

## **Annual review: Looking back over 2014/15**

**nia** is a London based charity providing cutting –edge services to end violence against women and children. Our services are developed within a feminist framework which places the responsibility for violence solely with the perpetrators of that violence whilst recognising the social context of male violence against women.

In the year between April 2014 and March 2015, we provided face-to-face support to **1,060** women and girls and delivered **1,200** hours of counselling support, plus responded to **2,145** contacts to the Information and Support Line and delivered training to **277** professionals:

- **243** women at high risk of repeated and serious domestic violence including homicide were supported by our **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy** services in Haringey and Hackney
- The **East London Rape Crisis Information and Support line** had **2145** contacts – **1533** contact by phone and **612** contacts by email - with survivors of rape and sexual violence/abuse, as well as family/friends of survivors and agencies enquiring on behalf of survivors in Barking & Dagenham, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest
- **East London Rape Crisis Independent Sexual Violence Advocates** provided practical and emotional one to one support for **105** women and **28** young women who had experienced sexual violence. The ELRC counselling service provided 1200 hours of **counselling support**.
- **Safe Choices** supported **283** young women and girls at risk of or affected by sexual violence, sexual exploitation and gang involvement, **29** through one-to-one intensive support work and **254** through group work and workshops.
- **The Ascent Advice and Outreach Service** supported **214** women through individual casework and workshops who had experienced recent or historic domestic and/or sexual violence
- **156** women experiencing domestic violence and abuse were supported through the **IRIS** service based in medical surgeries in Hackney
- **The Emma Project** refuge supported **10** women who have problematic substance use and were experiencing sexual and domestic violence, including 4 women exploited through prostitution; and a further **11** women through outreach provision and **10** women through group work.
- **Safe Choices** trained **277** professionals to better identify and support young women and girls at risk of or affected by gang association/involvement, sexual violence and sexual exploitation

## Feedback from women and girls included

*"I knew it was wrong, I felt it was wrong but I could not name it. I did not believe I could be raped within marriage he always said it was his right as my husband....my husband has been raping me"*

*"I feel so much more confident to speak to new people and speak out whenever, I feel like so much stress has been relieved"*

*'Solicitor contacted me just now and he apologised for his non efforts so I'm happy to accept that ( manners get you far) so all systems go... So once again thank you for your efforts and hard work... I wish I met you years ago ... Even though I still get angry n stuff but meeting you gave me a little bit of hope n you kept it alive ... If only the world was full of feminist ay.. Lol ... Have a good evening'*

*'I worked with Zoe from the nia project and she was honestly the only one I felt comfortable to talk to even once I had a case worker at the refuge I stayed in, she always checked in on me and gave me that time to just talk when I needed to get things off my chest, she was so supportive and always gave me great advise, Zoe arranged appointments for me with financial company DAME, Shelter, solicitors and even referred me to the refuge as I wasn't having much luck on my own, from the moment I received the call from Zoe I felt like I had someone on my side that understood what I was going through and I wouldn't have come this far without her, I am now so much stronger emotionally and have all the advice and procedures in place to live happy and most importantly safely at home. So thank you very much for the service you provide as this project and Zoe was the main support I had during the terrible experience I had.'*

*'Just wanted to say that your support these past months has been much appreciated. I've never been judged, questioned or doubted and for that reason I have complete trust in you all and I'm thankful for your advice and understanding.'*

And from professionals:

*"Good Afternoon, I am a Learning Mentor. I have had the pleasure of working with your organisation and especially Jessica. She has offered support guidance and information for a very fragile year 11. The girl in question had a lot to overcome as she has only been here since October so had a new school to contend with along with other problems. The young person has gone from strength to strength confidence has grown, attainment improved and my working day has gone smoother. Previously there has been a lot of tears and sick days off."*

*"As a follow up the generic "thank you" email, the 3 of would like to express our gratitude and thanks to you for the enthusiasm you brought to the events in your deliveries. Your deliveries were very inspirational and come as no exaggeration that many delegates have indicated they were the highlight of the event for them. Thank you for contributing to the success of the events."*