



**EDINBURGH  
WOMEN'S AID**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**



## CHAIR'S REPORT

The number 40 is significant across a number of cultural traditions and is usually associated with long-term endurance leading to transformational change and so it is that we mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA) and celebrate 40 years of empowering women and supporting children to rebuild their lives in safety. As we review this year's achievements, we also reflect on how far we have come since then. Over the last twelve months we have had cause to stop and reflect on where we came from and celebrate having been at the vanguard, saluting the bravery, innovative thinking and foresight of those who worked to make a women's refuge in Edinburgh a reality all those years ago. It was set up by women for women to provide women and children who are at risk of domestic abuse with a safe and friendly place to turn to – for support, information and if necessary refuge accommodation.

In December 1973, EWA began its journey to speak out against violence against women and provide women with refuge, when the Council provided 2 four bedroom flats. Despite the odds and many ongoing challenges, that did not stop the founders from creating something that would fundamentally bring about change in those women's lives who came for safety and support. There has been 40 years of struggle to reach the situation today where services for victim/survivors of violence are mainstream and respected for their passion and commitment. EWA has grown, adapted and continues to strive to provide quality services for women and children.

However, after all that has been accomplished, the fact remains, that despite one woman in four experiencing domestic violence at some point in her life, domestic violence still remains under resourced, made even harder in a time when austerity is producing unintended consequences and possibly weakening the achievements made over the past four decades.

Aside from this significant milestone, it has been another busy year for EWA with many new developments and challenges facing both our organisation and our sector. We continue to empower women to access justice, provide support and aim to have a positive impact on women's day-to-day lives. EWA provides life changing and lifesaving services, including safe emergency accommodation and emotional and practical support. We also provide outreach to women in various localities across Edinburgh, support children and young people and more recently provide independent advocacy to assist women with the legal system.

Even after forty years of operation, one of the defining features our organisation is our gender analysis of violence against women which sets the violence in a broader political

context of disempowerment, discrimination and oppression. Violence against women is a major issue for women, regardless of culture, race, ability, class or age. We remain political in our gender analysis, political in our consideration of access and equity issues, political in our critique of institutional barriers. Political in the way that our services are woman centred and focused on the survivor. The survivor is the expert on her own story. Survivors are provided with information and options and supported to make their own decisions and choices about making themselves safe, reporting to the police, or seeking further support.

Our gendered analysis of violence against women has lost none of its resonance. In 2013, domestic violence is prevalent, serious and preventable. One of the main forms of violence against women, it is also one of the most common human rights abuses in Scotland and around the world. Domestic violence affects women and children disproportionately, compared to men and this has profound consequences, not only for the victims themselves, but for children who witness it, extended families, friends, workplaces and ultimately the whole Scottish community. Violence against women is costly: it puts pressure on budgets in terms of health, criminal justice and housing interventions and lost productivity in other areas. Violence against women also has a significant health toll: intimate partner violence is responsible for more ill health and premature death.

Underlying all forms of violence against women are notions of entitlement, power and gender norms. We know that violence against women is caused by the fact that men and women are not equal, and, in turn, violence causes inequality between women and men. Taking action to end violence against women is a critical way of promoting equality. The inverse is equally important: achieving gender equality will





*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

**Margaret Mead**

ultimately be the key to eliminating violence against women.

Now our efforts have greater power when we align with other groups, when we draw in people who have the same interests becoming part of an historical movement that is dynamic and continuing. Our presence must continue to challenge the effects of violence in the context of the contours of inequality shaping women's lives.

As we continue to deliver, we work collaboratively with partners and others, which in itself brings different pressures and responsibilities. We welcome this challenge and look forward to fulfilling our strategic objectives – influencing violence against women policies, programmes and systems reform and working with our partners to ensure that women and children live lives free from violence. Together with our funders, partners and supporters we will support women and children to journey away from violence and continue to uphold the vision of a time and a place where domestic violence is no longer tolerated.

I must extend our appreciation to all of our partners and funding bodies during this financial year, for without their funding, our service could not continue to make such a contribution to women in Edinburgh.

I want to acknowledge the work of those who continue in the footsteps of the foremothers of EWA.

Congratulations and thanks to the Board and Staff who have worked tirelessly throughout this year. It has been an honour as Chair to work with the Board and Staff who are committed to achieving our vision and mission. Collectively, we face many challenges in keeping with our purpose in providing responsive, woman centred and solutions focussed options for women and children.

I want to personally thank our current Board members for their support and for the passion, knowledge, skills and expertise that they bring to the table to help achieve the organisation's aspirations, despite their busy personal and professional lives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the dedication and diligence of the Project Manager, Michele Corcoran. Under Michele's leadership, EWA has forged innovative new pathways to confront domestic violence. Michele embraces the challenges of the role with personal conviction and resolve.

Thanks must go to the entire staff team at EWA for their dedication, unswerving commitment, skills and professional expertise in delivering, promoting and developing services, which matter to women and children. You make a vital difference to women and children's lives

I look forward to the coming year with optimism that EWA will continue to grow and develop, as we continue to raise awareness of domestic violence and engage with partners in tackling violence against women in a holistic and systematic way.

Lastly, in this fortieth year, it is important to recognise the enormous debt we owe to the founding mothers, whose bravery, tenacity and feminist activism has helped EWA survive and thrive through the last 40 years. To follow on from the efforts of those trailblazers has been truly humbling, but inspires us to continue to carry forward their legacy for the next forty years.

**TAMARA MULHERIN – CHAIRPERSON**



## MANAGER'S REPORT

I remember in 1973, as a young mum (very young), hearing about this wonderful new organisation which was raising the issue of 'battered women' and the negative comments this received from the media and general public, 'home wreckers' and 'men haters' are the more printable examples. However, I knew only too well that women were being 'battered' and no-one was listening or offering support. I also knew that it wasn't just violence that was the issue, women were being controlled through not having choices, not having access to childcare, being limited in what they could do in education and employment, access to contraception, and at constant threat of violence and abuse. This wonderful new organisation not only tackled 'battered women', it also tackled these inequalities within society. The first Women's Aid group in Scotland was in Edinburgh and, as word spread, other areas quickly followed. Funding was secured through the local authority and, to incorporate services the East, Mid and West Lothian, Edinburgh Women's Aid became Edinburgh & Lothian Women's Aid (ELWA), funded through Lothian Regional Council. The services provided through ELWA were crisis support, information and refuge accommodation. It operated as a 'collective' to reflect the aim of equality within the workplace.

