

## **The Lilith Project Women's Weekly News 296**

**20 March 2010 – 26 March 2010**

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LONDON**

#### **Judicial review on Yarl's Wood detention centre**

A High Court has allowed a judicial review into Yarl's Wood detention centre, in which the government's detention policies will be challenged by lawyers and human rights groups.

The latter claim that the treatment of women and children in these detention centres is "cruel, inhumane and degrading". Now, lawyers have been permitted to give evidence in the cases of the treatment of four women held at Yarl's Wood in light of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Jim Duffy, a solicitor at Public Interest Lawyers, which is bringing the case, said, "The Home Office will now be forced to explain in open court how the abuse and despair that these women and children have been forced to endure squares with national and international human rights standards. This will be an extremely important case in terms of holding the government to account for the way it treats immigrants".

Shami Chakrabarti, director of Liberty, who will also be submitting evidence on these cases, said, "Liberty is intervening in this case to end the detention of families with children and to press for an inquiry into deeply disturbing allegations of bullying and violence against some of the most forgotten, vulnerable people in Britain".

Serco, the private company that runs Yarl's Wood, has denied the allegation of "inhumane" and "degrading" treatment and described it as "unfounded and untrue". David Wood, director of criminality and detention at the UK Border Agency, also said, "All detainees are treated with dignity and respect, with access to legal advice and healthcare facilities. We only remove those who both the UKBA and the independent courts deem to have no legal right to be here".

The hearing is expected to start in the next few months.

Source: [Guardian](#) 20 March 2010

---

### **Council to set up lap dance club policy under a new law**

Haringey Council is to set up a policy on how best to handle lap dance club applications in accordance with new legislation which will be introduced this April.

In accordance with the Policing and Crime Act, local authorities will from now on have more power to refuse applications for lap dance clubs.

Councillor Nilgun Canver, council cabinet member for crime and community safety, welcomed the new legislation. She said, "Residents feel strongly about this issue and I have been lobbying the Government for these changes for some time. These kinds of clubs shouldn't be allowed in residential areas.

"Giving powers to local councils to turn down applications for clubs in these areas will give residents a voice and enable the council to reflect that. I hope we will be able to adopt these new powers at the earliest opportunity."

Both new and existing lap dancing clubs will need to apply for new licenses under the new legislation.

Source: [Haringey Independent](#) 23 March 2010

---

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UK**

---

### **Charity boss admits sex attacks**

Matthew Byrne, 38, who ran the Young Person's Advisory Service, admitted in court to have carried out horrific sex attacks on four women in prostitution.

The Liverpool crown court heard that he dressed up his victims as young school girls before tying them up, gagging and strangling them for his own sexual pleasure.

He also used a cane to repeatedly beat the women. In one of the attacks he whipped his victim until her blood sprayed over his bedroom walls. He then used a plastic bag to suffocate the woman until she saw black spots in front of her eyes and believed she was going to die.

Police raided his home in New Brighton and discovered that he had turned a bedroom into a torture chamber. They also found a collection of violent pornography in his computer. DNA and blood from Byrne's victims was also uncovered.

Byrne has pleaded guilty to four charges of sexual assault and one of assault by penetration between July 1 2008, and May 31 2009. He also admitted four charges of making indecent images of children.

At an earlier hearing in January, he had already admitted six charges of possessing obscene images of children, representing a total of nearly 9,000 images.

Byrne had also admitted a further count of committing a lewd and obscene act on a Merseyrail train while photographing young girls.

Judge John Phipps has ordered Byrne to sign the Sex Offenders' Register and he will be sentenced on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Source: [Liverpool Local News](#) 23 March 2010

---

### **Schoolgirl worked in a lap dancing club**

Shadow Lounge, a lap dancing club in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, has had its licence suspended due to claims that a 14-year-old girl was one of the 'performers' in the club.

Undercover reporters for a national newspaper reported that the schoolgirl was seen pole-dancing in the club and dancing naked for men for £20 per dance. According to the report, the girl at one point took a punter in his mid-30s into a tiny curtained-off cubicle for a private dance.

