

# Newsletter

Winter 2009

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## Strategic Advisory Group recent meeting Knockbracken Health Care Park

The Strategic Advisory Group has continued to meet on a quarterly basis. The November meeting welcomed Billy Stevenson from the NIO who discussed the **Women and Trafficking pilot project** that is currently being run in conjunction with Women's Aid.

Billy outlined the role of the NIO in relation to this area of work. The NIO organised crime branch is working in partnership with Women's Aid to provide services to women who are trafficked.

Male victims are supported by the Migrant helpline based in Croydon and Dover.

**Extent:** Small Numbers in N. Ireland at this stage, however the extent is difficult to define given the nature of the problem. Women, men and children are trafficked

**Fact:** Heinous Crime, Modern day slavery

**Types:** Abduction for;

- Sexual exploitation,
- Domestic servitude
- Labour exploitation
- Harvesting human organs

In Northern Ireland victims who are identified are offered a 45 day period of reflection when they will be provided with Support, Safe accommodation, Counselling, Health Care etc. They are required to assist police with their enquiries and are assessed by the UK Borders Agency and UK Centre for Human

trafficking based in Sheffield. If trafficking is confirmed they may be assisted in returning home or supported to remain in the UK. If they are deemed not to have been trafficked their status is assessed by immigration. This is a one year pilot project which will be reviewed early 2010.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*Welcome to the Winter edition of the Belfast area Domestic Violence Partnership Newsletter. Over the past six months the Partnership has continued to flourish with continued support and involvement from a wide range of partner agencies. The four working groups have met regularly, ably assisted and supported by the Partnership Co-Coordinator.*

*Margaret Kelly, and as can be seen from the Newsletter have continued to take forward a range of activities and developments in line with the Partnership's Action Plan. I would like to thank all of those involved for their continued support and commitment and I look forward to the Launch on the 26th January 2010.*

**Carol Diffin**

# MARAC

## The Northern Ireland MARAC implementation plan rolls out:

A 65% reduction in repeat victimisation has been identified in areas in England and Wales using MARAC

- MARAC Coordinator Jody Budd is now in post.
- PSNI have appointed 8 MARAC administrators who are based in the Public Protection Units of their 8 District areas
- MARAC training for staff involved in the fortnightly meetings has been completed by CAADA who have previously delivered the MARAC training in England and Wales.
- MARAC "Champion" training is now complete
- Roll out of further PSNI awareness training is planned by PSNI Training Units
- The Information sharing protocol to be signed off
- The MARAC documentation for use in N.Ireland is available on the CAADA website
- 8 Part Time Independent Domestic Violence Advisors posts will be created.
- It is envisaged that the first conferences will be held December/ January. PSNI anticipate a significant number of cases to be managed at each conference, guidance allocates 15 minutes per case.
- The risk assessment which is completed with a victim includes 27 questions for PSNI officers attending an incident.

<b>MAPPA:</b>	Multiagency Public Protection Arrangements
<b>PPANI:</b>	Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland
<b>ABWOR:</b>	Assistance by Way of Representation
<b>WNC:</b>	Women's National Commission
<b>WRDA:</b>	Women's Resource and Development Agency
<b>CO3:</b>	Chief Officers of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector
<b>SDVC:</b>	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
<b>IDVC:</b>	Integrated Domestic Violence Court
<b>RIC:</b>	Risk identification Checklist

## Partnership Diary Dates 2010



### **11 January 2010**

Protection and Justice Working Group meeting 12md at 30 Adelaide park

### **21 January 2010**

Development and Training Working Group meeting at 2.00 pm at 30 Adelaide Park

### **26 January 2010**

Launch of Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership  
Belfast City Hall 9.30am-12.noon

### **3 February 2010**

Strategic Advisory Group Meeting  
3.00pm at 30 Adelaide Park

### **9 February 2010**

Partnership Seminar on Workplace Policies in conjunction with Business in the Community  
Venue Clanmill Housing 12-200pm  
[www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)

### **17 February 2010**

Prevention Working Group Meeting  
10.00am at 30 Adelaide Park

### **2nd March 2010**

Partnership seminar on Workplace Policies at 30 Adelaide Park

### **24th March 2010**

Partnership Review and Planning day  
9.00am—1.00pm at 30 Adelaide Park

# PARTNERSHIP NEWS



## **Working Groups:**

The working groups are meeting regularly and the work plans as outlined in the Partnership action plan are progressing. Membership of the Working groups has expanded and strengthened over the past year. We now have .... Partnership members from a wide range of agencies.

