in England and Wales.

The framework for the action plan is based on the 'Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls' published on 25 November 2010.

To see the full document [Click here](#)

To see the government's response to Baroness Stern's review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales [Click here](#)

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### **Rights of Women**

#### **From Rights to Action: Using International rights and mechanisms on violence against women in the UK**

From Rights to Action provides a practical introduction to the international human rights law, policy and mechanisms relevant to combating violence against women and how they relate to law and practice in the United Kingdom (UK).

Too often, international human rights laws and the mechanisms to enforce them are presented in an overly legalistic way. This handbook seeks to demystify the law around human rights and empower organisations working to promote women's rights to apply human rights in their work and influence law, policy and practice on violence against women.

From Rights to Action is a vital resource for non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as women's organisations, working to support women affected by violence in the UK.

This publication is part of the Rights of Women Toolkit.

**Download your copy of From Rights to Action [here](#)**

**We have a limited number of printed copies available for distribution which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To order a printed copy, please send your name, job title and organisation's contact details to [info@row.org.uk](mailto:info@row.org.uk).**

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### **Independent review into Women on Boards**

Lord Davies launched his independent review into Women on Boards on 24 February 2011. He recommends that UK listed companies in the FTSE 100 should be aiming for a minimum of 25% female board member representation by 2015. He has recommended in his report for government that FTSE 350 companies should be setting their own, challenging targets and expects that many will achieve a much higher figure than this minimum.

The report says that companies should set targets for 2013 and 2015 to ensure that more talented and gifted women can get into the top jobs in companies across the UK. Lord Davies also calls on chairmen to announce these goals in the next six months and Chief Executives to review the percentage of women they aim to have on their Executive Committees in 2013 and 2015.

Read full report [here](#).

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### **Oxfam report on 'BME Maternal Poverty'**

#### **'Exploring BME Maternal Poverty**

The financial lives of ethnic minority mothers in Tyne and Wear' is an Oxfam Research Report published in January 2011.

The report shines a light into a neglected area: the financial lives of BME mothers. Census data shows that BME women are over-represented in the poorest households in the UK, while previous studies have found that women often bear the greatest burden of material hardship in low-income households.

Using a methodology to measure poverty within the household, this study opens up the financial arrangements of BME families and explores how life on a low income impacts on BME mothers.

Read full report [here](#).

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## **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.

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## **Action on Elder Abuse**

Action on Elder Abuse are glad to announce we will be doing a **Radio 4 Appeal** on Sunday 10 April 2011 at 07.55am and repeated at 21.26pm on the same day. The broadcast will also go out again on Thursday 14 April 2011 at 15.27pm. Please tune in and support us on Radio 4 – 92.4 FM- 94.6FM – LW 198 - Website: [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal)

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 15 June 2011**, this event will be in its 6th Year and we want to make it an important date in everyone's diaries, please join with us in doing an event on the day and helping raise awareness on Elder Abuse. For more information email [worldelderabuseday@elderabuse.org.uk](mailto:worldelderabuseday@elderabuse.org.uk) or call 0208 835 9280

**Action on Elder Abuse has launched a series of exciting challenge events**, including skydiving, trekking and running. If you've ever wanted to trek the Inca Trail, freefall from 10,000 feet or sledge across Lapland with huskies (to name but a few), visit [www.elderabuse.org.uk](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk) for more information.

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**CONSULTATIONS**

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## **'Strengthening Women's Voices in Government' – Consultation**

On 7 March 2011, the Government published a consultation: 'Strengthening Women's Voices in Government'. This sets out the Government's proposals for a new approach for engaging and listening to women through:

- Direct engagement between ministers, women and organisations that represent women to ensure government understands the views of a wide range of women in the UK, and providing the opportunity for a genuine two way dialogue on policies that affect women.
- Bringing in expertise from the women's sector and beyond to support the new model and support independence from government where this is critical, particularly in the international arena.
- Looking Ahead to enable [the Government] to anticipate emerging and future issues, such as the impact of the changing demography of the UK, which will be important for women.
- A new IT platform, making the most of modern communication techniques to get the informed voice of women to Government when they need to be heard.

