

# DASV & VAWG BULLETIN

Croydon's DASV & VAWG Bulletin

January 2021

The FJC remains open during lockdown for appointments and drop in's. Opening hours are 9-5pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 8-7pm Tuesday and Thursday (appointment only between 5-7pm). Please call for case consultations including uncertainty around MARAC referrals.

Please continue to:

- Refer to MARAC when you have concerns that a victim is at risk.
  - Refer to the FJC (with consent) and/or call the FJC for a consultation 0208 688 0100.
    - Be professionally curious.
- Never contact the perpetrator.

## Also in this Bulletin

- ◆ Harmful Practice Training Offer .
- ◆ FJC and MARAC info.
- ◆ IRISi
- ◆ Women and Girls Network
- ◆ BCWA
- ◆ Tender



## Support in the Workplace

Despite the fact that it is estimated that 1.9million adults of working age experienced domestic abuse last year, which is significantly detrimental on businesses, only 5% of organisations have a specific policy or guidelines on how to support colleagues affected by domestic abuse.

Croydon Council have a HR policy on domestic abuse and sexual violence, providing guidance to employees and managers. This includes how managers can offer additional leave, how to help a colleague access counselling through the Employee Assistance Programme, what support services are available and how to complete a risk assessment.

In addition, across the council there are 40 Domestic Abuse Workplace Ambassadors, who have all been trained in the last year. The Workplace Ambassadors provide a listening ear and help a colleague access support services, including that of the FJC.

The cost of domestic abuse to business is estimated at

**£1.9 billion a year**

due to decreased productivity, time off work, lost wages and sick pay<sup>2</sup>

**54%** of employers said that it caused the quality of an

**employee's work to suffer**

and **56%** said it led to **absenteeism**<sup>3</sup>



## Croydon's Domestic abuse service

### What is the FJC?

The FJC is a centrally located resource offering a multi-disciplinary approach to services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children. This service is open to all those experiencing abuse and can offer support at any stage of need. The FJC seeks to offer victims wrap around support and to prevent individuals having to go from agency to agency, telling their story repeatedly, in order to get the help they need.

### The FJC is run by a multi-agency team that works to provide families with access to support by;

- Listening and responding to the needs of service users, including children, in a safe way.
- Facilitating access to a wide range of domestic abuse and sexual violence expertise, support and services in order to meet the needs of service users and their children.

### The multi-disciplinary team provides:

- holistic assessment of need and risk;
- advice and support on all aspects of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- Legal advice and support to obtain Non molestation orders
- support and advice to access emergency safe accommodation
- support to access specialist services and advice, including no recourse to public funding issues, support for children, and rape and sexual abuse;
- drop-in and appointment service
- A domestic abuse helpline for survivors and practitioners.

### How do I find out more?

Contact the Croydon FJC

Opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 9a.m. – 5p.m.

.020 8688 0100

Or email: [fjc@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:fjc@croydon.gov.uk)

**To refer a victim/survivor to the FJC please complete a FJC referral form which can be accessed on the council website [here](#).**



## FACTSHEET

### Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The MARAC is a victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between criminal justice, health, child protection, housing practitioners, IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) as well as other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, a risk focused, coordinated safety plan can be drawn up to support the victim.

Croydon MARAC meetings are held on a fortnightly basis.

#### How do practitioners determine if an individual is at high-risk?

Practitioners are required to carry out a risk-assessment. Although there are a variety of risk-assessments available across the country, Croydon's Domestic Violence Partnership has identified that the Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Risk Identification Checklist as the most relevant to the MARAC process.

The Risk Identification Checklist should be completed as soon as possible with the victim to determine the level of need/risk. If the risk assessment score is 14 or more, a MARAC referral should be made.

Practitioners may also refer on the basis of professional judgement.

#### How do practitioners refer to the MARAC?

Once a high-risk case has been identified, the practitioner contacts the MARAC coordinator to ascertain whether or not a referral has already been made by another agency. If it has not, the practitioner can request the relevant documents for a referral from the MARAC coordinator. Referrals should be submitted securely (via secure email or using password protection) to the MARAC coordinator at least 8 days prior to the MARAC.