Below is a brief outline of current activities and developments:

### **Prevention Working Group Geraldine Alexander, NIPSA (chair)**

- Model Workplace policy in final draft
- Focus group meeting and report re Workplace policies
- Training Seminar agreed for 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 with Business in the community re workplace policies.
- Group to consider arranging Partnership event re Workplace Policies

### **Training and Development Working Group: (Chair, Caroline Brogan Belfast Trust)**

- Directory of Services now ready for printing
- CD Rom currently being piloted, Evaluation to be collated in near future
- Training seminar 3/11/09 re Understanding the needs of Victims of Domestic Violence from Ethnic Minority communities. To be evaluated and plans developed to roll out this work
- Partnership Launch 26<sup>th</sup> January, application submitted to Belfast City hall for use of premises and Lady May-oreess to formally launch. Working group members were asked to hold this date in their diary(morning)

### **Support Working Group: ( Chair, Noelle Collins, Women's Aid)**

- Communication issues across agencies providing services for children have been considered. Staff exchange programmes/ shadowing now underway.
- Terms of Reference/ guidance developed for exchange programmes.
- Women with No recourse to public funds remains on agenda

### **Protection and Justice Working Group: (Chair, Paul Thompson PBNI )**

- Non Molestation Orders data reports shared and further detail being sought re number of ex parties orders granted.
- Response to the N.I. Funding Code consultation collated by the group.
- MARAC ongoing information and updating.
- Child Contact, discussions with QUB re possible research in this area.

### **Partnership Seminar 3rd November - "Understanding the needs of Victims of Domestic Violence from Minority Ethnic Communities"**

The seminar was attended by 25 partnership members from a range of agencies and facilitated by Celia Whitehorn who had delivered similar programmes for the Northern Partnership. Thanks to Cecilia and Northern Partnership chair Hazel Baird for their support with the event.

The aims of the Seminar included;

- To provide partnership members with an opportunity to explore the topic, including the additional barriers and hindering factors experienced by minority ethnic communities.
- To consider how the Partnership can develop an integrated response to domestic violence victims from minority ethnic communities on an interagency basis.
- To build the capacity of staff/ trainers to deliver similar workshops on the topic
- To consider how the programme could be adapted/ delivered in The Belfast area

The Training and Development Group are now considering the actions and evaluations from this event and planning the next steps in moving forward this work.

## Conference News

### *Plugging the Gaps*

On 1<sup>st</sup> October a workshop entitled 'Plugging the Gaps' was convened by Equality Managers within regional health and social care to look at issues faced by people with no or limited recourse to public funds and the dilemmas that service providers may experience, in the absence of guidance and governed by rules stipulated within Immigration and Asylum legislation.

The 'no recourse to public funds' rule adversely affects women experiencing domestic violence who also have insecure immigration status due to coming to Northern Ireland to join their settled partner. This is because women experiencing domestic violence who have insecure immigration status are unable to access protection, safety and support services because they have no recourse to public funds, i.e. they are unable to access statutory help for housing or related public funds for housing costs (housing benefit to pay the rent) or living expenses (benefits such as income support).



Speakers from left: Roisin Devlin, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Brian Dornan Director of Children and Young People's Services, Southern H&SC Trust; Les Allamby, Director, Law Centre for Northern Ireland; John Compton, Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation (H&SC); Noel McCann, Director of Co-ordination Unit, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety; Alphy Maginness, Director of Legal Services, Business Services Organisation (BSO); Sorcha McKenna, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Patricia Lyness, Women's Aid; (missing from photo is Bernadette McAlliskey, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme).



