

NEWHAM ASIAN WOMEN'S PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2007

1987
≈
2007

Working for Women, Working Against Violence



Newham Asian Women's Project

Relaxation I Do
Yoga Meditation It
yoga that how to create
yoga that how to create
yoga that how to create
yoga that how to create

WORKING

Being with my children + family

Playing with my children

eating cake!

Chilling in the sun

Listening 2 my favourite music

I like women strong & smart !!

Meditation is my way to chillax

I'm in the mood for happy who can play with me with my friends

DANCE & SMILE TO KEEP HAPPY!

Sleeping

FOR WOMEN

I like to sit in a nice warm bath

WORKING

Proper jog, sauna and dip into the snow

MINNETHA

I enjoyed painting & relaxing

AGAINST VIOLENCE

Like to watch the

PRaise, WORSHIP MY LORD.

I have started YOGA relax

I would like to be here but on holidays

I would like to be here but on holidays

I ENJOY SWIMMING AND LISTEN TO MUSIC

I feel relaxed when

I do my paintings work. I love cooking Baking for my husband + SHOPPING!

Doing yoga and aoihe

I like my partner to massage me

Celebrating 20 Years

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Timeline

Celebrating 20 years



NAWP is established



Newham Asian Women's Project was launched with a refuge service in Newham to provide emergency and safe accommodation to women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

1988–1989

Development and consolidation

NAWP developed its services and consolidated its work. By this time, NAWP was supporting 60 women in its refuges and a further 30 through its outreach work.

Management Committee Report

The Management Committee of the Newham Asian Women's Project is proud to present its twentieth annual report and mark its 20th anniversary year. For two decades we have provided services to women in the South Asian community. We have been committed to opposing violence and have worked wholeheartedly to promote and advance early intervention, prevention and specialist support services. We are a women's only, and feminist grassroots organisation. We have influenced national policy through our dedicated work on issues such as self-harm, forced marriage, and honour-based violence working under a 'violence against women' framework. As we take account of our achievements, we also outline the road ahead and reiterate our commitment to taking up the challenges presented while working for women, working against violence.

In terms of the national context, now, more than ever before Newham Asian Women's Project is calling for the reintegration of a 'violence against women' framework into national policy and articulated in local strategic plans. This framework must be linked to a gender-based analysis and the gender equality discourse.

This year NAWP joined a number of organisations to campaign for the abolition of the 'no recourse to public funds' rule. As a frontline service provider we have struggled to support women with insecure immigration status who have had no choice but to leave their violent relationships and seek assistance. Most of these women find themselves in situations of extreme poverty as they have no access to housing due to their economic situation, and the purchase of food and clothing, by those who are fortunate enough to be able to, is often done on a shoestring budget forcing women to remain dependent and disempowered.

NAWP was active in the consultation on forced marriage and worked closely with its sister organisations to ensure that forced marriage was considered within the context of the existing Family Law Act 1996. While there were numerous legal reasons for this stance, NAWP firmly believes that in this present climate of the targeting of certain communities, further legislation must not be used to stigmatise and subsequently criminalise people especially where frameworks exist for the inclusion of policy measures vis-a-vis amendments.

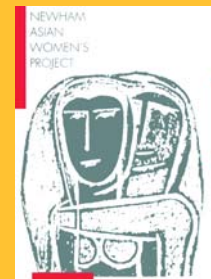
In terms of our direct service provision, we have seen continuous progress in our Training department. ESOL training, when it was initiated, was accessed by 50 women and this has increased to 1,500 at the present time representing an increase of 300%. Demands for the programme continue to grow. NAWP continues to provide space to those women who have no other place to improve their opportunities in employment, education and continued training, so that they too can obtain the quality of life enjoyed by others.

Zindaagi continues to undertake innovative and groundbreaking work. This year Zindaagi launched a Self-harm Forum for professionals where they are able to come together and share information, identify good practice, set standards, and develop policy around self-harm. The work of Zindaagi continues to support the intersection of race, culture and gender, encouraging and promoting a positive response from services. Zindaagi continues to remain at the forefront of good practice.

This year NAWP introduced the Sexual Health Project which was well-received by professionals from across the education, health, and women's sectors. This project is the first of its kind in Newham focusing on the sexual health needs of South Asian women who are



Protecting services for women and children



NAWP secured funds to run its first summer play scheme for children, which was enjoyed by over 100 children. From

this point forward, NAWP would continue to advocate for funds for children's services making a case for children's rights and protection.

NAWP increased its advocacy work for safe and suitable housing in the midst of changing government housing policy. NAWP advocated on behalf of women to secure suitable temporary accommodation so that women would not return to their violent partners as a result of racial harassment. NAWP challenged local authorities to ensure that when rehousing women and their children fleeing domestic violence that they should take account of the whole of their housing needs including the right to live free of racial harassment in areas where they were vulnerable.



**Standing up against violence,
brutality and murder, protecting
the human rights of women**



NAWP challenged the Police to change its policy on reconciliation of couples in cases of domestic violence. The murder of Vandana Patel raised questions about the policing of domestic violence and the criminal justice system. Vandana Patel was stabbed to death by her husband. She had contacted the Police several times and the Police only encouraged reconciliation with the perpetrator. The Vandana Patel campaign highlighted the lack of commitment by the State and the police in addressing domestic violence to be recognised and treated as a criminal issue.