North Somerset Council's licensing sub-committee immediately suspended the club's license. Under the law it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to work in a lap dancing club.

Sub-committee chairman Councillor Felicity Baker said, "Working closely with the police and the licencees, we have acted swiftly and taken the necessary action to prevent any further child protection issues occurring at those premises".

A spokesman for Avon and Somerset Police said, "An investigation has been launched, which will involve police speaking to all parties involved, including the local licensing authority".

Jesus Rodriguez-Casas, owner of the club, denies that he had hired under-age girls.

Investigation continues.

Source: [BBC](#) 19 March 2010  
[This is Devon](#) 17 March 2010

---

## INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

---

### **Cabinet minister rejects child marriage law reform**

A Malaysian religion minister rejected a child marriage law reform in defence of Islamic laws that allow girls under the age of 16 to marry. Sharia law runs in parallel with civil law in the country.

This is amid a recent controversy in the country over two young girls, aged ten and 11, who were married to middle-aged men. Rights groups have called for the reform of such laws that allow marriage under the age of 16 if religious officials give their consent.

Pressure group Sisters in Islam, in a statement, said, "The minimum age of marriage for Muslim girls must be raised to 18 to be in compliance with the Child Act which defines children as those below the age of 18".

However, Jamil Khir Baharom, a cabinet minister in charge of religious affairs, has said, "There is no need to amend the law. The law already exists... marrying someone aged 16 and below requires the consent of the court. The court does not simply grant the consent.

"Maturity is a subjective question. It depends on the development of the person. Maturity is not based on age solely."

Women, family and community development minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil disagrees. "A child of that age does not have the choice or capacity to give her full consent and, as such, child marriage is viewed within the context of force and coercion".

Non-Muslim citizens in Malaysia are not permitted to marry before the age of 18.

Source: [WLUML](#) 22 March 2010

---

### **Polygamist jailed for 75 years**

Merril Leroy Jessop, 35, is the third member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be convicted by a Texas jury for sexual assault in relation to underage marriages.

He is convicted of one count of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl whom he spiritually married in 2006 while living at a ranch in Schleicher County.

His brother, Raymond Merrill Jessop, was sentenced to ten years in prison and another member, Allan Keate received a 33-year sentence. A fourth man, Michael Emack, received a seven-year sentence in a plea agreement.

Trials of six other men, who face similar charges, are scheduled throughout the rest of the year.

Source: [WLUML](#) 22 March 2010

---

## EVENTS

---

### **Public launch of UK Feminista**

**The public launch of UK Feminista** will be held at the Women's Library on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March**, 11am-3pm.

Please email [kat@ukfeminista.org.uk](mailto:kat@ukfeminista.org.uk) to RSVP.

Please note that this launch event is distinct from the UK Feminista **consultation event** for women's organisations which was held on Wednesday 24 February at the Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre.

---

---

## **Live Earth Run for Water global events**

**April 18, 2010**

This is the single biggest fundraising effort for water in history. Nearly 1 billion people across the world don't have access to clean water. This kills around 5,000 children every day. At any one time, over half of the hospital beds in Africa are taken up by people suffering from diarrhoea, which is so easy to avoid. But the global water crisis disproportionately impacts upon the rights and lives of women and young girls. It is women and girls that must walk up to five hours every day to collect water, often putting themselves in dangerous and vulnerable situations, and it is women and young girls who miss out on education as a result.

With Pump Aid, you get more 'bang for your buck'. By raising just £500 the charity can install a pump in Zimbabwe, Malawi or Liberia that will bring water to 250 people. But the pump will not just improve health; it will also stop women and girls walking for long hours every day, often in dangerous situations. It will give young girls the time to go to school, and it will support the local economy as communities will have the water they need to grow crops. It will change people's lives.

