

The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 379

25 November – 01 December 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

3,500 girls are at risk of FGM in London

A new report from Imkaan, a black and ethnic minority women's organisation, revealed that more than three thousand girls are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in London.

The report states that there are 3,500 baby girls who are born every year to mothers who have suffered FGM and therefore are at risk themselves. This is an increase of 65 per cent in 10 years.

Despite this huge problem, the report states that health workers including GPs, social workers and teachers receive no mandatory training in the area and there is a real and dangerous postcode lottery of support services for girls and women who are affected by it.

Marai Larasi, director of Imkaan said: "These issues are being neglected because of fears in many cases of being labelled at best culturally insensitive and at worst racist. This will not do.

"There would be outrage and a national scandal if this were happening to little white girls. Every girl should be protected, no matter her background. We need to

seriously up our game on ensuring every frontline professional is trained in these issues and that the full force of child protection is brought to bear here”.

The research was commissioned by the Mayor of London and carried out in partnership with Equality Now and City University. The study furthermore looked into the prevalence, needs, incidence of, and responses to forced marriage and ‘honour-based’ violence.

Source: [Imkaan's press release](#)
[Evening Standard](#) 30 November 2011

Enfield decides to become lap-dancing free borough

The London Borough of Enfield launched a campaign, "No Sex please, we're Enfield", to ban strip shows, lap-dancing and pole dancing in the borough.

Under changes to the Policing and Crime Act, local councils have now greater control over sex entertainment establishments.

Chris Bond, cabinet member for the environment in Enfield, said: "We have no sex establishments in Enfield and that's the way we want to keep it.

"We do not accept they are good, harmless fun for consenting adults. They send completely the wrong message to children and young people and add absolutely nothing to the community."

Kate Nicholls, from the Lap-dancing Association, said: "Lap-dancing clubs do not provide Amsterdam-style live sex shows, we're part of the entertainment and hospitality industry.

"We would invite Enfield's cabinet to visit one of the outlets and see what entertainment is provided, to reassure themselves."

Bond however responded to that offer by saying: "We do not support the denigration of women and have no wish to take up this offer."

Source: [Evening Standard](#) 28 November 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

Women will lose almost £2 billion in the recent cuts

A research revealed that 73 per cent of the £2.37 billion that the Chancellor said he would raise from changes to tax credits and cap on public sector pay will come from women.

The research by House of Commons library researchers stated that women will lose £1.73 billion while men will pay only £640 million, or 27 per cent of the total.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary said: "Time and again, this Government is making women take the greatest strain, even though they earn less and own less than men.

"If you look at all the changes to direct tax, benefits, pay and pensions announced by the Chancellor since the General Election, of the £18.9 billion that the government is raising each year, £13.2 billion is coming from women and £5.7 billion from men. Women are being hit twice as hard.

"The Government is clearly shockingly out of touch with women's lives. They have been warned repeatedly that their policies disproportionately affect women.

"The Government's plans are deeply unfair on women. They clearly don't understand the pressures many women are facing at the moment - especially women with children who will lose most of all."

The Labour leader Ed Miliband said: "this is the biggest attack on women in a generation."

In addition to being called 'out of touch with women's lives', David Cameron has been criticised for being patronizing to women MPs.

He told the Labour shadow Commons leader Angela Eagle to "calm down, dear" during Question Time and joined in laughter when Tory MP Nadine Dorries said she was "frustrated".

Source: [Evening Standard](#) 01 December 2011

BBC criticised again for sexism

BBC has been criticised for having no woman on this year's BBC Sports Personality of the Year nominations list.

Nicky Ponsford, from the management team for England's Women rugby team, talking about the successful sports women said: "It's not recognising the performances that have taken place. The swimmers have done really well. The

triathletes have done really well and it would be great for some of them to be recognised.

"The issue is about the amount of publicity that people have had and how well known some of the women are and how well publicised some of their performances are. That is an issue for women's sport."