**The consultation runs until 10 June 2011 and is an opportunity to influence proposals about Government's new approach for engaging and listening to women in the UK.**

To access the consultation document [Click here](#)

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## **Age discrimination consultation**

On 3 March 2011, the Government published 'Equality Act 2010: Ending age discrimination in services, public functions and associations – A consultation'.

The consultation sets out those areas where the Government believes that different treatment of people of various ages is justified; and proposes how the legislation will be drafted to take account of these.

**The consultation closes on 25 May 2011.**

To access the consultation [Click here](#)

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## **London Councils**

### **Supplementary consultation launched**

London Councils is launching a supplementary consultation on the future scope of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.

This consultation is designed as an addition to the original consultation that ran last year, the supplementary consultation is being launched following a High Court ruling that the original decision did not go into enough detail around equalities issues.

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[Read the background document Opens in a new window](#)

[Read the supplementary consultation Q & A](#)

[Visit the Ipsos MORI consultation website to fill out online Opens in a new window](#)

[View the consultation structure spreadsheet, including the list of all commissions Opens in a new window](#)

**The deadline for responses is: Friday 8 April, 5pm**

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## **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](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/marital_property.htm)

**The consultation closes on 11 April 2011.**

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## **CPS launches public consultation**

### **Retracting rape and domestic violence allegations**

Individuals who retract truthful allegations of rape or domestic violence out of fear are less likely to be prosecuted under proposed new guidance for prosecutors on the offence of perverting the course of justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC, said launching the 12-week public consultation.

The guidance will apply in cases where a complainant of rape or domestic violence retracts an allegation and where they could face a charge of perverting the course of justice.

The consultation comes as part of a series of improvements, announced by Mr Starmer in December, to instill greater quality and consistency in the way the Crown Prosecution Service handles rape cases.

The interim guidance details both evidential and public interest considerations for prosecutors.

For further information and to respond to the consultation click [here](#)

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## TRAINING

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### **Women's Radio Group Easter School – 18th April 2011**

Women's Radio Group Easter School  
Monday 18th – Thursday 21st April 2011

#### **Are YOU interested in radio production?**

Learn how to present, interview, digitally edit and put together a magazine programme from an experienced BBC and LBC producer.

#### **Cost £300**

The **four day course** will take place in our studios in **Acton**, West London from **11am to 4pm daily**.

**For more information or to reserve a place** contact Chrissie on 07730 920 480 or Gill at [WRG-training@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:WRG-training@hotmail.co.uk)

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### **AVA**

#### **The Links between Domestic Violence and Problematic Substance Use**

**24th March, London (10am-4.30pm)**

**The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**

Delegates attending this course will receive a copy of the [Stella Project toolkit](#). This course is specially designed for non-specialist workers who wish to gain an insight into both domestic violence and drug/alcohol sectors and whose clients may present with both issues. Participants will explore some of the myths and realities around links and causality, and the use of drugs and alcohol in abusive relationships. It will highlight the need to approach the dual issues in an integrated way through partnership working and adequate referral processes.

For more information or to book your place, [click here](#).

**Price - £90 vol / £130 stat**

### **Young People and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

**31 March, London (10am-4.30pm)**

**Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT**

This course will focus particularly on the experiences of adolescents as victims and as perpetrators of vawg, with the inclusion of the following key issues:

- teenage pregnancy
- gender
- child to parent abuse
- domestic violence in young people's own intimate relationships
- barriers for young people accessing services
- sexual violence within a gang culture
- sexualisation of young people

The course will discuss how to ask adolescents about violence, how to give advice and how to risk assess and safety plan. The course will comprise of interactive activities, group discussions and the use of films to illustrate key topics.

There will be networking opportunities to discuss your own practice and meet other professionals working in similar fields.

For more information or to book your place, [click here](#).

