

Dear colleagues.

Please find below updates from across the teams.

This week's weekly update can be found here on Ada, as well as previous weekly updates [here](#).

Best wishes,

### **Research and Evaluation**

- Amber presented the updated On Track and Impact eLearning offer on Wednesday's all-staff meeting. The eLearning courses will be promoted externally from January 2024, but Women's Aid staff can access the platform now and book onto 3 courses we have made available for free. All key information about the courses available internally will be distributed in an engagement email and stored on Ada within the Learning & Development page of the People & Culture section.
- On Wednesday, Katherine presented the Women's Aid CYP Scoping Research results at the APPG meeting on children's online safety, looking at how misogynist behaviour is normalised online. Other panellists were: Rt Hon Sir Robert Buckland KC MP (Chairing); Lucy Emmerson, CEO, and Alison Hadley, Trustee, of Sex Education Forum; Dr Julia Slupska, Head of Policy, Research and Campaigns, Glitch; Baroness Beeban Kidron, Founder and Chair of 5Rights. Minutes will be shared on the Women's Aid website shortly.
- We are working with External Affairs and our sister federations on a proposal to support the Electoral Commission with increasing uptake of anonymous voting.
- Apologies to anyone who was keen to attend the December R&E induction that was cancelled. Our next induction session will be 1 February at 15.00.

### **Media, Brand and Relationships**

- This week, influencer and MTV's teen mum Mia Boardman debuted on our social media with a video about how to recognise red flags: watch her video on our TikTok [here](#).
- Lucy Hadley was quoted in Open Democracy this week responding to the Home Office - [Home Office accused of trapping women with abusers with £500 visa fee hike](#) - Lucy Hadley, the head of policy at Women's Aid, told openDemocracy: "Migrant women escaping abuse already face numerous barriers to safety, including severe challenges accessing legal aid for immigration advice. "This decision will make it even harder for them to leave their abusers."

## Direct Services

[Click here](#) to read this week's case studies.

- Nikki and Lisa have been continuing their work around safeguarding processes and met with Stacey to explore what a map of this process would look like and what FAQs have been coming up. This work is ongoing and we'll keep you updated in 2024!
- We met with the Media, Brand and Relationships team to discuss how our social media platforms can best signpost to Direct Services and how we ensure that we embed support for survivors throughout our communications.
- We've been working with our agency to move the Live Chat technical infrastructure and we're hosting a testing session this week to ensure this goes as smoothly as possible.
- **Recommendation:** [Little Eyes, Little Ears: Centering Children & Youth in GBV Work](#) is a new podcast series hosted by Dr Linda Baker. The inaugural episode shares reflections on how our understanding of children's experiences of domestic abuse have changed over the last twenty years.

## Finance and Operations

- **Bristol Office –**
  - **\*Reminder\*** - We operate a Clear Desk Policy at Brunswick Court, please leave the desk in a state for someone else to use it. It is not the cleaners' job to dispose of rubbish from desks or wash up mugs.
  - **\*Reminder\*** - If you have items delivered to Brunswick Court please be sure one of your team is present to take receipt and take the delivery up to our office. Items (particularly if they are large) should not be left in the foyer. [@Ops](#) team may be able to assist if given sufficient notice.
  - A Lloyds bank card found outside the gate of Brunswick Court, please get in touch if you believe you have lost yours.
- **Wi-fi Calling–** Please be aware (if you have a work mobile), that our contracts are enabled with WiFi calling, meaning that if you struggle with signal in your home you can still connect to calls using your home WiFi. To enable WiFi Calling, go to Settings > Phone > Wi-Fi Calling. Make sure Wi-Fi Calling is set to On.
- **Home Working –** Make sure you have completed a [Home Working Risk Assessment](#) to ensure your workstation has the optimum set up for good posture and minimal strain.

## Fundraising

- We are delighted that we've received lots of generous unrestricted donations in December, including:
  - £20,000 from Smurfit Kappa, who have donated around Christmas for the past few years.
  - A very generous legacy gift of £180,000 (with a further payment due in the future).
  - £35,000 from the Mill Charitable Trust following a successful reapplication.
- We are also really please that MOPAC have confirmed that they intend to award us a 'Call Off 2' Contract to support the Routes to Support rebuild (N.B. currently for internal information only - do not share).
- L'Occitane have confirmed that they will be donating £60,000 to support the Survivors' Forum. We are currently working with them on a plan for communicating about this, as well as hopefully planning some in-store fundraising activations too.

