

# ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010



 scottish  
women's aid  
changing attitudes changing lives

WE BELIEVE THAT A WORLD WITHOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE IS NOT JUST A DREAM, IT IS A POSSIBILITY. NEVER DOUBT IT – CHANGING ATTITUDES CHANGES LIVES.

**Scottish Women's Aid (SWA) is the lead organisation in Scotland working towards preventing domestic abuse. We play a vital role in campaigning and lobbying for effective responses to this abuse.**

**An important aspect of our work is ensuring that women, children and young people get the services they need, both from local Women's Aid groups and from the agencies they are likely to contact.**

**Our members are local Women's Aid groups which provide specialist services, including safe refuge accommodation, information and support to women, children and young people.**

**Our mission is to work to end violence against women by tackling its root cause, which is gender inequality. We do this by:**

- Promoting women's equality and children's rights
- Campaigning for responses which actively prevent violence against women
- Working to ensure that services are available to women, young people and children with experience of domestic abuse
- Providing services and advice to our members

**Find out more about our work, publications, training and latest news online at [www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk)**

**COMIC  
RELIEF**



*Scottish Women's Aid acknowledges with thanks the financial support of the Scottish Government, Comic Relief, the Volant Trust and many generous individuals.*

# FOREWORD

This report covers the period April 2009 to March 2010, a year during which we made considerable headway focusing on working with our allies and partners to influence and shape policy and service responses to domestic abuse; supporting our membership to develop and provide services to those experiencing such abuse; and improving our internal management and governance.

This report sets out just some of the highlights and gives a taste of the year's achievements on the themes of building local capacity, improving practice and influencing policy.

As we approach our 35th anniversary, our three decades of experience put us at the forefront of responding to domestic abuse. Many challenges remain – or have returned – most notably the changed landscape of public sector funding and the connected but separate threats to 30 years of advances in gender equality. We cannot change attitudes or lives on our own. We need your help to join with us. Together we can stop it.



*Gude Cause March on 10/10/2009: Over a hundred years later and SWA continues the fight for justice for women*



**Amanda Jones**  
Chair of the SWA  
Directors' Group

# ENCOURAGING LOCAL CAPACITY

## RESEARCHING SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

We repeated our review of the funding of local Women's Aid services across the country and followed this with a comprehensive analysis of the second round of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) which we published in September. References to domestic abuse and/or violence against women strategies had increased with more local authorities identifying violence against women as a key indicator of women's inequality. There is still a long way to go. We continue to work closely with COSLA and multi-agency partnerships to ensure that domestic abuse and violence against women are priority areas within SOAs and we are working with local groups to build close relationships with their local authority partners.

## ANALYSING GENDER EQUALITY SCHEMES

We commented extensively on the drafts of the Equality Bill and contributed to developing statutory and non-statutory guidance to support the new Act. Our analysis of all local authority gender equality schemes culminated in a report calling for routine gender impact assessments of public sector funding decisions to ensure compliance with the Act.



*Singer/songwriter Karine Polwart donated the music for the Changing Lives DVD soundtrack*

## PROMOTING LOCAL SERVICES

The launch of our *Changing Lives: Women's Aid in Scotland* DVD at the Glasgow Film Theatre in March, heralded the beginning of a concerted effort to help local Women's Aid groups promote their services to their funders and stakeholders. The DVD features powerful interviews with women who talk about their experiences of living with domestic abuse and how Women's Aid helped. It is a vital resource for demonstrating the value of our work and the need for ongoing support.

## CHAMPIONING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Our equalities working group continued to monitor our progress in promoting equalities. Key developments

included collaborating with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on its Map of Gaps research; developing guidance and associated training for Women's Aid groups on new regulations covering employment and service provision for transgender people; and providing equalities seminars for local groups on race, religion, disability and transgender people.

### SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERSHIP

We continued to promote high quality specialist services by working closely with local Women's Aid groups. We supported local workers to achieve registration with the Scottish Social Services Council. This included working with Skills for Justice to incorporate the national occupational standards for domestic and sexual violence into existing SVQs.

### GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATING WOMEN'S AID SERVICES

We produced a good practice guide and toolkit to assist local groups to develop evaluation practice. The guide takes members through six stages of evaluation from planning to reporting and includes a framework and resource list. The accompanying toolkit contains sample data collection approaches and tools such as our outcome evaluation model recently used to demonstrate the impact of Women's Aid services on women's lives.

