

# WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

## NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

**WELCOME** to the latest edition of the Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse newsletter. We hope you find the information and articles useful and informative.

If you have anything you would like us to include in a future edition please contact me directly on 01926 412417, or email [helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Please forward this newsletter onto any colleagues you think may wish to receive it, or contact me with names and email addresses of anyone to be added to the circulation list. This newsletter is also available to download from the "Professionals" page of [www.talk2someone.org.uk](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk).

*Helen Jinks*

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## NEWS & JOBS

### Go Orders

Plans to pilot Domestic Violence Protection Orders, which would have given senior police the power to act instantly to safeguard families they considered at threat, have been deferred until after the autumn spending review.

For further news on this story please go to:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/aug/04/government-shelves-domestic-violence-scheme>

### Rape charge anonymity pledge dropped

Plans to change the law to grant anonymity to men charged with rape in England and Wales have apparently been dropped by the Ministry of Justice.

The ministry said it had not ruled out anonymity between arrest and charge. But Justice Minister Crispin Blunt has said he would rather put pressure on the media not to name suspects than bring in a new law.

Labour welcomed the apparent U-turn but said the government's handling of the issue had been "lamentable".

The plan to grant anonymity to rape suspects was a surprise inclusion in the government's coalition agreement in May.

It had not been in the Conservative or Liberal Democrat election manifestos, although it had been Lib Dem policy since 2006.

The coalition agreement pledged to "extend anonymity in rape cases to defendants", with ministers stressing the need to "protect anyone who may be wrongly accused from harmful stigma".

But Prime Minister David Cameron appeared to bow to pressure from campaigners last month when he said he favoured a "limited extension" to the law to cover the period between arrest and charge.

To view the article in full please go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10760239>

## **UKrefugesonline (UKROL) Service Information Update – please act now!**

Sourced from Women's Aid:

Thank you to all the services who have updated their information - we are continuing to update the information as it comes in. There are still a significant number of organisations who have not yet completed their online update form so please can Project Admin users for these services log on to UKROL and complete their forms as soon as possible. As well as enabling all services to access the UKROL database for effective referrals and admissions, this information is also used to update the UK Gold Book. It is important that we receive your form back as a matter of urgency in order to be able to include your service in the UK Gold Book for 2011/12. If you are unsure how to locate your update form or have any other queries please contact [Sarah Davidge](#) at Women's Aid.

## **No Recourse to Public Funds Pilot Scheme - please help us review this pilot by telling us your experiences**

Sourced from Women's Aid:

The Government provided funding for specialist domestic violence services to support domestic violence victims on spousal visas who are eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain. The Home Office are promoting this pilot scheme and services can apply to the scheme for funds through [The Sojourner Project](#) at Eaves Housing who are administering the scheme that now ends in March 2011.

This pilot is UK wide and the Women's Aid federations are monitoring the pilot in England, Scotland and Wales. We need feedback from local services about your experience of the pilot in order to review its effectiveness. Please would you use the [NRPF Pilot Monitoring Form](#) that we have devised so we can gather anonymised data on individual cases that you applied for or else please just send through any comments/suggestions to [Deborah McIlveen](#), Policy and Services Manager at Women's Aid.

## **Facebook Places**

Facebook launched Facebook Places yesterday. Anyone can find out where you are when you are logged in. It gives the actual address & map location of where you are as you use Facebook. Clearly this has implications for victims of domestic abuse who have left a violent or abusive partner and do not want to be found e.g. those in refuge.

TO UNDO this facility from a Facebook account: Go to "Account", "Account Settings", "Notifications", then scroll down to "Places" and UNCHECK the 2 boxes. Make sure to SAVE the changes.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/places/>

## Current vacancies:

- [Partner Support Officer](#), Nuneaton (closing date 10<sup>th</sup> September)
- [Perpetrator Intervention Project Counsellor](#), Warwickshire (closing date 24<sup>th</sup> September)

## FUNDING

### Funding Newsflash

18th August bumper edition now available at: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/GRANTS%20>

## CONSULTATIONS

### Family Justice Review

The Family Justice Review is a review of the family justice system commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education, and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The family justice system is a network of organisations and individuals from many different professions all working co-operatively and collaboratively so that the system achieves its aims.