Fast forward 24 years to 1997, the issue had now become domestic abuse, to reflect that it was more than just violence and happened within a relationship setting. The issue was starting to be recognized in wider political and social contexts. ELWA, recognizing that women were not the only ones to be affected had added support for Children & Young People to their services and were also looking at what happened when women left refuge. ELWA saw the need for another new service, Follow On/Follow Up, to support women, children and young people when they were permanently rehoused and I was delighted to be offered this post. Over the next 10 years, many changes took place including the disbanding of Regional Councils which led to the 4 Lothian groups going their separate ways to fit in with new Local Council funding agreements and so Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA) emerged. There was a shift from a collective management structure to a limited company with a Board of Directors and a Manager in place, adding more new services in response to the needs of women, children and young people; purpose built refuge, CYP Outreach, Women's Outreach service. The developments were enabled mainly through funding from City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Government and, EWA went from having 10 paid staff in 1997, to 29 paid staff in 2007, by which time I had been Manager for 2 years.

EWA has always been innovative and quick to identify, and fill, gaps in service provision and today is no different. The most recent development has been the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support service and, working in partnership, establishing the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee

process for cases identified as high risk. At the moment this is restricted to one area of Edinburgh, so a postcode lottery determines who receives the additional safety input, however the benefits have been recognized by all partners and funding to provide this across the city is being looked into.

Domestic Abuse is firmly on the political agenda and statutory services are reviewing and developing services to ensure domestic abuse is recognized and addressed. The emphasis is moving towards making the perpetrator accountable, something which is long overdue, and the message moving forward is 'he needs to stop doing this' as opposed to 'why doesn't she leave'. Change doesn't happen overnight and it has taken over 40 years to get to this stage, so it's important that, in the change to make men accountable, services for women, children and young people remain in place and are adequately resourced.

I would like to thank all the staff and Trustees, whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 8 years, for their support, enthusiasm and hard work to develop and build on the services EWA provides. I won't be around for the next 40 years, however, I know that the continuing commitment and dedication of staff and Trustees will ensure that EWA continues to evolve and change and ensure they remain essential to changing attitudes and working towards women and children being able to live free from fear and abuse. I would also like to thank everyone who has supported EWA over the last 40 years, we couldn't have done it without you.

**MICHELE CORCORAN – MANAGER**



## SO HOW DID IT ALL START?

### HERSTORY OF EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID

HERE KATHY KERR (QUOTED FROM THE 1980s) AND FRAN WASSOFF MORE RECENTLY RECALLING....

In 1972 the Edinburgh Women's Liberation Workshop, was getting a bit dissatisfied with doing a lot of talking and no action. So a group of them went down to Chiswick to see what Erin Pizzey was doing. She had started a Women's workshop in Chiswick and one day a woman who had been badly beaten came to her and said "Can I stay in your club because I've nowhere to go?" (they had rehabilitated an old house).

Erin would not accept that there was no help for this family ~ I think there were three children. So they went to the Housing Department and they said "Sorry, no help for you, you've got a house, it is with your husband..." They went to the Social Work Department who said "Sorry, can't help. We'll take your children into care if you want" So that is how the Chiswick Refuge started, because that woman was put up. And by word of mouth, the place was filled up in a very short time.

So the women from Edinburgh were very impressed by the spirit of Chiswick and they thought there was a problem here and probably a greater one because of the high incidence of alcoholism. They liked the 'open door' policy Chiswick had and resolved that if we ever got a house ours would be run on that principle. They started campaigning to get a house and inevitably, they got the same reaction. "In Edinburgh? No of course that doesn't happen here, maybe in Glasgow or Dundee or anywhere like that but of course it doesn't happen in Edinburgh". A bit daunted they went round social work departments for reports and the RSSPCC and fortunately got a good response from them, heartily recommending that there was a need.

There was a great debate which went on in Edinburgh at the time and a great resistance to this group of women who were labelled 'marriage breakers'. But, there was also a lot of good support and on the swell of this support an application went into the Edinburgh Town Council applying for a house to run as a centre for women and children. We were given a three-bedroomed flat in a block of four but with a proviso stating that if we hadn't got off the ground within

six months the place would be closed. We got a blaze of publicity and that is when I joined the group. I had never ever opened my mouth in public at all. I had never done anything unconventional. I had lived a totally conventional women's life.

And so we got this flat and we had a small grant to last us six months so we begged and we borrowed and though we didn't actually steal because we had nowhere to get the equipment that was needed. We were very, very green and when I tell you that we actually installed a phone without a paybox you will understand how green we were! In this blaze of publicity we declared ourselves open. And sat by the phone waiting for it to ring. Nothing happened. For two whole weeks and we began to think "Oh, maybe they're right, maybe it doesn't happen in Edinburgh". And then one day there came a bang on the door and there was a lassie who had travelled all the way down from Wick and her three children and we were in business.

After the first fortnight we had 35 bodies in that three-bedroomed flat and we were very unpopular with our neighbours I can tell you. So that was how Edinburgh got started.

