

The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 341

26 February 2011 – 04 March 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

New DNA rules could reduce rape conviction

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, said that the Coalition Government runs the risk of making rape convictions more difficult by relaxing the rules for retaining suspects' DNA.

The Government has presented a bill, Protection of Freedoms Bill, which includes plans to limit the retention of DNA to three years in England and Wales.

Labour says this plan would lead to 1,500 fewer detections per year and says DNA should be retained for six years. Labour warns that this would be a "huge missed opportunity" because studies have shown that the reoffending rate for rape is as high as 29%.

Cooper said, "The government is going too far in restricting the use of DNA from suspects who have been arrested. Rape cases could be particularly affected. There are already far too few rape convictions, but this change will make it even harder – 69% of rape cases involve arrests but never make it to trial.

"In most of those cases, the police will no longer be able to keep the suspect's DNA even for a short period. Yet the evidence shows DNA has played a crucial

role in some extremely serious cases, stopping highly dangerous criminals, including serial rapists previously arrested.

"If the government are serious about increasing the rape conviction rate, they should urgently think again."

"The government is making it harder for the police to solve serious crimes. They are going too far in restricting the use of DNA from suspects who have been arrested. Of course there must be safeguards in the system, but sensible use of DNA also helps catch very dangerous criminals and prevents innocent people being wrongly charged, too.

"The evidence shows that too many serious crimes will go unsolved if they go this far. These restrictions go much further than the sensible changes Alan Johnson drew up before the election and they are getting the balance wrong."

Labour says the DNA database provides police with about 3,300 matches every month. In 2009, there were 832 positive matches in cases of rape, murder and manslaughter.

The Bill had its second reading debate this week and was committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Source: [Guardian](#) 28 February 2011

Man lured victims via internet before sex attack

Marios Kleopas, 37, from North Finchley, used the website Gumtree to trick women into believing he was trying to employ staff for a bar he was setting up at Brent Cross shopping centre.

He would carry out interviews for the fictitious bar and in the course of the meeting invite the victim to smoke a cigarette in his car. Once in the car he would assault the woman by sexually touching her.

A police investigation was started when one of the women reported Kleopas and soon after other victims were identified. He was arrested and charged with two offences of sexual assault on women over 16-year-old. He has denied the charges.

Kleopas was found guilty by a jury at Wood Green Crown Court. He has been sentenced to a community order for three years on the Sex Offenders Programme and will be on the sexual offenders register for five years.

Detective Constable Simon North of Barnet criminal investigation department said, "This man actively targeted vulnerable women who he believed would not report his assault to police.

"We are concerned there may be other victims and I would urge anyone who has been the victim of this man, or any other sexual criminal to contact police."

Source: [This is Local London](#) 24 February 2011

Man who abused more than 100 elderly women in court

Delroy Grant, 53, of Brockley Mews, Honor Oak, has appeared in court accused of a series of sex attacks on elderly victims in south London over a 17-year period.

When Grant also called, the 'Night Stalker', was arrested in November 2009 he had committed well over 100 attacks on lone women aged between 68 and 88, including five rapes and another 30 indecent assaults.

He denies all charges that are alleged to have happened in Warlingham, Shirley, Beckenham, Bromley, Addiscombe, Orpington and West Dulwich.

Prosecutor Jonathan Laidlaw QC said, "At the police station the defendant's fingerprints were taken. The officer told him, 'I am making sure I get ink all over your hands and get a good print from you'. To which the defendant replied, 'I don't know why you're bothering, I always wear gloves'.

"That indeed was the position. He was almost always wearing gloves and none of his fingerprints were recovered from any of the scenes of these burglaries."

Grant allegedly attempted to pin the blame for the burglaries and sexual assaults on his son while he was being held by police. When an officer came to his cell to give him some deodorant, Grant appeared agitated and allegedly said: "I do not want to fit anyone up."

Asked what he meant, he is said to have told the officer, "Have you thought about my son? Delroy Junior." The court heard that Grant added: "He lives in the right area and he is the same height as me."

The trial continues.

Source: [The Press Association](#) 01 March 2011
[Haverhill Echo](#) 02 March 2011
[The First Post](#) 16 November 2009
[Press Association](#) 04 March 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

Crackdown on kerb crawling in Leicester

Police sent letters to car owners spotted in a part of Leicester well known for prostitution in an anti kerb crawling initiative.

32 vehicles were recorded on CCTV under the initiative and the letters sent explains to owners about the initiative and asks them to come forward if they have any information which could help reduce prostitution in the area.

Sgt Woods, head of the operation said, "We are very pleased with the way the operation is going. Residents are reporting a decrease in the amount of kerb crawling they witness.

