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Women's Support Project

AGM

Thursday 20th November 2003

6.30pm refreshments

7pm AGM

Tron Theatre
63 Trongate
Glasgow, G1

**We are delighted to welcome
Guest Speaker : Elaine C Smith**

Come along and support the project!

**For further information please contact
Isabell on 0141 552 2221
or email: isabell@wsproject.demon.co.uk**

Real Men Screen Debates

As always the Joint Screen Debates event with GFT was a great success. This year the event highlighted the abuse and murder of children in the care system.



Frank Deasy, writer of the television drama "Real Men", began with a synopsis of the first half of the film, followed by a showing of the concluding episode. The film depicts the experience of a young boy who is cared for by Leeds Local Authority whilst his mother is ill. Whilst in care he is abused by his care worker and social worker and witnesses the abuse and distress of other children.

A panel discussion followed the film and included Frank Deasy, Martin Henry, Child Protection, Christine McCarlie, Social Work, Detective Superintendent Graham Vance and in the chair, Jan Macleod, Women's Support Project.

Frank discussed the time constraints on drama and the inability to cover all aspects of abuse including the difficulties some children have accessing protection and the criminal justice system. All of the panel contributed to the discussion and ended with one recommendation that they believed could reduce the level of child sexual abuse.

- If it was made easier to access criminal justice system
- If there were easier routes for disclosure
- Proper partnership in the whole of society
- That it should be recognised that levels of abuse are on a spectrum and that individual cases are not treated as an alien experience.

**The newsletter is available on audiotape.
Thanks to the RNIB transcribing service for their assistance with this.**

**Women's Support Project, 31 Stockwell Street, Glasgow G1 4RZ
tel: 0141 552 2221 email: info@wsproject.demon.co.uk**

A woman's voice

You were concealed behind a kiss and a shy
smile

As hands touched me for far too long
Turn the other cheek, as you stand by my side
little girl

His chocolate brown eyes would
Make you melt, as the blood slowly trickled from
your face

And your hands were moist with sweat

And of the boys who became men
Of the men who became beasts
What do they hope to gain
Is it too late for us – and in death do we die in vain

What will happen now –
When I speak and form words
Spitting, grinding my teeth
If only to say 'No'

But I cannot stop living
There are no truths in death

And I will not hide – not from you.

Samantha

Both of these poems are taken from the revised publication "a september poem; a woman's anthology", published by the Childhood Sexual Abuse Month of Action Forum.

The book is a collection of writing from survivors of childhood sexual abuse and is a celebration of women's voices of strength and resilience.

The publication is available from the Women's Support Project library or copies can be purchased from the Month of Action Forum c/o the Women's Support Project.

In Bed with a Stranger

Darkness covers us both
Him the last one of my day
Come to me my little princess
Let me show you my golden sword
Money on the table
No questions asked
Hunger is a need
As I look at this stranger in my bed

A father's betrayal of an innocent's trust
Broken by a moment's thrust
No longer a princess
Me ruined by a monstrous touch
Money is all I ask
Using my sexuality as a mask
Victim upon victims
I go out hunting my prey
But it is me
I know it is me
Not wanting to be

Cycle of life, what life/
Mine was on empty
No love had I
Me, just a toy, a play thing
No treasure left
Lying raw, naked, totally opened
Inviting what pleasure the stranger can gain
So here I am
Turning a trick
Darkness not only covers us
But my soul

Gheni

This edition of the newsletter features quotes from Andrea Dworkin's "Life and Death". This publication is a collection of Andrea's writings exploring the connections between male power and violence and the continuing war against women. Using examples of Nicole Brown Simpson and Serbia, as well as her own life experience this is an unapologetic book encouraging the reader to explore areas we often try to avoid.



"Speech depends on believing you can make yourself understood: that a community of people will recognize the experience in the words you use and they will care."

