



Asian Women's Resource Centre

Supporting and empowering women to improve their lives

Suna Parlak- Harmful Practices / Domestic Abuse Officer and Educator

Vandana Aparanti - ASCENT Domestic Abuse Caseworker

Domestic Abuse / Specialist Harmful
Practice support
Advice and information service
Free community classes

NRPF support
EHP Training provider
Workshops

108 Craven Park
Harlesden
NW10 8QE
Tel: 020 8961 6549/5701
Email: info@awrc.org.uk
www.asianwomencentre.org.uk



Who We Are

- **The Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) is a specialist by and for women's organisation, providing linguistically and culturally sensitive services to Black, Minority & Ethnic (BME) women and their children across London.**
- **We have been supporting women and their children for over 40 years. Our services are available to all women in need, and we practice an open-door policy.**
- **It is our aim to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including domestic abuse and forced marriages. We assist in helping women and children to receive essential, practical and emotional support so that they can re-build their lives.**
- **The board of trustees and staff work hard to raise funds in order to reach out to as many vulnerable and disadvantaged women and children as we can.**

Services We Provide

- Specialist domestic abuse/harmful practice support – 1-2-1 intensive casework and advocacy support, risk assessment and safety planning. Holistic wrap-around service to address all woman's needs
- NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds) support
- Advice and information on housing, welfare, benefits, debt and employment
- Activities for the local community. Including: ESOL, Computer & Healthy Eating classes.
- Empowering Women by providing specialist holistic support
- Signposting and referrals for counselling, immigration & family law legal services
- Training to frontline professionals on harmful practices, including Honour Based Abuse and forced marriage



Services During Covid-19



- All services are being provided remotely. We continue to provide full support - only face-to-face meetings are currently unavailable
- We have seen an increase of nearly 50% referrals during this global pandemic
- Self-referrals have increased
- Increased challenges contacting women in need – no safe space, limited contact due to perpetrators being at home,

Recognising Signs Of Abuse



- ◆ Physical
- ◆ Emotional
- ◆ Verbal
- ◆ Sexual
- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Coercive Control



How can you offer support to women experiencing domestic abuse



- ◇ Listen
- ◇ Provide emotional support
- ◇ Encourage her to report the incident
- ◇ Identify her needs and signpost / refer her to a domestic abuse service like AWRC
- ◇ Report to safeguarding team if there are concerns for safety (children and adult)
- ◇ If Harmful Practices (Honour Based Abuse, FGM, Forced Marriage) refer the client to AWRC or other specialist services
- ◇ Contact Harmful Practice helpline – new service from AWRC – coming soon



Advice and Information

Our advice workers cover the areas of Brent and Harrow. They support women to increase their income and improve their access to health & social care services

- Welfare benefits – information on rights/entitlement, form filling
- Housing – advice on options available, applications for social housing, homelessness and evictions
- Immigration – Support to access immigration support (OISC LEVEL 1)
- Employment – Connecting women to volunteering, employment and further education

Barriers to women accessing services and housing



Many women who access our services experience the following barriers:

- ◆ **Language barriers – many women who access our services have limited English**
- ◆ **No knowledge of their rights – women who come from abroad have little or no knowledge of their rights in the UK. Only knowledge of what they are told. Many remain in abusive relationships as they are dependant on the perpetrator financially**
- ◆ **Delays in applications (many clients do not have access to technologies to provide the required documents). Allocation of council housing is now over a 15 year wait. Clients being told to look outside of London, away from their support network so they can find cheaper accommodation**
- ◆ **NRPF – single women with no children have restricted access to support services. If a woman is fleeing DV and with no children she will not be prioritised for housing.**
- ◆ **Refuge –refuge spaces in London are low. Some women do not want to leave their support system. Refuges are expensive for working women and not accessible for NRPF women. Women with adult children also have challenges when requiring refuge support.**



Recent Trends

- 31% increase in referrals for domestic abuse services in Brent during Covid 19 – 50% increase overall for domestic abuse services (all boroughs)
- 32% increase in referrals for A&I services – housing, welfare benefits (Universal Credit, PIP, Tax credits)
- Increase of virtual abuse through social media
- Re-triggered trauma from quarantine and depression due to feeling helpless
- Increase in brutality of abuse
- Increase of isolation
- Increase of financial abuse and need for foodbank vouchers.



Boroughs / Languages

- Brent
 - Barnet
 - Ealing
 - Enfield
 - Hammersmith and Fulham
 - Harrow
 - Hillingdon
 - Hounslow
 - Kensington and Chelsea
 - Richmond-upon-Thames
 - Westminster
- Bengali
 - Farsi
 - Gujarati
 - Hindi
 - Hinko
 - Konkani
 - Marathi
 - Pashto
 - Patwari
 - Punjabi
 - Urdu
 - Portuguese
 - Italian
 - Kurdish
 - Turkish
 - Azerbaijan

Helplines

- ◇ **National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247**
- ◇ **Women and Girls Network- West Hub- 0808 801 0660**
- ◇ **Solace Women's Aid- East Advice Hub- 0808 802 5565**
- ◇ **Southall Black Sisters- 020 8571 9595**

How To Make a Referral



- ◆ Requesting a referral form via phone or email
- ◆ Via our website
- ◆ Client can self refer
- ◆ Tel: 020 8961 6549/5701
- ◆ Email: referrals@awrc.org.uk (All referral enquiries)
- ◆ Email: info@awrc.org.uk (General enquiries)
- ◆ Website: www.asianwomencentre.org.uk

Any Questions?



Our Contact information:

- ◆ Phone Number: 020 8961 6549/5701
- ◆ General enquiries: info@awrc.org.uk
- ◆ Send referrals to: referrals@awrc.org.uk