Conference organisers from left: Alison Irwin, Northern Trust, Lynda Gordon, Southern Trust, Suzanne McCartney, South Eastern Trust, Orla Barron, Belfast Trust, Colin Jackson, Belfast Trust, Hilary Sidwell, Western Trust

Refuge spaces would usually be funded by housing benefit and so they are either unable to access refuge or dependant on the Health and Social Care Trusts funding or refuges providing their stay.

As a result many women subject to immigration control are trapped with a violent partner. They face a stark choice: either stay within the relationship and risk their lives, and those of their children, or leave and face destitution or being deported.

The event was opened by John Compton, Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board for Northern Ireland and chaired by Noel McCann, Director of Co-ordination at the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety.

Speakers included Bernadette McAlliskey from STEP (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme), Patricia Lyness on behalf of Women's Aid Belfast and Lisburn and Roisin Devlin and Sorcha McKenna from Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Maurice Rooney Homelessness Manager from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Brian Dornan from the Southern Trust outlined the difficulties that service providers are up against in trying to help these individuals but going 'against the grain' of the provisions. The legal perspective was provided from Les Allamby from the Law Centre and Alphy Magennis from Legal Services within the Business Services Organisation.

The event was well attended by health and social care staff, Women's Aid, PSNI, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and Business Services Organisation. Speakers were provided a forum for lively debate and for real issues to be tabled and considered.

The Director of Co-Ordination at the DHSSPSNI has decided to convene a group to work on:

- the need for consistency within and across the various sectors;
- the provision of relevant guidance and training;
- the human rights dimension;
- issues relating to domestic violence; and
- the question of resources.



# Trade Union News

## UN International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women 25<sup>th</sup> November



**ICTU** *Clare Tracy joint chair of the Congress Women's Committee*

On the occasion of the UN International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women Congress launched a revised set of Guidelines for trade unions in order to assist women at work who are experiencing domestic violence.

Clare Tracy stated: "The workplace can play a key role on raising awareness about domestic abuse. We know for many women work is a place of safety where they may confide in others about their experiences and where they can access help" Congress and its affiliates have been campaigning over the last few years to ensure that domestic abuse is seen as an issue that unions can - and - should be doing something about for women who are affected by violence at home.

**NIPSA** *Geraldine Alexander Assistant Secretary (Branch Secretary circular 18th November 2009)*

The Day provides an opportunity for us to focus our fight against all forms of violence – whether it be domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment or human trafficking. It also gives us an occasion to raise awareness of this global scourge in all its forms, and to ensure that wherever it occurs it will be met with global condemnation.

It is NIPSA's policy to promote and campaign on behalf of all victims of domestic violence, at work or at home. In our efforts to confront domestic violence we continue to work with employers to get them to recognise that domestic violence is a workplace issue and to ensure a workplace policy is developed which will create a safe and supportive working environment which gives victims the confidence to come forward.

**Unite The Union** *Taryn Trainor Women and Equalities Officer (Press Statement 25th November 2009)*

"Unite the Union is very concerned that violence against women is increasing and we are committed to making it a campaign priority because domestic violence impacts greatly on a woman's working life. Many abused women suffer physical injuries, sleep deprivation, low morale, poor self-esteem and heightened anxiety levels, all of which draw attention to their performance and can lead to discipline, because of sickness and absence.

We are urging employers to be more sympathetic and aware that under performance and absence may be caused by women experiencing domestic violence."

She added: "The trade union movement is not going to resolve domestic violence but we can ensure that women experiencing it have a safer and supportive work environment. This can be done by encouraging employers to implement domestic abuse policies which support victims and signposts them to outside professional bodies for help. It is a welfare issue and victims should be supported by their employers with more flexible sickness/absence policies that recognise the issue which mostly affects women of all ages.