[marac@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:marac@croydon.gov.uk)

#### What happens if the abuse continues?

All subsequent incidents of abuse, which occur within 12 months of the original MARAC hearing, should be re-referred to the MARAC immediately. Therefore the same process as used in the initial referral should be followed. Incidents that would constitute a re-referral include:

- violence (to the person or property) or threats of violence by the same perpetrator
- where there is a pattern of stalking or harassment
- where rape or sexual abuse is disclosed

For further information regarding Croydon MARAC, Risk Identification Checklist and referral form:

Call the FJC helpline on: **020 8688 0100**

email: [fjc@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:fjc@croydon.gov.uk)

Should you wish for your agency to be represented at Croydon MARAC please provide the MARAC Coordinator with your contact details and attend the meetings, signing the confidentiality statement each time.



# IRIS

Identification & Referral to Improve Safety

## IRIS (Identification & Referral to Improve Safety) in Croydon

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) against women is a common violation of human rights with long-term consequences for the physical and mental health of survivors and their children. At present 2 women a week in England and Wales lose their lives as a result. A further 3 women a week will commit suicide.

To date IRIS is implemented in 36 sites across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since its initial implementation IRIS has trained over 850 practices and has over 14,000 patients have been referred into support.

## DVA in the context of Covid-19

We know that Covid-19 will have a detrimental impact on the safety and lives of patients affected by DVA and their children. Home may not be a safe place for those affected by DVA. Weeks or months of self-isolation may be a dangerous and deeply difficult time for many, as their routes to support and safety will be shut down or limited. GPs and other general practice clinicians play a vital role in addressing DVA in the current COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown.

Croydon is now adopting the evidence-based IRIS model for the local area, commissioned by Violence Reduction Unit. This is a substantial and exciting opportunity for general practices to raise the quality of their response to patients experiencing abuse.

## **We are recruiting general practices to the IRIS programme in Croydon**

### What will you receive:

- Specialist domestic violence online training sessions to become better equipped to respond to concerns and disclosures of DVA from all patients, including perpetrators
- Ongoing support and DVA consultancy from two named Advocate Educators.
- Literature for your practice recognising you as a DVA aware practice
- Developed and enhanced safeguarding responses to both children and vulnerable adults
- A simple referral pathway for your patients to a named Advocate Educator, reducing time required from GPs and practices to respond to disclosures and related issues
- A certificate for each clinician who attends training, counting towards their CPD points.

**Contact: [Vanessa.richards@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Vanessa.richards@croydon.gov.uk) 07547662319 for more information**



**CouRAGEus is a London VAWG Consortium partnership led by Women and Girls Network and funded by MOPAC.**

The CouRAGEus project is a Pan-London service supporting Black and minoritised young women – this includes Black Minority Ethnic, LGBT+ and disabled young women - aged 14-24 and who are at risk of/have experienced any form of VAWG.

We have adapted our service provision in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, 1:1 support is available via phone or video and groups are delivered virtually. We will return to face-to-face support as soon as it is safe to do so.

The CouRAGEus Project offers the following services in Croydon:

### **Advocacy and Counselling**

- Multiple-Disadvantage Advocacy and Counselling via WGN – for Black and minoritised young women facing multiple-disadvantage
- Advocacy and Counselling via IKWRO – for young women from middle eastern , North African and Afghan communities.
  - Advocacy and Counselling via Jewish Women’s Aid – for Jewish young women and girls
    - Advocacy via Galop – for LGBT+ young people of all genders
    - Advocacy via Respond – for young women with learning disabilities and/or autism.

### **Community Engagement Work (via WGN)**

This is group work and schools work delivered from an intersectional perspective. We offer workshops and programmes on various VAWG issues and Resilience.

We also offer bespoke training for professionals on supporting Black and minoritised young women affected by VAWG.

For more information including CouRAGEus partner referral forms please visit [www.wgn.org.uk/couRAGEus](http://www.wgn.org.uk/couRAGEus) or contact [couRAGEus@wgn.org.uk](mailto:couRAGEus@wgn.org.uk)



WEBINAR



# HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

## Impact on Health and Wellbeing

The session will focus on what are some of the different types of harmful practices, the emotional impact on individuals, the impact on health, where to direct individuals for support and developing good practice.

