



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Her Majesty The Queen Meets Domestic Abuse Survivors at the 45th Anniversary of Harlesden Charity, AWRC

In a landmark visit, Her Majesty The Queen toured the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) in Harlesden on 20th February, marking the 45th anniversary of the Harlesden-based charity's exceptional service of providing crucial support to Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) women affected by domestic abuse and harmful practice.

The visit from The Queen not only served to mark the charity's special anniversary but also shone a spotlight on the pressing issue of domestic abuse within all communities, encouraging a wider dialogue on support, empowerment, and change.

The AWRC has served as a lifeline to BME women across London, since the late 1970's using their understanding of women's issues to provide practical and emotional support to ensure that women are able to make informed choices about their future. AWRC's services include the professional advocacy, advice and information to survivors and support to help women to secure safe housing, and access to interpreters and signpost to counselling and legal advice.

As part of her visit, The Queen met with dedicated AWRC members of staff, volunteers, and inspiring survivors, listening intently to their powerful and moving stories of resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

Healing Garden Unveiled by The Queen

As part of her tour, Her Majesty also officially inaugurated AWRC's newly developed Healing Garden. The Healing Garden is designed to serve as a tranquil refuge for the

women and children the AWRC helps to support, fostering a safe space for healing and rebuilding lives after experiencing the trauma of domestic abuse.

“This visit is a momentous occasion for AWRC, and a profound recognition of the challenges faced by BME women affected by domestic violence,” explained Sarbjit Ganger, Director of AWRC. “Her Majesty’s empathy and commitment to social justice resonates deeply with AWRC’s mission, and we are immensely grateful for her support.”

Ganger continues, “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. Our urgent need for donations and continued awareness is paramount in sustaining AWRC’s work and providing life-changing support to those who need it most.”

ENDS

For all press and media enquiries, including photography and case studies, please contact Esther Porta, Event, Communications and Marketing Planner via esther@awrc.org.uk or call 07870 439158

Notes to Editor: -

Based in Harlesden, the 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. Established 45 years ago, our 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 BME women.

AWRC provides holistic wraparound support services in the following languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani (Azeri), Bengali, Bangla, Dari, Dutch, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Hinko, Konkani, Kurdish, Marathi, Pashto, Patwari, Persian, Punjabi, Sinhala, Somali, Tamil, Turkish and Urdu. Our service ensures cultural sensitivity, confidentiality and listening in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

AWRC has open-door policy to all women in need, from all ethnicity and backgrounds.

For more information about the Asian Women's Resource Centre and its work, please visit www.awrc.org.uk