### ENSURING EFFECTIVE SERVICES

As a result of spending cuts many local authorities have reviewed their contracting arrangements with Women's Aid groups. During the year, 61% of our members reported a reduction in funding from their local authority resulting

in service reduction, staff and pay freezes and more groups in financial deficit. Many are already "doing more with less" and are unable to reduce costs without severe consequences for women and children needing help. SWA has worked with local authorities and Women's Aid groups to demonstrate the specialist nature of the support Women's Aid provides and to advocate for equality impact assessments as an integral part of making financial decisions. With 35 years behind us, we are well placed to provide services based on experience of knowing what works. Women's Aid provides both good value and added value through high policy standards, listening to women, children and young people and a service ethos based on the tripartite national principles of protection, provision and prevention.

**“THE CONCORDAT INTRODUCED A SERIES OF MAJOR CHANGES TO THE POLICY AND FUNDING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WOMEN'S AID OPERATES. WE WORKED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO INFLUENCE THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO ADDRESSING DOMESTIC ABUSE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND TO SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS TO UNDERSTAND AND NEGOTIATE THE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND ENGAGE EFFECTIVELY WITH THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITY.”**

# IMPROVING PRACTICE

## TRAINING THE PROFESSIONALS

Our professional training for external agencies continues to develop. We designed and provided bespoke training for many organisations including the Crown Office, the Scottish Police College and domestic abuse/violence against women partnerships. Through our nationally-advertised multi-agency training programme we offered practice-based training days focusing on service responses to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and seminars highlighting new research and theories about violence against women.

On behalf of the Scottish Government, we hosted a national training and development worker to support the national training strategy on violence against women. During the year, we were closely involved in the Scottish Government's strategy, chairing its training strategy development group.



## IMPROVING THE SKILLS OF HEALTH WORKERS

Our specialist training department assisted the NHS Scotland gender-based violence team to develop training materials to train health workers to conduct routine enquiry into abuse. By supporting this national action plan and training programme, we are ensuring high standards in the NHS response to domestic abuse.

*"Health service professionals are in a unique position to support and identify those experiencing abuse; but asking about domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence will only be productive if it is done appropriately. It is important that it is done safely, in a non-stigmatising way and not as a tick box exercise. The training aims both to help health staff understand the dynamics of gender-based violence and its impacts (both health and social) on those who have experienced it and explore effective ways of routinely asking about it."*

## WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We supported the implementation of the Scottish Government National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for children and young people. This work has involved increasing the participation of children and young people in shaping policy and service responses. We also managed the national Cedar (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) project with pilot sites in Edinburgh, Forth Valley

and Fife, building towards a major launch and conference in June 2010. Cedar is a multi-agency therapeutic group work programme for children and their mothers who have experienced domestic abuse and are at a stage where they feel able to rebuild their lives. It is based on a treatment programme developed in Canada. The interim evaluation shows that the groups help children improve their understanding of domestic abuse and how it affects them.

**"It's definitely through the eyes of a bairn, Cedar, isn't it?"**

## PIONEERING ACADEMIC STUDY

In partnership with Queen Margaret University, and developing from our joint CPD diploma in *Gender Justice, Masculinities and Violence*, we developed a masters level degree which received validation in November 2009. This course, *MSc in Gender and Social Justice*, is the first of its kind in Scotland and has attracted widespread interest.

*"Education needs to be relevant to the pressing issues in society. Queen Margaret University is doing this by working closely with Women's Aid, which has always been in the front line of addressing domestic abuse and other injustices experienced by women."*

Dr Eurig Scandrett, QMU programme coordinator

# INFLUENCING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

## SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

Some women experiencing domestic abuse are not entitled to welfare benefits because of their immigration status. Amid increasing concerns about the risks to women with no recourse to public funds, we worked with Amnesty International in Scotland to focus attention on the role of the Scottish Government and local authorities in providing financial support to such women and their children. This included commissioning a legal opinion on the implications for women's human rights. The UK Government is now piloting a scheme, Sojourner, to make emergency provision. This runs until March 2011 with a pledge to find a permanent solution.

## PAYING THE PRICE

The social and economic costs of domestic abuse affect not only individuals and the services supporting them, but also employers and society as a whole. We all have a role to play in reducing the burden. This was the main theme of our annual conference, *Paying the Price: the social and economic cost of domestic abuse*, which brought together delegates from health boards, local authorities and other organisations. Speakers included Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet

**“IT’S NOT ABOUT WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD TO TRAIN FRONTLINE STAFF OR WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES FOR PERPETRATORS AND THOSE AFFECTED BY THEIR ABUSE. THE QUESTION IS CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO [...] ON THIS ISSUE I CERTAINLY HOPE AND EXPECT THAT THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT WON’T BE FOUND WANTING.”**

**NICOLA STURGEON, DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER  
AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING**



*Conference 2009 from left to right, Nicola Sturgeon, Sylvia Walby and Lily Greenan.*

Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Professor Sylvia Walby of Lancaster University, Professor Ailsa McKay, Professor of Economics at Glasgow Caledonian University and Beatrix Campbell, writer and broadcaster.

