

## **HISTORY**

This action group emerged after a local conference in May 2008 involving representatives from many of the local DV support services and delegates from Devon's BME communities. The Action Group, which meets quarterly, was set up and tasked with implementing an action plan to address some of the issues around local BME communities accessing DV support services.

## **AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Training Package**

This action group has helped develop a training package to raise awareness of BME DV issues related to HBV (honour based violence) FM (forced marriage) and FGM (female genital mutilation). The training aims to:

- Identify barriers facing, both, service providers and service users from BME groups when accessing DV services.
- Increase understanding of the particular needs of BME survivors of domestic violence (including cultural, religious, social and legal aspects).

- Provide you with sources of support and referral.
- Offer guidance and support to DV service providers to overcome barriers.
- Raise awareness of HBV (honour based violence) FM (forced marriage) and FGM (female genital mutilation).

For enquiries about **BME DV training and referrals** please contact **Sahar Alnaas**.

### **NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds**

There are many people in the UK trapped in violent relationships who, even if they have the courage to seek help, are often turned away simply because they have No Recourse to Public Funds. These victims, and their children, too often have nowhere to go to escape violence.

It may be that they came to the UK on temporary work permits, student visas or spousal visas, married to a UK citizen but as yet without ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain). None of them, under current UK law, are entitled to certain state benefits, including housing benefit and income support.

### **Devon NRPF Emergency Fund**

In November 2008, the action group helped set up an emergency fund which can help support victims of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds.

Since then, this fund has been used to support 11 survivors across Devon who, because of their status, have had no recourse to public funds. The money has been spent on covering refugees' costs, on emergency accommodation, on interpreting and on providing basic essentials such as food, children's clothes and nappies.

Anyone is eligible who:

- Has no recourse to public funds.
- Has limited income.
- Has exhausted normal channels of support.

For enquiries about how to apply to **NRPF and who is eligible** please contact **Sahar, Maja, Sevil or Dave**.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The organisations represented at the 2008 conference, which resulted in the creation of this Action Group, include amongst others:

- Devon County Council
- National Health Service
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE)
- Refugee Support Group
- Multilingua Devon
- Devon United Women
- Devon Racial Equality Council
- Against Domestic Violence and Abuse (ADVA)

### **ADVA - Against Domestic Violence and Abuse**

ADVA is an organisation with which we work closely and was set up in November 2002 to bring together the statutory and voluntary agencies within the county to tackle the problem of domestic violence.

Domestic violence and abuse can begin at any stage in a relationship and is essentially about the abuse of power and control by one person over another within that relationship. This power and control may include physical violence, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual violence and abuse, financial control and social isolation.

Anyone can be subjected to domestic violence in a variety of close family or intimate relationships. It cuts across all boundaries of social class, age, race, disability, sexuality and lifestyle.

Since the launch of the Partnership strategy in November 2002 much work has been done to try to reduce the impact of domestic violence within Devon. This has been greatly helped by the establishment of a multi-agency pooled budget which has enabled the following services and projects to take place.

Contact ADVA for more information:

Rachel Martin – Domestic Violence  
Prevention Co-ordinator  
01392 382233  
[www.adva.org.uk](http://www.adva.org.uk)



## **CONTACTS**

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If you would like to make a donation,  
please use the following bank details:

**Bank: Cooperative, Exeter**

**Name: Olive Tree Association, NRPF**

**Sort Code: 08-92-99**

**Account No: 65289837**