Fran Wassoff founder member of the groups says:

*"It is a great idea to mark the 40th anniversary of the first Scottish refuge to open, in Edinburgh, in Broomhouse, and across the hall from the home of one of the Bay City Rollers. I cannot remember the exact date but my best guess is that it was December 1973 and very cold. I vividly remember the cold since I didn't know how to light a coal fire, and it was the first woman who arrived, with a broken nose, who managed to light the fire and keep us from freezing to death".*

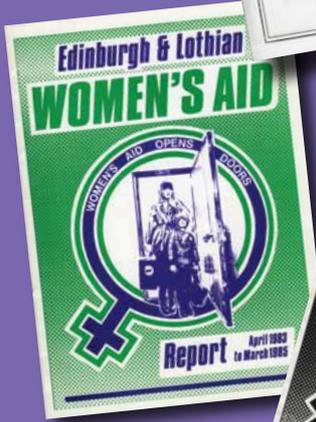
We realised we were grossly overcrowded and applied for a second house. At that time none of the other groups had started and we were getting women from all over from Newcastle, from Glasgow, from Aberdeen.

We sometimes ran out of coal, or there was no food, or somebody decamped with the coffee money, but there was plenty of spirit and enthusiasm.

# THEN.....



1979



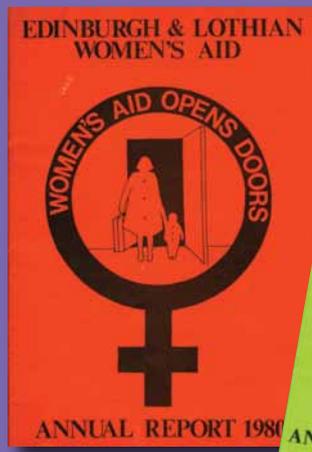
1983



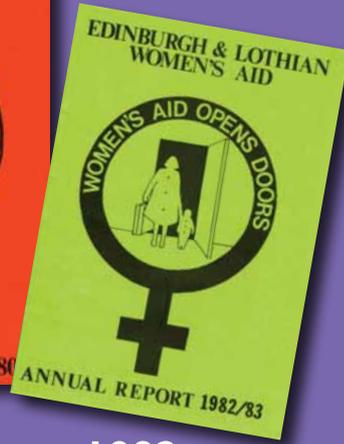
1987



1996



1980



1982

The lament of a working class heroes wife  
*oh the weans are greetin and the sink is leakin  
 and yer standing in the pub wi a pint of tartan special  
 and yer say yer educatin a' the younger generation  
 wi yer left wing politics and... that's a fact*

chorus  
*ah may be yer wife but I'll no be yer skivvy  
 yer maybe the man but whit can yi gimme?  
 cuts in ma mony cuts and bruises  
 that's no the story for a bloody life of glory*

*well ye say that the solution is the left wing revolution  
 but yer drinking many's pauchied frae the family  
 allowance  
 All yer Marx and yer Lenin doesnae help wi the cleaning  
 and I had tae put ma weddin ring intae the pawn*

chorus  
*ah may be yer wife but I'll no be yer skivvy  
 yer maybe the man but whit can yi gimme?  
 cuts in ma mony cuts and bruises  
 that's no the story for a bloody life of glory*

*So I'm no gonnae take it so yer goannie huv tae make it  
 on yer own  
 Cause ah'm leavin wi the kids and ma belongings  
 and a'll maybe go tae Rhona, Evelyn, Frances or Fionas  
 cause I've got a lot of sisters tae see me through*

Gude Cause – Edinburgh Women's Aid at the centenary of The Gude Cause Women's Suffrage march which first took place in Edinburgh in 1909



# ...& NOW



2004



2005



2006



2007



2009



2010



City Chambers – 00's Edinburgh Women's Aid Campaigning at the City Chambers with Shakti Women's Aid for continuation of funding for gendered based violence services in the City.

I am only human my strength is  
 within me when the sunsets  
 High grab that bright moment  
 And lock it in your heart feel  
 The warmth and comfort from it  
 Never let it go just remember  
 You shine like the brightest stars  
 That shines upon us in our darkest  
 Hour as the sunset approaches and  
 The birds are singing then you know  
 You've got through another day.



Edinburgh Women's Aid joined the protest to campaign for Bill Walker's removal as an MSP after he was convicted of 23 counts of domestic abuse over 3 decades.

Around a table full of passion  
 I'm sitting round a table with women full of passion  
 Playing with paper and making words that maybe rhythm or  
 make a verse,  
 One by one we stick them to the door  
 And as if by magic a meaning comes out  
 Sitting here round a table patterning about  
 A rhythm or verse will come out  
 Cups of tea, chocolate cake and lots of biscuits  
 Powerfull woman full of passion  
 Because of past experience that has made us stronger  
 We don't belong to that past life no longer,  
 Once we were meager little women,  
 But now full of strength, meaning and life  
 A wonderfull life, without fear and anxiety  
 We hold our heads up high,  
 I feel like I could touch the sky  
 And pick out a star that has a meaning to me  
 And after everything I have been through  
 I'm sitting round a table of powerfull women  
 This is the start of my new life  
 I feel powerfull, confident and self assured,  
 That I'm on the right path, a new life ahead  
 And just sitting thinking, I once wished I was dead  
 I now know I am here for a reason  
 I must be, I'm sitting round a table with woman full of passion

By Perebepe A Paul.

40 YEARS

40 YEARS

40 YEARS

40 YEARS

# Divorce denied after wife's tale of violence rejected

A WOMAN who claimed that her husband assaulted her during two pregnancies and was violent and made death threats to her during their 20-year marriage, was refused a divorce yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Connery sought a divorce from her husband James, a scaffolder, claiming that she could not tolerate married life with him. But Lord Cullen said at the Court of Session in Edinburgh that he was not satisfied that Mrs Connery had demonstrated that she could not reasonably be expected to live with him.

The judge refused her claim for an exclusion order and warrant for summary ejection of Mr Connery from their home at 108 Granton Road, Edinburgh, which Mrs Connery inherited from her mother.

Lord Cullen said that Mrs Connery's account of the incidents—alleging violence was somewhat over-dramatic. He considered that Mrs Connery and her four witnesses, all long-standing friends, had grossly exaggerated their evidence as to her state and appearance.

The judge thought Mrs Connery was somewhat highly strung and might have provoked her husband. It was possible that she thus sustained injury.

