

# women's support project

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WORKING AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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*Campaign sticker displayed in advance of Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.  
For further information please see [www.buyingsexisnotasport.com](http://www.buyingsexisnotasport.com)*



**WOMEN'S  
SUPPORT  
PROJECT**

**report 2009–2010**

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## Introduction

The Women's Support Project is a voluntary organisation, recognised as a Scottish charity. We aim to raise awareness of the cause, extent and effects of violence against women and children, and to support those affected by violence. We work across Scotland and main areas of work include support, training, public education, multi-agency working and strategic and policy development. In terms of support work we prioritise support for parents whose children have been sexually abused or exploited.

Our work is informed by a feminist analysis of male violence and an understanding of the links and overlaps between different forms of violence, discrimination and oppression.

## Support and Information

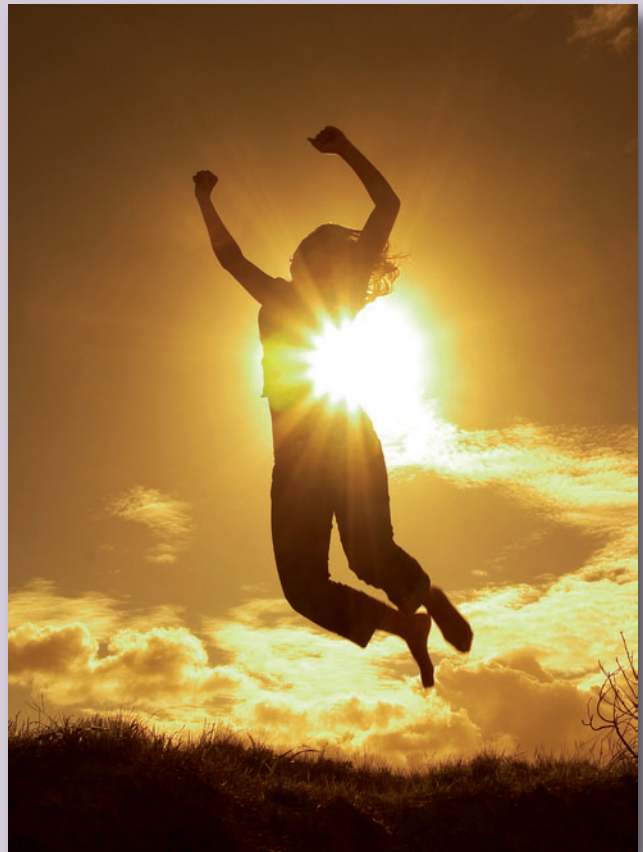
We offer an information service, which aims to help those affected by violence to find an appropriate source of ongoing support. This service is available by telephone, email or via our website. It is mainly used by women who have been affected by male violence, and is also available to family members, friends and supporters. We can provide access to written resources, including self-help materials, information on specialist or local support services, and make referrals as appropriate.

The Project can offer ongoing telephone or face-to-face support in the following areas:

- Support and advocacy for women whose children have been sexually abused or sexually exploited, or where there is risk of abuse or exploitation. This is a flexible service, including provision of information, intensive crisis support, ongoing telephone or face-to-face support, and long-term support. We may be able to put women in touch with another woman who has gone through a similar experience, for mutual support. This service is aimed at women, but we have on occasion offered support to fathers of abused children and we are currently looking into whether there is a need for more support for fathers.
- Short-term support for adult survivors of child sexual abuse and incest, for example for women who wish to report historical abuse to the police.
- Short-term support for women who have been abused through prostitution, pornography or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. This work is aimed at helping women with long-term recovery, rather than crisis work.

Our telephone information line is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am–4.30pm, apart from lunchtime, and on Wednesday from 2.00pm–4.00pm.

The Project holds a range of written resources on violence against women and children, and these are available on loan. Materials include survivors' writings; self help manuals, academic research, guidelines for good practice, group work, and materials suitable for children and young people. We have some resources aimed at men and boys who have suffered sexual violence, and for the partners and friends of survivors of violence.



