



# RCD Women's News

Issue no 11, May 2005

## The Refugee Council Women's Strategy - March 2005

The Refugee Council Women's Strategy has emerged out of the work the Refugee Council's Women's Network carried out to develop a Women's Strategy and Action Plan, detailing how the organisation will work towards ensuring its services are sensitive to the needs of women. As a result the Refugee Council has developed an internal strategy and work plan to improve its own services.

In March 2005, Refugee Council launched Making Women Visible- strategies for a more women-centred asylum and refugee support system. The document is a response to the recognition that refugee women face particular obstacles in their journey to safety and have been disadvantaged by current asylum policies in specific ways. It aims to increase the awareness of government, other statutory agencies and the voluntary sector of the particular needs of refugee and asylum seeking women. It looks at some of the specific issues facing women seeking asylum in the UK and makes recommendations for positive actions.

**For more information and support on how to develop gender sensitive services contact Elaheh Rambarzini on 020 7341160 or [elaheh.rambarzini@refugeecouncil](mailto:elaheh.rambarzini@refugeecouncil.org) or visit: [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/downloads/WomenstrategyMarch2005.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/downloads/WomenstrategyMarch2005.pdf)**

## What a waste: The Case for an Integrated Violence Against Women Strategy

This report examines women's experience of violence in the UK, including domestic violence, forced marriage, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, so-called 'honour crimes' and trafficking in women. For example, victims of rape and sexual assault are subject to a 'postcode lottery' with regard to the support they can expect from the police and criminal justice system; women who are trafficked and forced into prostitution can find themselves charged with criminal or immigration offences, and are often deported back to countries where they may be at risk; there is no statutory support available for immigrant or refugee women if they suffer domestic violence.

The report concludes that there would be great benefits to government and to the whole community, as well as to victims, if a more integrated strategic approach to violence against women was adopted.

**For more information visit [www.thewnc.org.uk](http://www.thewnc.org.uk)**

## Useful Helpline:

**Rights of Women Sexual Violence Legal Advice Helpline:** 020 7251 8887 & 020 7251 6577

**The Woman's Trust Advocacy Service:** 07747 080 964 (24-hour service)

## Consultation

The Association of London Government (ALG) is currently consulting on recommendations as to how it will fund the voluntary and community fund and what projects/services it will fund. If you would like to get involved in the women's voluntary and community sector's response,

**please contact Tania Pouwhare on 020 7377 0088 or [policy@wrc.org.uk](mailto:policy@wrc.org.uk)**

## Other Reports

### Good Practice Guidelines

Women's Aid has produced Good Practice Guidelines for those working in the fields of domestic violence, mental health, drugs and alcohol. The guidelines are available on:

[www.womensaid.org.uk/campaigns&research/health%20and%20dv%20campaign/health&dv\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/campaigns&research/health%20and%20dv%20campaign/health&dv_guidelines.htm)

### From Report to Court: A handbook for Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence

This handbook provides a guide to criminal proceedings and procedures in relation to sexual violence. Dealing with pre-court, reporting and prosecuting stages. This handbook is FREE.

**For more information check [www.row.org.uk/publications.html](http://www.row.org.uk/publications.html) or contact 020 7251 6575/6**

# TRAINING

## Rights of Women

Domestic Violence and the Law: 16 May 2005  
Child Contact and the Law: 16 May 2005  
Living Together and the Law: 17 May 2005  
Sexual Violence and the Law: 18 May 2005

Contact: 020 7251 6575/6 or [info@row.org.uk](mailto:info@row.org.uk)

## Hillcroft College

Developing Assertiveness: 6-8 May 2005

Contact: 020 8399 2688 or [enquiry@hillcroft.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcroft.ac.uk)

## Woman's Trust

Listening & Helping for Professionals: 6 July 2005

Contact: 020 7795 6444

## Women Resource Centre

Management and Leadership training

Contact: 0845 458 5218 or [elevate@wrc.org.uk](mailto:elevate@wrc.org.uk)

## Women's Sport Foundation

Women into Coaching

Contact: 020 7273 1738, 078 1384 2882 or [l.dingle@wsf.org.uk](mailto:l.dingle@wsf.org.uk)

## Conferences

### Higher Education for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Network

Refugees and asylum seekers in higher education Conference: 11 May 2005

More info: 020 7133 4051 or [ats.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:ats.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk)

### Women Resource Centre Seminar

New Public Sector Duty to Promote Gender Equality-What will this mean for women's groups?: 11 May 2005

More info: 020 7377 0088 or [info@wrc.org.uk](mailto:info@wrc.org.uk)

### NAWO and UK Joint Committee of Women

Gender in the New Europe Conference: 15 June 2005

This conference explores the implications of constitutional change for women in Europe and stresses the important contribution women can and should make to the debates on Europe and its political, legal, social and institutional evolution.

More info: 020 7226 5371 or [info@womenconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@womenconnect.org.uk), or see [www.womenconnect.org.uk](http://www.womenconnect.org.uk)

### Institute of Employment Rights

Labour Migration and Employment Rights Conference: 14 June 2005

More info: [office@ier.org.uk](mailto:office@ier.org.uk), [www.ier.org.uk](http://www.ier.org.uk) or 020 7498 6919.

### Equal Pay conference

The Institute of Employment Rights and Old Square Chambers are holding a conference to analyse and disseminate information on recent developments in equal pay law on 27 April 2005.

Details: [www.ier.org.uk/conf.htm](http://www.ier.org.uk/conf.htm)

## Funding

### Fast Forward Grants

provides grants up to £10,000 to small voluntary and community organisations, or other non-governmental organisations, to run projects which will help unemployed people move towards employment.

Deadline for application: 27 May 2005.

[www.gle.co.uk/consulting/FFGrants.htm](http://www.gle.co.uk/consulting/FFGrants.htm)

### AOL UK and National Charity Citizens Online

are inviting charities and community groups across the UK to apply for the AOL Innovation in the Community Awards 2005. The aim of the awards is to foster ideas about how the internet could make a significant difference to local communities. Deadline for application: 6 June 2005.

[www.aol.co.uk/about/community/innovation/](http://www.aol.co.uk/about/community/innovation/)

## PhD scholarships

University of East London (UEL) is offering 30 full-time Postgraduate Scholarships to well-qualified and committed students wishing to study for a PhD within any area of expertise relevant to UEL's eight schools.

Contact: 020 8223 2976 or [gradschool@uel.ac.uk](mailto:gradschool@uel.ac.uk)

## Payroll Giving Grants

From January 2005, Home Office funded initiative, the Payroll Giving Grants programme. Payroll Giving enables employees to give to any UK charity straight from their gross salary (before tax is deducted), giving immediate tax relief on those donations. This means that £10 donated each month costs only £7.80 for employees paying standard rate tax (£6 for higher rate taxpayers) and will be worth as much as £20 to the charity (courtesy of the Government matching scheme for the first six months of your donations).

For more information check: [www.payrollgivinggrants.org.uk](http://www.payrollgivinggrants.org.uk) or contact 0845 602 6786