Vandana Patel would still be alive if the Police had acted appropriately and arrested the perpetrator for criminal offence. This crime, along

grossly under-represented when it comes to accessing information and advice on sexual health.

The Refuge service continues to run at zero void. While the service is well-managed, the demand for safe and secure housing for women continues to be high. For NAWP, a very clear need is highlighted: the solution is not necessarily sanctuary schemes or increased injunctions but a more holistic approach based on putting the woman's needs first, ensuring housing provision through emergency refuges is secured.

The Management Committee thanks the hard work of NAWP staff who continue to amaze us with their commitment and dedication, placing the service user at the centre of provision. This year we re-new our commitment to our core values, continuing to work towards the eradication of violence, in all its forms, working to empower and enable women to achieve their goals and promoting women's services in ways that promote women's identity within a context of gender equality.

Management Committee

Newham Asian Women's Project

June 2007

Meera Syal



I have been a supporter, friend and patron of the Newham Asian Women's Project for many years. This year NAWP is celebrating its twentieth anniversary and what an achievement it is. When I think that for twenty years the project has worked to support women and their children fleeing gender-based violence I am reminded of the courage of thousands – of those who fled violent relationships for better lives and of those who year after year, made the case for safe refuges, training programmes and other specialist projects.

NAWP has developed services in consultation with women, addressing their needs directly through specialist provision. It has also developed holistic provision so that those women who are excluded from mainstream services and experience isolation and alienation have equal access to the opportunities in life. This is what all women want for themselves and their children and it is organisations like NAWP that have made this possible.

By marking the twentieth anniversary of the Newham Asian Women's Project we are acknowledging the courage of women, we are celebrating their empowerment and we are re-newing our commitment to eradicating violence against women. I am proud to support the work of this organisation.

Meera Syal

Patron of the Newham Asian Women's Project

with most murders of women in cases of violence was entirely preventable.

NAWP provided support to the campaigns of Sara Thornton and Kiranjit Ahluwalia. Both campaigns highlighted the unequal and unjust treatment given to women under the Criminal Justice System. Both cases were about the legal definition of self defence and provocation as defence to the charge of murder. The courts failed to take account of the years of physical, emotional and psychological abuse these women went through which led them to kill their violent partners.

NAWP began to campaign for the eradication of the no recourse to public funds rule. From our experience we demonstrated how the no resource rule was used by the Home Office to deny women access to social security and other benefits. This also created additional burdens for refugees who relied on rental income to support women. In 2007, we are still campaigning.

NAWP challenged the Home Office one year rule which failed to grant women who experienced violence early in their marriage an assessment of their immigration application on compassionate grounds.

Violence Against Women Framework

Newham Asian Women's Project has consistently argued for the importance of engaging responses and responsibilities within a 'violence against women' (VAW) framework embedded within discourses on gender equality, human rights and state responsibility. This year we have supported the No Recourse to Public Funds campaign for women with insecure immigration status. We have supported amendments on Forced Marriage to the existing Family Law Act. We are supporters of the Why Women? campaign, calling for government to support women's organisations through core and sustainable funding. We welcome the Gender Equality Duty which came into force in 1 April 2007 which has come about because women continue to experience discrimination, however the reality of how it will be implemented appears to be gender neutral and there exist major concerns for women only spaces and services.

For twenty years, NAWP has been providing services to women and their children fleeing gender-based violence. The organisation is well established in the community with services being accessed by over two thousand women annually. NAWP also works to build capacity of other providers whether they are frontline professionals

or work in strategic areas. Funding to the women's sector – especially to the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women's organisations and specialist domestic violence services – should be sustainable, long-term and viable. However, we are beginning to see a much narrowed perspective in policy on addressing domestic violence and its links with sustainable housing provision and housing support, advice and information, and intervention and prevention activities.

Under a VAW framework there must be a clear understanding that funding for perpetrator services must not come at the expense of women's services. Women only services and specialist provision must be viewed as essential and necessary and fulfilling demands of women who request them. Longer-term core funding must be made available fully recognising that early intervention and prevention services take time and resources to deliver effectively. There must be clear targets in national plans and strategies underlying women's services. The expertise that women's organisations have built up through their many years of experience must be recognised in substantive ways as providers of training for trainers, training for professionals and in consultation on women's issues.

Advice Service

In 2005 the Advice Service successfully obtained the Legal Services Commission's General Level Quality Mark for rights based advice in family, welfare benefits and housing. The overall aim of the service is to improve advice services to socially excluded South Asian women, to raise their awareness of their rights and to increase their access to good quality legal resources so that they themselves can choose how they want to address their situation. Much of NAWP's work was developed through the Advice Service, by talking with the women who approached us and who told us about the kinds of protection they needed which subsequently led to an analysis of the gaps in service provision for South Asian women.

The service does not currently have core funding but relies on a team of dedicated volunteers who provide legal surgeries a couple of times a week. Even though we do not operate a fully funded service, NAWP has seen demand for advice increase. NAWP's aim in 2007/8 is to secure core funding for this very important service and to expand the service to develop a much more integrated casework and in-depth support service. This year, NAWP will continue to seek funding to re-launch the Advice Service.