To sign up to the Run/Walk for Pump Aid, please visit:

[www.pumpaid.org/smartweb/live-earth/run-for-water](http://www.pumpaid.org/smartweb/live-earth/run-for-water)

To create your unique fundraising page, go to:

[www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/live\\_earthUK](http://www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/live_earthUK)

For more information click on [www.pumpaid.org](http://www.pumpaid.org) or email: [communications@pumpaid.org](mailto:communications@pumpaid.org)

---

## **Voice UK – promoting justice for vulnerable victims of crime**

Hate crime – the way forward. Are we nearly there yet?

**30 March 2010**

VOICE UK invites you to take part in a thought-provoking and informative day at Derby University, the outcome of which is to develop a proposal on hate crime.

**Keynote speakers include:**

**Superintendent Paul Giannasi**, Office of Criminal Justice Reform, Race, Confidence and Justice Unit

**Professor John Grieve**, Professor of Criminology, Portsmouth University  
**Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris**, Police Service, Northern Ireland

To book a place or for further details, contact Rebecca Sumpter, Administration Manager, on 01332 291042 or email [voice@voiceuk.org.uk](mailto:voice@voiceuk.org.uk)

---

## CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS

---

### ***The Stern Review***

Baroness Stern has published her **review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities**. The review examined the pathway a complainant takes, from first report through to court, and considered the provision of support and other services for victims.

The Government has also published an **interim response** to her review, which welcomes the review and accepts the direction it sets, and will publish a much more detailed review and recommendations later in the year.

To access both documents click [here](#).

---

### ***Stoning is not our Culture - a Comparative Analysis of Human Rights and Religious Discourses in Iran and Nigeria***

Authors - Rochelle Terman & Mufuliat Fijabi

Stoning is a cruel form of torture that is used to punish men and women for adultery and other 'improper' sexual relations. It is currently sanctioned by law and carried out by state actors in at least two countries, and at least seven individuals have been stoned to death in the last five years.

This new briefing paper analyses the stoning punishment through several lenses. First, how stoning violates basic human rights – stoning is a form of torture that is often characterised by gender discrimination and unfair judicial processes. Second, although stoning is often justified in the name of Islam, the use of stoning today is wholly un-Islamic and religiously illegitimate.

To access the full paper click [here](#)

---

### ***Sexualisation of Young People Review***

Dr. Papadopoulos' *Sexualisation of Young People Review* has now been

published. The review has formed part of the government's wider consultation on Violence Against Women and Girls. Dr Papadopoulos' report examines how sexualised images and messages may be affecting the development of children and young people and influencing cultural norms. The review also examines the evidence linking the sexualisation of young people to violence.

To view the report go to: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexualisation-young-people.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexualisation-young-people.pdf)

---

### **Fawcett Society – *Realising Rights: increasing ethnic minority women's access to justice***

This new [report](#) examines the experiences of ethnic minority women throughout the criminal justice system – as offenders, victims and workers in the justice sector. It explores the intersectional discrimination on the grounds of race and sex that these women frequently face and the realities of a justice system which too often overlooks the needs of ethnic minority women in policy development and practice.

For more information, please email the Fawcett Society at [info@fawcettsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@fawcettsociety.org.uk).

---

### **Online questionnaire about sexual violence**

Do you live or work in Kensington & Chelsea? Have you ever experienced any form of sexual violence? Please complete our online questionnaire here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3WLFV8J>. Your response will remain completely anonymous, and will only be used to inform the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea's response to domestic and sexual violence over the next 18 months.

---

### **Consultation – Sex and Relationships Education Guidance**

The purpose of the consultation is to gather views on the draft document – Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Guidance. The document provides guidance to maintained primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England on all matters relating to SRE, including how good quality SRE can be planned and delivered, how to develop an SRE policy and how to support the health and social needs of all pupils with regard to sex and relationships. It is relevant to all staff, particularly senior managers and those responsible for co-ordinating, teaching and supporting the delivery of SRE.

**Closing Date:** Monday 19 April 2010

To respond to the consultation and for further information visit  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1637&external=no&menu=1>

---

## CAMPAIGNS

---

### **Womankind - Speaking Out for Women**

WOMANKIND Worldwide launched a new campaign on International Women's Day to persuade MPs to keep women's rights at the heart of their work on international development, foreign affairs, defence and trade.