On Twitter several high profile women sports stars have voiced their criticism. Rebecca Adlington, Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer said: "Getting so many tweets about this years BBC sports personality nominations some amazing people on the list but such a shame no women!"

Chrissie Wellington Ironman Triathlon World Champion said: "No women in BBC SPOTY top ten. Its not about me, it's about the need to celebrate achievements of so many female GBR athletes. Disgraceful"

Sarah Stevenson, world taekwondo champion said: "Thanks all for your comments about not being nominated. It's a shame, but just how it is! I'll keep fighting for my parents, not for SPOTY"

This is not the first time the BBC has come under criticism of sexist decisions.

Source: [BBC Newsbeat](#) 29 November 2011

INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Abortion rates are not lower in countries that restrict it

A new study, published in an International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology revealed that countries with restricted access to abortion, including the UK, do not have lower abortion rates than those which have liberal policies.

Researchers studied 27 European Union (EU) countries and found that there is no overall difference between abortion rates for those allowing women to terminate pregnancy on request compared with those who put restrictions or conditions in place.

In the UK, abortion is allowed on certain grounds - if continuing with the pregnancy would be a greater risk to the woman's life, physical or mental health than ending the pregnancy, continuing the pregnancy would be more of a risk to

the physical or mental health of any of the woman's existing children and there is a real risk the child would have a serious physical or mental disability.

In Ireland and Malta abortion is illegal, while in Poland it's allowed if there is foetal abnormality, serious maternal health risks and if the pregnancy resulted from reported rape.

Luxembourg permits terminations on physical and mental health grounds, while Cyprus and Finland include "socio-economic" grounds as part of conditions to allow termination.

In all other EU member states, terminations can be performed in early pregnancy when a woman requests it.

According to the study, countries which allowed termination on request had an abortion rate of 11 per 1,000 women, with a country variation from six to 25 per 1,000 women.

However, countries that restricted access had a very similar rate - 12.3 per 1,000 women, with a country variation from nine to 14 per 1,000 women.

Source: [Belfast Telegraph](#) 30 November 2011

Women are under-represented and over-sexualised in Hollywood films

Women are under-represented and over-sexualised when it comes to top films in Hollywood, study released by University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, revealed.

A survey conducted on 4,342 speaking characters in the top 100 grossing films of 2009 found out that only 32.8 percent of the actors are female; 2.05 males to every one female. This means that less than 17 percent of films are gender balanced.

Moreover the study showed that women are much more frequently sexualised when they appear on the screen; they are most likely to be seen in 'sexy' clothing (25.8 percent to men at 4.7 percent) and more likely to be partially naked (23.6 percent to 7.4 percent).

12 to 20 year olds are more likely to be shown more 'sexy' or partially naked than women aged between 21 to 39; 21.5 percent to 13.8 percent.

Women, aged 40 to 64, are not only less likely to be shown as attractive (3.8 percent), but less likely to be shown at all. Only 24 percent of all characters aged 40 to 64 are female.

However, films with one or more female screenwriters' shows a 10.2 percent increase in female presence in films. This indicated that if things were to change behind the camera, they could also change on screen.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

Source: [Huffington Post](#) 22 November 2011

EVENTS

FORWARD

'Mobilising Young African Women in the UK': An afternoon of interactive workshops and panel discussions

Date & Time: 3 Dec 2011 - 2.00pm-7.00pm

Venue: The Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT

Are you fed up with the negative images of Africa especially of women and want to promote a positive view in the diaspora community? Do you want to contribute towards the development of African women and girls but don't know how?

This afternoon of workshops and panel discussions will explore ideas on how young African Women in the Diaspora can mobilise to take action on gender equality and rights of African girls. It sets out to provide a platform for discussion on policies, issues, challenges and strategies for engagement and action. We will look at the positive and negative images in the media surrounding Africa. We will hear from young inspirational African women and look at what can be done to contribute towards the development of girls and women in Africa and provide the skills and information to be part of creating this collective voice for action.