Lord Cullen said that a remarkable feature of the case, was that it was based on incidents widely separated in time. On the one hand, she claimed that a number of violent incidents had happened up to 1970. But there was no claim of such incidents between 1970 and August 1986.

The judge accepted that, at least in the early years of marriage, Mr Connery often drank to excess and was aggressive towards his wife, hitting her during both pregnancies. But the alleged incidents in August 1986 raised sharp questions of credibility and reliability.

Mrs Connery claimed that, in August 1986, he twice tried to strangle her and tried to gouge her eyes out and threatened to "do her in." On another occasion that month he grabbed her by the throat and said he was going to kill her.

She claimed that she went to the doctor soon after and said that she wanted a divorce.

Mr Connery said that his wife's attitude towards him had changed since about March 1986. She started work and went out more. He claimed that she said she had enough of looking after him and his sons and told him: "I want to start living. I can't do it with you around."

On August 16, 1986, Mrs Connery left home after an argument.

Lord Cullen said that the doctor's evidence on allegations of violence was critical. Although the doctor saw Mrs Connery for no more than ten minutes on each occasion, his evidence varied from that of Mrs Connery and her four witnesses both as to the scale of injuries and the presence of bruising.

The judge said that Mr Connery's evidence gained credibility when one considered the background at the time when Mrs Connery started working. According to herself and her friends, she had long been unhappily married.

# Exclusion

Two of the first exclusion orders granted to wives to prohibit their husbands entering the matrimonial home have been overturned by three appeal judges in the Court of Session.

On October 5, Lord Ross granted an interim exclusion order under the new Matrimonial Homes Protection Act to Mrs Margaret Bell, of Broomfield Road, Cowdenbeath, against her husband, Archibald. She alleged she was so terrified of him that she barricaded herself in her bedroom each night.

Lord Ross said there was enough evidence for him to decide an order was necessary for her protection.

In the second case, Mrs Chrissie Smith, of 19 Upper Aird, Point, Lewis, was granted an interim exclusion order at Stornoway Sheriff Court on September 20 against her husband, Donald, of Cearn Sheleidh, Stornoway.

Lord Wheatley, Lord Justice Clerk, who presided in the

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The nu clusions seem to come in the rem were no "The rep but Par that it sh

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Lord Ross ha

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# Protesters support for

A group of women armed with placards protested in Princes Street, Edinburgh at the weekend about violence and harassment against females.

About 25 women from Edinburgh and Lothian Women's Aid, the Women's Liberation Workshop and Edinburgh University's Women's Group, were taking part in the national week of action by women.

The group gathered signatures for a petition calling on Government support for the Family Violence (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill would give battered women greater legal protection. Marion Foy, protest organiser and co-ordinator of Edinburgh and Lothian Women's Aid, said Scottish women should have similar protection to those in England.

Scottish law provides little or no security, she said, and battered women are forced to leave their homes to escape from violence.

"In England the courts have the power to order the man from his home

By ANO GORDO

and allow the mot stay," she said.

Ms Foy said 25 p crime reported w her experience on reported to the pol

She said most at fact that women second class citiz personified as ste of the "stereoty housewives, dumb Three girls.

VIRGIN

The women at th personify the vario "underdog" Mrs M trayed by Margare

Lesley Irving (2 dressed as the said: "I represent every man's ideal. his bride to be pu but they think wo pect it of them."



women with placards that sum up their causes.

40 YEARS

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40 YEARS

# orders on husbands overturned

GEORGE SAUNDERS, Our Chief Law Reporter

Division with Lord... and Lord Grieve in... said the Act revol... the rights of occu... the matrimonial home.

proper consideration to whether an interim exclusion order was necessary for the wife's protection notwithstanding the existence of the interim interdict.

She would only be at risk and require the protection of an interim exclusion order if her husband was to breach the interim interdict and be in contempt of court.

Lord Ross erred in failing to give proper effect to a very important and significant factor in relation to the need and urgency of granting an interim exclusion order.

decided to grant the interim order on a balance of convenience, but the test he used was manifestly wrong. This was an error in law which vitiated his decision. An exclusion order, even a temporary one, was a serious matter for the excluded spouse.

Mrs Smith left her husband on June 29 to go to her mother's house ten miles from Stornoway, taking her children with her. She claimed her husband made abusive comments and had obtained an interim interdict to prevent that.

Lord Wheatley said he could not bring himself to hold that her hotly-disputed claims warranted the granting of an interim exclusion order on the ground that it was necessary to protect her or the children from conduct actual or threatened, which would be injurious to their health.

If the wife wished her right as joint... could return home... children and they... the protection of interdict.



Some of the wives—with their children—who demonstrated outside the City Chambers for the Women's Aid Group.

## PROTEST AT 'HUSH-HUSH' ATTITUDE TO REFUGES

A better deal for battered women in Edinburgh was demanded today from city councillors.

Edinburgh and Lothian Women's Aid Group claimed that in many cases homeless mothers in urgent need of accommodation were not being referred by the housing department to the organisation's city refuges. They told a full meeting of Edinburgh District Council that the department should look into the problem.

Spokesman Dr. Paul Wasoff told members: "Our group provide aid, support and refuge for battered women, and we now have three refuges in council property in Edinburgh.

But, except in exceptional circumstances, you are not referring suitable cases to us, and we cannot understand why we are not being used." She went on: "We should be regarded by you as a valuable resource and not as a thorn in your side."

### SPECIALIST

The accommodation and support which the group could offer was under-utilised — a situation which, given the present need, was completely unacceptable.

"We can give the additional type of specialist support which is also needed." The time had come, she concluded, for the district council to rethink their present policy.

## Battered wives: city slammed

Ed. & Lo. News 2/3/82 (News) (front page)

Edinburgh District Council offer the worst prospects in Scotland for a woman who becomes homeless because of violence in the home.

According to the Scottish Women's Aid annual report, published today, the council will house only homeless people in two of the lowest amenity areas and will never return to marital home to a homeless wife.