WOMANKIND is asking people from every one of the UK's current 650 constituencies to sign a postcard in person or online at [http://www.womankind.org.uk/speaking\\_out.html](http://www.womankind.org.uk/speaking_out.html) then forward on this page and information about this campaign to everyone you know. By sending special campaign postcards — and signing up on online at [www.womankind.org.uk](http://www.womankind.org.uk) — British voters will send a strong message to politicians that the next government must honour the UK's commitments to women's rights that are enshrined in national legislation and international agreements.

---

### **Glasgow City Council**

#### **End Prostitution Now! Scottish Campaign**

End Prostitution Now is a campaign led by Glasgow City Council which aims to raise awareness of the harm caused by prostitution and put the focus onto the buyers of sex – those who create the demand and who have in the past been invisible from public debate.

We believe that it is the demand which fuels the sex industry in Glasgow, and that only by targeting this demand and challenging attitudes towards buying sex will we be able to put a stop to this harmful activity which blights cities and towns across Scotland.

#### **Prostitution is not a choice**

The only choice in prostitution is that of the buyer, who decides when, where and how he will buy sex. For this reason we believe that legislation which criminalises the purchaser of sexual services is needed. Credible legislation is vital in order to send the message that people are not and should not be for sale.

It is time to assign the responsibility where it really belongs, with the purchasers of sex, and to **END PROSTITUTION NOW**.

To find out more about the campaign visit the website:

<http://www.endprostitutionnow.org>

Click [here](#) to show your support for the campaign

---

### **National public awareness campaign on violence to be launched in Wales**

This campaign will follow on from the Home Office's "This is Abuse" campaign. Welsh Women's Aid is currently in discussion with the Welsh Assembly regarding the campaign but it is likely to include national media coverage, widespread advertising including TV, radio and press, and an online discussion forum.

For more information [click here](#)

---

## **DIRECT ACTION**

---

### **Fawcett Society**

#### **What about Women? Campaign**

In the run up to the election Fawcett has brought together over 40 organisations and thousands of individual voters to ask all the political parties 'What About Women'?

Women's votes will decide who forms the next government. All the parties know this and have been courting the "women's vote" but what would their policies mean for women's everyday lives and women's equality? We would like answers.

In the major debates dominating the election such as the economy, public services, crime, political reform and the family we hardly ever hear discussion on how parties' proposals would impact on women. We want to change that. To do this we are asking all the main parties to answer some key questions about women and their policies. We will then make sure as many women as possible hear their answers and have their say before polling day.

To join the campaign and take action click [here](#).

---

**Rape Crisis Centres should be centrally funded by HM Government – sign the petition!**

A decade ago, the UK had nearly 80 rape crisis centres, but now there are only 39 offering specialist support services to women who have survived sexual violence.

Without central government, local authority or primary care trust funding for sexual violence services, rape crisis centres are closing because they cannot find the money to cover their core costs.

To sign the petition to show your support for the central funding of Rape Crisis click [here](#).

---

## TRAINING

---

### **The nia project**

**Dates:** 8th - 9th or 26th - 27th April 2010

**Time:** 9.30 - 4pm

**Venue:** City Edge, 125 -127 Mare Street, E8 3RH.

We would like to invite you to attend a **free 2-day training course for Hackney professionals** working with families who have been affected or are currently affected by domestic violence.

**Supported by the Parenting Fund**, this training will enable practitioners to improve the safety of women and children with a particular focus on parenting and children's needs. The service will seek to reduce the impact of domestic violence on parenting capacity and on children. This is a great opportunity to learn about current practice and developments around domestic violence and parenting. It will particularly enable you to develop your practice in relation to engaging and working safely with abusive fathers/carers.

