

The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 376

04 November – 10 November 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

Miss World pageant legitimises inequality

Last week activists staged a protest organised by London Feminist Network, Object and UK Feminista; against the Miss World contest held at Earl's Court in London stating that the pageant legitimises gender inequality.

Julia Long co-organiser of the protest and activist with London Feminist Network and Object said: "Women have fought hard over decades to establish an expectation that we will be treated equally and this type of contest just legitimises the unequal treatment of women.

"We want to make the point that it's a totally retrograde celebration of inequality. It represents a world totally hostile to women, so any kind of nostalgia for that time is a form of retro sexism."

However prior to the contest Laura Coleman, former 'Miss England' asked the protesters to call off the demonstration, saying pageants like this are 'empowering'.

Responding to that Long said: "We hear this term empowerment used a lot and it's interesting that it's almost always used these days either when women are taking their clothes off, when they're appearing in lads' mags, when they're doing lap dancing or for example when they are being judged in the Miss World contest.

"I would really question what is actually meant by empowerment in that context because each of those things, what they have in common, is the woman's body being objectified for display and basically for consumption by a male audience.

"In a country that I would like to think prides itself on having gender equality as a very important social value I really don't see how the judging of women on the basis of what they look like can in any way be empowering."

Some of the placards held by the feminist activists read: "we're not ugly, we're not beautiful, we're angry" and "being a woman is not a competition".

Source: [WVoN](#) 08 November 2011

Police chief sacked after boasting to have committed sexual offence

A Metropolitan Police chief inspector has been sacked after boasting to have committed sexual offence and used drugs on a dating website.

The 46-year-old, who was based in Central London, also used his position to advertise himself online to meet sexual partners while in uniform.

The chief inspector was originally arrested by Kent Police last year and it's an internal disciplinary hearing which found that he had committed gross misconduct.

Mike Franklin commissioner from the Independent Police Complaints Commission said: "Police officers, by virtue of the powers vested in them, hold positions of authority and trust in our communities.

"Those who discredit their role cannot expect to continue to serve the public and, as in this case, they should be dismissed."

Commander Peter Spindler, Scotland Yard's director of professional standards, added: "Officers and staff may believe that what they do online, whether on-duty or off-duty, is either anonymous or doesn't have any impact on others.

"We expect our employees to behave professionally, morally, ethically and with the utmost humility and integrity in all areas of their lives. Anything short of this will not be tolerated."

The police chief is the third Metropolitan Police officer to be sacked in a month.

Source: [BBC](#) 10 November 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

Strategy on gangs finally acknowledges girls

A strategy announced by the Home Secretary to end gang and youth violence has finally featured specific actions for responding to girls' victimisation and offending.

It also went further by committing funding to developing specialist services and recognising the support needed, for boys and girls to challenge the stereotypes of masculinity that can underpin the violent control and coercion in gang contexts.

Carlene Firmin, principal policy adviser at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England says that if girls can be identified, helped to recover and their involvement in serious youth violence prevented, lives could be saved.

She added that it is essential to support professionals through training and partnerships to bolster confidence and capacity.

Until recently girls have been seen as a prop, rather than an integral part to the causes and consequences of youth violence and some professionals and decision makers have focused their activity on males, who are perceived as "central" to all solutions, says Firmin.

She writes that the transition of the voices of girls from research into policy has begun, and professionals must ensure it is not lost in operation.

She urges council and police authorities to consider whether their risk assessments for identifying gang-affected children enable them to find girls in danger, question if services are appropriate, and begin to collect data on gang-associated females.

Source: [Guardian](#) 08 November 2011

Herefordshire rape and sexual abuse centre to open

Herefordshire's first, Ministry of Justice funded, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre which offers specialist service and advice to victims is going to open next week.

Jocelyn Anderson, chief executive of the centre, said: "We aim to offer a high-quality service with excellent links to agencies such as West Mercia Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and Safer Herefordshire.

"We have 25 years' experience within this field in Worcestershire and are committed to supporting women whilst raising awareness to the damaging effects rape and sexual abuse can have on a woman's life."

The services provided by the centre will include a telephone helpline, face-to-face counselling and independent sexual violence advisor (ISVA).

Anderson said: "The ISVA will act as the client's advocate, whilst providing emotional and practical support throughout the reporting and criminal justice processes."

