

## SVAAN Monthly Update – March 2009



Welcome to the Sexual Violence Action and Awareness Network (SVAAN) monthly email update. Sent on the last Friday of every month, the update is full of information for organisations who work in the sexual violence sector. If you have events or information you would like to be included email [cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk). Feel free to quote or circulate information from the update, but please credit Lilith if you do so.

### Are Punters are the Problem?

The [Policing & Crime Bill 2008-09](#) is proceeding through Parliament. The Bill contains a clause which seeks to transfer responsibility for the harm of prostitution from the exploited (mainly women) to the exploiter (usually men).

Men will be criminalised for pursuing a trade in women's bodies, reversing centuries of criminal and social discrimination against women in prostitution, removing derogatory language about woman (clause 15), developing diversion away from prison for women selling sex (clause 16) and by shifting responsibility for harm through prostitution away from the extremely vulnerable seller to the economically and socially (if not morally) empowered buyer (Clause 13), who has free choice and disposable income.

There is increasing evidence which highlights demand for prostitution as the root cause behind commercial sexual exploitation. In *R v. Massey (2007)*, the Court of Appeal stated that:

"Sex workers are often vulnerable young women with disturbed backgrounds, who have never known a stable relationship or respect from others and are therefore prey to pimps....We do not see any ground for saying that the prosecution would have to prove absence of free will in order to be able to show that the organisers [pimps] were controlling the activities of the women for gain."

Opponents of the Bill claim that it will scare punters, driving prostitution underground and endangering women.

However ESSO, a group of women who have formerly been involved in prostitution, refute these claims, stating "The illegality of prostitution is not the problem ... it's the endless violence that is." It's a position which Eaves agree with and which Eaves POPPY workers witness evidence of every day.

What do you think? Why not come along to the open forum and discuss it?

#### Fanfare for the Open Forum

On 13 March 2009 at 2pm we'll be holding the first SVAAN meeting open to the statutory sector. It's going to be a great afternoon.

From March there will be 3 open forum meetings a year. It marks a new phase: a chance for us to share the work that we do, to make sure the voices of the women we support are heard, and a chance for you to steer the group.

The agenda is forming - networking time, a welcome to the session, a speaker from the POPPY Project discussing trafficking and prostitution. What else do we need? How you would like to use the day?

RSVP to [cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:cat.whitehouse@eaveshousing.co.uk) See you there, it's my last SVAAN meeting, so let's make it a good one!

## Parliamentary Update

There's been a buzz of interest in sexual violence in Parliament, following the release of 'Map of Gaps' and the revelation from the Commission for Equality and Human Rights that they were considering legal action against councils who fail to provide adequate support for women who have experienced violence. Ministers answered pertinent questions on [Government funding for sexual violence services](#).

Vera Baird revealed that the updated Crown Prosecution Service Policy for prosecuting rape cases will be released soon. Of course if we had our way the Rape Policy would extend to all sexual offences. She also indicated that there have been a number of [referrals of rape cases for unduly lenient sentencing](#). You do not have to be directly involved in a case to refer it to the Attorney General on these grounds.

## Consultations, Research and Opportunities

### Glasgow Rape Crisis Survey

The Glasgow Rape Crisis Centre is undertaking an online survey on intimate partner sexual violence. The survey is open to all women, not just those in Scotland. [Click here to complete the survey](#).

### Feminism in this millennium

Kristin Aune and Catherine Redfern (founder of [www.thefword.org.uk](http://www.thefword.org.uk)) are working on a project about the rise of feminism since the year 2000, with a view to publishing a book in 2010. They are asking feminist groups who have emerged in the last decade to [complete a questionnaire about their work](#). If you have any queries about the study contact Rose Holyoak, Research Assistant on [R.Holyoak@derby.ac.uk](mailto:R.Holyoak@derby.ac.uk).

## Conferences, Training, Meetings and Events

### Million Women Rise

An all-women march and rally against male violence. Last year over 5000 women turned out in support, let's make this year even bigger.

Date: 7 March, 12 noon march, rally 2:30 - 5:00

Location: Portman Square, W1H, marching through Oxford St, Regents St, Piccadilly.

