

# Newsletter

ISSUE 2, AUGUST 2024



WELCOME TO OUR

## Quarterly Newsletter



Based in Harlesden, 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 BME women.

In this newsletter you will find:

AWRC Achievements, Project Highlights ,Training Services and Upcoming Events in September

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# OUR IMPACT 2023-2024

 **400**

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED ON  
HARMFUL PRACTICES

 **750**

TOTAL WOMEN SUPPORTED

 **131**

WOMEN WITH NO  
RECOURSE TO PUBLIC  
FUNDS SUPPORTED

**116** 

WOMEN ENGAGED IN  
ACTIVITIES AND  
SUPPORT  
WORKSHOPS

**124** 

WOMEN PROVIDED  
WITH ADVICE AND  
INFORMATION

**128** 

WOMEN EXPERIENCING  
HARMFUL PRACTICES  
SUPPORTED

**23** 

LANGUAGES USED TO  
PROVIDE SUPPORT  
SERVICES TO WOMEN

[READ OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
REPORT 2024](#) 



“Until I got support from AWRC, my housing officer, social worker and police officers were not taking my concerns seriously. *Since AWRC’s involvement, I felt listened to and was offered a range of appropriate support services.* AWRC has supported me so much and I will forever be grateful.”

*“AWRC gave me hope. You never stopped contacting me to offer support, for which I am so grateful.”*

“Although my relationship with AWRC was professional, *my caseworker felt almost like a sister*, guiding me through each step, supporting me to *secure housing, and providing assurance* during my most anxious times.”



# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS





# SURVIVING ABUSE AND THRIVING (SAAT) PROJECT

**The Surviving Abuse And Thriving (SAAT) Project** supports women impacted by domestic abuse by offering direct assistance on housing, welfare benefits, and referrals. Additionally, the project hosts group sessions that encourage personal and professional development, as well as social interaction in secure environments.

AWRC is also proud to introduce the **SAAT Helpline**, a compassionate support service for survivors of domestic abuse. The helpline operates every Wednesday from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, providing guidance on wellbeing, housing, immigration (Level 1), benefits, advocacy, and accessing services. Call us for support **02088383462**.



AWRC regularly organizes a variety of events for women, including mental and physical well-being workshops, arts and crafts sessions for self-expression, and employability enhancement workshops. This quarter we organised a total of 10 such events for women. To know more about these events, contact our Community Development Officer **sahar@awrc.org.uk**.



# London Whole Housing Service Partnership

“ Thank you for making me feel welcome and believed. AWRC supported me to get safe accommodation, legal advice and empowered me to regain control of my life. I had completely lost myself and AWRC helped me find me again. ”

The London Whole Housing Service Partnership (LWHSP) funded by the Greater London Authority and led by Advance in partnership with AWRC, supports domestic abuse survivors in various accommodation settings across 11 London boroughs. Services include crisis intervention, housing advocacy, financial support, and mental health care to empower survivors to secure housing and rebuild their lives in safe. The project also enables referrals on cost of living, Debt and Money Management, Sanctuary Scheme, Counselling and Carer's Advocate.

Since the start of the project, **176** women have been referred to AWRC. Our assistance has had a positive impact on the women who have sought our support, leading to increased confidence amongst women in self-advocacy, accessing services, understanding legal rights, and reporting abuse. Our compassionate approach towards support has led to **61%** of women feeling confident about reporting abuse. **64%** women also reported improved safety after receiving support from AWRC.

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To make a referral, please email: [referrals.gla@awrc.org.uk](mailto:referrals.gla@awrc.org.uk) or [referrals.gla@awrc.cjsm.net](mailto:referrals.gla@awrc.cjsm.net)



# TRAINING SERVICES

## HARMFUL PRACTICE INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE (HP IDVA) ACCREDITED PROGRAMME

The HP IDVA Course by AWRC is the only accredited course in the UK that provides enhanced knowledge and specialised skills to practitioners to address harmful practices. Using a culturally competent and intersectional feminist lens, the Programme strives to carve a unique role for Harmful Practice Advocates within the Black and Minority services working in the 'ending VAWG' sector.

The course runs for **3 months** spread across **12 workshops**, providing an in-depth understanding of Harmful Practices, effective prevention strategies, crisis management and practical insights. Students taking the course can expect to gain knowledge of contextual impact of oppression and systemic inequality, improve intersectional analysis and responses to harmful practices and enhance specialist practice skills for individual and sector wide impact.

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR SECOND COHORT!**

**[APPLY TODAY](#)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS: SEPTEMBER

## SAAT: Support Circle

AWRC hosts Monday support circles for women to discuss various topics like employment, debt management, family support, health, and technology. Join to connect, share experiences, and gain valuable insights and resources in a safe environment.