Re-education programmes for men who abuse women partners: Monica Wilson

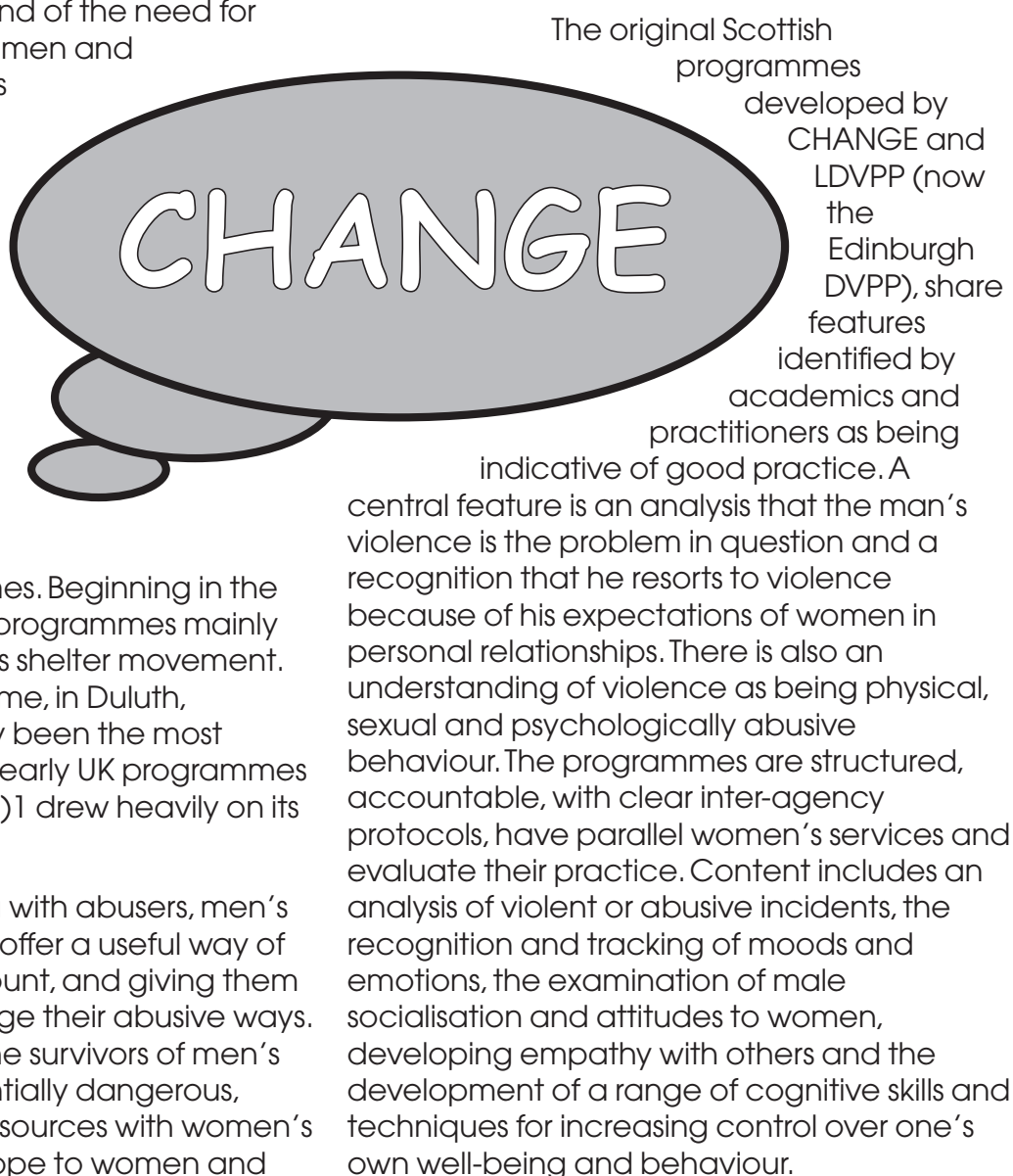
Monica Wilson, Director , CHANGE (Men learning to end their Violence to Women) Limited, & Chair, RESPECT, The National Association for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes and Associated Support Services

History tells us that the domestic abuse of women by men has occurred throughout millennia. In my lifetime, the main problem has been convincing both public opinion and government agencies of the existence and extent of the problem, and of the need for services to empower women and children. While much has been achieved on that front, the men who perpetrate abuse have until recently remained invisible and largely unaccountable for their behaviour.

The last fifteen years have seen a new development in relation to men who abuse: re-education programmes. Beginning in the US and Canada, men's programmes mainly grew out of the women's shelter movement. The US flagship programme, in Duluth, Minnesota, has probably been the most influential of all, and the early UK programmes (CHANGE, DVIP & LDVPP)¹ drew heavily on its work.

For practitioners working with abusers, men's programmes appear to offer a useful way of holding abusers to account, and giving them the opportunity to change their abusive ways. For some working with the survivors of men's violence, they are potentially dangerous, competing for scarce resources with women's services, offering false hope to women and

new excuses to men. Those of us who started to work in this field in the early days were aware of these legitimate concerns and sought ways to take them on board and build safeguards into our practice.



The original Scottish programmes developed by CHANGE and LDVPP (now the Edinburgh DVPP), share features identified by academics and practitioners as being indicative of good practice. A central feature is an analysis that the man's violence is the problem in question and a recognition that he resorts to violence because of his expectations of women in personal relationships. There is also an understanding of violence as being physical, sexual and psychologically abusive behaviour. The programmes are structured, accountable, with clear inter-agency protocols, have parallel women's services and evaluate their practice. Content includes an analysis of violent or abusive incidents, the recognition and tracking of moods and emotions, the examination of male socialisation and attitudes to women, developing empathy with others and the development of a range of cognitive skills and techniques for increasing control over one's own well-being and behaviour.