**The training is free to Hackney delegates**

**You need to attend both days of the course that you select.**

If you would like to book or require any further information please email Marie on [actemp@dvip.org](mailto:actemp@dvip.org)

---

### **Eaves**

#### **First Aid training**

The Scarlet centre with the Red Cross

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May-** 11-1pm for basic Save a Life Training, and 1-2pm for an optional extra hour on first aid for babies and children

If you would like to learn these practical skills please **contact the Scarlet Centre on 020 7840 7142**

---

### **C.I.S. Training Course**

**3 Linked Workshops** (9.30am-4pm) £150 to attend **ALL**

**Venue:** Eastleigh, Hampshire

Session 1 – Thursday 24 June 2010

- What is sexual abuse?
- Prevalence
- Myths & Stereotypes
- Abuser theories
- Prevention & Detection

Session 2 – Thursday 8 July 2010

- Survival Skills (including self-harm)
- Counting the Losses
- Crime & Memory

Session 3 – Wednesday 21 July 2010

- Managing Disclosures (Adult Survivors)
- Retraumatism/ Revictimisation
- Unresolved Issues
- The Reality of Letting Go

Target audience - **All sectors**, individuals working with/supporting child victims or adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

These workshops are linked, providing delegates with an opportunity to discuss/explore core issues.

**Delegates will receive a certificate after completing all three sessions.**

Lunch is not provided.

### **How to listen so children will talk**

**Date: March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 - £75**

**Times:** Registration 9.30, Start at 10am, Finish at 4.30pm

---

**Where:** Eastpoint Centre, Burgoyne Rd, Southampton SO19 6PB

To book a place and for more information call 023 80 338080 or e-mail:

[admin@cisters.org.uk](mailto:admin@cisters.org.uk)

---

## **Rights of Women**

### **Women-only courses**

#### **Protecting children from domestic violence: children and the law**

1 Day course

Cardiff – 19 May

Manchester – 26 May

Doncaster – 21 September

#### **Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence**

1 Day course

Cardiff – 20 May

Manchester – 27 May

Doncaster – 22 September

#### **Forced Marriage: gaining protection through the law**

½ Day course

Leeds – 29 April (afternoon)

London – 20 October (morning)

#### **No recourse? EEA national? Overcoming the barriers**

1 Day

London – 21 April

Manchester – 12 May

Doncaster – 27 October

#### **Stop the traffic: protecting and supporting trafficked women in the UK - *In partnership with the POPPY Project***

1 Day

Sheffield – 29 March

London – 6 October

#### **Enforcement: making domestic violence injunctions work**

½ Day (morning)

London – 13 October

#### **Protection from persecution? Asylum law and process - *In partnership with Asylum Aid***

1 Day

London – 21 October

**Seeking Refuge? Claiming asylum and accessing financial support – *In partnership with Asylum Support Appeals Project***

1 Day

London – 23 June

When you attend our training, in addition to receiving comprehensive course materials you will also be given free copies of relevant Rights of Women books to enable you to use the knowledge you have gained in the training in your work.

For further details: [www.rightsofwomen.org.uk](http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk) or contact: [training@row.org.uk](mailto:training@row.org.uk)  
0207 251 6575

---

**Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP)**

**Recovering from the Impacts of Domestic Violence - Injured Self-esteem**

**Date:** 13th April 2010

**Time:** 10 – 16:30pm

**Venue:** GLDVP offices, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG

**Cost:** £90/£130 – vol/stat

**Details:** Self-esteem is often mentioned but hard to describe. This course outlines different aspects of self-esteem and the ways it can be injured by domestic violence. Ways of identifying signs of low self-esteem and talking about it with victims of domestic violence are presented. The course will cover simple strategies to build self-esteem through recognition of achievements, separating the person from their experiences and helping them reclaim the right to a sense of enjoyment. There will be opportunities to watch examples of good practice and to experiment with empowering women to choose goals, look after their emotional and physical needs and regain their self-worth.

