

Policy

- We hosted the second workshop on 'alternatives to procurement' with lawyer Julian Blake for local commissioners – over 750 of whom attended.
- On Thursday, DLUHC are hosting the next meeting of the by & for working group, which we're co-chairing alongside our by & for members – the meeting will seek to define the outputs and actions that the group will develop for the next National Expert Steering Group for Safe Accommodation.
- We're really pleased to hear that the MoJ are set to u-turn on damaging proposals to make mediation mandatory in the family courts – we have been highlighting how unsafe this would be for survivors and it's positive to see our advocacy has made a difference!

External Affairs

- The Public Affairs Team is celebrating a welcome government amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill which will remove IDVAs and ISVAs from the face of the Bill - this is a change that Women's Aid have been leading on due to our concerns that it underemphasised other important forms of specialist domestic abuse support that survivors need. The team is continuing their work on the Bill which began Committee Stage in the Lords this Wednesday. Preparations for an oral evidence session taking place on the 31st January that Women's Aid have been invited to by the Women and Equalities Select Committee on the cost of living crisis are also underway.
- The Digital Team is working on resolving event ticketing on the website and CRM with the help of an external developer. The team is also working on creating an accessible version of the Annual Audit as well as on updating the JobShop feature on our website, with newsletter mailings ongoing.
- Sophie co-hosted a webinar on the Flexible Fund on Wednesday ahead of its launch on the 31st of January. The webinar was attended by 373 people who asked 271 questions!

Direct Services

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

- Stacey KM and Stephanie are continuing to support the Flexible Fund for survivors by building the automation for both the flee fund and future fund ahead of the launch date on the 31st.

- Stacey KM attended a webinar on the impacts and legislation surrounding deepfake technology and how this is used against survivors. You can [catch up on the recording here](#).
- **Recommendation:** on February 6th and 7th, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children will be hosting a two-day virtual forum on being survivor-led in practice and supporting intersectional expertise and leadership in the GBV sector. [Register for free here](#).

Media, Brand and Relationships

- This week, our statement on the early release of Stephen Bear, following a conviction for so-called revenge porn received two pieces of coverage in the [Daily Mail](#) and another piece in [Glamour](#). Sarah Davidge was also quoted in The Observer (print), talking about what it means when your partner tries to control how you look.
- Next week, we are working on a number of opportunities, including an interview with ITV News on the official launch of the Flexible Fund. We are also working with our partner, TSB, on a possible print exclusive to coincide with Farah Nazeer, TSB and SEA giving evidence at the W&E committee. We are also continuing to develop an exclusive opportunity with Channel 4 News, focused on this year's Annual Audit.
- Teresa has been working with Women's Aid patron Mel B to discuss plans for International Women's Day and the release of the second edition of her book 'Brutally Honest' that mentions Women's Aid and includes a quote from Farah.
- This week sees the first of our survivor focus groups in collaboration with Sheffield University, to help shape the future of how domestic abuse is portrayed in the media and how journalists can improve practice when working with survivors. The first step in this project will be holding focus groups with survivors of domestic abuse who have either already appeared in the media or would like to raise awareness in the media, to talk about their experiences.
- This week we are saying goodbye to our Social Media Officer, Emma Hurrell, I know you will join us in thanking her for all her hard work and wishing her the best for the future

Research and Evaluation

- We have accepted the quote from our IT partners to start development work on the Abuse tab in the On Track system. The plan is for the new tab to be live in the system and available for services using Oasis On Track in the new financial year.
- External evaluators for the What Works Fund have been appointed after going through the recruitment process of the past couple of weeks.
- The team have been working with colleagues in other teams on the Flexible Fund, including putting together the application form which will be finalised very soon.
- The Statutory Duty Needs Assessment workshop has now been added to On Track and Impact eLearning. This workshop will assist services using On Track to collect and report on the data needed to support their local needs assessment, a new duty placed on local authorities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 4).
- Over 200 people have signed up to receive Women's Aid's Research Bulletin. The next Bulletin will go out at the end of January.
- On Monday, we officially launch the On Track and Impact eLearning platform to DA services across Engalnd. We re-designed our On Track and Impact workshop programme on [our new eLearning platform](#) to ensure our training is more engaging, cost effective, and accessible to services. We are really excited about this development; we are hopeful that this will become a valuable tool for our membership, and it will help support services across the sector with using On Track and evidencing and understanding their impact.

Membership

- We're really pleased to welcome Safiya Abdullahi to our team, who has joined as the Home Office Flexible Fund Administrator and will be working on the launch and ongoing management of the upcoming Flexible Fund, launching 31st January.
- Emily, along with Lucy and Lizzy, met with Transport for London to discuss opportunities for better partnership working and explore how TFL can provide support for survivors when travelling across London as part of the Rail to Refuge scheme. Additionally, Membership met with Rail Delivery Group to discuss our continued partnership for Rail to Refuge and how they are planning to celebrate the upcoming 4th anniversary of the scheme!
- Some of our team, along with colleagues from across Women's Aid and individuals from the Home Office, will be hosting the Home Office Flexible Fund webinar for members, delivery partners and other stakeholders. Over 330 individuals have signed up to learn about the Flexible Fund, its aims, and key information on how to apply.