**DATE: FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2021**

**TIME: 12PM - 2PM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**



**NEELAM SARKARIA**  
INTERNATIONAL GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE AND RULE  
OF LAW EXPERT, BARRISTER  
AND AUTHOR



**GERRY CAMPBELL MBE**  
FORMER SCOTLAND YARD  
DET CHIEF SUPT. AUTHOR,  
ADVOCATE FOR  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY/ENGAGEMENT,  
SECURITY & TACKLING  
VAWG



**LEETHAN  
BARTHOLOMEW**  
HEAD OF NATIONAL FGM  
CENTRE



**DEVI PATEL**  
FOUNDER &  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
AT BETTER LIVES  
FOUNDATION



**ALIMATU DIMONEKENE**  
WOMEN AND GIRLS RIGHTS  
ADVOCATE  
FOUNDER A GIRL AT A TIME  
(SI)

Link: <https://www.basw.co.uk/events/harmful-traditional-practices-impact-health-and-wellbeing>

Website: [www.basw.co.uk/events](http://www.basw.co.uk/events)



# Young People's Support Services

## The Facts

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16-24 year olds are the age group most likely to experience domestic abuse of any age group.  
*Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2015*

Nearly 75% of young women (aged 13-17) have experienced some form of emotional abuse from their partner.  
*Gov.uk teen abuse, 2015*

31% of girls (aged 13-17) have reported some form of sexual abuse within their relationships. *NSPCC, 2009*

Young people who have experienced domestic abuse are less likely to speak up about it.  
*Ava Project, 2016*

49% of boys and 33% of girls aged 13-14 thought that hitting a partner would be 'okay' in certain scenarios.

## One to One Support

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BCWA provide specialist 1:1 support for young women (aged 13-25) who have been impacted by domestic abuse. We can support a young person over the telephone or meet with them privately in a safe location to offer confidential advice on a range of practical and emotional issues.

The nature of the support we provide varies depending upon the particular needs of each client we work with. We can advocate on behalf of a young person, support her to attend appointments, or simply provide a listening, non-judgemental ear.

BCWA support young women to rebuild self-esteem, helping them to recognise that the abuse is not their fault and that there is help available if they wish to access it.

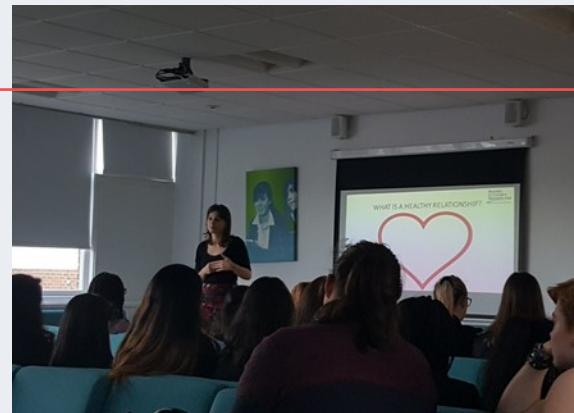


# Young People's Support Services

## Work in Schools

BCWA deliver a bespoke package of assemblies and workshops in schools, colleges and other youth settings. The aim of our workshops is to raise awareness of teenage intimate relationship abuse and highlight some of the warning signs young people can look out for.

We also facilitate peer support programmes in youth settings. Over the course of six weekly sessions, participants explore topics such as: healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, digital abuse, gender roles, body image and self-esteem. We use a combination of film, drama games and engaging activities in order to make the experience as fun as possible for all young people involved.



"I feel more confident in myself and my strength because of this group. I felt able to share and know that I am supported"

## Support Groups

BCWA facilitate a peer support programme for young women (aged 16-25) who have experienced domestic abuse.

The group runs over the course of six weeks and covers topics such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, the impacts of domestic abuse and strategies for managing difficult emotions effectively. The aim of the group is to raise awareness amongst young women of some of the warning signs to look out for in future relationships, whilst also providing a safe space in which they can discuss some of their own previous experiences.