¹ The CHANGE Project began in 1989 in Central Region, Scotland. The Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP), in Hammersmith & Fulham, London in 1991 and the Lothian Domestic Violence Probation Project (LDVPP) in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1990.

"A new social truth is emerging, one that had been buried in fear, shame, and the silence of the socially powerless: no woman hurt by pornography was alone."

Men convicted of offences of violence to women partners attend the programmes as a condition of probation. This is considered an important safeguard for women and children as programme staff, criminal justice workers and the police can all co-operate in monitoring men's behaviour. In addition this method has an impact on the institutions which dispense justice. Their responses in turn influence the way that the community perceives this behaviour.

The effectiveness of both CHANGE and LDVPP men's programmes have been formally researched by comparing them with other criminal justice sanctions such as fines, probation and prison.² Change attested to by men was backed by evidence provided by women partners on the grounds that their accounts were likely to provide a more stringent test of any change.

The report is lengthy and cannot be reproduced here, but an important finding is that:

'a significant proportion of the offenders who participated in the men's programmes reduced their violence and associated controlling behaviour and their women partners reported significant improvements in the quality of their lives and their relationships with these men.'³

Following local government re-organisation in 1995, DVPP has continued to run the programme in Edinburgh. CHANGE no longer operates a men's programme, but has been funded by the Scottish Executive since 1999 to

deliver a National Training Initiative. The Initiative comprises training and consultation to Criminal Justice Services and partner agencies. It aims to promote effective practice in implementing and managing a men's programme. This crucially includes training in implementing related services for women partners.

CHANGE and DVPP are both founder members of RESPECT: The National Association for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes and Associated Support Services. Launched in March 2001, RESPECT

aims to support projects and practitioners, promote

best practice and encourage new developments.

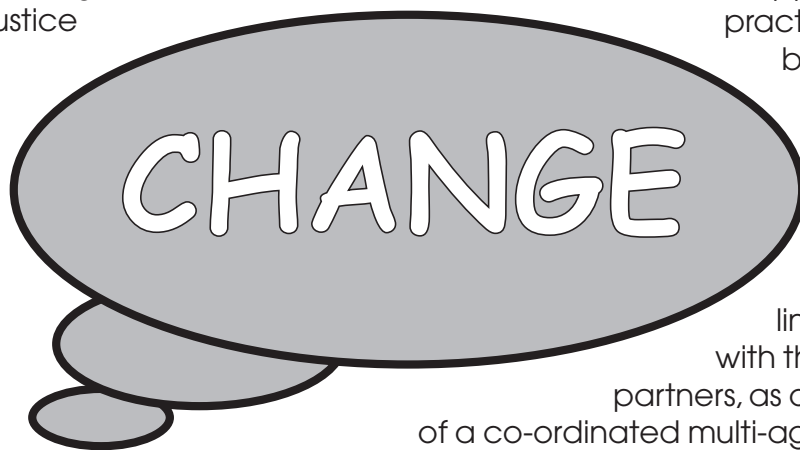
RESPECT sees intervention work with

perpetrators and linked support work

with their partners and ex-partners, as one important part

of a co-ordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse. RESPECT's code of practice 'Statement of Principles and Minimum Standards of Practice' sets out a best practice framework for the field that prioritises the safety of women and children.⁴ This has been endorsed by the group developing the Scottish Executive's National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse

The National Strategy also recognises that the criminal justice route will only ever account for a small percentage of men who abuse, and that there is a need to target men in different ways. A project in Edinburgh developed by staff from DVPP, 'Working With Men', is currently piloting a multi-agency route to a non-court mandated men's programme. Plans to develop something along the same lines are in the early stages in the Forth Valley area.



2 Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh & Lewis (1996) Research Evaluation of Programmes for Violent Men, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit, Edinburgh

3 Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh & Lewis (1996) p i

4 copies available from RESPECT, PO Box 34434, London W6 0YS, or from CHANGE's website www.changeweb.org.uk

State responses to domestic violence: Claudia Hasanbegovic

All the international legislation (treaties, conventions and declarations of human rights) passed since the 1990s have been particularly important to make the situation of women experiencing violence a matter of international public attention. Whether this legislation has improved the lives of women or not, is a matter difficult to measure.

