

Dear New member,

I'm writing to extend a warm welcome to our amazing federation. Since our founding, nearly 50 years ago, Women's Aid has always been there for women – serving as a beacon of hope. I am grateful and excited that you have chosen to join us on our mission.

The work we do has never been more prescient. Sadly, misogyny remains rife. Statutory services urgently need more comprehensive training to recognise and respond to violence against women and children effectively. Women are still frightened to walk home at night, while even more live in fear at home.

Against this context, we are so proud of our collective achievements: from our work – day in, day out – to help survivors on their journeys to safety, to our tireless campaigning, which has brought about major changes such as the criminalisation of coercive control; from supporting and empowering survivors to raise public awareness with their stories, to our work in schools, educating young people to recognise and call out abuse – we have a strong legacy, but also a long way to go.

Our members are central to everything we do, and we do everything we can to support your work, helping women every day live a life free of abuse. This includes quality and sustainability support, solidarity and networking facilitation as well as projects designed to assist survivors that we serve.

Whilst there is so much to be done, we know we are stronger, together. Our members are a lifeline for women and children fleeing abuse. And the Women's Aid Federation of England will be there to support you, celebrate you and together we will all work to bring about the day when domestic abuse is intolerable and no longer.

In sisterhood,



**Farah Nazeer**

Chief Executive