

Refuge Reports 2011



Welcome to the latest edition of Refuge Reports. Our 40th birthday year has been a challenging, but exciting time for Refuge. During a time of financial cut backs Refuge has worked hard to protect its base of services – and we are delighted to say that not only have we protected our base of services but we have also worked hard to grow new services where we can. It is thanks to the fantastic team at Refuge that this has been possible – and thanks to you, our committed supporters.

We now run more refuges across the country than any other specialist organisation in the field. In 2010/11 our network of 42 refuges in 16 local authority areas supported 738 women and 816 children. Last year our outreach services supported 699 women and 922 children – half of these were from our ground-breaking Eastern European outreach service, which supported women and children from Polish, Bulgarian and Romanian communities. Refuge's independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs), based in courts, police stations, and hospitals work with women who are at the highest risk of serious injury and homicide. They work hard to keep women safe whilst providing expert guidance through the legal system and help to secure more convictions for perpetrators of abuse. Our team of IDVAs supported 1,020 women and 1,219 children last year. The National Domestic Violence Helpline that we run in partnership with Women's Aid answered 75,000 calls, or around 400 every single day.

Alongside our services we also continue to lobby the government and campaign to change negative attitudes around domestic violence. We are also working hard to hold the police to account for their failure to protect women who experience domestic violence.

Overall Refuge is pleased to say that things have improved. Talking about domestic violence is no longer taboo. There is greater awareness and many more women are reaching out. But there is still a long way to go and the fact remains that one woman in four experiences abuse at some point in her life. Which is why we were so delighted to launch a major awareness raising campaign with our partner Avon called [1in4women](http://www.1in4women.com).

Thank you once again for your support and best wishes for the rest of the year,

Sandra Horley, CBE, chief executive

Four Ways to Speak Out



In November 2009 Refuge and Avon launched a joint national campaign called Four Ways To Speak Out Against Domestic Violence. The campaign urged people to 'speak out' against domestic violence in four simple steps, one of which involved signing a petition to Government asking them to ensure provision of specialist service for victims of domestic violence.

The campaign culminated on 9th December 2010 when a group of 30 Four Ways supporters – including families who had lost loved ones to domestic violence – walked to Downing Street to hand in the petition with its 8,000 signatures.



The Refuge and Avon 1in4 women campaign

We are asking women to speak out against domestic violence and

reach out to support a friend in need by downloading our new Facebook application or visiting www.1in4women.com.

Marking 40 years of progress



Our refuges 2011

In March 2011 Refuge featured in **Radio 4's 'Generation Gap'** programme, which looked at the progress we have made since 1971, since we opened the world's first refuge in Chiswick, West London. National advocacy manager, **Julia Dwyer**, explained how she supports women through the criminal justice system whilst chief executive, **Sandra Horley CBE**, spoke about her experience of supporting women in the 1980s, when the police response to domestic violence was woefully inadequate.

Sandra also remembered the state of the original Chiswick refuge, which was a cramped, dilapidated building in which women and children slept head to toe. Despite this, hundreds flocked to its doors because, for the first time, they had somewhere safe to go. Refuge is now the country's largest single provider of emergency accommodation and specialist support for abused women and children, we will continue to work hard in our **40th anniversary year** to reach out to more women and children in desperate need of support.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 40th BIRTHDAY

Refuge works hard to raise funds to support vulnerable women and children, but it's not easy. The UK's two largest women's charities – including Refuge – have a combined annual income of £12.5 million. In contrast, the Donkey Sanctuary received £20 million in 2008. *Hard Knock Life, New Philanthropy Capital, April 2009*

Help us raise funds by throwing a **40th birthday tea party** in aid of Refuge. Why not follow in the footsteps of one of our supporters Harriet and get together a group of friends to indulge in some delicious cakes, muffins and scones to raise funds for Refuge? Email fundraising@refuge.org.uk to request a 40th birthday tea party pack and get some tips and ideas from Harriet. Or why not take part in a running event or hold a coffee morning or dinner party for Refuge? If you work for a company please nominate Refuge as charity of the year or put together a skydive team.



Run for Refuge in the 2012 Olympic year

Refuge has places throughout the year in a number of events ranging from 10k to full marathons. If you would like more information about any of the below events, or to join our Olympic teams, please contact the fundraising team on 020 7395 7713 or fundraising@refuge.org.uk.

March: adidas Silverstone Half Marathon
 April: Brighton Marathon
 April: London Marathon
 May: BUPA London 10,000 10k
 July: British 10k London Run
 October: Royal Parks Half Marathon



Thank you to all of our fabulous fundraisers

Rock Choir. May this year saw 11,000 Rock Choir members singing at Wembley Arena. They paid tribute to the women in our refuges with 'Something Inside Some Strong'. Thank you to you all.

In April 2011 Refuge entered teams in both the **London and Brighton Marathons** – events which have so far raised over £80,000 for our vital services. Each and every one of these runners is a hero and we are so grateful to them for all of their efforts. We would also like to thank the fantastic volunteer masseuses who gave their time for free to help our runners feel special and recover from their challenge in super quick time.

Serena Brooks is taking on the challenge of cycling from London to Paris. You can sponsor her at <http://www.justgiving.com/Serena-Brooks>



Marion Webb celebrated her 78th birthday and what would have been the 50th birthday of her daughter, by jumping out of a plane for Refuge. She raised a staggering £4000 for Refuge. Why not skydive yourself? Get in touch for more details.

14 year old **Rebecca Hirst** raised £675 for Refuge by running a half marathon around her local race course. Great result!

Thanks to all our lovely corporate supporters including **Bloomberg** and **Weil** who not only financially supported Refuge but also donated pamper packs to the women in our refuges. In 2010 the company employees generously enabled women and children to open presents on Christmas day.

Refuge was delighted to once again benefit from the **City of London Corporation's** International Women's Day Networking Breakfast. The event was chaired by Refuge patron Fiona Bruce and Refuge supporter Nav Jagpal, whose sister committed suicide to escape domestic violence, spoke to attendees. It was a fantastic and inspirational morning and a huge success for Refuge, just under £30,000 was raised.

Give Refuge a 40th birthday present

Refuge relies on your donations and fundraising activity to keep many of its life saving and life changing services going.

To set up a regular gift or to make a donation, please visit www.refuge.org.uk or call 020 7395 7713.

Alternatively, please fill in this form and send your donation to Refuge, Freepost RRKT-RRRR-TRGE, International House, 1 St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1UN Please quote reference N11.

You can also give Refuge a 40th birthday present by texting REFU40 £5 TO 70070.

Name and title	
Address	
Email	

I wish to donate £10 / £20 / £50 / (other amount) £			
Credit / debit card type		Authorisation number (the last 3 digits on signature strip)	
Card number			
Expiry date		Issue number or start date	
OR I enclose a cheque made payable to Refuge / CAF voucher or cheque (please delete as applicable)			