Human rights have shown themselves to be difficult to enforce because, until recently, its interpretation and jurisprudence have focussed narrowly on violations committed directly by the state. This was rooted in the view that the "public" and "private" spheres of life are distinct and separate from each other, and with events within the private sphere of the home being beyond its jurisdictions. (Pickup et. al., 2001) The abuse of power and the political sphere have been defined in terms of men's experiences of subjugation from the State. These definitions have excluded other situations of oppression, namely male domination, in which the experiences of half the human race have been left excluded. Therefore, both the conventions and the interpretation of human rights law have been characterised by gender bias, which has made human rights law difficult to enforce. However, since the 1990s and thanks to the positive impact of the international women's movement, women's human rights and the State responsibility for tolerating male violence against women in intimate relationships began to be unveiled and addressed.

The convention on the Elimination of Violence against Women, enacted by the UN in 1979, is the major women's human rights treaty. In 1992, general recommendation 19, adopted by the committee on the Elimination of discrimination against Women at its eleventh session (para 124, c), stated that domestic violence is the main obstacle to eliminate discrimination against women in society.

Since 1993 onwards gender bias in international human rights law have been challenged to illuminating the gendered forms of violation of human rights, and the unequal situations and access of power in which women and girls are located in society. Gender Specific international legislation was passed to achieve this aim.

As positive changes take place within Japan and Argentina, it emerges the role that the UN mechanisms play in monitoring and enacting women's human rights internationally. The UN is functioning as an outsider's force that facilitates the empowerment of the women's movement inside the countries, helping them to make their demands heard by their governments. The UN

Mechanisms, in particular since the enactment of the CEDAW Protocol, are offering individual women and

organisations the means to make their governments accountable for the violation of women's human rights when there is a pattern of constant failure on investigating and prosecuting violence men who commit crimes against women.

I have spoken to women from countries such as Argentina, Cuba, Bolivia, Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom about their experiences with violence. The similarities I have found across borders are: A) discrimination against women. B) The state responsibility for violation of women's human rights in the private sphere. C) Cultural expression that correspond to each country. D) and, I also found that the Cuban response to domestic violence is the only case, which shows a pattern of positive state intervention, which seems to control the crime of domestic violence and prevent further harm. I will expand more about this point below.

Discrimination against women appears at different levels (such as personal ideology, socialisation in the family, ideas about women and men, and in terms of women's access to economic independence).

The state responsibility before international human rights law emerges when there is a pattern of constant failure of the state on controlling the crime of male violence against women in intimate relations. This can also be seen as a lesser degree of democracy, because the state leaves women without concrete legal protection against intimate violence, and, intimate and sexual violence are the most common violent crime women are at risk of.

The discrimination against women conceives them as inferior to men, and as less human, and men as superior to women and parameter of humankind. This ideological difference, gives men the belief they can inflict violence upon women to achieve their goals. The constant failure of the State (police and courts) to challenge male violence, prosecute them as real offenders, and prevent further violence sends a message to violent men, battered women and society in general, which reinforces the discriminatory ideology, and some men's beliefs of their entitlements to use violence against their female partners.

The discrimination against women is so much naturalised that even when special services for



"So when you accommodate, when you compromise, when you turn a blind eye, you are collaborating."

domestic violence are put in place, many times they did not take women's words and worries seriously. The low level of conviction sentences of those crimes of domestic violence reported to police showed that only 0.5% of all cases of domestic violence reported and prosecuted have a conviction sentence.

This kind of discrimination translated into political rights means a lesser degree of citizenship, because it puts obstacles to women to access justice, to exercise their civil rights. In addition, Discrimination in this field, translated into human rights practices, implies the state violation of international human rights laws.

The different cultural expressions make the current global responses to domestic violence difficult to enforce. Different cultural expressions of domestic violence means that, although the core of male violence against women is to control, dominate, and /or punish women for not doing what the perpetrator wants them to do, the way in which violence is expressed has particular cultural connotations, which have to be addressed differently. For instance, the practice of acid throwing in Bangladesh is a phenomenon of male violence against women, usually by a man who wants to marry a woman and she has not accepted him, or who has decided to leave the relationship. The "rejected" man throws acid on the face of the woman so she becomes malformed and no other man would like to marry her. The same ideology has been expressed by some male intimate partners in England against their female partners, but using a kettle and hot water poured on the woman's face, "if you will not be mine, you will be no-ones".