Fighting racism

NAWP joined black, immigrant, refugee and anti-racist groups calling for the just and fair treatment of all



those living in Europe and not just EC citizens. These demands were articulated in the European Manifesto of Immigrants, Migrants and Refugees.

1993

For Paravatiben, for women

NAWP remembers Paravatiben Patel who dies in Newham General Hospital after being brutally beaten by her husband with a hammer. NAWP campaigned to ensure her murder was not just another domestic violence statistic.

1994

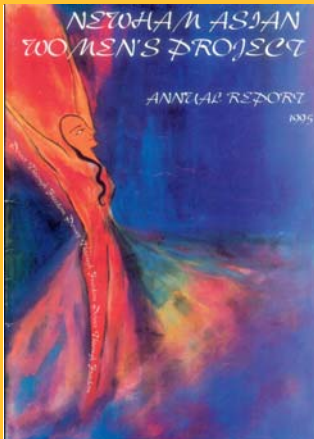
For Imtiaz, for women

A mother named Imtiaz and her four children were all murdered by her ex-husband following a violent custody row.



Empowering women

The Training Service was set up to target unemployed local Asian women between the ages of 18 and 55 whose limited English skills as well as barriers due to racism and discrimination prevented them from accessing education, employment and social and cultural activities.



Refuges

About the Service

The Refuge service provides safe accommodation and housing support services to women and their children fleeing domestic violence. The service currently manages three first stage and one second stage refuge. The refuges support women at different phases of their transition towards empowerment and independence, from crisis to independent living. Every woman and child is allocated a Caseworker and Child Support Worker upon arrival and it is through the staff, that women and children receive advice, advocacy, and practical and emotional support available in the languages they speak.

Key Achievements

Women and children arrive at the refuge in states of turmoil, distress, and traumatisation and are often emotionally, physically and financially affected due to the violence and abuse that they experience. The case study outlined below typifies the work done by the Refuge Service.

CK was referred to NAWP at the age of 19 when she was subjected to verbal and physical abuse by her family who were putting pressure on her to marry in Bangladesh. CK's childhood was traumatic as a result of her father's cruelty to her mother and her siblings. She also suffered abuse from her brothers who had learned to mistreat the women in the family by watching their father. CK started self-harming from the age of 17. She took an overdose of painkillers and was hospitalised. She was referred to the Mental Health Team (MHT) for assessment. The MHT prescribed anti-depressants and referred her for counselling. CK was unable to access services while still living at home because her parents told her that she had brought 'shame' on the family by her actions. When her family began to put pressure on her to marry, CK

left home and came to the refuge. With the help of staff she was able to come out of the circle of helplessness and despair and move forward. The support planning sessions provided tangible short and long term goals enabling her to bring structure to her day and work towards achieving her goals. CK attended counselling and was able to give up the anti-depressants that she had been on. She attended college during the time she was at the refuge which enabled her to get a job. She was offered housing in her chosen borough. She had regained her confidence and worked towards independent living, feeling empowered and able to take control of her life.

Outcomes

“I had no idea about what sort of place a refuge was. I was terrified at first. Slowly I realised how safe it is to live in the refuge far away from the abusers. It is good to see my children living happily with other residents and their children. They also enjoy the activities provided by the children’s services. I want to thank staff for giving me support, shelter and safety...”
(Testimony from a Refuge service user)

Number of women referred – Newham	47
Number of children referred – Newham	32
Number of women referred – Haringey	22
Number of children referred – Haringey	7

Action Plan

- Extensive review of its activities under the Supporting People framework, to strengthen current provision
- Refurbishment work in some of the refuges to improve upon current standards
- Development and consolidation of Child Support Services
- Further development of existing provision by floating provision and exploring housing options for women



**Fighting for specialist provision,
defining women’s space**



NAWP opened its Resource Centre at Barking Road on the 28th of March. The launch event was attended by 500 local women and the centre was officially opened by Meera Syal, comedian, writer and actress and Patron of NAWP.

Weekly run support groups Chandani and Saheli were launched to provide women with safe space for building friendships and social networking so that they could continue to get the support they needed to help each other in future.



NAWP opened a second stage refuge for women and children who were moving from crisis accommodation to semi-independent and independent living. The refuge was developed in partnership with the East Thames Housing Group. Second stage meant that NAWP was able to offer longer-term services to South Asian women.

NAWP fought to protect the housing rights of women. The Housing Act 1996 received Royal Assent. The definition of homelessness within the act became even more narrowly defined than in previous years with 'persons from abroad' being denied help if they were homeless. The Right to Buy was extended which meant that very little good quality housing remained for those with high and vulnerable needs.

Training

About the Service

The Training Service was set up in 1996 to target local Asian women whose limited English skills prevented them from accessing education, employment, social and cultural activities. Over the years training has excelled in providing mainstream training and education and has extended these opportunities to all Black and Minority Ethnic women, many of whom face racism, discrimination, limited UK-based experience, and lack of knowledge of formal routes to work or education. As well as vocational courses, training offers a variety of soft courses and support groups targeted at those women suffering from lack of self esteem, depression, isolation or suffering from any form of traumatic experience related to violence and abuse.