"We are planning to continue the operation over the next few weeks. Kerb crawling and prostitution is not a victimless crime. It causes considerable distress and annoyance to those who live in the affected areas, and we consider it a significant type of anti-social behaviour."

Police say the crackdown had already seen 17 kerb crawlers cautioned and three prosecuted.

Source: [BBC](#) 02 March 2011

Man accused of beating and raping woman over four years

Ian Donaldson, 51, from Tweed Crescent Dundee, is accused of beating and raping a woman for over four years. It's also alleged that he drugged and raped another woman who was sleeping on his mother's living room settee.

Donaldson is accused of abusing his first victim between September 1997 and October 2001 at various addresses in Dundee, including smashing a glass tumbler on her face, choking her and raping her.

He is also accused of forcing the woman to eat food off of the floor at one address - as well as throwing her out of a house in Dundee while she was naked.

The High Court in Dundee heard from Donaldson's second victim. The woman broke down in tears while giving evidence in court. She said, "I was sleeping on the sofa, and he was sleeping on an airbed behind it. He had given me diazepam because he thought I had ADHD and it would calm me down. I fell asleep on the sofa - and that's when the rape took place. I woke up and he was on top of me.

"I was pushing myself up on the settee then I began to shout and scream. His mother came down and when I told her what happened she said 'You must have asked for it because he wouldn't do that for no reason'."

She eventually confronted him about the incident by taking a dictaphone to his house and recording him talking about the alleged rape. "I got a dictaphone and went round to his house. I said that to move forward I had to know why he had sex with me against my will. He said 'Because I'm a bam and because of the drink'."

Donaldson denies all nine charges and the trial continues.

Source: [STV](#) 28 February 2011

Doctor accused of sex assaults on elderly patients

Dr Mahend Bissonauth, 43, of St Andrews Street, Heckington, near Sleaford, is accused of carrying out sex attacks on two elderly women patients while examining them in hospital.

The jury at Lincoln Crown Court heard that he sexually abused an 86-year-old blind woman while checking on her and hours later he went on to carry out an attack on an 88-year-old patient who was staying at the hospital overnight in preparation for a routine blood transfusion.

Jeremy Janes, prosecuting, said, "At the time this defendant was then a doctor working at the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston. He sexually assaulted one lady and then the other. He assaulted both of them during an examination of them for legitimate purposes.

"What the prosecution says is that he strayed from the legitimate into the criminal. Within 24 hours both of these ladies independently and separately were making allegations that they were sexually assaulted by the same person. We say he went beyond a legitimate medical examination and for his own gratification it became a sexual assault."

The 86-year-old woman had died since making her complaint, but video evidence she made before her death is to be shown to the jury.

The 88-year-old woman who was on a different ward, complained that Bissonauth rubbed her thighs after checking her back and chest. She said, "I told him I was only in for a blood transfusion and I wasn't ill.

"He asked me to get out of bed and face the wall. He got at the back of me and pulled my nightie up. He was jigging around on his feet and rubbing my thighs. It went on for ten minutes or more. I couldn't understand why the nurse didn't come in."

Bissonauth denies the charges and the trial continues.

Source: [This is Lincolnshire](#) 02 March 2011

INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Number of murdered women skyrockets in Turkey

In Turkey the murder rate of women has increased by 1,400 percent between 2002 and 2009.

A report was aired this week on the murder of a woman in the streets of Istanbul. The woman was gunned down in the streets in broad daylight. Her husband has been arrested.

The Turkish Justice Ministry said, in seven years the rate of women murdered has jumped 1,400 percent. In 2002, 66 women were murdered, but just in the first seven months of 2009 the number stood at 953.

Every day there are reports of women being murdered, be it with a shotguns or knives. The murders are usually carried out by an estranged or former husband, or family members in a so-called 'honor' killing.

Earlier this month, a 20-year-old woman was strangled with her baby. The suspects were her father and brother.

Pinar Ilkaracan, from Women for Women's Human Rights, said, "The murders are the tip of iceberg; there is a lot of violence against women. There are thousands, tens of thousands of women, who are experiencing violence from their husbands, but they cannot leave home.

"First of all, what the government should do is increase the number of shelters. There are 26 shelters in 72 provinces of Turkey. This is a scandal by itself, the lowest number in Europe for example in Germany there are 800 shelters."

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, "It is beyond contemporary understanding to exercise violence on women, who beat them, who treat them beyond humanity. In the traditions and customs of this geography there can be no such thing, as committing violence in the name of honor."

Despite the increase in murders, the government rejects the criticisms and claims that it has introduced some of the most far reaching gender equality legislation in Europe in compliance with European Union membership demands.

Ilkaracan says, "Turkey has full equality on paper, but there is an incredible resistance on the part of the government, including the women's minister to implement these reforms."

Women's rights remains one of the key areas of concern over Turkey's EU membership bid.