Speakers:

Griselda Kumordzie Togobo– Founder of AWOVI Consulting Ltd

Suzanne Harris– Founder of 'Changing the face of Africa'

Sada Mire– Somali Archaeologist/Founder and Executive Director of Horn Heritage

Minna Salami– Founder of MsAfropolitan

To find out more or for registration contact: Naomi@forwarduk.org.uk or call 020 8960 4000

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

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

DIRECT ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNS & RESOURCES

Equality Now

Kyrgyzstan: Call to end bride kidnapping

In 2009, on her way home from university, Vulkan was abducted by a man who wanted her for his wife and imprisoned in his house. When she tried to escape, a female relative of the "groom" threatened that she would be cursed if she dared

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step over the threshold to leave. Vulkan now reluctantly lives with her abductor as his wife, having been forced to give up university and any thought of a job, and is determined never to allow any sons she may have to kidnap a bride.

To take action follow this link

http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/kyrgyzstan_action391

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>

REPORTS & CONSULTATIONS

Battered, broken, bereft - new rough sleeping report, St Mungo's

Three out of five outreach workers across the country say they are seeing an increasing number of rough sleepers, according to new research published today by homelessness charity St Mungo's.

Moreover, almost three quarters (71%) of those surveyed did not believe that there was enough emergency accommodation for rough sleepers in their area

The report highlights relationship breakdowns, domestic violence and mental health conditions as three of the main traumas leading people to sleep rough on the streets today:

- Relationship breakdown is the largest single trigger of rough sleeping cited by outreach workers, leading to 42% of male rough sleeping.
- Among women, 35% slept rough after leaving home to escape domestic violence.
- Perhaps the most shocking finding is that 57% of outreach workers believe that the number of rough sleepers in their area with mental health problems has increased over the last five years.

[Battered broken bereft St Mungos rough sleeping report October 2011](#)

Homeless Link

Homeless Link has published a Domestic Violence page:

The page contains statistics around domestic violence and homelessness, indicators that someone may be experiencing DV, how to raise the issue of domestic violence – what to say and what to avoid saying.

For more information follow this link www.homeless.org.uk/domestic-violence

E-Learning: Sexual, reproductive and mental health

A resource developed for busy mental health professional, as an easy-to-use guide to key aspects of sexual and reproductive health in the context of mental illness, with clear sign-posting for those of you who want to take this subject further.

Some people say that sexual health (SH) is as integral to a person's life and relationships as is mental health (MH). We know how mental illness, sexual violence and abuse, are often side-lined, not least because of prejudice, stigma, misunderstanding and fear.

The e-learning resources will help you identify ways in which sexual health matters for the people you work with, as well as assist you to overturn some of the negatives, as you strive to improve their holistic health and well-being.

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For more information follow the following link
<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/sexualhealth/index.asp#>

Home Office – Consultation

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

Rights of Women

Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence

**29 February 2012
1 day course, women only
London**

All too often women receive only partial information as to their legal options when experiencing domestic violence. This popular course has been compiled so that you gain a full knowledge of legal remedies possible for victims of domestic violence and learn how to tailor your advice on available options for each individual woman you are supporting. You will be provided with a thorough knowledge of non-molestation and occupation orders, including enforcement options and how to apply. An evaluation of remedies available from the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 will also be given.

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You will then be guided through the available criminal law remedies and will receive specific opportunities to increase your knowledge of protections available to victims in criminal law proceedings.

The course has been updated to include a legal overview of the newly piloted Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs), crucial information for anyone supporting victims of domestic violence.

Each participant will receive a copy of the Domestic Violence Injunction handbook and a copy of From Report to Court, a widely acclaimed legal guide to the criminal justice system for women who have experienced sexual violence.