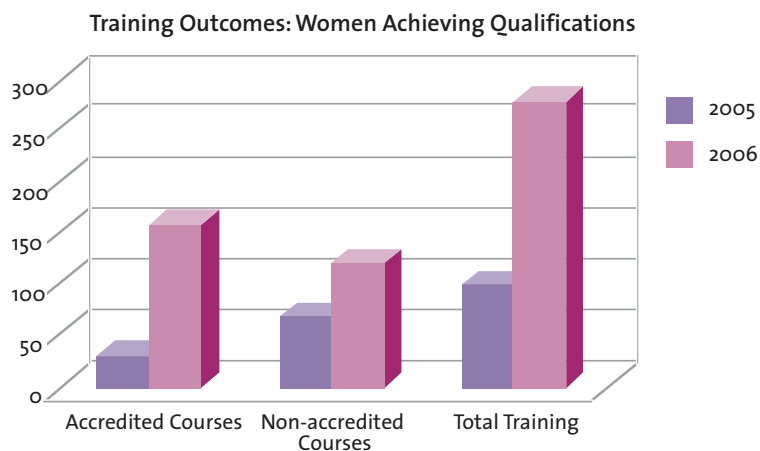
Key Achievements

- Creative work with service users which have helped women onto vocational training courses in the child care field.
- Strong partnerships with organisations such as University of East London, the NHS Trust, Reed Employment, BTEG, CDC, Newtec, Chase Park and Newceys
- Client support through the employability course focusing on completing job application forms, writing covering letters and gaining work experience by means of voluntary work.

“...Without a doubt I have progressed a lot in a short space of time. NAWP Training centre has given me the opportunity and ability to build my confidence and self esteem that I was so much lacking and develop myself and I am sure all my friends and family can justify that. Approaching other places for help and advice has now become easier...being a member of NAWP feels like being a part of a family, a family of strong, independent women...”
 (Testimony from a Training service user)

Outcomes

The Training Service has almost doubled its capacity to achieve outcomes for women in both accredited and non-accredited training courses and by 2006, achieved more women in accredited courses than in non-accredited courses. While this met targets set by funders, it must be remembered that for a segment of the population who have experienced exclusion from formal education and employment, this is a remarkable achievement and reflects the level of confidence building work done by staff.



Ten years of achievement and struggle – NAWP marked its tenth anniversary



The Counselling Project was set up and made available to all local Asian women between the ages of 12 and 55. Short-term counselling, ten sessions per clients were offered in mother-tongue languages.

NAWP supported the Chander Gautham anti-deportation campaign against the One-Year Rule for women who want to leave their abusive husbands.



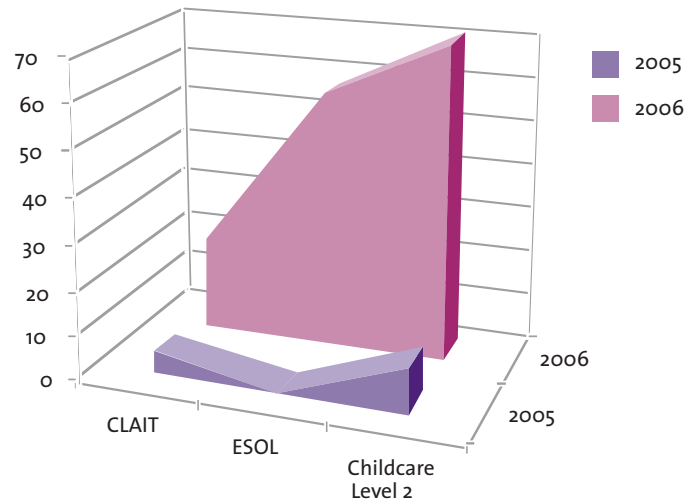
NAWP campaigned against the injustice of the 1986 Immigration Act which requires a woman to remain in her marriage for a probationary 12 months, after which she can apply to remain permanently.

NAWP received a national excellence award from SmitheKline Beecham. We were the only black women's group and only London-based organisation to receive the award.

NAWP received a grant from the National Lotteries Charity Board to coordinate domestic violence work within Asian women's groups nationally.

NAWP conducted research into the mental health needs of young Asian women. The report 'Growing Up Young, Asian and Female in Britain: Conflict and Culture' emerged from a partnership between NAWP and the Newham Innercity Multifund. This report challenged assumptions and misunderstandings by mainstream providers of women's experiences and mental health needs.

Training Outcomes: Women Completing Accredited Courses

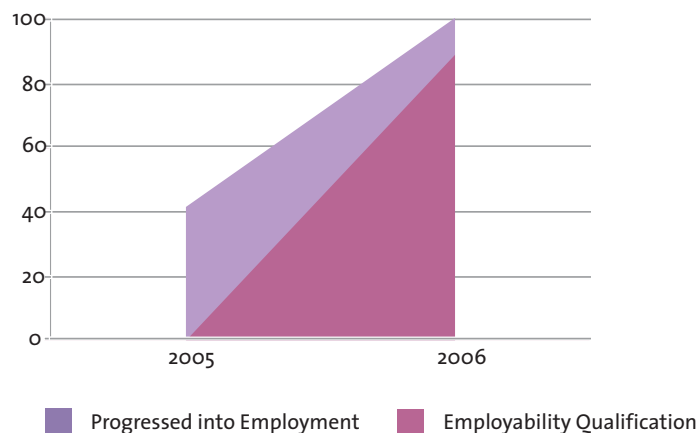


Women completing accredited courses increased dramatically over twelve months. While 2006 represented a baseline year for ESOL courses, both CLAIT and Childcare Level 2 outcomes increased by 70% on average reflecting the outcome orientation of the Training Service.