# ***News from home...***

## **Northern Ireland .....**

### **Women's Aid Federation NI commentary on PSNI Crime Statistics 2008/2009**

- **23,591 Domestic incidents**
- **9,211 Crimes with a domestic motivation**
- **1 Domestic related crime every 60minute**
- **PSNI responded to a domestic incident every 22 minutes of every day of the year**

### **New Restraining Order Powers (News Release NIO 30/09/09)**

Criminal justice Minister Paul Goggins announced new powers on the 30th Sept 2009 under the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act. The new rules will allow the courts to serve a restraining order for any offence even when someone has been acquitted in order to better protect victims.

## **South of the border....**

### **"Downturn is blamed for rise of violence in the home"**

Spiraling unemployment and plummeting family incomes have been blamed for an alarming spike in Ireland's rate of domestic violence.

The revelation came as a domestic violence study found that there has been a 27pc increase in incidents in just the first eight months of this year. Mna Feasa -- which is based in Cork -- admitted they have been shocked by the scale of the increase in domestic violence, which has seen their requests for help surge to 766 for January-August. That represents a worrying 27pc hike on the January-August 2008 figure.

The increase is being experienced by virtually all groups nationwide dealing with domestic violence and its aftermath. Women's Aid revealed it dealt with 15,000 calls last year and warned that poverty has led to many women being trapped in abusive relationships. Mna Feasa said they believe the worst is yet to come, as vulnerable Irish families are impacted by the deepening recession. *"Abuse has always been seen as a working class problem,"* she said. *"But the reality is that we have seen a huge increase in recent times of middle class women coming forward for help."*

Studies have indicated that around 20pc of Irish women suffer some form of domestic abuse, ranging from physical assaults to mental trauma or from financial neglect to sexual abuse. Irish independent 02/11/2009.

Mna Feasa said that one of the most disturbing findings is that, on average, a woman endures abuse some 35 times before they finally decide to seek help and support.

( Irish Independent 21/09/09)

# ***and abroad...***

## **The Plight of the Afghan Woman.....**

The vast majority of Afghanistan's population professes to be followers of Islam. Over 1400 years ago, Islam demanded that men and women be equal before God, and gave them various rights such as the right to inheritance, the right to vote, the right to work, and even choose their own partners in marriage. For centuries now in Afghanistan, women have been denied these rights either by official government decree or by their own husbands, fathers, and brothers. During the rule of the Taliban (1996 - 2001), women were treated worse than in any other time or by any other society. They were forbidden to work, leave the house without a male escort, not allowed to seek medical help from a male doctor, and forced to cover themselves from head to toe, even covering their eyes. Women who were doctors and teachers before, suddenly were forced to be beggars and even prostitutes in order to feed their families.

Some shocking facts:

- Every 30 minutes, an Afghan woman dies during child birth
- 87 percent of Afghan women are illiterate
- 30 percent of girls have access to education in Afghanistan
- 1 in every 3 Afghan women experience physical, psychological or sexual violence
- 70 to 80 percent of women face forced marriages
- 44 years is the average life expectancy rate for women

*(Abdullah Kazi, www.Afghan-web.com2/11/09)*

## **Right to Rape: is that what we are fighting for?**

This article explores the political situation in Afghanistan, their elections and the Afghans governments attitude to women. Some deeply shocking facts are outlined by the journalist below:

Up to 80 per cent, the organization Women for Women International found, are affected by domestic violence, and those brave enough to seek help are further molested by government representatives. Almost half of all girls are forced into marriage before 16, and some as young as 9.

In a survey, 47 per cent of Afghan women said that they needed their husbands' or family's permission to walk down the street. Significant numbers complained about their inability to go to school or work without permission (wages are one third of men's). Even more shockingly, an Afghan woman's average life expectancy is only 44 years. The maternal mortality rate is 1,600 to 1,900 deaths per 100,000 live births, meaning that one woman dies in childbirth every 29 minutes. In rural areas, the percentage of women who cannot access healthcare is as high as 90 per cent.

