

## Refuge focuses third phase of 'Don't Ignore It' campaign on captive London tube audience

Refuge launched the third phase of its dramatic 'Don't Ignore It' campaign with a hard hitting poster campaign which appeared on the London Underground throughout August.

With three million tube journeys made every day, the latest phase of the campaign made use of a very impactful medium and targeted a very captive audience.

The poster, created free of charge by McCann Erickson London, features a domestic violence

scene taking place during a wedding reception whilst friends around remain oblivious. The advert acts as a metaphor for the way in which society continues to hide, excuse and ignore domestic violence.



More than one in three (42 per cent, The Body Shop research) people say they've witnessed a person being verbally or physically abused by their partner in a social situation – whether at home, a restaurant or the pub. The message remains as strong and as clear as before – domestic violence is unacceptable and everyone has a part to play in preventing the problem.

In addition to the third phase of activity, Refuge and McCann Erickson, advertising agency, continue to work together

to maximise the previous Don't Ignore It cinema and poster adverts. The cinema adverts have been very successful. The adverts will continue to run as filler ads with Pearl & Dean August-December 2004 and in CSA cinemas July-Sept 2004, at no cost.



Head Office Refuge, 2-8 Maltravers Street,  
London WC2R 3EE

Office Telephone: 020 7395 7700

Office Fax: 020 7395 7721

24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline:

**0808 2000 247**

Run in partnership between  
Women's Aid & Refuge

### Chief Executive and Company Secretary:

Sandra Horley OBE

### Council of Management:

Peter Wallach (Chair),

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, Baroness Hamwee,

Cherie Booth QC, Manel de Silva,

Lorraine Ainscow, Ruth Harding, Ruth Rogers,

Barbara Nokes, Ruth Rendell, Janice Panton

Registered Charity Number: 277424

Registered In England and Wales

A Company Limited by Guarantee.

Company No: 1412276

Registered Office: 2-8 Maltravers Street,

London WC2R 3EE



# Connected

A quarterly newsletter for London refuges produced by Refuge

## Refuge website – www.refuge.org.uk – relaunches

At the end of September Refuge launched its brand new website, thanks to The Body Shop and the funds raised through the 'Stop Violence in the Home' campaign. The site will continue to use the same domain name www.refuge.org.uk and will primarily be targeted at women and children experiencing domestic violence. It will provide them with information about the services Refuge provides, whilst giving answers to key questions and explanations about what domestic violence is, along with examples of different women and children's experiences. It will provide a wealth of information at women's finger tips. The new

website will also become a key tool for raising general awareness of the unacceptability of domestic violence, urging people to no longer ignore the issue. And equally important, the site will act as a key fundraising tool for Refuge. In the next edition we'll be able to share more with you - but keep your eyes peeled and try to visit the new site from end September onwards.



## London boroughs quarterly statistics

### Statistical summary for second quarter (April to June) 2004

#### April-June 2004

Total calls UK wide (including London)	9,044
Total calls London-wide (London only)	3,402

#### Calls per month

##### April

Total calls UK wide (including London)	3,061
Total calls London wide (London only)	1,156

##### May

Total calls UK wide (including London)	2,828
Total calls London wide (London only)	1,017

##### June

Total calls UK wide (including London)	3,155
Total calls London wide (London only)	1,229

#### OUTGOING CALLS FROM HELPLINE:

Over 5,600 outgoing calls were made, in relation to London calls, between April and June 2004.

#### Breakdown of London callers with special needs

April to June 2004	Total
Drug use	56
Alcohol use	81
Mental health needs	168
Other special needs	134
Total	439