Source: [VOA](#) 28 February 2011

Three million women abused as domestic workers in the Arab world

The uprisings sweeping the Arab world provoked by long injustice, low income, police brutality, and lack of social security, bypasses the three million domestic workers across the region.

Migrant domestic workers are often victims of abuse, confinement and rape but they are often invisible because they suffer in places that remain hidden from the public.

A survey by the Saudi magazine Sayidaty titled, 'Maids Rights' reveals that more than three million domestic workers in the Arab world, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, are subjected to conditions of slavery.

According to the survey, due to absence of laws regulating the relationship between domestic workers and their employers, abuse is rampant.

Potri a domestic worker from the Philippines working in Jordan said, "We didn't sleep day or night, we had to be up whenever the baby cried. We didn't even have time to shower or eat during the day because we were always rocking him so he doesn't cry. It was like that for two and a half years."

Dima 19, from Madagascar, was told she would find good employment and an opportunity to provide much needed money for her family. But within a few hours of arriving at the home of her new employer in Lebanon in early April of last year, she confronted a different reality.

"The male employer picked me up from the airport and when we arrived to the home he told me to take a bath. He insisted that I leave the door slightly open and while I was in the bath he entered and raped me."

Some weeks later she was tied up and raped by the employer and two of his friends. Within a month Dima escaped. "While the family was getting into the car I started running. I couldn't bear living like this any more."

Aimee, a community leader and freelance domestic worker from Madagascar says, "Recruitment agencies from our home countries are tricking new domestic employees by telling them that will have a great job, with a high paying salary and the ability to save money and provide for their families. But when they arrive they realise that it was all a lie."

Source: [IPS](#) 01 March 2011

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

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

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

WRC

Join Our International Women's Day Celebration!

Tuesday 8 March - 1pm - 4pm

Women's Resource Centre invites you to join its International Women's Day celebration

Festivities will include:

- ***Facing Women* photography exhibition** by Olivia Gilchrist - images taken during a year-long project, showcasing the diversity of the women's voluntary and community sector
- **History of the world in 100 amazing women** - a guide to some of the inspirational women who have shaped the world that we live in
- **Networking** – meet other WRC members and supporters
- **Tea and cake**

For full details [download an invitation](#) (2744 KB)

How do I book?

As places are limited, priority will be given to WRC members, if you would like to attend please [RSVP](#) with your name, organisation and details of any access requirements to samantha@wrc.org.uk

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

Greater London Authority and the Metro in partnership with the Press Association

Launch of our exhibition to mark the centenary of International Women's Day

The exhibition, organised by the Greater London Authority and the Metro in partnership with the Press Association, shows key women Londoners over the past century, who are leaders in diverse fields including the arts and media, sport, politics, civic engagement, business and science. It's my hope that this event will be an opportunity for us to celebrate the contribution of women to this city.

To confirm your attendance and let us know if you have any additional requirements, please contact **EA Business Support** on **020 7983 4160** or email to eabusinesssupport@london.gov.uk at your earliest convenience.

The reception will take place at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA on **Tuesday 8th March 2011**. It will begin at 6.00pm and guest registration will open at 5.30pm.

Please report to the registration desk at the main reception in City Hall on your arrival.

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.

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.

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.

EVENTS

14th Commonwealth Lecture - 'Women as Agents of Change'

Thursday 17 March 2011, 7pm

8 Northumberland, 8 Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5BY

The Commonwealth Foundation is honoured to announce the 14th Commonwealth Lecture will be delivered by **Mrs Sonia Gandhi, President, Indian National Congress and Chairperson, United Progressive Alliance.**

Celebrating this year's Commonwealth Day theme, Mrs Gandhi will be speaking on 'Women as Agents of Change' and considering how the role of women in society can have a positive impact on social, economic and political progress with Commonwealth countries.

The Commonwealth Lecture is organised by the Commonwealth Foundation in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Royal Over-Seas League.

To register email e.dcosta@commonwealth.int with the following information for each person wishing to attend: Full name, Organisation and position, Postal address, Email address and Telephone number.

Women's Resource Centre

Professional Exchange Seminar: Honour based violence

Date: Thursday 24 March

Time: 9:30am to 1.30pm

Venue: Tindlemanor, London, EC1Y 8RT

This Fseminar is for workers and practitioners in the violence against women sector and it will introduce participants to different types of honour based violence - who it affects, issues, needs and best practice.

For more information, please visit our website:

http://www.wrc.org.uk/training_events/professional_exchange_seminars/honour_based_violence.aspx

How do I book?

Please download this [booking form](#) (Word, 72KB) and return to ellen@wrc.org.uk.

