

## The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 381

09 December 2011 – 15 December 2011

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON

#### **The government looks forward to expand the definition of domestic violence to include 'coercive control'**

The UK government is planning to launch a consultation to invite responses on whether the definition of domestic violence as it exists now should be expanded to include bullying or 'coercive control'. The current definition of domestic violence is "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members".

It is widely acknowledged that the 'psychological' element (as present in the current definition) of violence in cases of domestic violence is the most common and widespread feature. The government is proposing to incorporate this expressly in a widened definition of domestic violence (See [Home Office Consultation](#)).

Even as the government proposes to 'widen' the definition, there is widespread skepticism regarding this effort due to the proposed changes in legal aid provisioning under which only domestic violence victims who can prove "a high risk of violence" will qualify for legal aid.

Source: [BBC](#) 14 December

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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK

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### **Drop in convictions even as numbers of rape are on the rise in Scotland**

The report of the chief statistician of Scotland shows that even as the numbers of rape and attempted rape cases have hit a five year high, the convictions have fallen by a third to the lowest in a decade. The fall in the number of such convictions is supposed to have occurred due to the Cadder ruling in the Supreme Court in 2010, according to which suspects must be offered legal advice before being questioned by the police. Also, the ruling lays down that the prosecutor needs two independent pieces of evidence, corroborating a suspect's guilt, to bring a case.

Though the numbers of successful prosecutions have increased, the total numbers of convictions are on a decline. According to Scottish Labour's justice spokeswoman Johann Lamont , "What is most worrying is that if you scratch beneath the surface of these statistics, it is some of the most serious types of crime – violent crime and sexual assault – that are on the up".

Source [Scotsman](#) 14 December

### **Two cases of murder of wife and children by husbands within one week**

Two separate incidents of murder of wife and children by respective husbands have been reported in the UK within the last week. In both cases the police believe it unlikely that any other perpetrator is involved.

In Pudsey, Clair Smith (36) and her sons, Ben (9) and Aaron (1) were attacked and killed by the boys' father Richard Smith (37), who later died of smoke inhalation.

In Leicestershire, Samantha and her children Kimberley (15), Adam (13) and Genevieve (7) were attacked by the children's father, Tobias Day. Kimberley and Adam survived the knife attack whereas Samantha and Genevieve were found dead when the police arrived at their home having received a 999 call.

Source: [The Guardian](#) 13 December  
[Sky News](#) 10 December

## INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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### **Afghan woman, victim of rape, directed to marry rapist, still in prison despite 'pardon'**

Gulnaz, a 21 year old Afghan woman, was raped by her cousin's husband in 2009. She was then given a two year sentence for 'adultery by force'. When an appeal was filed against her imprisonment, her sentence was increased to 12 years and she was told that she would be freed if she agreed to marry her rapist.

As a result of another appeal, her sentence was cut down to 3 years and the requirement that she marry her rapist was withdrawn. On December 1 of this year, the presidential palace in Afghanistan declared that Gulnaz had been granted clemency. But Gulnaz still continues to languish behind bars.

While in jail, Gulnaz had reluctantly agreed to marry her rapist, telling filmmakers who were documenting her story that she felt it would ensure a better future for her daughter. The father of Gulnaz's attacker has been to visit her in prison three times since her pardon, apparently to try to persuade her to marry his son

Source: [Reuters](#) 14 December

### **Ministerial Committee on the Status of Women in Israel to adopt women's rights measures**

The government of Israel has decided to act upon the series of violations of women's rights in the civilian and military sphere by adopting a range of rights for women. These include new guidelines for public ceremonies, a hotline for women hassled on the gender-segregated buses and penalization for religious authorities if women are excluded from burials.

The Civil Service commission is going to adopt clearer guidelines to prevent the exclusion of women from the stage and audience in state ceremonies or special events. The Ministry of Religious Affairs, with guidance from the Justice Ministry, will be forced to amend the license granted to companies that facilitate burials to ensure that women can give obituaries and participate in the ceremony of their loved ones at cemeteries. The Ministry of Transport committed to establishing a special helpline to field complaints from women travelling in gender segregated buses and the department on the Status of Women in the Prime Minister's Office will run a similar hotline to hear complaints about the exclusion of women from other areas of public life. Limor Livnat, the chair of the committee also proposed

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the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee that will offer more ways to deal with exclusion of women from public space.