They will not give temporary or permanent accommodation to a woman thrown out of her house by a violent man, even if the police are involved, and under no circumstances will they consider women from outside the district.

The report says that because of the council's policy, they advise most women to join the council's waiting list in the usual way, rather than apply for priority housing under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act — the procedure in other areas.

The result: more women spend an unnecessary length of time in their refuges.

Edinburgh housing authority is compared with Glasgow, where "the housing department is very good in comparison with other areas."

In Midlothian, they say, "our relations with the council have improved dramatically over the year." In East Lothian, a "good relationship" continues and all women seeking rehousing apply under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

A total of 846 women stayed in Women's Aid refuges during the year September 1980 to August 1981, a slight increase.

But a higher proportion — 46 per cent compared with 39 per cent — returned to their previous relationship, with a likelihood of further violence. Only 15 per cent were rehoused, compared with 20 per cent last year.



CORNELIUS WAUGH Defence

## Women act to combat violence

A campaign to combat violence against women has been launched in Edinburgh.

It is to be spearheaded by the women's committees of Lothian Regional and Edinburgh District Councils.

The campaign aims to increase awareness about the nature and extent of violence against women, press for Government research and exert pressure on local authorities, the police and the courts to find a solution.

The campaign was announced by Euro MP Christine Crawley at a press conference yesterday, held to launch a pamphlet entitled "Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls" produced by the EEC's socialist group.

The Euro MP said specific action was needed to establish the extent and nature of the violence, to encourage women to report incidents, to provide an adequate number of places in refuges for battered women, and to push for the implementation of equal pay and equal treatment legislation.

The campaign calls for a change in police attitudes and says local authorities should take into consideration the needs of women when discussing housing schemes and street lighting, for example.

In addition the Government should remove the legal distinction between rape and indecent assault, particularly in relation to court sentencing.

In Lothian, initiatives have already been taken by the women's committee.

Councillor Helen Graham, who chairs the committee, said that among other things, the local authority were taking women into account on planning matters, and a pilot scheme had been set up in Edinburgh with police recording domestic violence separately from assaults or breach of the peace.

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Bill

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## REFUGE REPORT

### SHARED REFUGE SERVICE

Edinburgh Women's Aid can currently offer a total of twenty one shared refuge spaces to Women, Children and Young People, eight spaces have access to personal bathrooms and offer more self-contained living within a shared house. This increase of eight spaces became available in November 2009 after an offer of four properties situated together came from Homes Scotland. Three full time refuge support workers are currently responsible for supporting 21 women in a keyworker role, working alongside Children's and Young People workers who will focus on supporting any accompanying Children. All shared refuge accommodation is provided to a good standard with all aspects of refuge maintenance overseen by the Maintenance Worker who has ensured that there is a rolling program for refuges to be redecorated, appropriately equipped and conforming to all health and safety legislation.

### DUTY SERVICES

The Duty service continues to be busy operating the drop-in service, taking referrals from Police Scotland domestic abuse unit in Edinburgh, EDDACS, social work, asylum and immigration unit, NHS, other voluntary organisations and from service user's themselves. The team of three (a team leader and two part-time workers) aim to provide an appropriate quick response to services user's needs which may mean there are crossover cases to the Outreach team where support is required out of the office.

EWA continues to be supported by individual members who very kindly donate items for woman such as food, clothing and toiletries which helps enormously when woman first come into use the accommodation. There is also considerable support from large organisations that have selected domestic abuse service providers as a focus for assistance.

### 24HR REFUGE

The 24/7 refuge has been operating since January 2007 providing support and refuge to woman and any accompanying children. The refuge criteria is for woman where shared refuge would not accommodate their additional needs. The additional needs may be drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues etc.

There 8 self-contained furnished flats with staff accommodation on the ground floor this includes office space, counselling room, community room and additional toilets. The building has CCTV for added security to the front and back of the building.

For the 40th anniversary of Edinburgh Women's Aid this year, the 24/7 refuge celebrated with an array of activities organised by staff and women in the refuge. These included the release of birthday balloons at Portobello, A posh tea party, T. shirt printing, Collage display exhibition of 40 years, visit to the "People's story" museum, an outing to the "Botanic Gardens" tree planting ceremony in the refuge garden and BBQ's in the back garden.

As Edinburgh women's aid celebrates 40 years of providing this vital service for woman and children we at 24/7 refuge look forward to the future in developing the service to promote safe accommodation and services for women and children dealing with the trauma and effects of Domestic Abuse.





## OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT

The Outreach Service provides short term support to women providing information and advocacy on issues such as housing, legal, benefits, safety and the Outreach service can also accompany women to appointments. Outreach works in a person centred way giving options and choices available. The Outreach service works in partnership with other services and provides surgeries and drop ins within localities. Outreach also works to raise awareness of domestic abuse within local communities and inform of services of EWA by providing talks and training.

### PAST AND PRESENT

The Outreach development work started in October 2006 in a response to a lack of support for women living in outlying of Edinburgh who were unable to access the main office of Edinburgh Women's Aid. The Outreach service is funded through the Scottish Government Violence Against Women fund and there are currently 2 workers both on

28 hours per week. There is always a high demand for this service as it can provide information & support to women within their own neighbourhood and provides this to women regardless of their situation i.e. still in relationship. The demand has increased due to new services including: the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support (EDDACS) service, and the expansion of the City of Edinburgh Council Social Work perpetrators project, the Caledonian Programme.

### THE FUTURE

For the future the Outreach service looks to expand so, when the EDDACS service is rolled out to cover all areas of the city of Edinburgh, the service has capacity to cope with the increased demand and also as society becomes more aware that domestic abuse and violence is not acceptable there will be adequate resources to provide essential support.

