



delivering cutting edge services  
to end violence against women and children



**\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\***

## **nia's CEO, Karen Ingala Smith, granted a Fellowship of the RSA**

Congratulations to **nia's** CEO, Karen Ingala Smith, for being granted fellowship of the prestigious Royal Society of Arts (RSA). The FRSA is an award granted to people who are seen to have made outstanding achievements to social progress and development and Karen's award was made in recognition of her longstanding commitment to the women's sector, for providing vital services for women and children affected by domestic violence, and her work raising awareness of the issue of men's violence against women.

Founded in 1754, the RSA aims to share powerful ideas, carry out cutting-edge research and build networks and opportunities for people to collaborate, helping to create fulfilling lives and a flourishing society. Fellows of the RSA are elected by a panel of existing fellows who consider the nominee's merits, creativity and alignment with the society's ambitions. Fellows are permitted to use the post-nominal letters 'FRSA'. Karen joins a select group of around 29,000 fellows globally, who have historically included Karl Marx, Marie Curie, Charles Dickens and more recently, Helena Kennedy, Stephen Hawking and Dame Judi Dench

Karen has over 28 years' experience in the women's sector which encompasses frontline delivery, operational and strategic management, and governance. She's been CEO of nia since 2009. Under her leadership, **nia** has maintained an undaunted feminist commitment to providing woman-centred services during an unfavourable economic and socio-political climate. She has built upon **nia's** reputation for innovative and creative ways of responding to the needs of the women and children we serve and for championing an integrated approach to addressing all forms of men's violence against women.

She has been recording and commemorating UK women killed by men since January 2012 in a campaign called Counting Dead Women. This led to Karen and Women's Aid (England) creating The Femicide Census supported by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and Deloitte LLP. The census enables analysis of men's fatal violence against women, providing valuable data with the aim of contributing to understanding, challenging impunity and state failure, and ultimately the reduction of the number of women killed by men.

Karen is also a doctoral candidate on men's fatal violence against women at the University of Durham. She is a trustee of the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize and was awarded the Positive Role Model for Gender at the 2014 National Diversity Awards.

Karen said "It's a real honour to be nominated and granted fellowship of the RSA. Politically, I'm pleased to see feminist service provision and challenges to men's violence against women, girls and children being recognised as valuable rather than written off as ill-informed and extremist. Personally, I'm delighted that a feminist northerner from a working class background who born of a teenage mother will get a chance to bring my thoughts and experiences to the RSA.

Thank you to the RSA for recognising my contribution. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to contribute to the society's work and continuing try to make a better world for women and girls, particularly those subjected to sexual and domestic violence, including prostitution. There is still so much we need to do but critically there is lots that we can do!"