42% more women were moved into employment than in previous years. This very clearly demonstrates the success of the Training service in its approach to training women defined by the holistic consideration of their needs, integrating one to one focused work alongside course work, and providing day-to-day support.

Between 2005-07 training achieved solid outcomes in moving women into employment. 8% went into retail, 3% into care work, 30% into administration and 50% in childcare

Training Outcomes: Women into Employment (as % of total)



Action Plan

- Introduce courses in the area of Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Child-Minding, as well as higher level training such as an NVQ Level 3 in Children's Care Learning and Development and Bi-Lingual Community Translation Services.
- Continue to run vocational courses and soft training options in Classroom Teaching Assistant Level 2, NVQ Level 2 in Early Years, Employability, ESOL 1, 2, and 3, CLAIT, NHS Programme, Effective Parenting, Working with Children, Henna, Bridal Makeup, Waxing and Threading, and Hair Up
- Continue strategic work, seeking funding to sustain services and deliver more training, support groups and advice services
- Explore potential employment opportunities as part of the ongoing Olympic regeneration programme with the support of partners and funding.



Through holistic provision... empowerment

NAWP was unique amongst women's organisations in adopting an ethos for service provision based on holistic support to women and their children and this included the provision of safe and secure refuge accommodation in first and second stage hostels and a Resource Centre.



NAWP and the Asian Women's Resource Centre, Brent, secured funding for a flagship national project IMKAAN. The aim of IMKAAN is to develop and support Asian women's refuges across the country.

No Recourse to Public Funds

In 2006 NAWP joined up with a number of organisations including Amnesty International UK, the Greater London Domestic Violence Project, Imkaan, Kalayaan, the Poppy Project, Refuge, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Aid, and the Women's Resource Centre to call on the government to abolish the no recourse requirement for abused women with insecure immigration status.

No recourse to public funds means that the vulnerability of women fleeing domestic violence increases and only minimal protection is offered to their children. JK came to the UK after she was married to her husband in India. Immediately upon her arrival, JK began to experience horrendous verbal and physical abuse from her husband and from other members of the family. She lived in constant fear and pain. She was unfamiliar with the laws of her adopted country. She had no immediate social networks for support and information. JK was alone and dependent on her abusers. Language was another barrier. JK became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter. Three months after the birth she accompanied her parents-in-law to India, having been told that her father had become ill. Her

daughter did not accompany her on the journey. She soon realised that her father had not in fact been ill. She began to live with her parents as a guest in their home, always believing that she would be returning to the UK, to be with her daughter. However her passport had been taken by her mother-in-law and she had no other legal papers. A few weeks passed and JK grew tired of waiting for her in-laws to come for her. She telephoned the UK and found out that her in-laws had returned without her. After one and half years following her departure from the UK with her in-laws, JK, with the support of NAWP, was finally able to return to the UK. Through NAWP, JK completed an application for child residency. JK was granted a six month visa and was re-united with her child. Social Services granted Section 17 funding. The Home Office subsequently granted her five years leave to remain on humanitarian grounds. JK is in the middle of her leave to remain and she has no recourse to public funds. Section 17 funding provides her with a minimal living allowance because of her child. JK remains vulnerable as a result of her insecure immigration status. Her life is in a state of limbo until her immigration status is resolved.

From the case study of JK it is clear that there has been an effort by government to provide assistance to some immigrant women experiencing domestic violence. However, women

with insecure immigration status, who have been subjected to gender-specific violence with no recourse to public funds, remain unprotected and have no access to government assistance. While the government aims to protect those victims of forced marriage and other forms of domestic violence, there is also the politically driven need to be seen to be tough on illegal immigration. To this end we echo those suggestions put forward by many women's groups and further identified by Gill and Sharma (2006)¹ who proposed the following in a recent paper to Women's Aid on No Access to Justice: Gender, Violence and Immigration Law in the UK. The suggestions relate to proposed legislative changes and include making changes to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act, in order to help (im)migrant women who face forced marriage and forms of gender-specific violence:

- All victims of domestic violence who are subject to immigration control should receive benefits and housing under the Housing Act 1996.
- The Government could retrieve these funds from spouses, provided that there is no further risk of harm to the victim or her family.
- The Domestic Violence Immigration Rule should be extended to all victims of domestic violence subject to immigration control.

- The types of evidence required to prove domestic violence under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule should be extended, and include: adjudicator decisions, victim and witness testimonies and reports and letters from voluntary and statutory sector agencies.