## Training Service

The Project can provide awareness raising events, training, and seminars in your area, tailored to your specific needs. Topics include:

- Understanding gender and the causes of gender-based violence
- Domestic abuse and child protection
- Child sexual abuse – basic awareness
- Working with women whose children have been sexually abused
- Prostitution – the harm caused and how to respond
- Commercial sexual exploitation, including anti-pornography work

- The impact of sexualisation on children and young people
- Implementing routine enquiry on a range of VAW issues

In the past year we delivered training for a number of local authorities or Training Consortia, including South Lanarkshire, North and South Ayrshire and East Dunbartonshire.

We delivered a rolling programme of training on prostitution in conjunction with Glasgow Addiction Services, and coordinated a training programme for Glasgow Homelessness and Addiction staff. If you have an enquiry about training or would like more information, please get in touch.

## Public Events and Awareness Raising

The Project is involved in a range of public education work designed to raise awareness of the cause, extent and impact of male violence. In this year we held a successful seminar on responses to domestic abuse, featuring a panel of speakers from the United States.

In September 2009 we held our annual screen debate in conjunction with the Glasgow Film

Theatre, to mark September as 'Month of Action on Child Sexual Abuse'. The screening featured a story line from Eastenders, which focused on 'grooming' and child sexual abuse within a family, and was followed by a lively panel and audience discussion.

## Challenging Demand

This has been the second year of our 'Challenging Demand' post, which continues to work to raise awareness of commercial sexual exploitation as part of the spectrum of gender based violence against women, and to support and resource organisations to respond. Highlights have included:

- Aberdeen 'Making the Links' seminar – a one-day event on commercial sexual exploitation, with a focus on women involved in prostitution.
- Glasgow – a one-day seminar with Professor Gail Dines looking at the modern porn industry and its links into mainstream culture
- Inverness, Dumfries, Perth, Dundee, Inverclyde – a wide range of activity during '16 days of action against gender based violence'.

- Tayside – seminar aimed at parents. Work ongoing with Parents' Councils on broadening the understanding of issues related to children and young people.
- Glasgow – keynote speech and facilitated workshop with young women, as part of the excellent ROSEY conference for young people.
- Fife and Aberdeen – work with groups of young people on issues around 'coming of age in a porn culture'. It was really interesting to hear their views and see how their perceptions of gender and sexuality can and have been shaped by exposure within their own settings and communities to porn and sexualised materials.

- Input to National seminar for Sexual Health Improvement Officers and Public Health specialists, to inform the Public Sexual Health and Relationship strategy as it moves into phase 2 and focuses on cultural issues. The seminar focused on pornography as a public health issue. This work is being developed at local level and a further seminar is planned for the autumn.

- We also held a screening of the 'Price of Pleasure', an educational documentary film on the porn industry. This was its first showing in Scotland and whilst difficult to watch in terms of the levels of aggression, violence and degradation directed at women within the porn industry, it was worthwhile to identify what types of resources we need in Scotland to tackle the harm caused through pornography.

*The training was excellent, really useful, and the trainer was great, really energetic and passionate about the subject. Everyone learned a lot.*

*I feel despair but determination to redress the inequality and continue to challenge the demand and acceptance.*

*A fuller understanding of what we collectively need to do as feminists to challenge the dominant discourse surrounding pornography. It is damaging, exploitative and very regressive for women - not sexy, empowering or desirable as promulgated by the producers.*

*This all concerns me as I have two young daughters but it has made me more aware of the influences there are on them.*

## Ingrid McClements Memorial Award

This memorial award was established to commemorate Ingrid McClements who died in December 2008. Ingrid was an invaluable support to the Project and served on our Board of Directors for 10 years. The Award fund is used to organise activities in celebration of Ingrid's life and to commemorate her work. In 2009-10 the following awards were made:

- £2000 was allocated to the FGM Aware group for work to raise awareness of and to challenge FGM within relevant communities. A successful community event was held, and an inspiring showing of

the documentary 'Africa Rising' was organised in conjunction with Equality Now

- £500 was awarded to LGBT Youth to send representatives to a feminist conference, to inform development work with young people.
- The Memorial Fund contributed to the cost of a seminar to launch the Memorial Awards, with a theme of activism.