South East London Funding Seminar

Date: Thursday 24 March 2011

Time: 9:30am – 2.00pm

Venue: Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath

Women's Organisations are facing an uncertain future as funders and decision makers increasingly marginalise women-only services. Organisations need to think seriously about finding ways to diversify income. This seminar will look at how you can make your organisation more financially stable by engaging with alternative funding options.

This seminar is tailored to address your needs as women's organisations and will include:

- **Advice from local commissioners**
Learn how the commissioning process works in your borough including guidance on how to get involved

- **Presentations by experts**
Social enterprise, income from individuals and partnership working –how you can make them work for your organisation
- **Question time**
Raise your specific questions and concerns face to face with the experts and commissioners
- **Influencing locally**
Top tips and tools to get your voice heard and know how to hold public bodies to account
- **Networking**
Meet other women’s organisations working in your area. An opportunity to share your work, issues and experiences and talk about how you may be able to work together

How do I book?

Please complete a [Booking Form](#) (63KB) and return to samantha@wrc.org.uk

Training: Introduction to measuring outcomes

Date: Tuesday 29 March 2011

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm

Venue: WRC

We all know the value of the work we do, but how do you demonstrate the difference your work makes to the lives of the women you work with? In this increasingly challenging funding environment, it is essential that women’s organisations have adequate systems in place to capture information on how their services change lives. This course will introduce the key principles of good monitoring and evaluation systems and will provide practical ideas on how to make the process of measuring outcomes easier and more systematic.

What will I take away?

- Understanding of the principles and terminology of outcomes monitoring
- Ideas for data collection methods
- A framework for measuring outcome

How do I book?

Download this [Building Futures Booking Form](#) (63 KB) and return to samantha@wrc.org.uk

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 Udit 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@nfwl.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](#)

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

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)

DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES

UK IKWRO

Democracy in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East must help, not hinder, women's rights

As you will know, recent weeks have seen a wave of revolution sweep the Middle East, with protests in nine countries.

In many countries women have stood with men on the frontline. In Egypt and Tunisia they played a leading role, and many of us have seen footage of the women who refused to go home from Tahrir Square until Mubarak left office.

Yet despite the role that women have played, now that the revolutions are in the next stage women's rights are in the firing line. **In Egypt women have been excluded from a panel set up to draft a new constitution. In both countries, there have already been threats to repeal laws recognising women's rights, including their right to divorce.**

As an organisation which works with Middle Eastern women in the UK IKWRO feels that it is important to show our solidarity with the women of the Middle East.

Sign our letter of solidarity - <http://www.ikwro.org.uk/> by Friday 11 March.

Lobby Liverpool Council to reinstate funding to Liverpool Rape Crisis

Liverpool Council has announced 100% funding cuts to Rape Crisis. Liverpool Rape Crisis helped 522 women last year with a meagre £60,000 funding from Liverpool City Council.

We understand that Liverpool is facing massive budget cuts, but also acknowledge that the service provided by Rape Crisis Liverpool far exceeds the money provided and the numbers of those who have benefited far outweighs the financial commitment.

By withdrawing this funding residents of Liverpool will have almost no support for sexual violence, at a time when the need for support has never been better acknowledged.

Sign the petition [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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.

Stop Human Trafficking

The Government has not signed up to new rules which aim at preventing human trafficking in the EU. These new guidelines would work towards making sure EU countries work together to prevent trafficking, ensuring successful prosecution and making sure victims of trafficking are properly looked after.

We can't afford to miss out on this chance to make the fight against trafficking more effective. **The Government can't be allowed to lose its nerve on this.** We've teamed up with Anti-Slavery International, the Independent on Sunday and ECPAT UK to convince the Coalition not to opt out of the new rules.

If thousands of us sign a petition to David Cameron and Nick Clegg, we can persuade them to make the right decision and **ensure the coalition does not wriggle out of signing up to these new rules.**

[Sign the petition](#) now!

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

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 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 for more information.

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)

Application launched to prevent child grooming

A new mobile phone application has been launched to uncover people grooming children over internet chat rooms.

Four out of five teenagers now have a mobile phone which they use to access chat rooms and social networking sites, but how do we know if those they are chatting to are who they say they are?

For further information 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.

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](#)

TRAINING

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

Women and Manual Trades

DIY COURSES FOR WOMEN: MARCH and APRIL 2011

This March and April we are running a series of one-day DIY courses - teaching the basics of five different trades –

Painting & Decorating
Tiling
Carpentry
Electrics
Plumbing.

Our training is delivered by professional tradeswomen, working in small, friendly, women-only groups. Each course is designed to give an introduction to the relevant trade, allowing participants to tackle small home maintenance jobs with more confidence.

Workshop places cost just £50 per person, per day. This includes a light lunch, all materials on the day, and handouts. You can book online now at www.wamt.org/store.

For more information contact Niki on chiefexec@wamt.org or 07748993473

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>

VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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