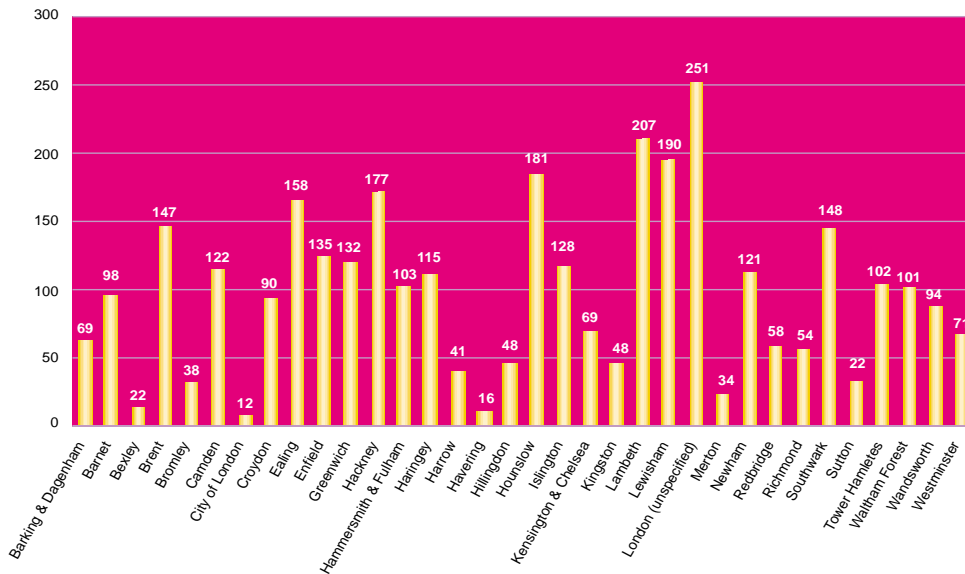
**0808 2000 247** 24 hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge

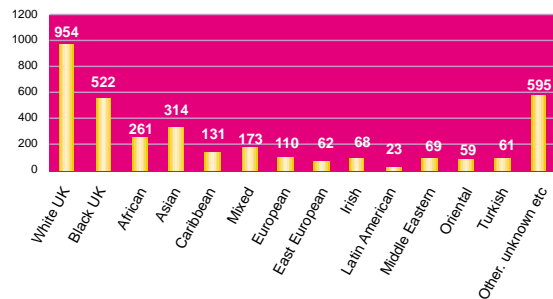
# London boroughs statistics April to June 2004

TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED FROM LONDON APRIL-JUNE 2004 = 3,402

## Breakdown of London calls April-June 2004, by borough

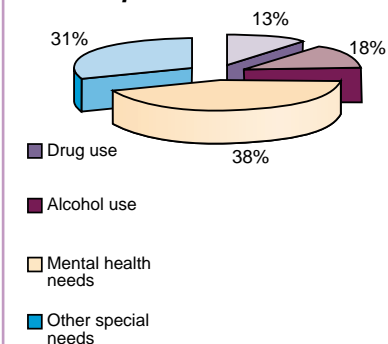


## Breakdown of ethnicity of London callers April-June 2004



## Special needs of London callers

April to June 2004



# Policy update

Extracts from a feature Ruth Aitken submitted to Law Bulletin – June 2004

## The impacts of domestic violence on women and children: Implications for the legal system

This moment in history is very exciting because we are seeing, for the first time, a real commitment on the part of government and many other front line organisations to facilitate change in social attitudes about domestic violence, to respond appropriately to perpetrators and to develop services to meet the needs of victims.

## Getting the balance right

When it comes to the justice system it needs to deliver a clear, consistent message to perpetrators and society that domestic violence is both unacceptable and criminal - the importance of this message should not be under-estimated. But the response of the legal system is only one part of the equation and it is important to get the balance right. The provision of specialist services to address both practical and emotional needs is equally important, as are long-term strategies for prevention, particularly those aimed at children and young people, as well as young parents.

## The psychological/emotional impacts of domestic violence on women and children

Experiences of domestic violence are often accompanied by profound fear, intense sadness and overwhelming loss; fear of further violence, of harm to children, of sadness at the loss of a once loving relationship, loss of home, friends, family and dreams. Women and children who live with domestic violence are at risk for depression, anxiety and posttraumatic stress.

The impact of domestic violence on children seems to vary across individuals and with development. This is borne out by both research literature and the professional experience of practitioners, and can include:

- Emotional and behavioural difficulties – such as increased behaviour problems (and greater adjustment difficulties).
- Developmental delay.
- Problems with social competence and peer relationships.
- There is growing awareness that domestic violence is a significant risk factor for the development of posttraumatic stress reactions in children.

