

SVAAN Update – January 2012



Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) monthly email update. The update is full of information for organisations who work in the sexual violence sector. If you have events or information you would like to be included please email nisan.kesete@eaveshousing.co.uk.

Ministry of Justice Proposes to change the criminal injuries compensation scheme

The Ministry of Justice have announced a proposal to ban all those with criminal records from claiming criminal injuries compensation if they are victims of crime themselves. This could include women who are sexually assaulted or raped; who had a prior criminal conviction, for instance of minor offences such as soliciting for the purpose of prostitution.

The plan also is discriminatory in that it proposes to ban criminal injuries compensation payments to people who have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months and are not UK and EU/EEA nationals.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is a government scheme which provides monetary compensation to people who have been physically or mentally injured due to being victims of a violent crime.

Justice Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, said: "Cash compensation should be better focused on blameless victims of the most serious crimes and more support for victims should be funded by offenders rather than taxpayers."

The document also proposes ending compensation payments for what the proposal calls 'minor injuries' such as sprained ankles, cuts and grazes.

Responding to planned changes Holly Dustin, Director of the End Violence Against Women Coalition said: "We need to look behind the headlines and see how these plans help victims.

"Whilst we welcome a consultation on reforming the arbitrary and complex Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, we do not support a ban on excluding people with convictions from claiming as a cost-cutting exercise. It can't be right that a victim of rape or sex trafficking is excluded from the scheme because of her previous conviction.

"The Government's plan to take fines from all offenders to pay for victims' services also needs a closer look. There is a desperate need for funding to support women who are escaping an abusive relationship, forced marriage or are dealing with the impact of childhood sexual abuse.

"However, this is not new money, just a different source of funding and fails to address very patchy provision around the country of specialist violence against women services. The Government needs to urgently tackle this issue and put in place centralised funding for specialist services, or at a minimum develop a national funding plan."

This comes in addition to the current Government proposal under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, where the Ministry of Justice is planning to cut legal aid funding for applications of Criminal Injuries Compensation.

To read the full compensation document click [here](#).

Parliamentary Updates

Children (Access to Parents) Bill 2010-11

A Bill to require courts, local authorities and other bodies, when determining or enforcing issues of residence and contact, to operate under the presumption that the rights of a child include the right to grow up knowing and having access to and contact with both of the parents involved in the residence or contact case concerned, unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated that such contact is not in the best interests of the child; to create an offence if a relevant body or person does not operate under or respect such a presumption.

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Bill 2010-11

The Bill would amend Section 5 of the Act to widen its scope to include situations where children and vulnerable adults have been seriously harmed. 'Serious harm' is defined in the 2004 Act as "harm that amounts to grievous bodily harm for the purposes of the Offences against the Person Act 1861".

Second reading - the general debate on all aspects of the Bill - took place on 27 January.

Committee stage - line by line examination of the Bill - is yet to be scheduled.

Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Bill 2010-11

This Bill gives effect to decisions made as part of the initial review of public expenditure undertaken soon after the 2010 General Election.

The bill is to scrub three schemes introduced – the Child Trust Fund; the Saving Gateway; and the Health in Pregnancy Grant.

The Bill received Royal Assent on 16 December. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

Welfare Reform Bill 2010-11

The Bill provides for the introduction of a 'Universal Credit' to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, starting from 2013. The Bill follows the November 2010 White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works', which set out the Coalition Government's proposals for reforming welfare to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and tackle administrative complexity.

Besides introducing Universal Credit and related measures, the Bill makes other significant changes to the benefits system.

During the Committee Stage, the Government amended the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission.

Final amendments were made to the Bill during the third reading on 31 January in the House of Lords. The Bill will now go to the Commons for consideration of Lords amendments.

Funding Opportunities

Steven Gerrard Foundation Grants Programme **Application Deadline: 09 March 2012**

The Steven Gerrard Foundation was set up as a registered charity in February 2011 by Steven Gerrard with the Consortium for Street Children to award grants to charitable organisations throughout the UK that work with disadvantaged children and young people.

The grants programme is intended to provide relief to children and young people in need, whether through illness, family breakdown, disability, involvement in the streets, financial or educational disadvantage.

For more information or to apply visit the following link
<http://www.stevengerrardfoundation.org/grants.htm>

Trainings, Meetings and Events

SOAS Women's Society and Women's Officers

Cross University conference - Where are the women?

18th Feb. 09.30- 17.00 in the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

The UK has always been a hub for Women's and Feminist campaigns. Recently women and men who believe in gender equality have been engaging more fully with debates on this issue, seeking solutions and taking part in activism.

