

Newsletter



CHANGING WOMEN'S LIVES

Who We Are

Based in the London Borough of Brent, The Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) is a specialist women's organisation offering independent by and for needs led support services to Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) women and girls experiencing abuse across London.

AWRC's mission of tackling violence against women and girls and challenging systemic discrimination and patriarchal violence is propelled by our commitment to intersectional feminism and values deeply rooted in empowering and safeguarding BME women.

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OUR LEGACY

Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and ASRAA, a refuge project began in the 1970s with the help of urban and social services grant aid funds. Like other sister organisations, AWRC was set up by a group of Asian women to address issues of domestic violence and needs of survivors that mainstream organisations were failing to meet at the time. These needs reflected the inequalities that women of colour faced stemming from racism, inadequate welfare provisions and lack of cultural understanding within mainstream organisations, language support and awareness of domestic abuse.

In 1980, the Centre became independent from the refuge and came to be known as the Asian Women's Resource Centre in its own right. Today, AWRC is a strong team of 30 women and based at 108 Craven Park, Harlesden.

OVER 40 YEARS OF SUPPORTING WOMEN

AWRC is one of the leading organisations providing support services to Black, Minority, Ethnic (BME) women and girls across London experiencing domestic abuse and harmful practices. We offer a range of by and for needs led services in 24 languages, supporting every aspect of women's needs and providing a wrap around holistic approach to support. Our organisation also has partner projects with other organisations within the 'ending VAWG' sector.

For more than 40 years, AWRC, as a feminist organisation, has upheld values of inclusivity, autonomy and justice. It continues to work for human rights, anti-discrimination and liberation from oppression.

OUR VALUES AND AIMS



Work towards Ending Violence Against Women and Girls



Ensuring safety, security and dignity – offering prompt targeted responses and reducing risks



Ensure that the needs of BME women are addressed in line with the ethos of “led by and for”



Independence and autonomy for BME women



Securing equality for women across all walks of life



Involve service users at all levels to ensure that the services provided meet the needs of women



Have a commitment to equality and diversity

AWRC

is a member of the London VAWG consortium and leads the ASCENT Ending Harmful Practices project

has obtained the Advice quality standard in the 'General Help' category with casework support

is registered with the Office for Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide immigration advice – Level 1



Ascent



**London
VAWG
Consortium**



CONNECT WITH US



THE HARMFUL PRACTICES INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE PROGRAMME LAUNCH



Attendees and AWRC with the Rt. Hon. MP Dawn Butler (Brent Central), Shadow Equalities Minister

The launch garnered enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders, including funders, members from the domestic abuse commissioners' office, MP Dawn Butler and her team, Mayor of Brent- Orleen Hylton, harmful practice survivors and partners committed to addressing harmful practices affecting marginalised communities.

The programme's focus on honing practices in identifying and responding to harmful practices was well-received, with attendees recognising the importance of shedding light on these issues.



(L-R) Ruby Sayed (AWRC Trustee); Patricia Wharton, Madam Mayor of Brent- Orleen Hylton, Dorett Jones (Genesis Consultancy) and Sarbjit Ganger (AWRC Director)

The Harmful Practice IDVA Training Programme is designed to equip practitioners with specialised knowledge and skills necessary for navigating the complexities of harmful practices. It goes beyond surface-level understanding, offering a comprehensive approach to identifying and addressing all forms of harmful practices. Through practical application and in-depth training, the programme serves as a transformative force, empowering advocates to drive meaningful change within the realm of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Guests gained insights into the positive impact of the programme, particularly in enhancing the safeguarding of black and minoritised women and girls.

"If we really care about women and women's safety, we've got to do things that's going to make a difference- that's going to save lives. Having this education (Harmful Practices Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Training) is part of that- helping to save lives. I'm so pleased that Asian Women's Resource Centre is doing this and providing this training for people and at a reasonable cost. It's going to be so invaluable..."