Impacts on women:

- Between 45% to 84% of abused women in refuges or attending self-help groups show signs of posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Women who are abused are at increased risk of depression.
- Abused women are more likely to attempt suicide as a way of escaping the violence.

These impacts are almost always the direct result of living with abuse, and are a normal response to overwhelming and abnormal stress.

If we are to offer an appropriate response to victims and their children, it is essential that we are able to look beyond the myths of domestic violence and cast aside the prejudicial beliefs that many of us continue to hold about 'abused women' 'why they stay' and the nature of a

'violent man' or a 'violent relationship'. Quite simply, if we are not in possession of an accurate set of facts, we cannot begin to understand the victim or make any 'assessments' or 'judgements' about her behaviour.

Essentially the approach used at Refuge is non-judgemental, non-pathologising and empowering. It is based on the belief that the roots of domestic violence reside within our social structures, rather than within individuals. Simply put, this means that although we acknowledge and validate personal experiences of abuse and any consequences for the individual, we do not place responsibility upon the woman for the violence. We do not blame her and we do not ask her to consider 'her role' within the 'violent relationship'.

We know that violence against women is an entrenched social problem, affecting 1 in 4 women during their lifetime, two women a week are killed in England Wales by a current or former partner and we know that domestic violence represents almost a quarter or all recorded violent crime and carries the highest risk for repeat victimisation. We also know that domestic violence has considerable impact on children, either as witnesses or as recipients of abuse directed at them. Also concern is that domestic violence has over taken gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia as the leading cause of foetal death.

Given such a dreadful list of facts, the most common question asked is "why do women stay"? Apart from being the wrong question (the right one is why does he keep abusing her!) the fact is that many don't stay. A survey of residents at Refuge revealed that around 38% of women had already left the abuser and

found alternative accommodation prior to admission— but this did not stop the violence. For these women, the only safe option was to move to a refuge. Accessing the kind of support and information that could facilitate such a move can also present problems, with some women approaching up to 10 different agencies before receiving the help she needs.

Another factor which is often overlooked is that women are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or after leaving a violent partner. And attempting to leave with children, is one of the most significant factors associated with severe domestic violence and death. Women don't stay with violent and abusive men because they like being hit - they stay because there are too few options/supports available which could help them leave.

#### **Integrating support for women and children**

Domestic violence affects women and children in overlapping ways. It affects them together through the experiences they share, separately through the experiences they don't share and perhaps most significantly, it affects them in relation to each other. Getting the balance right here means that we must recognise each is at risk and provide protection and services to both.

Co-ordinating our efforts across adult and child services is an important piece of work and it must be done if we are to get services and legislation right in this country.

#### **Conclusion**

Domestic violence is an insidious social problem which requires a clear nationally co-ordinated and adequately funded response, with an appropriate balance between service provision and justice system intervention.

Strategies for prevention are also vital and the younger we can begin the better. An important part of any response must be to work in partnership with women and children, respecting individual needs and cultural issues. Integrating policy, practice and

legislation for adults and children is perhaps most important of all, as there are grave risks to both and both need our support and protection. This is a challenge we have yet to meet.

## **Raising awareness of domestic violence issues facing South Asian women**

**Jasvinder Sanghera, Refuge National Asian Affairs Manager undertook a presentation in June about South Asian women with no recourse to public funds. Below is the outline of the presentation which may provide a useful overview or refresher for you and your teams:**

#### **South Asian women with no recourse to public funds**

#### **What do South Asian women who enter the UK for marriage or relationship purposes experience?**

Women from abroad who enter the UK for marriage purposes are only granted a limited 'leave to remain' entry. This is known as the 'two year rule'. During this two year period women do not have access to public funds. So it's no surprise that women with limited leave to remain and who experience domestic violence feel that they cannot leave the relationship.

#### **What can prevent a South Asian women who enters the UK for marriage or relationship purposes from leaving a domestic violent relationship?**

The reasons are varied and complex, but the majority are due to: the fear of returning to country of origin (families will use a woman's passport as a way to control her); financial issues; language barriers; lack of access to

information; lack of understanding of British society; fear of further abuse – not just from the perpetrator but also from the extended family; communities deny domestic violence exists.



But there is help available.