While the changes in the immigration rules have facilitated the granting of indefinite leave to remain to women who come on spousal visas after a marriage and face domestic violence, they do not have access to public funds. If such a woman was forced into the marriage and subsequently wants to find help and leave the abusive relationship, she finds herself in an extremely difficult situation as she is unable to access safe housing and welfare benefits. The non-availability of safe exit options obliges such a person to remain in her forced and often abusive marriage. We are therefore of the view that women in such circumstances should be given access to public funds (Gill and Sharma, 2006).

¹ Gill, A., Sharma, K. (2006) 'Response and Responsibility: Domestic Violence and Marriage Migration in the UK', in Walsum, S., Spijkerboer, T. (eds) *Women and Immigration Law: New Variations on Classical Feminist Themes*, London: Glasshouse Press



Expansion

NAWP expanded its Refuge services to Haringey taking over the management of two refuge sites.

NAWP accepted the BBC ASIA (Asian Success, Innovation and Achievement) Community Award on behalf of all women in the Asian community and sister organisations committed to working against domestic violence.

Teens@NAWP went on their first residential trip with a group of young Asian women to the New Forest. Teens@NAWP also published the first edition of its newsletter TEENS TALK, designed, written and edited by young women who attend the Teens group.

Zindaagi

About the Service

Zindaagi's ethos and development is based on preventative and early intervention work with young women and is one of the few specialist support services that exists for young Asian women who are vulnerable to self-harm and suicide across East London. Zindaagi provides a range of activities including issue-based workshops, activity sessions, training, residentials, age-specific support groups and counselling both within and outside of the school setting. The sessions focus on addressing the key issues impacting on young women including self-harm, violence, bullying, racism, gender, culture and identity issues and family conflict as well as supporting young women to develop positive coping strategies and access confidential advice, information and counselling.

Key Achievements

- Involved in the first ever National Inquiry into Young People and Self-harm in an advisory capacity. The Inquiry Report went on to highlight Zindaagi as a model of Good Practice. The report can be viewed at <http://selfharmuk.org>
- Short listed for the Health Services Journal (HSJ) Award 2006 under the category for Mental Health Innovation.
- Invited by a number of leading mental health agencies to share expertise on self-harm and suicide at major conferences
- Developed awareness raising work with faith and community groups by: providing publicity in the main South Asian languages, de-stigmatising mental health issues through advocacy and communication with the community, and providing a clear referral procedure

- Launched a second piece of research on self-harm called – Painful Secrets: A Qualitative Study into the Reasons Why Young Women Self-Harm
- Launched the first national DVD on self harm and young people produced by service users which specifically targets advice and support for young people and professionals working in mental health services.

Outcomes

- The East London Wide Self-harm Forum involves 100 agencies and individuals and the Newsletter is distributed to over 500 organisations
- Over 100 frontline professionals received self-harm training during 2006/7.
- Zindaagi runs the only mental health support groups specifically to meet the needs of Asian women in Newham. Our surveys show 87.5 % of clients have reported that the counselling they received was extremely helpful, 69% noted an improvement in their self-esteem/confidence and improved coping strategies and 79% felt it was very important for them to have an Asian female counsellor.

Counselling	Total Women Accessing Services
Number of women regularly attending NAWP's Mental Health support groups	64
Approximate number of women accessing counselling over the year	159

- The youth project works towards increasing the number of support services available to young Asian women in Newham. Survey results show that 74% of young women felt that by attending workshops they were able to cope emotionally better, 100% of participants that had attended NAWP training reported



Building capacity



NAWP produced 'Just Another Day'. A video written, filmed, directed and produced by young women to raise awareness amongst young people and professionals around the issues of domestic violence.

2003

Excellence in service delivery

The Legal Advice Service was awarded a Quality Mark as recognition of meeting the requirements of the Community Legal Service Quality Mark Standard for family, welfare benefits and housing advice.





Getting the message



In November the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act was enacted. NAWP acknowledged that the Act would improve legal protection for victims of domestic violence but continued to lobby and campaign for amendments to ensure that the needs of vulnerable women were equally protected particularly those subject to immigration control and have no recourse to public funds.

NAWP developed the training pack 'Silent Scream' which aimed at raising awareness of the issues surrounding Asian women and girls who were vulnerable to self harm.

improvement in their knowledge and awareness of what self-harm is and why people self-harm, and 84% had a better understanding of why young Asian women may self-harm.

Teens@NAWP Youth Project	Total Women Supported
Number of young women regularly attending the weekly Support Groups	43
Number of young women attending outreach (masked counselling programmes)	332
Number of young women involved in training programmes	78
Total number of young women supported over the year	436

“To me the Girls Allowed group means everything. It has changed how I feel and react. It helped me through struggles and difficulties. At first I felt nervous and scared, but now I feel glad that I joined. Looking back at how they have helped, where would I be without this group? I know how to control my anger and calm myself down. This group has helped me realise how to resolve family conflict. It has made me an individual and made me think about how people are different and not to disrespect how they are. This group has made me gain confidence and self-esteem, and also how to express your feelings and overcome bullying. If I need help I know where to go. Before relying on others, rely on yourself first. It has been a year now since coming to the group, a year of struggle and challenges. The Girls Allowed group is the group you need to come to if you have got no one by your side, even if you don't have any problems, you will know how to deal with it before hand. You can enjoy and make new friends. Listening to other people's experiences and how tough their lives are, it makes you appreciate life. They brighten up your life and they take you to trips so you can have fun!”