**Adolescent Domestic Violence - Level 2**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 10 – 16:30pm

**Venue:** GLDVP offices, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG

**Cost:** £90/£130 – vol/stat

**Details:** This course will expand on previous knowledge about domestic violence and will focus particularly on the experience of teenagers. Related issues such as teenage pregnancy, specific issues faced by boys, barriers to accessing services, sexual violence and gangs will be covered. The course also explores the issue of young people as perpetrators of abuse towards dating partners

and/or family members. The course will explain how to ask about violence in teenagers' own intimate relationships, how to give advice and how to risk assess and safety plan. There will be networking opportunities to discuss your own practice and meet other professionals working in similar fields.

To book a place on any of these courses visit the GLDVP Training page on GLDVP's website - [www.gldvp.org.uk](http://www.gldvp.org.uk) or email: [sophie.taylor@gldvp.org.uk](mailto:sophie.taylor@gldvp.org.uk)

---

## VACANCIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

---

### **Central America Women's Network (CAWN)**

#### **Research and Communications Internship**

**Closing date for applications: 13 April 2010 at 10 am**

CAWN a London based organisation, is offering this internship opportunity to an enthusiastic and motivated individual prepared to gain experience and become involved in all aspects of a women's international organisation. The Research and Communications Intern will be expected to support the organisation in administrating the research and communications' side of work, both at the national and international levels.

This unpaid position is for minimum 3 days per week -depending of candidate, and it is expected a time commitment of 6 to 9 months. Interns can claim back expenses for food and travel to and from CAWN's office, up to £10.00 per day unless otherwise agreed.

To apply for this position please send your CV along with the Equal Opportunities monitoring form to Katherine Ronderos by email to: [katherine@cawn.org](mailto:katherine@cawn.org). When applying for this position please quote 'CAWN Internship' on your subject line.

#### **Ongoing Recruitment: Management Committee Members**

CAWN is currently looking for new members of its Management Committee who will be Co-Directors of the organisation.

CAWN Co-Directors provide strategic guidance and policy advice for planning and implementation its work at both national and international levels. They are legally responsible for and entrusted to control the resources ensuring these are

used effectively. Based on feminists' values, CAWN Management Committee works in a horizontal manner, reaching decisions through consensus.

A commitment of about 3-4 hours per month is expected in addition to the attendance of meetings. Co-Directors participate in occasional working groups on: Governance, Fundraising and Research.

This is an unpaid position. We expect a commitment of a minimum of 2 years.

**There is no deadline to apply for this position, but CAWN welcomes early applications.**

If you are interested in applying for this position please see our website for the role description and person specification: [www.cawn.org](http://www.cawn.org)

### **Ongoing Recruitment: Research and Fundraising Assistant**

The purpose of this position is to lead and support CAWN's fundraising efforts. This will include researching potential funding opportunities, drafting grants proposals and concept notes, and coordinating applications with partner organisations in Central America and Europe.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Research potential funding opportunities.
- Support the design and implementation of the organisation's fundraising strategy.
- Draft funding and grants proposals.
- Coordinate grants proposals submission process with the Management Committee, Women's Rights Programme Officer and Partner organisations in Europe and Central America.
- Assist in general administrative tasks as needed.
- Any other related work to the above.

This position is a part-time and fixed term position of 25 hours per week for 26 weeks. This opportunity is being funded through the Future Jobs Fund and to be eligible candidates must have been receiving the Job Seekers Allowance for at least six months.

**This is a trainee contract and currently the wage being offered is the National Minimum Wage of £5.80 per hour.**

---

**Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)**

## **Volunteer Latin American Psychologists/ Counsellors**

We are looking for Spanish or Portuguese speakers, to be part of our Counselling and Psychotherapy Team. If you are a qualified Latin American Psychologist or Counsellor, and would like to gain experience as a therapist on the fields of gender violence, this is a great opportunity for you to continue developing your skills.

Our Volunteers are very well supported to develop their careers in a very welcoming and professional environment.

**We provide:** Work experience in a well established NGO, weekly supervision, lunch and transport expenses and training

To apply, please send us the application form which can be downloaded from our website [www.lawrs.org.uk](http://www.lawrs.org.uk) and send them by e – mail to: Roxana Parra at [roxana@lawrs.org.uk](mailto:roxana@lawrs.org.uk) or for further information call us on 02073249807.

---