Just married? The law on marriage, divorce and forced marriage

21 March 2012

1 day course, women only

London

This “myth-busting” one day course will enable you to support women from the UK and abroad to understand marriage, divorce and forced marriage. The morning session will enable you to identify a legal marriage, and understand the law on foreign and religious marriages, as well as explaining the legal consequences of marriage. The course will then clarify the ways in which a marriage can be ended (divorce, judicial separation and annulment) and finally give an overview of the law on financial relief further to the breakdown of a marriage.

The afternoon session will focus on forced marriage and aims to enhance your knowledge of the law and enable you to support women at risk of, or who have experienced, forced marriage. The session will explain the legal remedies that exist to protect victims of forced marriage and will give you an understanding of the procedure for getting a forced marriage protection order.

Participants will receive a copy of the Government’s Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage and a range of Rights Of Women legal guides including, A Guide to Divorce, a Guide to Marriage and a Guide to Financial Arrangements on Marriage Breakdown.

Costs:

Small voluntary sector organisation (income less than £250k) - £75

Voluntary sector organisation (income between £250 and £500k) - £100

All other organisations - £125

Lunch and refreshments provided

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

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

Tender Training Update

One day training: Awareness and Good Practice when working with women experiencing violence and abuse in relationships

Dates: Thursday 26th January 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £75

This training will equip participants with an understanding of the issues for women experiencing violence from men they know. This will include exploring the pressures on women to stay in violent relationships and what might prevent them from seeking and securing the help they need.

The day is aimed at staff in any agency who may be called upon to support, advise, treat, or otherwise assist a woman experiencing violence from a man she knows.

One Day Training: Working with young people to address violence in teenage relationships

Date: Thursday 2nd February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £125

This training will practically examine how drama techniques can be used to engage young people in order to explore the early warning signs of abusive relationships, what abuse is and how to seek support.

This very practical day will equip participants with a clear understanding of the key issues of abuse and violence in relationships. Participants will explore a range of drama exercises that can be used to engage young people.

The day is aimed at professionals working directly with young people. Participants do not need to have previous experience of drama or theatre to take part in the day.

One Day Training: Working effectively in and with Schools: a practical approach to successful partnerships with schools

Date: Thursday 9th February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £125

This training programme is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge around:

- Making initial contact with schools – strategies and methods
- Working with key teachers; Maintaining relationships once a project is underway

- Secondary, Primary, Special, Pupil Referral Units – identifying their differing needs
- School-speak; becoming familiar with the language that schools and teachers use
- Developing and delivering teacher training

The day is aimed at staff in any organisation that may be starting to work directly in primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units.

Three Day Training: Developing and Delivering Domestic Violence Training
Dates: Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th February 2012; Venue: Central London; Fee: £565

This is an Open College Network Accredited course (Level 3).

The course will increase participants' understanding of the relevant information, models and theories required to plan and deliver basic Multi Agency Awareness and Best Practice Domestic Violence Training in a range of settings. Participants will gain the research and group work skills required to plan and deliver basic Multi Agency Awareness and Good Practice Domestic Violence Training.

The course is aimed at participants who have a good grounding in the subject and who are planning to deliver training on issues of domestic violence. They should have some training experience or similar transferable skills. The course will also help those who have a strategic or developmental role who want to increase their domestic violence presentation skills.

For more information or to request a booking form, please contact Dorota Small at Tender dorota@tender.org.uk; 0207 431 7227

VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

UK Feminista

Project Manager: Grassroots Activism
Duration: 8 months (temporary contract)
Hours of work: 14 hours per week
Salary: £25,000 pro rata

The Project Manager build a national activist network and support activists to raise awareness about the continued need for feminism. This will be done by supporting UK Feminista's Regional Organisers, developing online training & information resources, and coordinating UK Feminista's annual 'Summer School' event.

Project Manager: Policy and Campaigns
Duration: 12 months (temporary contract)
Hours of work: 3 days per week (21 hours)
Salary: £25,000 pro rata

The Project Manager will coordinate a unique, high profile project called 'Building a Feminist Future'. The aim of the project is to develop public and political consensus around where feminism is, where we want to get to, and how we get there. This will be achieved through a series of 'big tent' initiatives and associated campaign actions.