Source: [The Jerusalem Post](#) 13 December

### **Husband cuts off wife's fingers to prevent her studying**

Rafiqul Islam, aged 30, originally from the United Arab Emirates, tied up his 21-year-old wife, gagged her with tape and cut off all five fingers of her right hand when he discovered, on return from travel abroad, that she was studying for a degree without his permission.

Islam, 30, admitted to the crime after he was arrested in Dhaka. Police chief Mohammed Salauddin said police would charge Islam with permanent disfigurement, which is punishable by life imprisonment.

Rights groups in Bangladesh say that cases of violence against women have increased in recent years. This attack is just one of a series of domestic violence attacks targeting educated women in Bangladesh. In June, an assistant professor at the prestigious Dhaka University had her eyes gouged out by her unemployed husband. It appears that he was opposed to her continuing in further education at a Canadian University.

Source: [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), December 16, 2011 (summarised at Women's views on news).

## EVENTS

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### **Feminist History Walk**

**Date: 18 December 2011**

**Time: 2 pm**

**Venue: Bow Road Tube Station**

**Feminists Against Borders**

See [Women's Resource Centre](#) for details

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### **Feminism, Faith and LGBTQ Women: Is Anybody Listening?**

**Date: 18 December 2011**

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[www.twitter.com/EavesCharity](http://www.twitter.com/EavesCharity)

**Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Venue: Conference Room (Floor 1), YMCA, Indian Student Hostel, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ**

The Cutting Edge Consortium is organizing a discussion on challenging homophobic, transphobic and patriarchal orthodoxies, from faith and secular perspectives.

For more information, visit [Cutting Edge Consortium](#)

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### **LGBT Lives – Achieving our Equality: Challenging Faith-Based Homophobia and Transphobia**

**Date: 21 April 2012**

**Venue: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL**

The Cutting Edge Consortium is organizing a public meeting to discuss the place of LGBTQ women of faith in current campaigning against faith based homophobia and transphobia and in contemporary feminist debate.

For more information, visit [Cutting Edge Consortium](#) or email [cuttingedgeconsortium1@gmail.com](mailto:cuttingedgeconsortium1@gmail.com)

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

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### **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 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.

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To take action, follow this link

[http://www.equalitynow.org/take\\_action/kyrgyzstan\\_action391](http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/kyrgyzstan_action391)

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**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>

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## **REPORTS & CONSULTATIONS**

### **Little difference in depiction of women between lad's mags and convicted rapists**

A new piece of research undertaken with Psychologists from Middlesex University and the University of Surrey has found that descriptions of women taken from lads' mags, and comments about women made by convicted rapists, were so similar that participants couldn't tell them apart.

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The research is due to be published in the British Journal of Psychology. Dr Miranda Horvath and Dr Peter Hegarty argue that the findings are consistent with the possibility that lads' mags normalise hostile sexism.

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/mediacentre/press/2011/69535>

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### **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 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 Mungo's rough sleeping report October 2011](#)

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### **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](http://www.homeless.org.uk/domestic-violence)

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### **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.

For more information follow the following link

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/sexualhealth/index.asp#>

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## **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](#)**

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## **Home Office – Consultation**

### **Cross government definition of domestic violence consultation**

The Home Office has launched a consultation to ask for views on whether the current cross-government definition of domestic violence should be widened. It also seeks views on whether the current definition is being applied consistently across government, and if it is understood by practitioners, victims and perpetrators.

**The Consultation closes on 30 March 2012**

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

## TRAINING

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### **Awareness and good practice when working with women experiencing violent relationships**

**Date: 26 January 2012**

**Time: All day**

#### **Tender**

Tender is organizing a day's training to provide participants with an understanding of 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.

For further information, email [dorota@tender.org.uk](mailto:dorota@tender.org.uk)

#### **Rights of Women**

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### **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.

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.

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## **Safeguarding Against Forced Marriage and 'Honour'-Based Violence: Accredited Level 2**

**Date: 24 January 2012**

**Time: 2 days**

**Venue: London**

For further information, visit [imkaan](http://imkaan) and to book a place, email [bookings@imkaan.org.uk](mailto:bookings@imkaan.org.uk)

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## **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](mailto:training@row.org.uk)

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

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

**Dates: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 involved in supporting, advising or otherwise assisting a woman experiencing violence from a man she knows.

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

**Date: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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**Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dorota@tender.org.uk); 0207 431 7227**

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**VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

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## **Mosac**

### **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

**The next training course starts on: 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:niki@mosac.org.uk) for an application pack.**

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

*Weekly\_News@eaveshousing.co.uk*