## **External Affairs**

- The Digital Team is working with Web Champions from across teams to review and edit their website pages, setting up the end of year mailing, scoping improvements for the Job Shop and briefing an agency to start competitor research for The Hideout.
- The Public Affairs team has been working with VAWG sector colleagues on a joint briefing for 2nd Reading of the Victims and Prisoners Bill, which will take place in the Lords on Monday, 18th December. The team has also been working on Women's Aid's stand alone briefing.
- The APPG on Domestic Violence and Abuse, which Women's Aid is the secretariat for, is hosting a meeting on the 13th December on 'Children and young people's online safety: How misogynistic behaviour is being normalised online'. We have a brilliant panel joining us which includes Katherine Dean from R&E, who will speak about our recent report on CYP. Colleagues can attend the meeting via Zoom, please register [here](#).

## **Policy**

- Monday was the deadline for submitting evidence to GREVIO to inform their baseline evaluation of the UK's implementation of the Istanbul Convention. We've coordinated a [joint shadow report with VAWG organisations in England and Wales](#), which 58 organisations have signed up to – including many of our members. We've also [written jointly](#) with the other federations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on shared concerns with the implementation of the Convention across the UK.

- Anat has supported a number of meetings with our Experts by Experience network today - the quarterly survivor/CEO meeting with Farah, our family justice sub group, and the final board meeting for the project to develop a Virtual Reality tool for improving family judges' understanding of DA and coercive control, which is being funded by the PCCs in Durham, Cleveland and Northumbria. Two survivors are also part of this project.
- On Friday, Izi and Farah will be visiting MK Act in Milton Keynes with the director and deputy director at DLUHC director responsible for domestic abuse.
- Colleagues in the Policy team have signed up to the Allyship weekly newsletter and are finding it very useful, this might be something other teams would be interested in subscribing to which you can do [here](#).

### **Membership**

- A site visit took place to one of our member services in the North East as part of their NQS; their innovative work was evident when visiting one of their new premises within a football community hub. Here they lead on their perpetrator work and family & friends work which enables them to gain huge footfall within a male dominated space! Amazing work.
- South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Service has met all of the recommendations from their Quality Assessment Panel and have now been awarded their NQS Stage One unconditionally and MK Act, Humraaz and Family Help Darlington have met all recommendations and been awarded Full NQS unconditionally.
- Membership hosted a webinar from ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) for our members to highlight the benefits of joining ACEVO. This included discussion on the challenges faced by CEOs in our sector. ACEVO are offering WA members a 20% discount on their membership fees. 14 members attended, with an additional 15 who were unable to attend the session and will receive further information by email.

### **National Training Centre**

- Jacqui delivered training to L'oreal over two days
- Jo hosted a webinar on the Understanding Domestic Abuse for the Rail Delivery Group
- Bianca delivered You and Me Mum (funded by What Works) to facilitators across the sector, who will lead this course for Mum's in their communities.
- Alongside this our talented training officers have been resourcing practitioners in the sector by delivering the certificate to three groups.

## **16 Days**

- Our 16 Days campaign was successful, with support from our patron Melanie Brown, our ambassadors and new influencers supporting during the period including Mia Boardman and Shona Manderson. Our most successful posts included Mel's quote and our launch post outlining the campaign, the costs and the importance of funding specialist domestic abuse services. Survivors were particularly engaged in our content, with lots on interest in becoming survivor spokeswoman. Many thanks to everyone who has worked on the campaign!

## **Opportunities for you**

- [Box Local](#) is a Bristol Based business offering gift hampers made up of locally sourced food and drink. They have created a discount code - CHOOSELOVE20 – for use by WA employees which will give you 20% off any orders. They are unfortunately no longer taking any December orders due to overwhelming demand but you may wish to use this in the new year to send a gift to friends/family.

## **Starters, leavers and vacancies**

- [Senior Events and Conference Officer](#) – Open closing date
- [Senior Community Fundraising Officer](#) – Closes 7<sup>th</sup> January
- [Fundraising Assistant](#) - Closes 18<sup>th</sup> December
- [ITT: Expect Respect Evaluation](#) - Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> December
- [Human Resource Business Partner](#) – Closes 21<sup>st</sup> January

*If you come across anything else that you think would be of benefit sharing with your colleagues, please email [engagement@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:engagement@womensaid.org.uk). All topics welcome.*