**Price - £90 vol / £130 stat**

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**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:**

**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](mailto:louise.jenkins@eaveshousing.co.uk)

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

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**Free Workshop Programme for Women in Southwark and Lewisham – WGN – 28-30 March 2011**

**Do you work with young women aged 11-25 in the Borough of Southwark & Lewisham?**

Women and Girls Network will be running a series of **FREE workshops** on:

- \* **Girl Power** (aimed at improving self-esteem and confidence)
- \* **Managing My Relationships** (enabling young women to negotiate their needs and manage conflicts in their relationships)
- \* **Feeling Good** (aimed at encouraging young women to focus on their emotional and physical health and wellbeing)
- \* **My rights** (aimed at making young women aware of their legal rights)

\* **Life Coaching** (aimed at developing young women's abilities to make informed decisions and feel empowered to make the changes they want in their lives)

Every participant who completes the programme will receive a Free Goody Bag (worth £50) and a Certificate outlining what they have achieved

**We will be running the programme on 28th, 29th & 30th of March 2011**

The programmes venue is to be confirmed

**We are also able to offer the programme to individual organisations in-house.** Please contact us on the email below.

If you have any further questions or would like to make a referral please contact Ami Gill on 07943950476 or [ami@wgn.org.uk](mailto:ami@wgn.org.uk)

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**Training courses – Imkaan 5&12 April, 20 April 2011**

**SAFEGUARDING AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR-BASED VIOLENCE Level 2**

**5th April 2011 Day 1: Understanding Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence**

By the end of this session participants will have a better understanding of the definitions of forced marriage and honour-based violence, historical and cultural roots and how this impacts on different communities. You will also have an introductory overview on the legal framework; risk and begin to shape strategies for developing effective service responses in this area.

**12th April 2011 Day 2: Risk and Case Management in Violence Against Women**

By the end of the session you will have a more detailed understanding of existing models of risk assessment; specific risk indicators and safety planning. The session is designed to help you develop best practice around the management of risk, disclosure and safety planning. Who is it for? The accredited training course is aimed at frontline professionals working with or seeking to engage with BAMER women and children. This course will also be beneficial to policy-makers, funders, commissioners, legal advocates, health professionals, the police, Local Authorities and other statutory and voluntary organisations.

**Course cost:** £95 per day.

**USING PSYCHOLOGICAL EVIDENCE TO HELP TRAUMATISED WOMEN SEEKING ASYLUM  
20 April 2011**

This training course is designed to develop understanding of the psychological reasons why traumatised women seeking asylum have difficulties when making an asylum claim, and to increase awareness of relevant academic psychological research and findings. The course will also help professionals to support traumatised women seeking asylum, and increase confidence to inform others of psychological research and encourage them to refer to it.

**Course cost:** £45.

To book a place at any of these sessions, please complete and return the [booking form](#) (Word doc, 234kb) to Lia Latchford at [bookings@imkaan.org.uk](mailto:bookings@imkaan.org.uk)

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## VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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### **Amnesty International UK**

#### **Gender Mainstreaming Manager - 23 month fixed term contract**

At Amnesty International UK, we're working to address the different ways women and men experience human rights abuse. But that doesn't just mean putting more of an emphasis on women. It means changing our whole approach to gender. And working internally to develop gender mainstreaming, that's exactly what you'll do.

Hours per week 35 (applications for flexible working will be considered)

**Salary - 38,198 - 44,555**

**Closing date - 04 April 2011(midday)**

**Interview date – 18 April 2011**

To download application packs and for more information click [here](#)

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### **Her Centre**

#### **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy posts**

Her Centre, a women's advice service in Greenwich, has received 2 years' funding to provide advocacy for women experiencing domestic violence through two posts:

### **1 Senior Domestic Violence Advocate - £28,807 SO1 inc. OLW**

This post will require two years experience working with women escaping domestic violence, one year's staff management experience, and knowledge and experience of legal options for women including knowledge of court proceedings

### **1 Domestic Violence Advocate - £26,401 SO1 inc. OLW**

At least one year's experience of working with women escaping domestic violence and knowledge of the legal options for women

Posts based in Woolwich SE18 but will require travel across Greenwich borough.

**If you wish to apply for either post, please contact Stacy Smith on [Stacy@hercentre.org](mailto:Stacy@hercentre.org) for an application form.**

**Closing date 8th April at 5PM**

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## **WOMEN AND GIRLS NETWORK**

### **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: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Interviews to be advised.**

**Download application packs from [www.wgn.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

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***If you have any information about new events, consultations, reports, campaigns, direct action, training, vacancies or volunteering opportunities, especially those with a London focus, that you would like us to consider for inclusion in Women's Weekly News please email us at:***

[Weekly\\_News@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:Weekly_News@eaveshousing.co.uk)