# Croydon BAME SISTERS OWN COFFEE MORNING



New!

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY  
10:30am - 1.00pm  
Registration Required

A safe place for BAME women to talk

Improve your selfcare and mental  
wellbeing

Receive advice and support on  
healthy relationships and local  
services

Childcare  
facilities available  
(request on  
Registration)

COVID19  
SECURE

For further information to attend or to make referrals please  
contact [Stefanie.b@bcwa.org.uk](mailto:Stefanie.b@bcwa.org.uk) ~ '07377 884 170'

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

Bromley  
& Croydon  
Women's Aid  
Working to end domestic abuse



**NEW SERVICE 2020**

# **CROYDON BAME DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE**

Standing with BAME women and  
giving them a voice for change!

**A BESPOKE OUTREACH SERVICE  
FOR BLACK ASIAN & MINORITY  
ETHNIC GROUP  
WOMEN ACROSS CROYDON**

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

**Bromley  
& Croydon  
Women's Aid**  
Working to end domestic abuse



Prevention advice and support service, raising the awareness and the voices of women surrounding domestic abuse. Providing secure and safe meeting spaces for women to connect, be empowered and learn new skills. Developing improved engagement with key services.

## **REFERRALS NOW OPEN**

**1:1 & OUTREACH SUPPORT**

**ACCESS TO SOCIAL NETWORK**

**Monday - Thursday 9.30-4.30pm**

For more information or to download a referral form, visit [www.bcwa.org.uk](http://www.bcwa.org.uk) or call us on 0208 313 9303

## Tender's Healthy Relationships Programme



*"If you are considering whether you should book in the project,  
JUST DO IT! It's BRILLIANT!"*  
Head of Citizenship and PSHE, Phoenix High School

Tender Education & Arts would like to offer your school a free relationship education project using creative arts that explore healthy and unhealthy behaviour in relationships.

Tender's aim is to promote healthy relationships between children and young people based on equality and empathy, and to raise awareness of unhealthy or abusive behaviour in their current and future relationships. Our engaging, creative-based workshops empower students with the skills and confidence to build positive, respectful relationships with others, and consider their attitudes and behaviour in a safe, age-appropriate way.



*"It was one of the best things I've seen students do in almost 40  
years of teaching – really moving and highly effective."*  
Assistant Head, Wallington Grammar

**Due to the pandemic Tender is offering online projects, which include the following:**

- Online staff training.
- Online projects for students who are still going to school or youth settings.
- Pre-recorded presentations that teachers can use with students who are at home.

For more information about these projects please email – [emily@tender.org.uk](mailto:emily@tender.org.uk) and you can also visit the website - <https://tender.org.uk/>



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# FORWARD SUPPORT



Accepting SOUTH LONDON referrals from Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Merton & Wandsworth

Safe & culturally sensitive support for Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) women, asylum seekers or refugee victim-survivors of domestic abuse & harmful practices such as FGM, so called 'honour' based abuse, forced marriage & abuse based on faith/belief

## Online or telephone services include:

- COVID-19 support from peer support in French & Arabic
- One-to-one emotional support & casework
- Community-based workshops for faith leaders & local organisations
- Frontline Professionals training & advice on harmful practices



For referrals, please contact

support@forwarduk.org.uk  
02089604000 or 07834168141

FORWARD



## PUTTING ME FIRST

# COFFEE MORNING



## Migrant Women's Health & Wellbeing

Our monthly coffee mornings are safe spaces for migrant women with any status to share experiences and gain information on issues affecting their lives in the UK.

Come and join us online over tea and coffee and socialise with other women.

## WHEN

Wednesdays  
20th January  
17th February  
17th March

## WHERE

ZOOM

Support in Arabic language available - contact Mahasin

For more information contact

support@forwarduk.org.uk  
0208 960 4000 or 07737705379

FORWARD



# VAWG National News



## Call to Action: End Racism in the VAWG Sector

For the last eight months, a group of Black, minoritised and white women from a dozen VAWG sector organisations have worked together intensively to produce a Call to Action to name and eradicate racism in all parts of our sector's work, from service delivery through to campaign. For further information, please see [here](#).