In a different form, but also stressing in the cultural (amongst other) differences, the Cuban case that, I have been researching since 1993, and I include in my book and my Phd, illustrated the abovementioned point. In Cuba, both high rank officials, professionals assisting battered women and women themselves rejected the idea of the creation of refuge for battered women. They considered that, to ask a battered woman to leave her house and hide from her assaulter is a sort of punishment, and that men should be arrested and punished, and women protected in their own homes. They also suggested that the society, the community, the family and the state have to protect women from violence. In addition to this, my studies in Cuba gathered evidence of a pattern of investigation, and prosecution of violent males which, empowered women who experienced domestic violence. Thus, when the UN Special Reporter on violence against women recommended the opening of shelters for battered women in each province across the country (UN, 8/2/00), the Cuban government rejected those recommendations saying the

recommendation was an attempt to transfer a foreign system to the country, without having explored whether Cuba needed it or not (UN 8/3/00). Yet again, that report, having recommended the enactment of a DVA, opened up space for debate, and legitimated the research on whether legal reforms were in need or not. This new space was employed by some Cuban women scholars to put their ideas forward. Interestingly these women have requested to further their protection (e.g. to include arrest for verbal abuse or non-severe physical violence), and changes in the defence rather than promoting radical changes in the Cuban legislation.

Particularly in my Phd comparison of the State response to domestic violence in Argentina and Cuba, I found that Argentine women spent an average of five years of their lives after leaving the violent partner enduring their partner's continued harassment, and/or assaults. When asking the State to intervene, they made on average 22 contacts per woman. With police officers, judges and lawyers, they neither saw the State intervene to challenge or stop their partner's violence. In striking contrast, the Cuban women, had to spend only three months enduring harassment after leaving violent partners. These three months were the time they used to ask the police and/or the court to intervene, they made an average of 2 contacts per woman, and all of them managed to have the violence definitely stopped because the State challenged their violent partners. The Cuban response is original and has departed from a different approach than most of the current global responses to domestic violence. The Socialist revolution which began in 1959, aimed to tackle discrimination and achieve women's equality in society. This is the reason why the words "domestic violence, wife abuse and rape in marriage" are not common language in the Cuban legislation. Yet, it is the enforcement of gender-neutral laws without discrimination that makes the Cuban criminal response so unique.

Claudia is an Argentine lawyer, MA in Women and Development (Holland) and has recently completed her Phd in Social Policy, "Love and the State: Argentine and Cuban responses to domestic violence" at the University of Kent at Canterbury (UK). Publications include *Violencia Marital en Cuba, Principios Revolucionarios versus Viejas Creencias (Marital Violence in Cuba, Revolutionary Principles versus Old Beliefs)*, published by the University of Kent at Canterbury, 2001. And, a joint chapter with Prof. Jan Pahl, in *Global Family Violence*, Polity press, Cambridge, *Social and Public Policy Responses to Wife Abuse in Argentina and Cuba (CESLA, No. 3, 2002)*, *Love and the State (CESLA No. 5, forthcoming)*, *Cruel but not Unusual, Trouble and Strife*, 1999. To order a book, email : claudiniah@yahoo.com.

"Nothing that we have done for women who have been raped or battered has helped women who have been prostituted."

Military budgets make us killers and rapists: We must refuse, we can refuse, we are refusing, by Payday*



*** Payday is an international network of men working with the Global Women's Strike. For more information see our Refusing to Kill website: <http://www.paydaynet.org>, contact us at payday@paydaynet.org**

Global Women's Strike

Email: womenstrike8m@server101.com

Web: <http://womenstrike8m.server101.com>

Stephen Funk, the gay American marine who refused to fight in Iraq, said that having to shout, "Kill! Kill!" as he was trained to slash with his weapon, made him realize he had to leave the military. He had joined the military as many men and women do in the US: as a way out of poverty. As a man of colour, his choices were even fewer; statistics show that for a man of colour one 'choice' is often jail. What he did not expect was training aimed at making a killer out of every soldier.



rape without asking questions. The world's governments invest a lot of money in this task. Military budgets amount internationally to \$900 billion, with the US accounting for half of it. Clean water, food security, education, housing, hospitals, access for people with disabilities, affordable transport and more could be created for everyone in the world with a fraction of that amount. Women and children pay the most for this monstrous choice of priorities. Women are left to pick up the pieces of our communities, forced to make up in work for the devastation caused by bombing: pollution and destruction of infrastructure and resources.

The Global Women's Strike (GWS), in which women in over 70 countries all over the world take part every 8 March since the year 2000, highlights this obscenity when they demand: "Invest in caring, not killing." This is not a rallying cry only for women. Wars equal more poverty as well as death for everyone – an awareness that is catching like wild fire in all sectors of society, as the most recent anti-war movement has shown.

Military training to rape

The training is felt in homes as well as barracks: violence against family members in the US military rose by nearly 50% between 1990 and 1996. Marital aggression is considerably higher than civilian rates, up to five times as much. Yet 75–84% of alleged offenders are honourably discharged. Thirty percent of women veterans in the US reported sexual assault during active duty. The amount of male rape going on in the military is gradually becoming known.