It is the aim to improve the system so that it is quicker, simpler, more cost-effective and fairer whilst continuing to protect children and vulnerable adults from risk of harm.

The Government Coalition Agreement has made a commitment to increase the use of mediation when couples break up, and to look at how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents.

There is concern that mediation is not appropriate and potentially dangerous where there is domestic abuse. There is also concern that all court-ordered child contact is safe for children and young people and the parents, and that this is not the experience of many children and the non-abusive parent.

The Review can be responded to online or via a download, both available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/fjr-call-for-evidence.htm>

### Equalities and Human Rights Commission consults on violence against disabled women, children and young people

Sourced from Women's Aid

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is seeking the views of organisations working to address violence against women and girls as part of its Formal Inquiry into disability related harassment.

The Inquiry is investigating the causes of disability related harassment, including domestic violence against disabled people, and what public bodies and public transport operators should be doing to prevent and eliminate it. The Commission's previous research, [Promoting the Safety and Security of Disabled People](#), found that disabled women were at greater risk of experiencing harassment than disabled men. Such harassment can include sexual assaults and domestic violence as well as a range of other hostile and intimidating behaviours. As part of the Inquiry's [terms of reference](#), it will consider how characteristics such as gender, race and sexual orientation interact to influence experiences of violence.

As well as submitting evidence via the proforma on the [Commission's website](#), organisations can contribute to the Inquiry by encouraging disabled service users to complete the Commission's [questionnaire for individuals](#). All information is available in alternative formats and the Commission will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments to facilitate evidence giving.

More information about the Inquiry is available [here](#). The closing date for responses is **Friday 10 September**.

## Call for Research Participants: Older Women

Intimate Partner Violence and Older Women is a European Commission funded research project within the DAPHNE Programme. There are six countries involved in this study: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and the UK (The University of Sheffield is the UK partner). The aim of the research is to explore older women's experiences of partner violence and identify their specific support needs during and after this abuse. As part of this research project researchers at the University of Sheffield are hoping to interview a number of older women who have experienced partner violence during older age (over the age of 60 years).

If you know of any older women with such experiences who might be willing to share their experiences (and to discuss what help and support they think that older women may require when dealing with such situations) then please pass on contact details below, or get in touch with Bridget Penhale to obtain an information leaflet that can be given to an older women. Interviews will be held at a place and time to suit the woman concerned.

We feel it is very important that the findings of our research represent the views and experiences of older women, and thank you in advance for your efforts in helping us achieve this goal.

Please contact [Bridget Penhale](#), 0114 226 9606. Bridget Penhale is a Reader in Gerontology, Centre for Health and Social Care Studies & Service Development, School of Nursing and Midwifery University of Sheffield.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Grasping the nettle: alcohol and domestic violence factsheet

An updated factsheet [Grasping the nettle: alcohol and domestic violence](#) [pdf] has been released by [Alcohol Concern](#). Authored by Dr Sarah Galvani, it provides an updated overview of the research on the association between alcohol and domestic violence and a clear outline of the implications for policy and practice.

## **WRC launches Power and Prejudice report**

WRC has launched its landmark new report 'Power and Prejudice - combating gender inequality through women's organisations', which identifies the barriers facing women's organisations in creating change on a local level.

The report examines what tools can be used to support local engagement and offers clear, practical solutions to both public bodies and women's organisations to improve engagement and services for women locally.

For more information and a copy of the report go [here](#). There will also be a full feature in Autumn's edition of the Source magazine and more resources online in the coming weeks.

## **EVENTS & TRAINING**

### **Events in the UK**

#### **Breaking the cycle: Using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence**

22<sup>nd</sup> September, Doncaster

[Click here for more details](#)

#### **Safeguarding Against Forced marriage and so called Honour-based Violence**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Peterborough

[Click here for more details](#)

#### **Enforcement: making domestic violence injunctions work**

13<sup>th</sup> October, London

[Click here for more details](#)

#### **Sexual Violence, Drugs and Alcohol**

18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010, London

[Click here for more details](#)

#### **Whose movement is it anyway? Survivors' role in ending violence against women and girls**

5<sup>th</sup> November 2010, London

[Click here for more details](#)