## RESETTLEMENT WORK

Resettlement works in a person centred way providing practical and emotional support enabling women to move on with their lives by taking back control after experiencing domestic abuse. Resettlement recognises that the challenges at this time can be acute as moving home is a stressful event and women can become isolated once living in their own accommodation and therefore more vulnerable if no support is available. The Resettlement service also runs groups in recognition of this including co facilitating the Life Style Management course which reinforces the person centred approach and helps to boost confidence and self-worth by making use of, and building on, their own coping and recovery strategies and celebrating small successes. One participant commented

*“I found that if I felt low when I got there, by the time I left I always felt better. Sharing time was always beneficial. More than worthwhile.”*

Another part of the work of Resettlement is to provide talks and training to raise the awareness of domestic abuse within communities and other agencies.

### PAST AND PRESENT

The Resettlement service was set up in 1997, in recognition of the difficulties women face setting up their own home after being in refuge accommodation with Edinburgh Women's Aid. Initially the service was called Follow Up/

Follow Up and it provided practical and emotional support to women integrating back into society after experiencing domestic abuse. Initially there was only 1 full time worker which was later expanded to 1 full time worker and 2 part time workers in recognition of the amount of work involved. Currently there is now 1 full time worker and 1 part time worker. The remit of Follow Up was also developed and the name was changed to Resettlement, and now includes working with women in their own home after they have left their abusive partner (they do not need to have just left their partner, or stayed in refuge accommodation to receive the support). Recently Resettlement have also started working with women in temporary accommodation working towards gaining permanent accommodation.

### THE FUTURE

Looking to the future, Resettlement could be working more closely with the Outreach service to reach women living in Edinburgh who have not the opportunity to benefit from the service. Another development would be to expand the training aspect of the service so there was a dedicated training worker who would be able to provide talks and training, keep EWA up to date with the latest research and thinking on domestic abuse, and help to raise the profile of the work of EWA, and the awareness of domestic abuse, to ensure that the messages 'Domestic Abuse is Not Acceptable' reaches everyone.

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

## PAST

Edinburgh Women's Aid, Children and Young People Service started in 1992 with funding from Children in Need. This funding was initially to support Children and Young People who were living in our refuge accommodation. There were two staff members in this team who worked 32 hours per week on a temporary basis.

In 1995 this work was recognised as essential and CEC Children & Families agreed to fund the service to continue and develop the work with Children and Young People living in our refuge accommodation.

## PRESENT

Since 1995 the service has grown considerably, thanks to additional support through Scottish Government Violence Against Women funding, initially secured in 2006. We have 5 members of staff within the Children and Young Peoples team, which comprise of 1 Full Time Team Leader (35 hours), 1 Full Time Family Support Worker (35 hours) and 3 Part Time Family Support Workers. We have 3 areas within the service where we provide support to Children and Young People who have lived with or are living with Domestic Abuse, these are Refuge, Resettlement and Outreach.

## REFUGE/RESETTLEMENT

We provide practical, emotional and peer support to children and young people in refuge and those who have been rehoused, through one to one support and group activities.

We have just finished our summer activities programme where 18 Children and Young People took part in a variety of activities over the summer: (Go Ape, Rock Climbing, Cinema, East Links Farm, Zoo, Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Science Museum and M & D).

We also took a group of 8 Children and Young People on a week's residential holiday through a charity called HOPSCOTCH. The children had a fantastic time, where they spent time in a rural setting with their peers, taking part in a variety of activities.

## OUTREACH

We provide support to children and young people who are



living in the community and may have or are maybe living with Domestic Abuse. This support is mostly provided within the child or young person's school. Some of this support covers emotions and safety planning.

As part of EWA 40th Anniversary we held a Fun Day for Children, Young People and their mums, we had craft activities, bouncy castle, magician, BBQ and a Balloon release. Great fun was had by all!!!!

106 Children and Young People were supported last year (April 2012 – March 2013)

## FUTURE

The Children and Young People service is now well established and is providing a service to support Children and Young People who have lived with or are living with Domestic Abuse. The question for the future is "how do



## THEN.....

### My Caravan Holiday

*I went to the caravan park for 4 days. Our caravan had 3 bedrooms. I went with my mum, little brother, my sister and our new friend who stays in the refuge with us.*

*When I arrived I unpacked my belongings then explored the caravan. My sister and I stayed in a room with bunk beds.*

*There were a lot of things to do. We went to the arcades and the Showbar at night. During the day we went to the market, the beach, had lunch in a restaurant and sat outside in the medieval garden.*

*My mum and I walked along the City walls.*

*We met my mum's friend who has a daughter one year older than my sister. That was a nice surprise.*

*It was the first time our family have been on holiday together. I was relieved to get a break from home. When we had to go I was sad because we were leaving. The best thing about the holiday was the weather. It was really sunny and warm except the last day. It was a really good break and relaxing. I definitely want to go back there again.*

## ..NOW

*I enjoyed all the activities I liked every thing even the horse aer hockey and football tabel and the park out side.  
P age 11.*

we educate the next generation to make them aware that Domestic Abuse is unacceptable?"

Prevention work has been highlighted for several years now as an important part of public awareness and education if we want to prevent Domestic Abuse.

Children and Young People face a huge range of challenges and confusing messages about relationships, gender and violence, to change attitudes and values as they grow up will hopefully help us to prevent Domestic Abuse. It is therefore important for us to educate Children and Young People through critical thinking about sexual health and relationships particularly within the context of cultural and social influences.

With this in mind we are in the process of undertaking a

Prevention Work, pilot programme within Secondary School. This will run for 2 years, in a small number of secondary schools across Edinburgh. It is hoped that, from this pilot, we will be able to secure funding to provide Prevention Work within schools across the whole of the city.

Another project we are developing, is a parenting group, using the Mellow Parenting programme. Women who have been living with Domestic Abuse, can find it difficult to parent their children, this is often due to the controlling environment they have been living in and the low self-esteem that living with domestic abuse can, in the majority of cases, result in. This 12 week programme will work with them to look at and develop strategies and help mothers to gain skills and confidence in parenting.