~ Dawn Butler, MP Brent Central



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMME:

Email us ~ training@awrc.org.uk

Call us 020 8961 6549

[CLICK TO EMAIL](#)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT AWRC



In commemorating International Women's Day on the 8th of March, 2024, AWRC dedicated the day to the resilience of women. Through engaging workshops on candle-making, cultural painting and henna designs, we offered not just creative outlets but moments of solace and self-expression.



Stalls from Parenting U, Brent Talking Therapy, Family Wellbeing Curzon Crescent and Brent Libraries adorned the space, fostering connections and camaraderie among women from different walks of life. Women who attended the event appreciated the opportunity to learn and find inspiration in newfound skills.



AWRC was delighted to welcome the Head of Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Jain Lemom to the Centre in February 2024. The visit provided AWRC the opportunity to facilitate valuable information exchange and to highlight some of our recent achievements as well as our experiences as a by and for led organisation in the women's sector.

"It was a pleasure to visit The AWRC and to hear directly from those working on the ground to tackle violence against women and girls about their experiences, challenges and successes. The valuable information shared between our organisations will help to inform our VAWG strategy on issues and gaps in services experienced by the sector and by women accessing support".

~ Jain Lemom

Head of Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, MOPAC

CONVERSATIONS WITH INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN SPEAKER SERIES



"BUILDING RESILIENCE"

Forty women have attended our 'Conversations with Inspirational Women' Speaker Series, launched in partnership with **The Company of Entrepreneurs** in October 2023.

Instigated by AWRC Trustee and Patron and Court Assistant of The Company of Entrepreneurs, Rita Bologna, the aim of the Series is to provide a direct link between successful businesswomen and women supported by AWRC, through which they can share stories and experiences, motivate, learn from and inspire each other. Emphasising the themes of "Building Resilience", "Leadership" and "Anything is Possible", guest speakers Rita Bologna, Veronica Heaven and Jenny Garrett spoke about their journeys, the obstacles they faced along the way and the strategies used to overcome these, which included a combination of hard work, determination and focus. In thought-provoking and often moving interviews, the 3 women used personal and professional anecdotes which resonated strongly with their audience:



“ It was very poignant and inspiring. Everyone appreciated Rita sharing her story.”

“ Jenny left me with so much to reflect on with my own life and steps I can take to move forward. Thank you for the opportunity to meet such a special lady.”

“ Veronica taught me that I can do anything I want to if I put my mind to it, but that I must also look after my own health and wellbeing.”

The Series will continue with 3 more sessions planned over the year.

AWRC SERVICES

**1:1 Specialised domestic
abuse support**

Referrals to counselling

**Training on Domestic
Abuse/ Harmful Practice to
Professionals**

**Training and Employability
Workshops for women**

**Advice and Information
Services on welfare benefits,
housing and immigration
(Level 1)**

**Floating Support and
Housing Advocacy
Services**

**Volunteering
Opportunities for women**

**Free Helpline to survivors
with No Recourse to Public
Funds**

**Group Programmes for
women**

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS LED BY AWRC

Greater London Authority (GLA) Safe Accommodation Housing Project : The project provides a Pan-London NRPF Helpline, acting as a single point of entry into specialist refuge provision and floating support services to improve access to safe accommodation to survivors with NRPF.

ASCENT Ending Harmful Practices : The project aims to improve service provision for those affected by sexual and domestic abuse, specifically Female Genital Mutilation, 'so called' honour-based abuse, forced marriage and other harmful practices.

MOPAC Prevention and Action Through Community Engagement and Training (P&ACT) Ending Harmful Practices Project: This is a partnership project with 12 other by and for led organisations addressing harmful practices across London. Funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), AWRC provides vital support to survivors and in combatting harmful practices. This is the largest by and for led partnership in the UK addressing harmful practices.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

London Whole Housing Service Partnership (LWHSP): LWHSP works to address and enhance the pathways of housing support for women experiencing domestic abuse. The partnership works to remove immediate harm, provide safe, sustainable and borough-specific support around housing needs and aid recovery and resettlement of women.