(Testimony from a member of the Girls Allowed Group)

Action Plan

- Increase early intervention work in schools including one to one support/casework and more work to be delivered in PSHE/curriculum based lessons.
- Launch Suicide Prevention Training (ASIST). The training will be aimed at supporting frontline professionals and/or caregivers to become more ready, willing and able to help people at risk of suicide and ultimately help prevent suicide.

“...From coming to this group, it's made me think deeply about life and helped me to grow up and get somewhere in life. Coming here is good, because fingers don't get pointed and everyone is seen equally, which makes me feel good. Teens have helped me through tough times and to open up and share instead of keeping it in. Overall, if I was to look back and then look now, I can proudly say that Teens has me a better person...”
(Testimony from a Member of the Teens Group)



A stronger future for women

The Training Department moved to bigger and purpose-built premises on Deanery Road to accommodate growing demand for training by women.



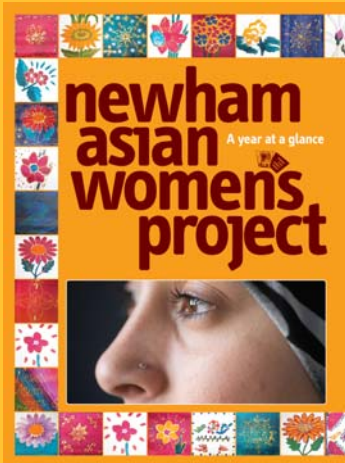
Supporting People, a new funding stream, was introduced which affected the way housing support services were delivered. Supporting People assumed that there was a level playing field for all organisations. In fact, specialist domestic violence services had been under-funded for years. NAWP continued to make the case for the sustainability of specialist refuge provision for black women.

NAWP produced a support services directory for frontline providers and service users on services available in East London.



Sister, sister

The Sexual Health Project was launched in April. It is the first of its kind in Newham and aims to address the sexual health needs of women, increasing teenage pregnancy rates and the rising incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV.



Sexual Health Project

About the Project

The Sexual Health Project was established in April 2006. The project aims to address the sexual health needs of women, increasing teenage pregnancy rates and the rising incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV. The project sets the framework for improving the sexual health of women in Newham and neighbouring boroughs by improving reproductive and sexual health services and making sexual health services available and accessible to South Asian women. Interventions focus on primary prevention, improving access to quality information and supporting self management by individuals and communities of their own sexual health. The project works in partnership with the community and professionals in the field of sexual health and is funded by the Newham Primary Care Trust.

Key Achievements

- Consultations with young girls and women focusing on body image, self esteem puberty, pregnancy and contraception.
- Regular outreach in East Ham, Forest Gate and Plaistow and drop in slots at Connexions are being conducted which provide young girls with essential information on sexual health.
- One-to-one support for women in need of culture sensitive services around pregnancy and termination including pre and post counselling and long-term support.

Outcomes

- A free Community Health Event was organised to launch the project attended by approximately 500 women covering aspects of women's' physical, sexual and emotional health.
- Outreach has reached up to 700 young women and girls. Information brochures/pamphlets have been distributed to over 1000.
- Face to face support has been provided to nearly 200 women including counselling, information, guidance and ongoing support

Action Plan

- Organise a free Health and Wellbeing event for women with relaxation therapies and information on looking after your emotional, mental, sexual and physical health.
- Organise free workshops for women of all ages providing information on Adolescence, Puberty, Healthy Relationships, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Pregnancy, Menopause and Contraception
- Publish information on services including the importance of screening for cervical and breast cancer
- Closer working with GPs and clinics will take place to ensure that services provided to Asian women are culturally appropriate, confidential and sensitive.
- Free booklets and information in various South Asian languages on Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV, Pregnancy and Contraception will be produced and disseminated.
- Strategic development work will continue including a project focusing on women's diverse sexual identities and a project addressing gaps in dealing with sexual exploitation



Working for women, working against violence

In 2007 NAWP will celebrate its 20th anniversary by continuing its important work with women. We believed that holistic and specialist provision was essential for working against violence. We still believe this to be the case in 2007. We will celebrate our 20th anniversary by acknowledging the achievements of the past and by safe guarding support for the future.

- We will continue to support specialist refuge provision and look critically at BME women's housing issues to ensure that safe and secure housing is available
- We will continue to promote early intervention and prevention work, raising awareness through our programmes for young women and making the case for secure funding
- We will build up our training services for women to ensure that we continue to provide for their needs
- We will ensure that our advice service is fully funded
- We will further develop our project work with continued

Forced Marriage

This year, Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC drafted the Forced Marriage Civil Protection Bill. NAWP participated in this consultation and met with Lord Lester in January of 2007. Following the meeting, Lord Lester proposed to incorporate the Forced Marriage Civil Protection Bill into a new Part 4A of the existing Family Law Act 1996. NAWP welcomed the proposed new amendment.

As in 2005, when the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office consulted on proposals to create a specific criminal offence of forced marriage, NAWP argued vociferously for early intervention and preventative mechanisms. We did not believe that a specific criminal offence would be the most effective way of deterring this harmful practice and providing adequate protection for victims.