In wars, we have seen the high echelons of the military and the politicians belittle as "collateral damage" the women and children who make up 70% of the casualties of war and the majority of refugees, referring to the violence against them as a "mistake". It is an established fact that soldiers are encouraged to use rape as a weapon of mass destruction of entire communities' souls and bodies.

\$900 billion/year wasted on the military

"We'll make a man out of you." The military means by this someone who will kill, maim and

Economic training to rape

More poverty for women means, however, that they are even more dependent on men for their children's survival and their own. And as men have more power over women, so men's violence against women increases. Military budgets and the poverty of women that it creates, make men potential rapists.

No one can afford to ignore this division between women and men within and outside of the anti-war movement. If we do not confront it, the movement is weakened and we are all in greater danger. We must not accept that violence against women (and men) is only something done by some men in uniform out there and far away. Such a narrow view hides the level and the extent both of violence and its refusal by men inside and outside the military.

Refusing to rape

When Payday established the "Refusing to Kill" website, we wanted to contribute to the anti-war movement by drawing on our long experience of working as men against rape and other violence, including military violence. In

"The men who use women as prostitutes ... take women who have been sexually molested as children, who are poor, who are homeless, who have no help or solace in this society and they use them."

1977, Women Against Rape held a public trial of the military-industrial complex and the judiciary in Trafalgar Square, London. Among other issues highlighted they protested against the 6-month suspended sentence of Guardsman Holdsworth, a convicted rapist whom the judge did not send to jail since that would have ruined his military career. WAR urged us to support their initiative and Payday issued one of its first public statements, as men who refuse to be turned into rapists, who refuse to do the dirty work on behalf of the military and politicians, against women, at home and abroad.

Payday joins the GWS in posing some questions that all men should ask ourselves: why should men become what the military and the State want us to be? Do we want to be robbed of our individuality and of our possibilities of relating humanely to women, children and other men? Do we want to be shoved into a uniform (it means "flat and equal" – remember) and kill other human beings? Do we have to accept that half the population is trained to care and the rest trained not to care? Do we want to be carers or do we prefer to be killers and rapists?

Getting together to defeat war and rape

The GWS has organized a picket for several days a week since before the bombing of Iraq in Parliament Square in London, where over two years ago Brian Haw established a 24-hour peace camp. They face ongoing harassment, from police and MPs, and physical violence by pro-war people. Payday has joined the picket and learnt a lot from those who have participated: mothers, lesbian and gay, people of colour, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Iraq and many African and Asian countries, prostitute women, rape survivors, ex-soldiers, fathers, conscientious objectors, waged workers, students, schoolchildren, religious people, and Jewish people who are anti-Zionist.

We have united with many others from all over the world to challenge the US-UK governments who have lied and bullied their way to an illegal war for oil and world military domination. We are part of the growing movement of "refuseniks" – soldiers who refuse to be soldiers – and civilians who oppose war and rape by any means necessary. We add our refusal of sexism in and out of the anti-war movement to the many other refusals we need to defeat the warmongers.

16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women

... between the 25th November and the 10th December has been designated as 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

These dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against women and December 10, International Human rights Day, were chosen in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that violence is a violation of women's human rights.

During this time organisations across the world will mark the days with activities, conferences, marches, publicity campaigns all highlighting the global extent

of gender violence. These 16 days include World Aids day on 1st December, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre on 6th December and International Human Rights Day on 10th December.

Glasgow 2003

This year Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership will be co-ordinating a series of citywide events to mark these 16 days of action with a theme of 'Violence Against Women and the Arts.

Most events will be free of charge, taking place in a variety of settings including libraries, Gallery of Modern Art,

Borders Bookshop and other venues. Information will also be available on Glasgow City Council's and Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership Websites.

If you would like to be involved in the activities or would like further information please contact:

Jim Dunsmore, Glasgow Community Safety Partnership
Tel: 0141 287 7257
Email: jim.dunsmore@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

Jean Murphy, Chief Executive Department
Tel: 0141 287 5914
Email: jean.murphy@ceo.glasgow.gov.uk

"We have to be the women who stand between men and the women they want to hurt."

Supporting Child Witnesses Guidance Pack

The first two sections of the Supporting Child Witnesses Guidance Pack are now available. This pack is being produced in response to the recommendations of the Working Group on Child Witness Support, which was established in 1995.

Guidance on Interviewing Child Witnesses in Scotland "...starts from the premise that every child has a right to protection from harm, abuse and exploitation", and covers every stage of the interview from planning to closure, incorporating the needs of children with special requirements.

