

Newsletter

AWRC 45th Anniversary

20th February 2025

AWRC proudly marks a significant milestone of 45 years in service. Her Majesty the Queen visited the centre and inaugurated the Healing Garden.

AWRC Conference

14 March 2025

#UnlockingDoors Conference united experts, advocates, and lived-experience voices to demand systemic change to better support BME NRPF women.

Read about the impact we have made this year!

Take a look at the impact of our efforts, from the number of women we supported in 2024-2025 to the professionals we trained.



Her Majesty The Queen with the Director of AWRC, Mayor of Brent, the Leader of Brent Council and the Councillor of Brent Council



Her Majesty The Queen with AWRC team members

Her Majesty The Queen's visit to AWRC 45th Anniversary and unveiling of the Healing Garden

On 20th February, Her Majesty The Queen visited the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) in Harlesden, marking its 45th anniversary. AWRC has been a vital lifeline for Black, Minority, and Ethnic (BME) women affected by domestic abuse, offering advocacy, housing support, and access to legal and emotional assistance. During her visit, The Queen met staff, volunteers, and survivors, hearing powerful stories of resilience.

She also inaugurated AWRC's new Healing Garden, a safe space for recovery.

AWRC Director Sarbjit Ganger highlighted the urgent need for donations to sustain their vital work: "We are proud of the impact that AWRC has had over the past 45 years, but our work is far from over. We are dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and ensuring that every woman can live a life free from fear and violence."



Her Majesty The Queen unveils the Healing Garden at AWRC

Celebrating 45 Years



Activism Through The Decades

The AWRC Conference, 'Unlocking Doors: Sustainable Solutions to the Housing Crisis Facing BME Women with NRPF', brought together survivors, experts, and advocates to shed light on the harsh realities faced by BME women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

Keynote speakers included Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner of England and Wales and Pragna Patel, Co-founder and Co-Director of Project Resist.

A key part of the conference was the Survivor's Panel, where BME NRPF survivors shared their experiences, highlighting the severe impact of these barriers on their lives. They spoke about the urgent need for safe, stable housing and the systemic changes required to better support their needs. Their testimonies reinforced the fact that immigration status should never determine a woman's right to safety and dignity.

A powerful consensus emerged: *no woman should be denied safety and support because of her immigration status.*



AWRC Conference

Pragna Patel, Co-founder and Co-President of Project Resist, stated, "A hostile immigration environment fueled by growing racism intersects with entrenched patriarchal control to effectively trap women with NRPF." Zarreen Mohi, Contracts Manager at AWRC, emphasized, "These barriers are not accidental. They are the direct result of structural and institutional racism. And they demand change."

The conference also featured Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA), who presented their pioneering WAHA paper, a crucial initiative in the fight for housing justice.

Sarbjit Ganger, Director of AWRC, urged continued solidarity, saying, "Let us keep the conversations going and build ongoing solidarity to strengthen BME and wider VAWG organisations and to collectively challenge racism, misogyny, patriarchy, and inequality."

The discussions at the conference reinforced the need for both immediate solutions and long-term systemic change to ensure all women, regardless of immigration status, have access to safety, shelter, and support.





OUR IMPACT


Data: 2024-2025

 **423**
WOMEN SUPPORTED

 **363**
WOMEN WITH NO RECOURSE
TO PUBLIC FUNDS SUPPORTED

245
Women
Supported
by Housing
Projects 

187
Women
supported
by SAAT
Project 

 **116**
MARAC Coordinators
trained across England
and Wales on MARAC and
Harmful Practices by
Coaction Hub

142
NRPF
Women
Supported
for Housing 

“

Soon after I was married, my husband started to become abusive. After two years of psychological, emotional and physical abuse I decided to leave him. It was not easy. I could not sleep and I felt like a failure. I questioned my culture and my religion for allowing men to women treat women as second class citizens. To make matters worse some members of my community in London were on his side. I felt too embarrassed to tell anyone what happened to me. I thought they would laugh at me, I have always been an ambitious girl with dreams, and always bubbly and I have worked so hard and respected everyone.