Regarding the current amendments we stated that civil remedies for violence and abuse seemed to offer better solutions as there is a lower standard of proof and the woman is the subject of her own action rather than merely the object of proceedings. It has also been evident in our front line work that civil remedies provide scope to encourage public discourse and legal understanding of violence against women. Encouraging the use of civil law in forced marriage cases may therefore lead to more effective remedies for survivors. However to make sure civil remedies do offer protection there

should be training and guidance available regarding the use of the proposed new Part 4A of the Act in cases of forced marriage. NGOs should be equally equipped to support victims through prevention and education/awareness work so as to avoid 'implementation problems'.

Our perspective and hence our position to support the amendments to the Family Law Act (1996) is shaped by questions of language. We use language to make those arguments about issues that are prevalent in our communities. We know all too well that language can be used to empower and denigrate people. Questions of language are linked to questions of identity and power discourse. In the present political climate, we have been concerned about the current discussion on assimilation and inclusion. Both terms have loaded meanings. The former implies an unhealthy consensus and a de-polarisation of views in a democratic society about issues of identity and more importantly identity politics formulated around globalising issues. The latter

implies harmony of discourse and to an extent, polarisation. At NAWP, we have made an active choice to ensure that our position on forced marriage is not caught up in policy initiatives shaped by global agendas. We confront violence against women in all its forms and believe that the amendments to the Family Law Act (1996) serve the cause of women. We do not use arguments about stigmatisation to silence ourselves on the protection of women's rights we use such arguments to ensure that gains are not undermined by contradictory stances. It is from this perspective that we will continue to ensure that forced marriage is adequately and effectively addressed by civil legislation and this ethos will continue to influence how we confront national policy in future.

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2006

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2006 Total	2005 Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary income	–	9,899	9,899	44,985
Investment income	–	4,838	4,838	5,035
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>				
Safe accommodation and housing support	10,000	500,883	510,883	585,223
Legal advice	–	–	–	45,605
Mental health services	309,795	–	309,795	180,173
Sexual health services	10,832	–	10,832	–
Training	–	254,952	254,952	191,508
TEENS (early intervention & prevention)	25,000	–	25,000	50,900
Imkaan project	–	–	–	51,723
<i>Other incoming resources</i>	–	4,377	4,377	9,138
Total incoming resources	<u>355,627</u>	<u>774,949</u>	<u>1,130,576</u>	<u>1,164,290</u>
Resources expended				
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>				
Fundraising and publicity	–	7,569	7,569	16,907
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Safe accommodation and housing support	10,475	525,372	535,847	625,857
Legal advice	24,421	–	24,421	27,581
Mental health services	314,295	5,008	319,303	171,939
Sexual health services	5,861	–	5,861	–
Training	3,750	256,183	259,933	186,161
TEENS (early intervention & prevention)	21,081	–	21,081	52,524
Imkaan project	–	–	–	107,880
<i>Governance costs</i>	–	15,310	15,310	38,767
Total resources expended	<u>379,883</u>	<u>809,442</u>	<u>1,189,325</u>	<u>1,227,616</u>
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(24,256)	(34,493)	(58,749)	(63,326)
Transfers between funds	6,596	(6,596)	–	–
Net movement in funds	<u>(17,660)</u>	<u>(41,089)</u>	<u>(58,749)</u>	<u>(63,326)</u>
Funds brought forward	42,943	86,280	129,223	192,549
Funds carried forward	<u>25,283</u>	<u>45,191</u>	<u>70,474</u>	<u>129,223</u>

Approved by the Management Committee on 20 February 2007
and signed on behalf by Aisha Gill, Chair



NAWP Staff and Management Team

Director	Baljit Banga	Chair	Dr Aisha Gill
Senior Management Team	Shahnaz Rashid Fatima Seedat Gurpreet Virdee	Vice Chair	Surriya Ahmad
Advice Service	Fouzia Ashraf Choudhary	Treasurer	Anjum Mouj
Central Services	Shahina Begum Riffat Jabeen Anika Kothari Dipa Shah Bimla Juneja (left 31/01/07)	Secretary	Palvinder Kudhail
Refuges	Monidipa Bhattacharjee Mina Hossain Khanam Rahima Khokhar Farah Mian Poppy Rehman Shahana Rehman Syrina Salam Shabana Sharif	Shadow Secretary	Tahira Riaz
		MC Members:	Nahid Ahmad Saika Alam Iffat Iqbal Jasbir Panesar Rosie Sandhu Arona Sarwar (resigned 01/01/07) Shazia Ullah (resigned 23/05/06)
		Counselling	Poppy Banerjee Meera Kapadia Bhagya Magan
		Zindaagi	Shuhada Akthar Aarunima Bhatnagar (left 31/03/07) Simran Chawla Ami Gill Afsia Khanom Kamna Muralidharan Farah Arif (left 31/03/07) Ruzina Begum (left 31/03/07) Tamina Yasmin (left 01/03/07)
		Training	Naila Ahmad Shamilla Kumari Surinder Matharoo Arzoo Akthar (left 31/12/06) Kaldipe Kaur (left 31/12/06)

Acknowledgments

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"...NAWP will always be in my memories, only good memories not like the bad memories that I once had..."

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