The other three centres to be opened are in Trafford, Dorset and Devon.

Source: [BBC](#) 10 November 2011

INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ryanair to start using porn in flights

Ryanair is planning to use pornography to its in-flight entertainment, the company announced.

Michael O'Leary, CEO of the budget carrier said that he plans to offer a pay-per-view pornography service similar to x-rated videos offered in hotel rooms through a new Ryanair app on smartphones.

O'Leary said that he thinks this is a great idea and if hotels allow people to watch x-rated movies for a little extra cash, why can't the airline industry?

He added: "I'm not talking about having it on screens on the back of seats for everyone to see. It would be on handheld devices."

The airline is also renowned for selling promotional calendar that features very revealing pictures of its actual flight attendants.

A spokesman to the airline has said that nothing was decided yet.

Source: [NY Daily News](#) 08 November 2011
[Self Catering Breaks News](#)

Lesbian torture clinics in Ecuador

For the past decade, lesbians in Ecuador have been forced into what they call torture camps aimed at 'curing' them.

Paola Ziritti, the first woman to agree to file a complaint against these treatments, was 24 when her parents sent her to a 'forced confinement' 'clinic' in Quito, Ecuador, where she was 'battered, sexual abused and constantly ridiculed'.

In August this year activists pressured the government to close 27 of these "treatment centers", but there are still 207 clinics of this type, said Tatiana Velasquez, from the lesbian organisation Taller de Comunicación Mujer.Velasquez.

She added: "The girls have all told the same thing - they are threatened with rape or raped, handcuffed, starved and forced to dress like prostitutes."

Ziritti who spent two years in one of the facilities was shackled in handcuffs while guards threw water and urine on her. She describes numerous accounts of physical and sexual abuse. She said: "The closure of the first clinics by the government is good, but not good enough. Why is the clinic where I suffered still open?"

Join Fundacion Causana and a coalition of other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender groups in calling on Ecuador's Minister of Health to immediately investigate and close the remaining "ex- gay clinics" that still remain open despite public support for their closing.

Click [here](#) to sign the petition.

Source: [Change.Org](#)
[Advocate](#) 07 October 2011

EVENTS

Rights of Women

Silenced voices speak: strategies for protecting migrant women from violence and abuse

Date: Wednesday 7 December 2011

Time: 6-7.30pm followed by refreshments (registration at 5.45pm)

Venue: The Human Rights Action Centre, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Speakers:

Catherine Briddick, Senior Legal Officer, Rights of Women

Pragna Patel, Director, Southall Black Sisters

Debora Singer, Policy and Research Manager, Asylum Aid

Adam Weiss, Director, the AIRE Centre

Invited: Matthew Coates, Gender Champion, UK Border Agency

Chair: Emma Scott, Director, Rights of Women

In April 2011 Rights of Women launched a new immigration and asylum law legal advice line. This research, which analyses six months of calls to this line, identifies and analyses the key barriers and issues for women seeking safety and protection in the UK. Join us for the launch of our report analysing those calls and to discuss with our panel of experts strategies for protecting women who are currently falling through the protection gaps in UK immigration and asylum law policy.

Wine and refreshments will be served. The event will also give you the opportunity to see Women Asylum Seekers Together London's photography exhibition 'Home Sweet Home', to visit stalls run by Asylum Aid and the Asylum Support Appeals Project, to network and discuss with panellists and co-activists legal and policy concerns.

This event is CPD accredited by the Bar Standards Board and Law Society for 1.5 CPD points.

To secure a place at the launch please download a booking form from <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php> and email it to events@row.org.uk

IKWRO - International Conference 2011

“Honour” based violence Whose honour are we talking about?

Thursday 17 November 2011 - 9:30 am - 5 pm

Venue: Camden Centre Camden Town Hall London WC1H 9AU

The conference will include a host of incredible speakers including Egyptian feminist writer **Dr Nawal el Saadawi**.

This conference is organised by the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation in partnership with Refugee Women's Association (RWA) and Türkisch Deutscher Frauenvere.

An opportunity for professionals such as police, teachers, health and social workers, researchers and other professionals with an interest in women's rights to learn more about 'honour' based violence.