The London Holistic Advocacy Wrap Around Service (LHAWAS): The project aims to meet the needs of women and children who are survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and other forms of gendered abuse, including prostitution, trafficking, and harmful practices, who have insecure immigration status and are subject to no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS): IRIS is a training, support and referral programme for GP practices delivered by Advance, in partnership with AWRC. The project aims to equip health professionals with an improved understanding of domestic abuse and its relevance to health, a better knowledge of how to respond and ask questions appropriately about domestic abuse, how to contact and refer to a domestic abuse specialist and the importance of safeguarding in regard to domestic abuse.

Coaction Hub: The project is a 3-year partnership between AWRC and Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). It aims to strengthen the Co-ordinated Community Response (CCR) to improve responses to BME survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices. The project aims to create an equitable partnership between a by and for BME led organisation with a second-tier white led organisation, with each agency bringing their expertise to the project.

AWRC STANDALONE PROJECTS

The Harmful Practice Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate Programme: The Harmful Practice IDVA Programme, funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, is a pioneering initiative developed by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), which stands at the forefront of addressing harmful practices within the complex landscape of Violence Against BME Women and Girls (VAWG). Rooted in Black Feminist perspective and intersectional approach, the program is crafted to equip practitioners with specialised knowledge and skills and strives to carve a unique specialist role for Harmful Practice Advocates within the Black and Minority services working in the 'ending VAWG' sector.

Surviving Abuse and Thriving Project (SAAT): In addition to providing intensive advocacy and support to women and girls experiencing or previously affected by domestic abuse, the project supports women by assessing their needs, creating safe spaces for socialising and seeking advice and providing volunteering opportunities.

To know more, visit
www.asianwomenscentre.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS



AWRC at the 16 Days of Activism event at the Civic Centre, Brent (2023)

KILN Costume Making Workshop

A costume design workshop curated in collaboration with KILN Theatre to explore what heritage means within communities.

Date: 16 April, 11am-1pm

Location: AWRC

Movement and Wellbeing Session

In partnership with Nandita Shankardass, a performing artist, choreographer, educator and interdisciplinary facilitator and the founder of Welcome Movement, the session aims to stimulate creativity and empower freedom of expression through movement.

Date: 2 May, 1pm-2pm

Location: AWRC



Team AWRC attending the 16 Days of Activism event in Barnet (2023).

Art Mentorship Programme

AWRC, with artists Amanda & Therese, has designed a mentorship programme for past participants of the sound/embroidery workshops to help them gain confidence and upskill themselves.

Date: Friday 12 & 19 May, 11am-1pm

Location: AWRC



AWRC invited by Enfield Council to speak at their White Ribbon event on harmful practices

[EMAIL US](#)

GET INVOLVED

Sign and share this petition: [Victim/ Survivors of 'Honour' Based Abuse Deserve Safety](#)

The Harmful Practices Strategic Partnership (HPSP), a pan-London partnership comprising professionals from various agencies, recently expressed disappointment with the government's response to recommendations on 'honour' based abuse (HBA).

This petition urges the government to reconsider its stance and address three key points: Data Collection, Training and urging for a Statutory Definition of HBA. Your signature on this petition is vital in urging the government to prioritise victims/survivors of 'honour' based abuse.

VOLUNTEER

AWRC is looking for volunteers who share our vision of empowering women. Interested? Contact our Community Development Officer, Sahar: sahar@awrc.org.uk

This post is open to female applicants only as this is deemed a genuine occupational requirement under Schedule 9, Paragraph 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

DONATE

AWRC continues to fundraise and welcomes all donations big or small. Any support that we receive helps us to continue our work against domestic abuse and support women.

[**DONATE**](#)

FIND SUPPORT

For general enquiries or self referrals from women, call us 020 8961 6549/5701

Email us:

General Enquiries: info@awrc.org.uk

Referrals: referrals@awrc.org.uk

**Freephone Helpline Number: 0300 373 1155
for survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds
(NRPF)**

Lines Open: 9:30am–5:00pm Monday to Friday

FUNDED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

**LONDON
COUNCILS**