The conference will bring together many voices to discuss current issues that affect both students in the UK and women internationally. From the cuts to Higher Education in the UK, to international issues; to becoming aware of your surroundings and getting involved in some self-defense; to getting creative and displaying your feelings though something more hands on, "Where Are The Women?" plans to be the forum for students to voice their concerns and create debate. We hope to see you all there

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
February 6th, 2012 - 2pm - 6pm

This event will discuss the key issues around FGM in the UK – why is it happening, what we can do to care for girls/women who are victims of FGM, and more importantly, what must we do to stop this from occurring. It is free to attend with registration.

Please send expressions of interest to Gerald Chan, RCOG Director of Health Policy to receive an invitation: gchan@rcog.org.uk

For more information visit this link

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/news/international-day-zero-tolerance-female-genital-mutilation-06-feb-2011>

CWASU

MA Woman & Child Abuse - places left for a February 2012 start!

Sexual Violence: causes, consequences and interventions Short Course

The Child & Woman Abuse Studies Unit within London Metropolitan University still have some places available for the MA Woman & Child Abuse starting in February 2012.

Starting in February, we still have a few places left on this short course. This course will focus on forms of sexual violence in child and adulthood including;

- sexual abuse in childhood
- rape and sexual assault of adults
- sexual exploitation including pornography
- prostitution
- trafficking and other aspects of the sex industry
- sexual harassment

Please see our website for further details

(http://www.cwasu.org/page_display.asp?pageid=TRAINING&pagekey=132&itemkey=134) or contact us at cwasu@londonmet.ac.uk

Eaves – Workshops

Prostitution, exit strategies and good practice in supporting women

Eaves is running a series of workshops for borough–level statutory agencies and voluntary service providers who focus on prostitution. The aim is to equip attendees with the knowledge required to assist individuals who want to leave prostitution – including victims of trafficking – through facilitating access to appropriate services. Workshops will be run over a day and a half and attendees are expected to attend both days.

The training costs £150 (statutory agencies) or £110 (voluntary agencies).

Spring dates:

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th February 2012

Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd March 2012

For further information, to find out if you're eligible to attend or to book a place, please contact Lisa Reynolds on 020 7840 7103 or lisa.reynolds@eaveshousing.co.uk

Rights of Women

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.

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

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

Resources & Consultations

Asylum Aid

New research report, *"I feel like as a woman I'm not welcome": A gender analysis of UK asylum law, policy and practice.*

The report was published on the 25th of January and combines legal and qualitative research to test the Government against its promises to establish a gender-sensitive asylum system. Drawing on interviews with asylum-seeking women and refugees across the UK, the report also brings together the jurisprudence and policies most relevant to those with gender-based asylum claims in a single document for the first time. In so doing, it maps the work still ahead in order for the Government to honour its commitments.

Downloaded the full report from the following link

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/i_feel_like_as_a_woman.html

Women's Resource Centre

WRC have launched a new report - [Hidden Value: Demonstrating the extraordinary impact of women's voluntary and community organisations](#)

The report revealed women's organisations 'generate between £5 and £11 in value' for every pound spent. Women's voluntary and community organisations provide excellent value for money in supporting women and children.

Based on two years of research funded by Trust for London and working with five women's organisations, WRC found that by supporting women into employment, assisting women affected by violence and even preventing suicide, women's organisations consistently save money for local communities and government.

This report is the first value assessment of women's organisations' work, published by WRC in partnership with the new economics foundation (nef).

Crown Prosecution Service - Annual VAWG Crime Report 2010-2011

This is the fourth Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) annual report, and covers the following strands of Violence against Women and Girls for 2010-11: domestic violence; forced marriage; honour based violence; female genital mutilation; rape and sexual offences; human trafficking; prostitution; child abuse; and pornography.

To download the full report visit the CPS website

www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw

London Councils Grants consultation 2013/15

London Councils invites you to respond to this public consultation about its future grants programme and its review of the potential equalities effects on the protected groups as part of its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

[Take part in the consultation now by following this link Opens in a new window](#), or read on here for background information, supporting documents and the timetable.

[You can also view Grants Committee papers relating to this on the London Councils site Opens in a new window](#)

This survey should take about 30 minutes. **The survey will close at 5pm on Friday 23 March 2012**

Home Office Stalking consultation

The government launched the stalking consultation to ask for views on how to protect victims of stalking more effectively.

The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including current legislation, the effect of police information notices, search powers, the work of existing organisations and alternative measures to tackle stalking.

The consultation seeks the views from directly affected parties, police, practitioners, other government departments and organisations with a direct interest in preventing stalking.

To respond to the consultation or to find out more follow the following link www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/stalking-consultation

This consultation will close on 5 February 2012

Home Office Consultation of Forced Marriage

The consultation asks views from the public on whether Forced Marriage should become a specific criminal offence. It will also seek views on how protection of victims could be strengthened and making sure perpetrators are punished by criminalising the breach of Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO).