The deadline for applications is 11th December 2011.

For more information about the roles and to apply please visit
www.ukfeminista.org.uk

Eaves

Children and Family Worker- London
28 hrs per week
SP 26 – 30 (£25,515 - £28,770 pa)
Fixed term to end March 2012

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 6th December 2011 12pm

To provide support and advocacy for children who have experienced domestic violence and who are living in the refuge. The Children and Family Worker will work with children and young people up to the age of 16. You will also work with mothers in conjunction with the Refuge Workers. You must have a strong commitment to delivering a responsive service to vulnerable women and children and also have the following experience:

- A minimum of one year's experience of direct work with children;
- Experience of working in a team;
- A professional qualification relating to children / childcare;
- Knowledge and experience of current legislation around children in particular Child Protection;
- An awareness of the effects of domestic violence upon children;
- An understanding of legislated Health & Safety requirements with special regard to children;

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- Experience of advocating with a range of statutory and non-statutory agencies on behalf of children and parents; and
- Experience of creating Individual Support Plans with children.

For an application pack, please email recruitment@eaveshousing.co.uk. Or call: 020 7840 7124

You can also download it from Eaves' website at www.eaves4women.co.uk

Interview date: Monday 12th December 2011

Mosac

Operations Director (21 hours per week)

Closing date: 9th December 2011 at 17.00

Salary for 21 hours: £26,700.00 (FTE: £44,500.00)

Mosac is an established, award winning charity that works at a local and national level to support non abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children.

We are looking to appoint a highly motivated individual with significant knowledge and experience in management; financial accounts; and funding and fundraising. Educated to a minimum of first degree level or equivalent, the ideal candidate will have extensive knowledge of the Voluntary sector.

You will be IT literate with exceptional organisational and interpersonal skills and experience of working in a culturally diverse organisation. Effective communication and influencing skills at a senior level will come naturally to you.

Please review the full job description and apply by downloading an application form from our website: www.mosac.org.uk Along with details of your eligibility to work in the UK.

If you require any additional details please contact

denisehubble@mosac.org.uk

Please also send an electronic copy of your application to this email address.

Helpline or Advocate Volunteer

We are looking for volunteers to work for our Advocacy service and on our National Helpline. We offer:

- 10 week training programme including: Advocacy skills / listening skills, safeguarding children and issues surrounding sexual abuse
- Regular supervision
- Opportunities in specific training areas

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The next training course starts on: 25th of January 2012

If you are interested in this new and challenging opportunity and would like to know more please contact: Niki Fayase on 0208 293 8582 or niki@mosac.org.uk for an application pack.

Association for Young People's Health (AYPH)

Youth Participation Co-ordinator – Be healthy project
21 hours a week - £30,000 - 35,000 pro rata depending on experience

The Be Healthy Project is led by the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) working in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire and the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Young People (NWG).

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the development of a national project looking at the health needs of young people who have been sexually exploited. You will need excellent group work, interpersonal and networking skills and a keen interest in young people's health. You should also have experience of managing a project, an understanding of accreditation schemes and experience of supporting young people with complex needs to participate in the development of policy and practice.

This is a project funded by Comic Relief and Children in Need until March 2013. You will be based in central London but will need to travel across England for the role. You will need to be able to work flexibly at weekends and in school holidays as required. Recruitment will be dependent on receiving an enhanced CRB check.

To receive further details email emma@youngpeopleshealth.org.uk go to www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk or call 0207 922 7715

Application: Please send a CV and covering letter setting out how you meet the Person Specification for the role. Each document should be no longer than 2 pages.

Deadline for applications: Thursday 8th December 2011 at 12 noon.
Interviews for shortlisted applicants will be held on Thursday 15th December 2012

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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