#### **What can South Asian women who enter the UK for marriage or relationship purposes do if they are experiencing domestic violence?**

There are some limited funds available such as the Last Resort Fund (£40,000 awarded to Women's Aid last year to support women with no recourse to public funds) but there are also organisations such as Karma Nirvana Refuge, based in Derby which can help women access funds, see how below.

#### **What is Karma Nirvana Refuge?**

Karma Nirvana Refuge is Refuge's specialist South Asian women's project which provides

confidential support to women and children experiencing domestic violence. It opened in April 2003 and has directly assisted 52 women (six of whom have had no recourse to funds).

### How agencies can help women with no recourse to funds?

By using successful case law examples Karma Nirvana Refuge has helped women use the law to their advantage. And by building good relationships with local police forces Karma Nirvana Refuge has been able to encourage police to advocate for women and write careful reports, which include testimonies and her evidence. Combined these factors can become very powerful and can greatly assist a woman who has no recourse to public funds secure funding.

### The way forward

Karma Nirvana Refuge would like to urge the government to put a lot more resource into supporting women who experience these issues. Refuge would like to see all women who are subject to domestic violence able to access equal funds. In addition Refuge would like to see a significant commitment to training all domestic violence related services in culturally specific domestic violence issues, especially when it comes to frontline services such as the police, social services, the courts and judiciary.

Karma Nirvana Refuge is also happy to share good practice and would like other agencies to make contact with the organisation so more women can be supported and assisted. Karma Nirvana Refuge: 01332 604098.

## Campaign and media update

Government public relations pregnancy/domestic violence campaign to support the 24 hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge. Press release below was issued to media mid June 2004:

### New midwife study exposes extent of domestic violence in pregnancy

#### 'Domestic violence: one of the most common pregnancy complications'

One in five midwives know at least one of their expectant mothers to be a victim of domestic violence, according to a new 'week in a life' snapshot of UK midwives.

The survey – facilitated by the Royal College of Midwives as part of the Home Office campaign to raise awareness of the new 0808 2000 247 Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge – has led experts to suggest that domestic violence may be 'one of the most common pregnancy complications'. Frances Day-Stirk, Director of Learning Research and

Practice Development at the Royal College of Midwives explains: "This study clearly illustrates that domestic violence in pregnancy is a major health issue, requiring early intervention to prevent further harm to the mother and unborn baby, as this is an increasingly common occurrence and complication rather than a rare event."

The results may only hint at the scale of the problem as a further one in five midwives sees at least one woman a week who they suspect is a victim of domestic violence.

With one in ten midwives reporting that they believed that pregnancy was the trigger to their client's abuse, the investigation also highlighted the vital role midwives can play in identifying the issue and providing confidential referral to resources and support. Crucially, a fifth said they suspected their client had not confided in anyone else.

While nearly nine out of ten (88%) midwives conceded it is part of their job to provide pregnant victims of domestic violence with information and access to support services, the study exposed a shortfall in training and resources for midwives:

- Over a quarter (28%) say they do not have adequate training to identify and deal with client's needs.
- One in five (17%) say they don't have enough time.
- 22% were not certain whether it was appropriate to ask the question.
- Just under half (48%) directed their client to a helpline or other sources of advice.

The survey questioned a broad cross section of 700 midwives on dealing with domestic violence. They were asked to record their contact with women over a 5 day period (w/c 19th April).

According to Sandra Horley, OBE, Chief



Refuge coverage in Best August 2004



Executive of Refuge, the findings underline the need for a co-ordinated response and support network for victims: "A violent pregnancy is a high risk one. These figures are shocking and unacceptable, but they are the reality. All parties must work together to ensure that the safety of the woman and her unborn child are the number one priority. Support and help must be offered to her whenever and wherever she requires it. Domestic violence is a crime and is against the law. But only when perpetrators are arrested and brought to justice will we ever see an improvement to these harrowing statistics."

Nicola Harwin CBE, Director of Women's Aid continued: "This survey comes as no surprise to us - Women's Aid's own research and our national health and domestic violence campaign has shown what a vital role primary care services have play in preventing further abuse when women are at their most vulnerable. It's vital that all women are aware that there are local and national services to help them - accessible through the new Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline (run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge). Any woman experiencing domestic violence - no matter when she needs help, can call this number for confidential information and advice."