The consultation will run until 30th of March 2012.

To find out more or to respond to the consultation follow the following link www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/forced-marriage

Vacancies and Volunteering

International Rescue Committee UK Women's Protection and Empowerment Advocate

Closing date: February 10, 2012.

IRC-UK is looking for an experienced advocate to join our policy and advocacy team and spearhead our work on women's protection and empowerment. In addition to leading advocacy efforts, the WPE Advocate will provide technical guidance and support IRC's WPE strategy development and implementation.

To Apply: send a CV (two page max) and cover letter (two page max) to Clea Kahn at applications@ircuk.org.

CVs along with a covering letter should detail, point by point with examples, how applicants meet the Person Specification. This letter should not exceed three pages; the CV should not exceed two.

For more information and application documents visit the following link
<http://www.rescue-uk.org/about-irc-uk/jobs/current-vacancies>

**Womankind Worldwide
 Head of Fundraising & Marketing Job Share
 Closing date: February 3, 2012.**

Head of Fundraising & Marketing Job share (2 days a week 6 fixed term contract)
 Are you looking for an exciting fundraising opportunity? Can you bring strong fundraising and leadership skills to an established job share?

We are looking for an experienced Head of Fundraising & Marketing to jointly lead the team in delivery of projected income growth and contribute to the development of Womankind's long term fundraising strategy.

If you share our beliefs, are creative, have strategic vision and excellent management skills we would like to hear from you.

To Apply and for further information download [an application pack](#) (word) and please complete [an application form](#) (word) and [diversity form](#) (word).

Also visit the following link <http://www.womankind.org.uk/about/our-team/working-for-womankind>

**Her Centre
 Outreach and information officer post** – (Maternity cover initially 6 months but likely to be extended to a year)

Salary: £26,401 SO1 inc. OLW

You will provide a pro-active service to women, which will involve helping clients with benefits, links to immigration services and with homelessness, as well as leading on women's policy issues by organising our quarterly forums and following key issues in government. You will also lead on promotion of Her Centre services.

With experience of working with vulnerable women, and knowledge of women's issues, you will have strong advocacy skills and an understanding of how current issues impact on women in particular. Excellent communication skills and knowledge of benefits advice are essential.

If you wish to apply for this post, please contact Stacy Smith on Stacy@hercentre.org for an application form.

Closing date is Friday 10th February at 5PM. Interviews will be the 14th and 15th of February.

**Gaia Centre
 Community Engagement Coordinator**

**37.5 hours per week
 Salary: £33,000 per annum, plus benefits
 FIXED-TERM CONTRACT until 31/03/2014
 Closing date: 3rd February 2012**

This is an exciting new role to work in a broad, innovative team based, providing a range of services to address and meet the diverse needs of survivors of all forms of gender-based violence (including domestic violence, sexual, financial and emotional abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, trafficking, stalking, prostitution and 'honour'-based violence) within Lambeth.

Children's Support Worker
37.5 hours per week
Salary: £18,000 per annum
Fixed Term until 31 March 2013
Closing date: 6th February 2012

We have recently been successful in securing funding for a children's support worker for our South London services for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

We are looking to recruit a female* candidate with experience in working with children and a recognised qualification such as an NNEB or NVQ level 3. You will be responsible for organising and providing play activities for children and will work closely with refuge workers to provide practical information and assistance to women about local services for children, such as play schemes, nursery or schools.

National Peripatetic Domestic Violence Worker
Salary: £27,000 pa
London, with travel to all Refuge's services nationally
Closing date: 6th February 2012

This is an exciting new opportunity for experienced support workers. You will deliver a high quality professional service to abused women living in our refuges and those who access our floating support services across all of our national sites. Your role is to support colleagues by filling gaps created in the service by absence and annual leave and will be required to work from any of the above services and at any of our national sites according to operational needs.

For more information and to apply to these posts visit the following link
<http://refuge.org.uk/working-for-refuge/>

Clean Break
Development Manager f/t North London
Salary: £30,351 plus benefits

Award-winning theatre company Clean Break is expanding its Development Team with the appointment of a new Development Manager. We are looking for a woman with a strong track record in charitable trusts and corporate fundraising, excellent communication skills and who is passionate about making a difference to vulnerable women.

For an application pack, please write to general@cleanbreak.org.uk (no CVs) or call 020 7482 8600. For an informal conversation, contact Lucy Perman, Executive Director, on the above number.

Application deadline: 10am, 6 February 2012
Interviews: 13 February 2012

Applications are actively encouraged from black and minority ethnic women.

Applicants who state they are ex-offenders or are disabled, who meet the essential person specification, will be guaranteed an interview.