*(Melanie Reid, The Times, August 18th 2009)*

**Khaled Hossini** (author of "A Thousand Splendid Suns" and "The Kite Runner") says:

*"Today in post Taliban, post 9/11 Afghanistan there is talk again of liberating women, as there should be. The gender apartheid that has been forced upon Afghan women has been one of the great unresolved injustices of the modern world. Afghanistan needs its women. The whole project of rebuilding Afghanistan is doomed if the fundamental Human rights of women are not respected and its women are not allowed to participate."*

# News in Brief.... Research, Reports, Consultations and Resources



- Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan 2009-2010  
**[www.dhsspsni.org.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.org.uk)**
- Press/ news release from Minister Goggins at NIO re New Restraining Order Powers
- **[www.nio.gov.uk/new-restraining-order-powers-launched/media-detail](http://www.nio.gov.uk/new-restraining-order-powers-launched/media-detail)**
- NI Human Rights Commission “No Home from Home ” Homelessness for people with No or limited Access to public funds **[www.nihrc.org](http://www.nihrc.org)**
- Children and Families experiencing Domestic Violence: Police and Social services responses  
**[www.nspcc.org.uk/infom](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/infom)**
- Domestic Violence – Child Protection and the Impact on Children **[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)**
- New health taskforce to spot signs of violence against women  
**<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/health-taskforce-violence-women>**
- NHS Choices video for health professionals on domestic violence, available on the NHS choices website **[www.nhs.uk/video/pages/medialibrary](http://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/medialibrary)**
- National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan 08-09  
**<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/dom-violence-delivery-plan-08-09>**
- Safer lives: Changed lives A shared Approach to tackling Violence in Scotland June 2009  
**[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)**
- ‘The Way Forward’ - A call for action to end violence against women Mayor of London April 2009 **[www.london.gov.uk/mayor/crime/vaw](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/crime/vaw)**
- Restraining order powers to further protect victims of Domestic violence and harassment 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 **<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-vaw/>**
- Recognizing the co-occurrence of domestic and child abuse: a comparison of community- and hospital-based midwives  
Health and Social Care in the Community (2009) **17**(4), 358–370
- Partner Exploitation and Violence in Teenage intimate relationships, Report by NSPCC and University of Bristol. **[www.nspcc.org.uk/inform](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform)**
- Government launches study into Female Genital Mutilation Press Release 27<sup>th</sup> August 09  
**[www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recent](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recent)**
- N.I. Funding Code Consultation and Responses from Belfast D.V. Partnership and WAFNI, for copies contact [margaret@belfastwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:margaret@belfastwomensaid.org.uk)



# Research news

## OLDER WOMEN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: COPING WITH LIFELONG ABUSE

Although domestic violence in the second half of life is a common experience for approximately 15% of women aged over 55 years, little research has been given to the specific coping strategies of older women, who are experiencing, or have experienced domestic violence throughout their lifetime.



Researchers at Queen's University, Drs Anne Lazenbatt and John Devaney have bridged this gap by allowing 'older women' who are lifelong victims of domestic violence to tell their own stories about their experience of living and coping with abuse in Northern Ireland. The research which was funded by the Changing Ageing Partnership and Atlantic Philanthropies aimed to increase our knowledge and understanding regarding domestic violence against older women, as well as the views and experiences of professionals and service providers working to support older women. In all 18 women told their stories and narratives which provided a powerful picture of the lifelong domestic violence experienced by older women.

**Key findings** from the research indicate that older women are less likely to seek help due to social expectations and a lack of specialist services for older victims, and that they are more likely to resort to misusing alcohol and prescription drugs in order to cope, with significant consequences for their mental and physical health. Psychological abuse had the strongest impact on their physical and mental health such as long-term depression and anxiety (94%), the use of psychoactive medication (100%), and the likelihood of becoming a heavy drinker and experiencing alcohol dependence (22%).

The findings suggest that depression through the life-course may play some role in increasing the chance of becoming a victim of interpersonal violence, and may make it even harder to leave an abusive relationship. The majority revealed significant difficulty with coping and seeking help. Economic dependence and family support were cited as the most significant barriers to seeking support, or leaving an abusive relationship. Respondents cited serious lack of support from their GPs and the Police, as well as a lack of supportive programmes or settings that would allow them to 'tell their stories' safely and in private.