## EDDACS (Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support)

**Edinburgh Women's Aid were part of the Implementation Group set up to look at Edinburgh providing a dedicated domestic abuse court. In setting up the court it was agreed that an advocacy service would also be required to offer support and information throughout the court process to victims of this crime.**

Edinburgh Women's Aid offered to provide this service for the pilot period of one year, only for women victims, to be delivered within the capacity of their existing staff. The offer was accepted and EWA prepared to take on this role. We visited ASSIST, the well-established domestic abuse advocacy service in Glasgow which has been operating for 9 years. ASSIST were very supportive in providing EWA with advice, forms, procedures, information and a good insight into the service we wanted to provide in Edinburgh.

The pilot Edinburgh domestic abuse court first sat in February 2012 and we began to provide advocacy and support to women victims of this crime from December 2011. It was felt that some clients may not engage if they were offered a women's aid service so the name EDDACS was agreed representing Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support and re-enforcing the independent nature of the service.

In June 2012 Edinburgh Women's Aid received funding from the National Lottery to provide these services. EDDACS currently has a senior advocacy worker, one full time advocacy worker, one part time advocacy worker and a part time administrator.

The service is offered to victims of domestic crimes in the pilot area of Edinburgh (South and East) by the police when they arrest the perpetrator of the crime. If the victim agrees to a referral the police will email the details via secure email to EDDACS. The EDDACS worker will call the client with a view to assessing her risk of future harm and offering safety planning support. The EDDACS worker will also provide a report to the PF advising of the client's position regarding the accused. We will also advise the PF of any risks to the client and identify any concerns held by the client and EDDACS. It is the EDDACS worker's responsibility to work with the client on that day to encourage her to consider a safety plan and support her to make this as robust as possible. We will often request special bail conditions and advise the PF within the report of any special measures which may be required. We may also request that consideration be given to a non-harassment order to support the clients safety for an extended period.

EDDACS use the CAADA-DASH risk identification checklist to assess women's risk of future harm and or

homicide. We inform the court within the court report that a risk assessment has been completed. If however the client is identified by her score as at high risk we will inform the court of this.

EDDACS maintain contact with clients throughout the court process, keeping them informed of court procedures and decisions and continue to feedback any comments from the client into any court hearings for the accused.

An EDDACS advocacy worker is present in the domestic abuse court. The worker is available to speak on behalf of the victims when required and offer the court essential information to support decisions which may help to keep women safe.

The EDDACS service has received over 400 referrals in under 2 years.

The domestic abuse court and the EDDACS service were independently evaluated earlier this year with a very positive outcome. The EDDACS service also asks their clients directly about their experience of the service and have had high levels of satisfaction and appreciation.

The EDDACS service has also worked with other partner agencies to set up a pilot MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) in the south and east of the city. The 1st MARAC took place in April 2013. Clients who are identified as at high risk using the assessment criteria will be referred to the MARAC. Clients will be advised that this is taking place. The objective of the MARAC is for there to be a multi-agency approach to the high risk of future harm to the women. The MARAC will endeavour to come up with an action plan, with various actions identified by various agencies to support the reduction of the risk to the client. Our partner agencies include Police Scotland, Criminal Justice, NHS, Housing and Education amongst others. EDDACS provide the co-ordination and the administration for the MARAC.

A monthly MARAC meeting will generally be able to deal with around 10 referrals.

Currently there is no specific date to role the court support and MARAC services out city wide. The south and east of the city only account for around a quarter of the total number of incidents in the city and additional funding is urgently required to ensure the quality is maintained. In any 'roll out'. The domestic abuse court Implementation Group continues to meet to discuss progress.

Both the court support and the MARAC services expect to grow significantly in the coming year to fully provide the services that Edinburgh victims of domestic abuse requires.



## FUNDRAISING

### 1980'S DISCO'S

How many folks remember our great fundraising Disco's at the Astoria in Abbeyhill? Staff from EWA did all the organising, we had a worker who was close friends with a band named Nightshift. If I remember there was only 3 members in the band Dave Williams, Neil Gammack and Ian Thompson. They were great and played for nothing. Felicitations and groovy vibes to all who do remember.

*Mary*

### COMIC RELIEF

Michele Corcoran, Project Manager, remembers domestic abuse was one of the themes in the 2003 Comic Relief fundraising campaign and EWA was asked if celebrities could visit a refuge and speak to some of the residents. Myself, as refuge worker, and Alison Roxburgh, as CYP worker, were assigned this task and met J K Rowling and Lenny Henry at one of our refuges. For confidentiality reasons, filming was not an option however the women, and children in the house had an interesting morning relating their experiences to their special guests and myself and Alison were able to highlight some of the funding dilemma's that constantly face EWA.

Later that year, we received an unexpected cash bonus from one of the guests, and a further one the following year – something we are eternally grateful for.

## THEN.....

## ..& NOW

### MY EDINBURGH MARATHON 2013 RACE REPORT – VICKY DI CIACCA

My marathon journey started back in November 2012 – I have been a keen runner for a few years but have never tackled the 'big one' – a full marathon! I decided that it was now or never and signed up to do the Edinburgh Marathon. When I entered the race I hadn't planned on doing it to raise money but as I've been working as a trustee for Edinburgh Women's aid for 3 years and as we are 40 years old this year – a great thing and a frustrating thing all at the same time – I thought it could be a great idea to do something different.....

The day itself was a lovely sunny day, my training had gone well and my main challenge on the morning of the event was hiding my Jelly babies from my 6 year old daughter. The start of the race was very exciting - about 12000 of us all bouncing up and down to motivational music. The first mile is great – all downhill –and I knew Tamara would be at the end of the first mile – it was great to see her with a big smile and a loud cheer.

I had my beautiful vest on – Michele had printed it for me - a real one off, it had my name with the EWA logo and the shouts and cheers I had were really inspiring. The route took us out down through Leith, along Portobello Prom, through Musselburgh, along the coast to Gosforth House where we turned round and came back to Musselburgh.