For further information and to make a donation, please see our website.

## Funding Appeal

This year has seen sweeping cuts to voluntary sector services as a result of the recession and reductions in Local Authority budgets. In December 2009 Glasgow City Council informed us that it could not provide core funding for our support service beyond March 2010. Naturally this is a blow, especially considering the dearth of specialised support in Scotland for women whose children have been sexually abused or exploited.

We will continue to work to identify alternative funding for our support service. In January 2010 we launched a fundraising appeal based on individual giving, and this will allow us to continue to offer support, albeit with reduced hours in the meantime. A HUGE thanks to the many people who have donated and/or ran marathons or similar! If you would like to make a donation, or organise a sponsored event, please see our website for details.

## Future Work: 2010–2011

Work in the coming year will include:

- Working with the Scottish Government 'Violence Against Women Team' to support implementation of phase 2 of the National Training Strategy. This will include developing a new online resource for training on

violence against women, and piloting a 'training for trainers' course.

- Supporting training and development work in the Western Isles, in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Forum.
- In-house and multi-agency training

## Summary of Accounts for the Period April 2009 – March 2010

Auditor Campbell Dallas

<b>Income from generated funds:</b>	17,558
<b>Income from charitable activities:</b>	
Grants	265,528
Training, seminars and conference	15,357
Other income	20,427
<b>Total income</b>	<b>318,870</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Charitable activities	237,455
Governance costs	3,744
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>241,199</b>

A full copy of our audited accounts is available upon request.

## Board of Directors

Karen Boyle, Katie Low (to October 2009), Rita Gowdie, Nathalie Ouriachi, Michelle Burman, Irene Graham (from October 2009), Susan Douglas Scott (from October 2009).

Very many thanks to all members of the Board of Directors who are very supportive of the work and who contribute their time, skills and expertise on a voluntary basis.

## Staffing

Resource Workers: Isabell Robertson, Amy Roch (up to September 2009)

Senior Development Officers: Jan Macleod and Janette de Haan

National Challenging Demand Development Officer: Linda Thompson

## Thank You!

Thanks to the following organisations for financial support:

- Glasgow City Council
- Scottish Government, Violence Against Women Fund
- Soroptomists Glasgow, University of Edinburgh Feminist Society, Hamilton Women's Aid, South Ayrshire Women's Aid, Dumbarton & District Women's Aid, Positive Action In Housing.
- All the individuals who have supported us through donations and/or regular standing order, and who have signed up to 'Gift Aid' so that the Project can reclaim tax on donations. If you would like to support our work in this way please get in touch.

Thanks to:

- Sean Feeny and staff at Hampden Advertising for long-standing support, and quality printing.
- Ken McIntyre of Campbell Dallas Chartered Accountants.
- And the many women and men who have supported and promoted our work.

## How to contact the Women's Support Project

Our telephone line (0141 552 2221) is normally open from 10.00am-4.30pm, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 2.00pm-4.30pm on Wednesday. See below for email and website details.

We are not able to offer a drop in service. If you would like to visit the Project, whether for support or to access the Resource Library, please write, email or phone to ask for an appointment. Our office at 31 Stockwell Street is wheelchair accessible by lift. If you require an interpreter and would like us to arrange this, please let us know when you ask for an appointment.

Copies of the Project's policies, including confidentiality, complaints, and child protection are available on request. If you would like to be added to our mailing list for information on events and training, then please get in touch.

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