Date: Every Monday

Location: AWRC

## SAAT: Fitness Club

Join us for a revitalizing yoga session designed to uplift your spirits and help you embark on a journey towards mental well-being.

Date: Every Tuesday

Location: AWRC

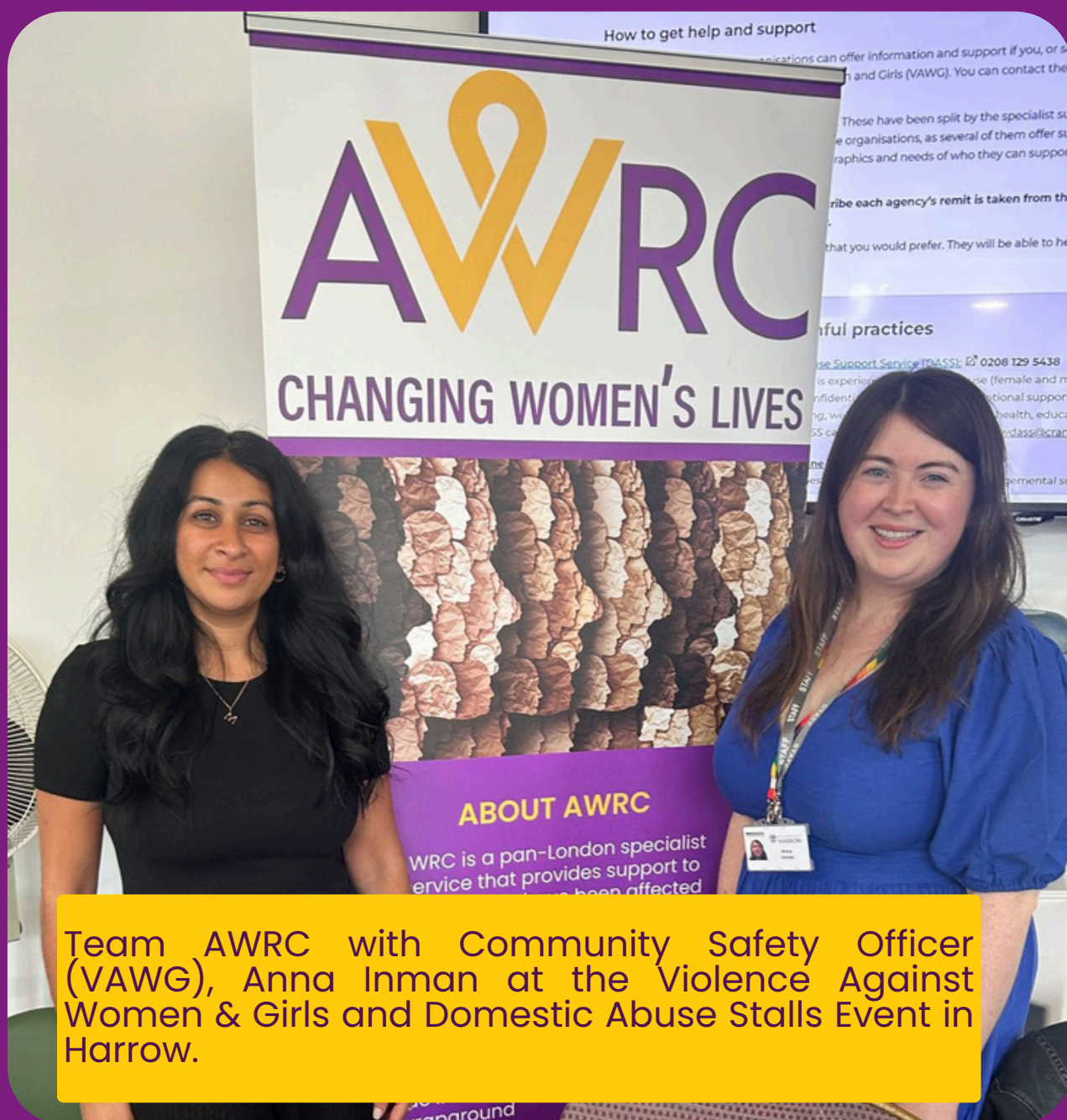
## HERSPACE: Well Being

Our Friday workshops are focused on well-being, self-expression, and relaxation. Engage in mindfulness activities in a nurturing environment to unwind, connect, and explore various mindfulness activities designed to rejuvenate your spirit.

Date: Every Friday

Location: AWRC

[EMAIL US](#)



Team AWRC with Community Safety Officer (VAWG), Anna Inman at the Violence Against Women & Girls and Domestic Abuse Stalls Event in Harrow.



Team AWRC with at the #HearMyVoice Initiative organised by Borough of Barnet in collaboration with Middlesex University.



Team AWRC with Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner and Fran Richards from Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse at Project dIdl Conference.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@awrc.org.uk)

Referrals: [referrals@awrc.org.uk](mailto: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**