From the outset the document is clear that there are two types of interviews, the formal investigative interview and "therapeutic" interviews. The pack is aimed primarily at police and social work services as the main practitioners within investigative interviews, however the principles behind the guidance can be adapted to any organisation and advises that if a child does make a spontaneous disclosure the receiver of the disclosure should;

- i) **listen and support the child;**
- ii) **make a written record of the child's remarks in their words as soon afterwards and as accurate as possible; and**
- iii) **seek help from the appropriate agencies.**

Throughout the document the main emphasis is on the needs of the child, therefore familiar reference to the age and gender, race and culture and abilities are included. There are useful practical guidelines which are not only included to ensure the comfort and protection of the child, but also to ensure recording and information from the practitioner is accurate. This includes attempts to reduce the number of interviews the child is involved in by joint interviews, which also allows one practitioner to take the lead role whilst the other is available to observe the child's body language and replies.

Attention to the actual questions included in the interview is particularly detailed. The use of open ended questions is recommended although circumstances may require closed questions, for example with children with special needs. It is

recommended however that these are followed by open ended questions to encourage the child's spontaneity. The document also discusses the difference between leading and misleading questions and how a leading question based on what the child has already spontaneously said may be appropriate at times.

Guidance is also given to the use of props and ensures a child sensitive approach. In particular it strongly discourages the use of children's own, comfort possessions as examples during the interview, such as to indicate which part of the body the child was touched.

The second document "guidance on the questioning of children in Court" outlines the duties of the courts and practitioners in not only protecting the child, but also

ensuring the trial is fair and comprehensive. Advice is also given on how to prepare children from a court appearance.

All in all both of these documents provide vital information not only to those investigating crimes and calling children as witnesses, but also to services who are supporting children.

The main approach of the pack is to ensure the rights of the child, as outlined by the UN Convention and the children (Scotland) Act 1995. It is emphasised that;

"Each child should be treated as an individual with their own unique experiences. Children should be kept informed throughout the process, ie understanding people's roles, being made aware of any potential interviews in the future."

Explicit groundrules should be established with children before interviews take place.

The child's needs should determine the pace of not only investigative interviews, but also court proceedings.

This is the beginning of an essential pack for any practitioner who has the potential to be involved with children going through the criminal justice system. Copies can be requested from the Scottish Executive. Contact Susan Bolt on 0131 244 3883.



"Pornography plays a big part in normalizing the ways in which we are demeaned and attacked, in how humiliating and insulting us is made to look natural and inevitable."

Women's Support Project

Library Resources

"Defining Violence", edited by Hannah Bradby, introduces the subject of violence through the writings of a wide variety of people. Activists and academics contribute their thoughts and experiences through subject areas ranging from street prostitution to war. This publication offers insight to a wide range of violence, but essentially links them all through difficulties experienced in definition..

Hannah begins by stating that, "The definition of a problem determines the solutions that are considered". She suggests that there are two features which prevent a clear understanding;

- the view that violence consists of one person's force against themselves or another
- that this is intentional

This she argues can confuse not only the reasons for violence, but also how to prevent or stop it.

Subjects covered in the chapters of the book include;

- Working against violence against women and children
- Public place, private issue? The public's reaction to the Zero Tolerance campaign against violence against women
- Violence and vulnerability: conditions of work for streetworking women

These three chapters in particular explore violence against women and children and the role of male power. They are an excellent

historical overview of subjects which we are now so familiar with, and from which we can learn so much. The impact of attitudes towards women in general combined with a societal desire to blame women for the violence perpetrated against them and their children are highlighted as amongst the key challenges to the defining the violence.

The book expands to include:

- Violence in the States
- Numbering the dead: counting the casualties of war

Which looks at an experience of violence which is wider than we generally have in Scotland.

This book is particularly relevant today. What was an acceptable definition of violence yesterday has become less acceptable as we recognise the suffering of those who were previously ignored or invisible. Currently in Scotland, in particular Glasgow, we are witnessing a growing diversity in our communities with the arrival of Asylum Seekers. Along with their abundance of skills they carry with them their experiences of conflict, rape and unsympathetic immigration laws. Now more than ever we must reassess our definitions of violence to ensure services are adequately provided for the needs of women and children from a variety of backgrounds who have experienced violence.

Available on loan from the Women's Support Project Resource Library.

Women's Support Project: Autumn Training Programme

Increasing women's confidence – Thurs 13th Nov 2003

Explores issues around self-confidence and esteem, giving support, practical exercises and ideas to build confidence in women.

Raising awareness of the harm caused through prostitution – Tues 18th Nov 2003

The day will look at prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, the links with other forms of male violence and current approaches to this issue.