Conference fee:

£50 statutory organisations

£30 voluntary organisations

£10 concessionary

For more information and to book a place please email:

bookings.ikwro@gmail.com

London Feminist Network - Reclaim the Night March!

Date: Saturday 26th November, 2011

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Assemble Whitehall Palace

Nearest Tubes: Embankment; Charing Cross

The London Feminist Network invites you to join them on the annual Reclaim the Night march to say NO to violence against women and NO to cuts towards women's services. The march marks the UN International Day to Eliminate all forms of Violence against Women.

This is a women-only march and women from all backgrounds are welcomed.

The march will lead through central London starting at Whitehall and ending at the Camden Centre, Euston with a rally of speakers, stalls, hot food and DJs.

There will be a collection at the door. A minimum of £2 is suggested to cover the venue costs.

Follow Eaves online:

www.facebook.com/EavesCharity

www.twitter.com/EavesCharity

Official flyer:

http://www.reclaimthenight.org/images/RTN_flyer_Sept2011.pdf

DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES

Eaves

End Detention of victims of trafficking campaign

Stop detaining trafficked people - Victims of trafficking are victims of crime, not criminals.

Every day men, women and children are trafficked into and within the UK, experiencing slavery, rape, desperation and fear. Some vulnerable victims are identified and helped by Government and charities; however, due to a flawed system, an untold number are improperly detained in prisons and detention centres.

These individuals were lied to and harmed in the UK, but instead of focusing on arresting and prosecuting the criminals who trafficked and exploited them, many who also committed other crimes in our communities across the UK, the Government continues to put victims in prisons and detention centres.

Their crimes? Over 95% of Poppy Project clients in detention or prison lost their freedom because a trafficker gave them a fake passport; others stole food to survive – crimes that only happened because they were trafficked here. We call on the Government to ensure that anyone who may be a victim of trafficking is properly identified and freed from unfair detention or incarceration.

Please sign and share petition

<https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/18933>

Fawcett Society - Day of action

Saturday 19th November!

On average, women earn less, own less, and are more likely to work and retire in

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poverty than men. The government's approach to cutting the deficit will widen the gap between women and men:

- Female unemployment is rising as jobs are cut in public service
- The benefits and services women rely on more are being slashed
- Women on low incomes are becoming poorer
- The pay gap looks set to widen
- Women's access to vital support services is being undermined
- Increasing numbers of women are being forced to give up work as cuts to childcare support means their jobs no longer cover the family's care costs

The government's approach to cutting the deficit is turning back time on women's equality. This can't go on.

On November 19th, join us on the 'DON'T turn back time' March in London

1950's THEME: DRESS UP! To send the message that women don't want to be catapulted back to the levels of inequality of yesteryear.

For further information email economy@fawcettsociety.org.uk or visit the following link <http://fawcettsociety.org.uk/index.asp?Pageid=1247>

CONSULTATIONS

Ministry of Justice

Commission on a Bill of Rights - Do we need a UK Bill of Rights?

The Commission on a UK Bill of Rights is seeking views from the public on whether we need a UK Bill of Rights and, if so, what it might look like.

The Commission has published a [Discussion Paper](#) which sets out 4 questions:

- Do you think we need a UK Bill of Rights?

If so,

- What do you think a UK Bill of Rights should contain?
- How do you think it should apply to the UK as a whole, including its four component countries of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales?
- Having regard to our terms of reference, are there any other views which you would like to put forward at this stage?

For more information on the consultation visit the following link
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/cbr/cbrnewrelease050811.htm>

Email your response to responses@commissiononabillofrights.gsi.gov.uk

Deadline - 11 November 2011

Department for Education

Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) Education

Closing Date: Wednesday 30 November 2011

The Government said in the Schools White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*, that it would conduct an internal review to determine how to support schools to improve the quality of teaching of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education.

This request for representations seeks your views on the core body of knowledge that pupils need to learn through PSHE education teaching and ways to improve the quality of teaching.

To find out more and respond to the consultation click [here](#)

Home Office

Domestic violence disclosure scheme

The Home Office is launching a consultation asking whether the protection of victims of domestic violence can be improved by the establishment of a national domestic violence disclosure scheme and, if so, how such a scheme could work in practice.

This consultation seeks views on whether to introduce a scheme for disclosing information about an individual's history of domestic violence to a new partner.