After confiding in a friend, she told me to contact a Somali Community Centre to see what support they could offer. I spoke to a man there who said they did not specialise in domestic violence issues but he knew of the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), furthermore they were located in the borough where I lived. I went to the AWRC with a friend and met the domestic abuse worker. The worker listened to my case, she was patient and lovely, she made me feel welcome. She assured me that I have a lot of life to celebrate and that I was not a failure. AWRC also referred me to a very good solicitor who helped me get an injunction against my husband. I have now qualified as a lawyer.

AWRC are the best people that I have met. I always say that I was blessed to meet them, because now I know that I am not alone and whenever I am down I always have someone to talk to and a shoulder to cry on. I cannot thank the AWRC enough.

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HER VOICE

 020 8961 6549/5701

 info@awrc.org.uk

 www.awrc.org.uk

We offer training to frontline professionals (statutory and voluntary sectors) around so-called 'Honour'-based Abuse (HBA) and other hidden harmful practice abuses.

Harmful Practice Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Programme

The Harmful Practice Advocate (HPA) Programme is a pioneering initiative developed by the AWRC to equip practitioners and advocates in the 'by and for' led sector with specialised knowledge and skills, essential for navigating challenges associated with harmful practices and effectively address and tackle harmful practices within VAWG. The course delves into the nuances of harmful practices and their impact on marginalised communities.

Our course is uniquely accredited by AAL and endorsed by the Ofqual regulated governing body NCFE. It stands as the only one in the UK specifically focused on Harmful Practices. Participants will be better prepared to provide informed support and interventions.

Training

Rooted in a Black Feminist perspective and an intersectional approach, the Harmful Practice accredited Programme is designed to enhance the skills of frontline workers working within the ending Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) sector.

Learner's Feedback:

"Discussions around intersectionality and how it affects people, ourselves and our clients [...] opened my mind on talking about reflexivity as this helped me think about how I apply this in my own practice."

Course Highlights

In-Depth Understanding:

A thorough understanding of harmful practices.

Legal and Ethical Frameworks:

An exploration of legal and ethical frameworks surrounding harmful practices.

Effective Prevention Strategies:

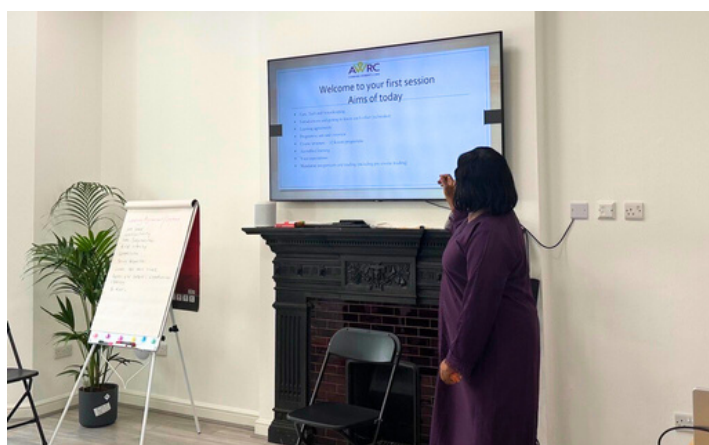
Identification of proactive strategies, approaches, and best practices for preventing harmful practices in safeguarding and risk management.

Crisis Management:

Development and acquisition of additional technical skills and knowledge to effectively manage and respond to situations involving harmful practices.

Case Studies and Practical Insights:

Practical insights through shadowing experiences, workshops, and case study discussions.



Email Us

We are accepting applications for the next cohort. Limited spaces available. For more information and booking enquiries, email training@awrc.org.uk.



Donate to AWRC

AWRC continues to fundraise and welcomes all donations big or small. Any support that we receive helps us to continue our work to ending domestic abuse and support women. Scan the QR code to donate!



Follow Our Socials

To stay informed about our events, news, and activities, follow us on:

@awrcentre

Volunteer at AWRC!

Interested in volunteering at AWRC. Join us by contacting info@awrc.org.uk.

*This opportunity is open to female applicants only, as permitted under Schedule 9, Paragraph 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

We thank our Funders

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OFFICE FOR POLICE AND CRIME

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