Sexual abuse and homelessness – Tues 25th Nov 2003

Introductory workshop looking at the issues around working with survivors of sexual abuse who are homeless.

Women, violence and the law – Tues 2nd Dec 2003

This course will provide an overview of the key areas of legislation and legal procedure which impact on women who have survived domestic abuse or sexual assault.

"We understand that men do things they do not like in order to earn a wage. When men do alienating labor in a factory we do not say that the money transforms the experience for men such that they loved it, had a good time, and in fact, aspired to nothing else."

Noticeboard

Women's Support Project

Resource and Information
Sessions
will be available the

**1st Wed of each month
2pm**

Next Session Wed 5th November 2003

Please phone if you are interested in
attending

**For further details contact Isabell on
0141 552 2221 or
email isabell@wsproject.demon.co.uk**

Rape Crisis Scotland

the national office for rape crisis and
sexual abuse centres

has moved to

**1st Floor
Central Chambers
93 Hope Street
GLASGOW
G2 6LD**

Tel: 0141 248 8848

Fax: 0141 248 8748

Email: info@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

Website:

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

**Want to brush up your reading,
writing, spelling or numbers?**

YWCA

is running **free** courses starting at the
end October 2003

**For more information contact Glasgow YWCA,
3 Newton Terrace, Sauchiehall St, Charing X,
Glasgow, G3 7PJ. Tel: 0141 248 5338**

Scottish Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation

- Works to raise awareness of the harm caused to women through prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, including stripping, lap dancing, pornography, sex tourism, mail order brides, and trafficking for the purposes of prostitution.
- Campaigns for legislative change necessary to reduce the harm caused through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation; remove current gender inequality in the law; challenge the behaviour of men who buy sexual services.

The coalition takes the view that prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation are part of a spectrum of men's violence against women and children, which includes incest, rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence. There are clear links between issues such as childhood experience of abuse and neglect, domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, addiction and women's involvement in prostitution.

**If you would like more information of the
Coalition please contact Jan at**

**Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation
C/o Women's Support Project
31 Stockwell Street
Glasgow
G1 4RZ**

Email: jan@wsproject.demon.co.uk

"There is a tyranny that preordains not only who can say what but what women especially can say ... a tyranny in which people are kept from being able to say the most important things about what life is like for them."

Noticeboard

Helpful websites

<http://www.paydaynet.org>

Payday is an international network of men who organize with the International Wages for Housework Campaign (IWFHC). It is a grassroots organization which focuses on the unwaged work done by women, children and men and on campaigning for the recognition and payment for this work.

<http://www.changeweb.org.uk/>

CHANGE was established in 1989 to meet a recognised need for a means to challenge and change men who are violent to women.

<http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/>

The Women and Equality Unit (WEU) has lead responsibility within Government on policy on women, gender equality, sexual orientation and the co-ordination of equality.

<http://govanlc.com/index.html>

Govan law centre (GLC) is an independent, charitable community controlled law centre operating in Scotland

<http://womenstrike8m.server101.com>

Website of Global Women's Strike. Provides a wealth of information of women's position throughout the world.

The Women's Support Project is not responsible for the content or accessibility of the websites suggested, as this is for information only.

Women as abusers Opening the debate

Conference organised by Eighteen and Under

Wed 26th November 2003
West Park Conference Centre
319 Perth Road, Dundee

Contact Eighteen and Under on 01382 206222
or email Anne18u@aol.com

Responding to the Voices of Women, Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Scottish Women's Aid Conference to review
what has been happening in Scotland at a
national and local level

24th November 2003

Edinburgh Conference Centre
Heriot Watt University, Riccarton Campus

**For further details contact Heather Williams at
heather.williams@scottishwomensaid.org.uk or
on 0131 475 2372.**

Newsletter Contributions Welcomed!

The Women's Support Project wants the newsletter to be as representative of women and children's experience of violence as possible. If you have news or views to share, or would like to suggest a topic for future issues of the newsletter, then we want to hear from you. Send us 800–1000 words on any topic relating to violence against women and children that you feel strongly about. It could be poetry or prose, fact or fiction. We particularly welcome contributions from survivors of violence. The newsletter is produced quarterly. Due to the high number of contributions not all can be included immediately, but will be considered for future editions, if deemed suitable. The final decision of which contributions can be included in the next edition is **19th January 2004**.

Newsletter editorial policy

The Women's Support Project reserves the right not to include contributions which are deemed to be discriminatory to individuals and/or groups. This includes any material which attempts to blame women or children for violence perpetrated against them. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily shared by the Project.

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Dawn Fyfe	Newsletter/publicity
Jan Macleod	Multi-agency & development work
Isabell Robertson	Library resources

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