The hardest were miles 20-25 - this is where the mental strength and spirit had to kick in. It was starting to get chillier and greyer as the sky clouded over; the field had thinned out quite a bit and lots of people were walking. There were people at the side of the road on drips, people hobbling along, discarded cups and bottles; it was like something out of a disaster movie. I just got my head down and dug in. This is the part of the race that the training is for. It's not the first 20 miles, it's not the last mile, it's this bit. All the early mornings,

the squeezing in a lunchtime run, the 4 hours on a Saturday morning – this is what it's all for. So I just kept running.

At the 25 Mile sign - everything changed – the crowds become thicker with shouts of 'Come on Vicky, looking good!' The last .2 of a mile I felt like an Olympian...the crowd was brilliant with shouts of 'Come on Vicky you can do it', 'Go Vicky, nearly there, come on' – I was whooping and hollering with them! When the finish line came into sight, I had a real mix of emotions – there's the finish and I want it to stop but I didn't want it to stop all at the same time.

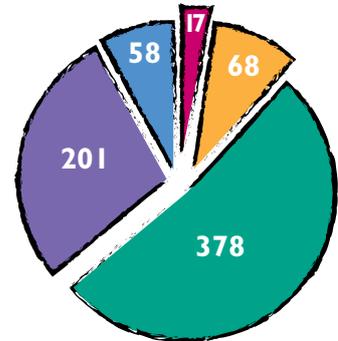
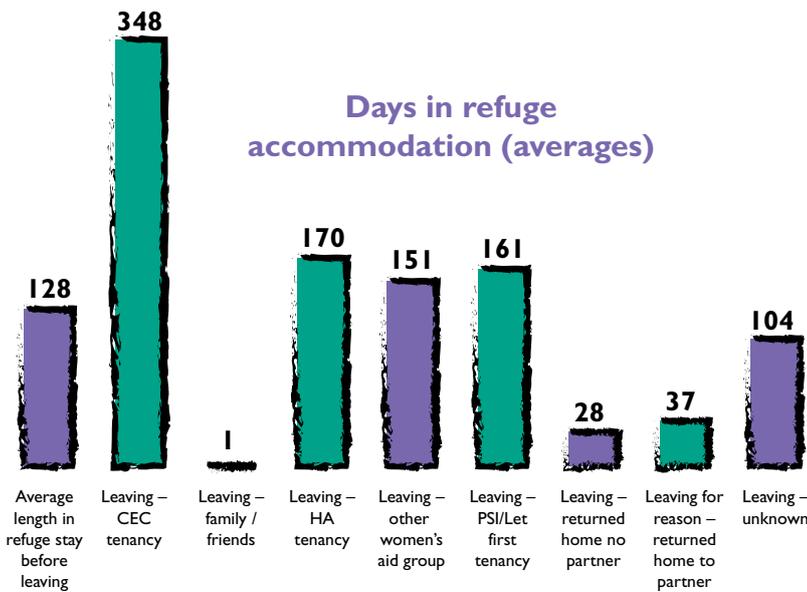
26.62 Miles run (lovely number!) in less than 4 and 3/4 hours with over £1000 raised for Edinburgh Women's Aid! And to everyone who sponsored me and supported me along the way - a big Thank You!

# STATISTICS

## Total number of women who contacted EWA April – October 2013

CYP in refuge	17
CYP new contacts	68
Duty new contacts	378
EDDACS new contacts	201
Women in refuge	58
<b>Total number of women</b>	<b>722</b>

### Days in refuge accommodation (averages)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Main Funders

CEC Services for Communities, CEC Children and Families, Scottish Government Violence against Women Fund, Scottish Government CYPEDA Fund, Big Lottery Becoming a Survivor Fund.

Thanks to Lifecare and all the social landlords from whom we rent our properties.

A Christianson, Anne M Stephen, Bank Of Scotland, C Elvin, CAF - State Street, Canonmills Baptist Church, Charities Trust, Fiona McLean, Edinburgh Law Firm Clients, F S Mackay, HMS Prison, Lloyds Bank, Pedal 2 Africa, Mrs P Laporte, The Royal High School, Sainsburys, Selex, Waitrose, Women in Banking, World Wide Church of God, R Low, Pertemps, Bright Horizons Nursery, Crewe Road Nursery, Forester Friendly Society, HBJ Gateley Waring, Maclay Murray and Spens, Marks & Spencer, MRC McLean Hazel, Scottish Gas, Search.co.uk, Tesco Community Champion, Wight Chiropractic Clinic, St Ninians Church, Murrayfield Parish Church, C7 Church, Carlops parish Church, St Johns Episcopal Church Princes St, Canonmills Baptist Church, Balerno Parish Church, Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, Morningside United Church, Anthropologie, Free Cakes for Kids, The Tanner Family, Catherine Robertson.

Thanks to anyone who has been inadvertently left of this list or who has chosen to support us anonymously also to everyone who donated through our website.

Thanks to all the young people in Edinburgh schools who have presented our service for a YPI award.

Donate to us with Justgiving – [www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid/donate)

## Current Staff Members

Michele Corcoran, Mariea Nairn, Susan Rae, Debbie Bell, Clare Philpot, Miku Healey, Ann Monaghan, Val Waugh, Karen Griffiths, Mary Sinclair, Lee McCormack, Rachel Gollan, Sherry Singh, Alison Roxburgh, Catriona Robertson, Rosie Smith, Margaret Gibson, Jasmine Clark, Mauline Zvaita, Cathy Todd, Allison Pupkis, Lisa Dowie, Katie Anderson, Caroline Harley, Caroline Hall, Ruth Friskney, Sarah Paterson, Shona Darroch and Maureen Stevenson and the regular sessional staff.

**Welcome** to Laura Nairn and Noreen McCafferty **Goodbye and best wishes** to Linda Gray

## Current Board Members

Tamara Mulherin, Vicki Di Ciacca, Maxine Cuffe, Rita Biermann, Barbara Matheson, Jackie Trousdale, Alva Traebert, Laura Finlay and **Welcome** to Jo Birch, Deborah Benson, Angela Maclachlan and Naomi Blight **Goodbye and best wishes** to Rachel Moon, Sam Godley, Joanna Patterson



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