Complicating service delivery for older women was the artificial boundaries that have been created in the service sector. Protective service systems designed for elders have few methods for dealing with domestic violence among older women, while women perceived domestic violence shelters as being unfamiliar with aging issues and the special needs of older women, such as dealing with chronic illness, disabilities, or alcohol dependence and very few had separate programming targeting this group.

Professional's failure to identify the abuse that women are suffering in later life is related to assumptions that domestic violence does not exist for this age group, through sexism or ageism. There is a need for greater professional awareness and support services that cater for the additional needs of older women as their physical health deteriorates.

Development of services, support groups, and community outreach specifically suited to the needs and desires of older women who experience DV is vital, such as the use of preventive health care which would allow GPs the opportunity to screen and make referrals for DV during routine, non-emergency checkups. Professionals in all service sectors must more fully understand the help-seeking barriers that older victims face.

To this end, the research, practice and policy communities are challenged to replace myths and stereotypes about the nature and prevalence of DV among older people with research-based knowledge.

***(QUB Research Findings Summary: November 2009, Dr. Anne Lazenbatt and Dr John Devaney School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work)***

# Quotes of note....



**Professor David Berridge,  
from the University of Bristol:**

'It was shocking to find that exploitation and violence in relationships starts so young.'  
*(Launch of NSPCC /University of Bristol Report Partner exploitation and Violence in Teenage relationships)*

**Criminal Justice Minister Paul Goggins:**

'Domestic violence is a heinous crime and those who carry out such deplorable acts must be held to account for their behaviour'.

*(NIO launch of new restraining order powers Sept 09)*

**Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality:**

'Domestic violence is totally unacceptable. Since 1997 we have strengthened the law, increased sentences, and improved the way police, courts and the criminal justice system support victims of domestic violence, which has led to a 64 per cent drop in incidents of domestic violence. But we are committed to doing more'.

*(21/08/09 Press release re Restraining Order powers)*

**PSNI Chief Constable  
Matt Bagott:**

"Tackling Domestic violence is high on the N.I. Policing Plan"

*(Public meeting at Tullyglass Hotel November 09)*

**Jackson Katz PH D, Educator, author and filmmaker:**

'We need a whole lot more men involved in this work; we're not even close to having a critical mass of men involved for it to be culturally transformative. There is an ever-increasing number of men in the United States and around the world -- men of all racial, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds -- who are working alongside of women, learning from women, but working in parts of male culture where, historically, there has been very little work done. This is all part of a growing movement; there is no doubt about the positive aspect of it, but we've got a long way to go. This is a movement still in its infancy'.

*(MEF Marketing Director Kendra Olson Hodgson interview with Jackson Katz about his new book The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How)*

# noticeboard



## One-Stop Shop

Under one roof access for women experiencing domestic violence to:

Women's Aid Representative, Solicitor,  
Domestic Violence Officer (PSNI), Housing/Benefits Advice

**Crèche facilities and disability access available**

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid  
30 Adelaide Park, Belfast BT9 6FY  
Tel: 02890 666049 Fax: 02890 682874

## Useful links and numbers

### ***Useful sites:***

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid [www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

Housing Advice [www.housingadviceNI.org](http://www.housingadviceNI.org)

Children's Law Centre [www.childrenslawcentre.org](http://www.childrenslawcentre.org)

Northern Ireland Assembly [www.niassembly.gov.uk](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Policing Board [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)

Northern Ireland Office [www.nio.gov.uk/index/public-consultation/documents.htm](http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/public-consultation/documents.htm)

Amnesty International [www.amnesty.co.uk](http://www.amnesty.co.uk)

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People [www.niccy.org](http://www.niccy.org)

### ***Useful numbers:***

Women's Aid 24 hr helpline **0800 9171414**

Women's Information Group **02890 244119**

Northern Ireland Policing Board's Press and Public Relations Office **02890 408565 / 07801 738795.**

### **Articles and information for next edition to:**

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