Rally and celebration at Waterloo Place

Cost: Free, but donations towards costs appreciated

### Seeing Double Strategic Networking Seminar

Fawcett's [Seeing Double](#) Campaign is excited to invite you to a half day expert seminar on strategic networking between ethnic minority women's groups and umbrella organisations, chaired by Barbara Nea, Hear Network Coordinator, Race on the Agenda. The session aims to strengthen the relationships between 2nd tier organisations and the ethnic minority women's groups they support.

Date: 17 March, 12-5pm

Venue: Women's Library, 25 Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

Cost: Free, travel costs, child-care subsidies, and stipends are available for delegates on limited budgets.

Information and bookings: Liz Owens [liz.owens@fawcettsociety.org.uk](mailto:liz.owens@fawcettsociety.org.uk) or zohra moosa [zohra.moosa@fawcettsociety.org.uk](mailto:zohra.moosa@fawcettsociety.org.uk)

### Psychotherapy in the Community

This one day seminar from the Women's Therapy Centre will launch a toolkit providing guidelines and models of good practice for working with women refugees & asylum seekers.

Date: 17 March 2009

Venue: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, The County Hall, SE1 7PB

Cost: Free

Information and bookings: [Click here to download a booking form](#), call 020 7263 7860 or email: [enquiries@womenstherapycentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@womenstherapycentre.co.uk)

## Vacancies and Volunteering

### Eaves: Counselling Service Invitation to Tender

Eaves is a London based charity which provides high quality housing and support to women who have experienced violence. Eaves is inviting tenders from suitably experienced counselling providers to work with Eaves in running a counselling service at the new Advice and Support Centre. We are looking for female counsellors to provide one-to-one and group support to Amina volunteers and service users; Women in prostitution; Victims of sexual violence and abuse; Victims of trafficking; Women experiencing or at risk of homelessness; Women who have substance misuse issues.

The contract will be for a term of three years and is planned to start in April 2009. This is subject to London Council's funding, and may be extended. The hours of work will include work during the day, early evenings and on some Saturdays.

The deadline for all tenders is 11th March 2009.

For more information contact: [frances.brodrick@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:frances.brodrick@eaveshousing.co.uk)

### Eaves Vacancies

Eaves has a number of vacancies for an exciting new project researching the ways women exit prostitution. Please see our website <http://www.eaves4women.co.uk> for further details. Positions include:

- Exiting Prostitution Research Officer (Female)
- Exiting Prostitution Link Officer (Female)
- Exiting Prostitution Development Worker (Female)
- Exiting Prostitution Administrator (Female)
- Refuge Worker (Peripatetic)

All posts are exempt under Section 7 (2) (d) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. Therefore we will only be considering female applicants

### MOSAC - Advocacy Outreach Coordinator

**£25,917 per annum inclusive of OLW for a 28 hour week, Greenwich**

**Part-time Fixed Term Contract until 31 March 2011**

Mosac is looking for a dynamic woman to take on the exciting and challenging role of managing and developing an advocacy outreach service across London. For this post you will be required to have the following skills, abilities and knowledge:

- A knowledge and understanding of advocacy provisions
- Experience of developing and managing a service or project and fundraising for its continuation
- Experience of managing paid staff and volunteers
- A knowledge and understanding of issues facing parents and carers of sexually abused children

- Experience of recruiting, selecting, training and supporting volunteers

This post is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Section 7.2(d) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies. The post is based in Greenwich but will require travelling to clients throughout London. To apply download an application pack from [www.mosac.org.uk](http://www.mosac.org.uk) email [info@mosac.org.uk](mailto:info@mosac.org.uk) or ring 020 8293 8582.

Closing date: 24 March 2009 by 5pm

Interview date: 1 April 2009

### **SVAAN Meeting Dates for 2009**

Friday 13 March, 14:00–17:00, Open forum

Tuesday 12 May, 11:00–13:30

Wednesday 15 July, 14:00–17:00, Open forum summer social

Wednesday 16 September, 11:00–13:30

Thursday 12 November, 14:00–17:00, Open forum

Open forums are open to both voluntary and statutory members of the SVAAN network.