

Newsletter

JULY - SEPT 2022

ISSUE 02

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid

Welcome to the Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid newsletter. This issue contains information in relation to referrals, women's group, honour-based abuse research, training, and funding opportunities between July 2022 and September 2022.

Referrals

There were 13 women in refuge during this quarter.

There were 99 new referrals for support for women, and of those 6 women were admitted to refuge.

39 women in the wider community received crisis/outreach support.

22 women had an insecure immigration status and had no recourse to public funds, denying them access to housing and welfare benefits.

- 13 entered the UK on a spousal visa and were supported to access the destitution domestic violence concession whereby they were granted leave outside the rules, cancelling their spousal visa and allowing them access to public funds.
- 1 woman could not access refuge due to her insecure immigration status.
- 8 women were referred for immigration advice and could access outreach service for support

Women's Group

Approximately 12 women participate in the weekly online women's group. This quarter CEMVO provided different workshops. Topics covered

- *Banking and Online Banking*
- *Credit Scoring and Borrowing*
- *Credit and Debt*
- *Energy Awareness*

The aim of these workshops is to help women with budget control and financial management.

We also hosted a Women's Wellbeing Event on 23rd August at Maryhill Community Central Hall and 30 women attended. The day was a great success!

Honour Based Abuse Research

We are currently involved in honour-based abuse research.

The research team is a collaboration between Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid, Police Scotland, The University of Strathclyde and experts working in the violence against women sector. If you would like to get involved or find out more then please follow (<https://www.honour-abuse-research.co.uk>)

One online discussion took place during the quarter involving experts experienced in the field of honour-based abuse. Two further online discussions took place with victim-survivors of honour based abuse. These events were facilitated by Professor Elizabeth Gilchrist based at the University of Edinburgh. The findings of the research will be available by the end of the year. It's not too late to get involved. Please check out our website by following the link above and the 'Get Involved' page.



Training and Development

The project is a member of the Standing Group on Violence. We attended an event on 26th August which was the launch of the 'Audit of Specialist Violence Against Women Services'.

Members of our team attended the launch of The Labyrinth Project resources involving a mapping survey of BME women's services in the city, hosted by The Women's Support Project.

A development day was organised with staff in July to discuss and respond to the Scottish Government spending review.

All staff participated in training facilitated by the Child Poverty Action Group in relation to benefits for EEA Nationals. The immigration status of EEA Nationals impacts upon their access to benefits.

Workers attended a vigil outside The Scottish Government to honour the memory of Fawziyah Javed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Workers attended Scottish Women's Aid national annual conference.

We are regular attenders at Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Forum.

Contributed to Police Scotland's protocol on tackling violence against women and girls and are invited stakeholders to contribute to its future development.

We provided awareness raising information sessions to student health visitors and in partnership with the Women's Support Project training on the impact of No Recourse to Public Funds on migrant women.

We submitted a funding application to Glasgow City Council Community Fund.

Children and Young People

Women and children from the refuge attended a trip to Strathclyde Country Park in August. It was a lovely day out and those who attended the trip reported that they had great fun!



Survivor Story Shared at Wellbeing Event

'At the age of 20 I was forced into a marriage. I am now 22. It's a common thing in my family for females to get married young. Rape and abuse is common in my family too. I tried to escape from Pakistan where my marriage was but I was held down. I had to play it off until I got back to Britain.

I didn't want a life like my mum and gran, living like as a housewife and taking all the abuse. I said to myself, 'I need to break out of this cycle, I need to do something about this'. So I started researching helplines and I spoke to my GP and they suggested I contact Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid. I was scared to get help and I was doing it secretly.

I had a support worker and she encouraged me to talk to the Police. She helped me with building my confidence to report the abuse and the Police put a storm-marker on my passport. She helped me build my self-esteem slowly. We had lots of talks about past trauma and self-blame. Over time I realised the abusive behaviour was not my fault.

Meeting other women from the women's group made me realise that I am not alone. I wasn't scared anymore and I started to stand up for myself. I eventually told my family that I am not happy. I am not scared anymore of my family, their words don't mean anything to me. I know my rights and I am not going to suffer this abuse in silence. I will not be part of this generational trauma and I will make sure my sister does not go through this. My mum is now finally standing up for herself. Sharing my story has helped other family members recognise the abuse they have went through and they are speaking out now. It is important for women and girls to know they can speak out and stand up for each other. Thank you to my key worker for the support and help.'

We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. If you have any questions, comments or feedback feel free to get in touch at womensaid@hematgryffe.org.uk

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