



RCD Women's News

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Stronger Together

By Karen Moore – Women's Resource Centre

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) is a charity, which supports women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable. We have over 350 members across the country that we support through provision of training, information, resources and one-to-one support on a range of organisational development issues. We also lobby decision makers on behalf of the women's not-for-profit sector for improved representation and funding.

Our Stronger Together programme aims to strengthen the voice of the women's sector through supporting local women's organisations working collectively as a network or forum to participate in and influence decision-making. In these tough economic times, it is even more important that women's organisations are able to network, form partnerships and work together to weather the storm.

A key part of Stronger Together is putting women's organisations in touch with each other to share information, experiences, support and opinions. One of the ways in which we support women's organisations to network is through our online network, the Women's Café, (sort of like Facebook) for women's organisations. You can set up your own profile, link in with other members, start or join groups and get information and advice. Currently 450 women's organisations across England use the Women's Café.

Over the past few years, WRC has also been finding out about and working with existing networks across the country as well as providing support to sustain or establish new networks. A major success has been the Women and Health Equality Consortium, which we initiated following the announcement that the Department of Health was looking for Strategic Partners. The Consortium now works closely with the DH advising on gender equality in health policy.

To be eligible for support from the Stronger Together programme, you need to be a WRC member. Our members work in a wide range of fields from violence against women, the environment, employment, education and criminal justice, they represent women from all different backgrounds and communities. We would welcome the opportunity to involve more refugee community organisations in our work. Organisations with an income of less than 100k get free membership so it is well worth it! And although our capacity to support groups through ST is limited at the moment, there are many other ways that WRC can support you as a member.

You will be able to access our training and events for free; be listed as a member on our website so other organisations or individuals can find out about you or vice versa and receive our bi-monthly members' magazine 'the Source' which is packed with useful features and information for women's organisations. Alternatively, anyone can sign up to our bi-weekly enews, which contains the latest news, events and jobs relating to the women's sector (and in which you can promote your own).

For more information please contact:

Natalie Ntim on **020 7324 3030** or **policy@wrc.org.uk**

See **www.wrc.org.uk** for more information about the Women's Resource Centre

Funding news

Funding for women's projects
Founded in 1886 **the Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances**, aims to support individual women who are in financial need. After reviewing its criteria, the Society decided that although their principal charitable activity will remain the making of grants to individual women, in 2011 they will again make £50,000 available for grants to other organisations which support women. For more information and to apply, visit: www.salrc.org/

Deadline: **25 March 2011**

Resources

WomenCentre - Kirklees

Women in Exile offers a multi-disciplinary service to women seeking asylum, refugees and their children. Their new service, *Women Together* supports women survivors of violence through creative group work, preventative work and in a safe and welcoming space.
Contact Rachel on: **01484 450866** or rachel.cooling@womencentre.org.uk
See: www.womencentre.org.uk/

Training

Rights of Women training courses

Proposed cuts to legal aid will leave many cut off from free advice about their legal problems. These courses will improve your ability to advise and support vulnerable women.

No recourse? EEA national? The permanent solution
London 02 March 2011

Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence
London 09 March 2011

Protecting children from domestic violence: children and the law
London 16 March 2011

Support survivors of sexual violence
Manchester 23 March 2011

Stop the traffic! Supporting women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation
Birmingham 30 March 2011

For more info contact the training officer: **020 7251 6575** training@row.org.uk

For further course details go to:
www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/training.php

Asylum Aid publishes new research report

Asylum Aid's new report: *Unsustainable: the quality of initial decision-making in women's asylum claims* looked at a sample of forty-five cases from three UKBA regions and found that:

- the UKBA did not accept the credibility of women's asylum claims in the vast majority of cases
- women were refused asylum on grounds that were often arbitrary, and subjective
- a disproportionately high number of the asylum refusals issued to women were subsequently overturned on appeal. 42% of the initial refusals in our sample were overturned by an independent immigration judge; this number rose to 50% when including rulings made after the reconsideration of an initial appeal
- case law and Country of Origin Information was used selectively or unrepresentatively

Responding to the research, UKBA has acknowledged that its own internal figures also show that a disproportionately high number of the refusals issued to women asylum seekers are overturned on appeal and has agreed to analyse this data further. Asylum Aid will ensure that the report's recommendations are taken forward. The report can be accessed at: www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/.html

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/rcos

If you would like to submit an article to *RCO Women's News* or receive our newsletter, please email development@refugeecouncil.org.uk.