The consultation closes on 13 January 2012.

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

TRAINING

IMKAAN

New Accredited Training Available Safeguarding Against Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence: Level 2 Two Day Course (£105 per day - Imkaan full members / £130 per day - non- members)

Dates: 18 & 21 November, Birmingham
6 & 8 December, London
12 & 13 December, Leeds

By the end of day 1 you 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.

By the end of the day 2 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.

To book a place, please complete and return the booking form attached to bookings@imkaan.org.uk by Friday 11 November 2011

Rights of Women

Training Workshop

Delivering best evidence: information for professionals supporting domestic violence rule applicants

Date: Friday 2 December 2011

Time: 11am-2pm (registration from 10.30am, lunch and refreshments will be provided).

Venue: Tindlemanor, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT

Trainers: Marai Larasi, Director, and Catherine Briddick, Rights of Women

Summary: This free ½ day training workshop will examine the evidential requirements of the domestic violence rule, how evidence can be obtained and secured and how supporting letters for service users should be prepared and written. An update will also be provided on recent and forthcoming changes to the Immigration Rules relevant to victims of domestic violence.

The session will include a mixture of presentation and group work using case studies.

All participants will receive a legal guide on how to deliver the best evidence when supporting domestic violence rule applicants.

Eligibility: This course is free of charge but, for funding reasons, places are strictly limited to members of Rights of Women's Legal and Policy Network (see www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php for information about this free network).

To secure a place at the training please download a booking form from <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php> and email it to events@row.org.uk

Eaves

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

We are 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.

The training costs £150 (statutory agencies) or £110 (voluntary agencies).

Workshop content

Day 1– awareness-raising

Prostitution: facts and figures • UK and global context • services and prevention

Day 2 – best practice

Local context • legislation • case studies with guest speakers (details below) •

taking action on exiting – how to improve your borough's response

Dates

23-24 November 2011

30 November – 01 December

Lunch and refreshments included.

Follow Eaves online:
www.facebook.com/EavesCharity
www.twitter.com/EavesCharity

Who should attend?

Anyone in the statutory, voluntary or community sectors in contact with women in

- prostitution but not (currently) offering a specialised support service
- service managers and commissioners from all sectors who are seeking to improve/strengthen their service responses to women in prostitution.

For further information, to find out if you're eligible to attend or to book a place, please contact Lisa Reynolds on 020 7840 7103 or lisa.reynolds@eaveshousing.co.uk

VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Latin American Women's Rights Service

Psychotherapy Coordinator (Maternity Cover)
£25,000 p.a. 25 days holiday (per annum)

Deadline for applications: 18 November at 10am

LAWRS' psychotherapy project (Anahí) offers a women-centred, culturally specific service in Spanish and Portuguese. We are seeking a Therapy Coordinator to: provide crisis intervention, individual therapy and clinical assessments for users of the service; coordinate our team of volunteer therapists; and ensure that the service maintains its high level of clinical excellence. The applicant must have a professional qualification in psychotherapy (to diploma level or equivalent), an excellent understanding of gender concepts, and experience providing individual therapy to women survivors of abuse. A good level of English, Spanish and ideally Portuguese are essential.

Previous applicants need not reapply.

This post is open to Latin American women only in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Download an application form from www.lawrs.org.uk or e-mail recruitment@lawrs.org.uk or call 0844 264 0682

The Women's Library

Exhibition Researcher - Develop and deliver an exhibition which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the opening of The Women's Library.

Deadline for applications: 21st November 2011

February 2012 sees the 10th anniversary of the opening of The Women's Library on its current site at London Metropolitan University. This anniversary exhibition offers an exciting opportunity for the Library to showcase its exceptional collections by celebrating the diverse stories they tell and highlighting the unique role the Library has played – and continues to play – in recording the histories and experiences of women.

Using the rich resources available at The Women's Library the intention is to bring to life the stories of these women – their lives, experiences, struggles and campaigns – and to make their often hidden contributions known and accessible to non-specialist audiences.

To realise the project, the Library seeks to appoint a freelance Exhibition Researcher to curate the exhibition project, source material, select content, and deliver exhibition interpretation in collaboration with the in-house exhibition team.

For further information please call 020 7320 3511, and for specification and application details email: b.benge-abbott@londonmet.ac.uk

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



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