## COUNTING THE NUMBERS

On 24 September 2009, we conducted a 'census' to find out how many women, children and young people were in touch with Women's Aid on that day. We have subsequently used the findings to argue for improved support and legal protection for those living with domestic abuse.

### **The 2009 SWA census revealed that on 24 September:**

- Women's Aid supported 642 women and 307 children and young people
- 101 women contacted Women's Aid for the first time
- 365 women and 360 children were living in a Women's Aid refuge

## IMPROVING STANDARDS

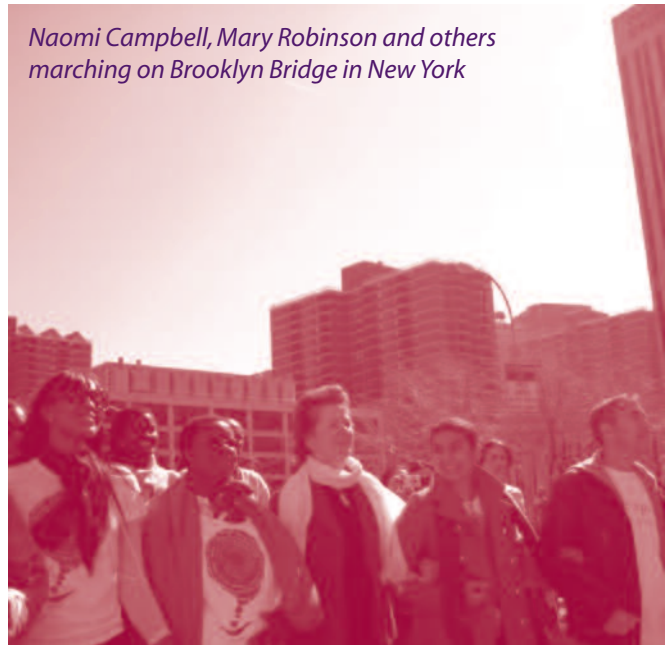
Refuges are the only type of homeless accommodation where families are expected to share bathrooms with other families. This is the case for half of the households accommodated in Scotland's refuges and an exception within housing regulations, introduced six years ago to improve standards for homeless people. Women often have to share a bedroom with their children, sharing kitchen and bathrooms with other families, sometimes for up to a year while they wait to be re-housed. We have continued to press for this exception to be removed and

for better quality refuge accommodation to be provided, but, so far, have made no progress. We will continue to advocate for better facilities.

## BUILDING BRIDGES

In March 2009 we joined others 'on the bridge' in New York and Edinburgh on International Women's Day to honour the resilience of women survivors of war around the world. Women for Women International hosted this global campaign to show that women worldwide can build the bridges of peace and development for the future. We demonstrated our solidarity along with partners from Amnesty International, the White Ribbon Campaign in Scotland, Zero Tolerance and Women's Aid groups.

*Naomi Campbell, Mary Robinson and others marching on Brooklyn Bridge in New York*



# INFLUENCING POLICY AND LEGISLATION (CONTINUED)

## RESPONDING TO LEGISLATION

In the course of the year we have continued our pivotal role in responding to legislation and supporting the development of guidance to support it. This year, our focus included the Equality Bill, the Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill, the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill, the Children's Hearings Bill and Lord Gill's review of civil justice.

We continued to maintain a watching brief on their progress towards the statute books.

## CHAMPIONING ACCESS TO LEGAL RIGHTS

Women experiencing domestic abuse need good and clear information in order to navigate the complexities of the legal, housing and welfare benefits systems. So, in response to requests from service users, Women's Aid groups and other agencies, we published a well received guide to women's rights in Scotland. The Lord Advocate, the Rt Hon Elish Angiolini launched the guide at our AGM, welcoming its readability and noting the importance of our work



## Domestic Abuse your rights and the law



# LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue to focus on the central themes of local capacity building, improving practice and influencing policy.

The 2010 Westminster election and the forthcoming Scottish election mean that the political landscape is in shift and this brings with it both opportunities and challenges.

A major challenge is to secure funding for local services and to ensure that the message of preserving frontline services and investing in early intervention will prevent long-term problems. We intend to highlight the impact of financial cuts on women, children and young people who experience domestic abuse.

We will continue to raise awareness of the need for services framed within a gendered understanding of domestic abuse and the equalities agenda.

And, we cannot stop domestic abuse on our own. We need you to work alongside us. So, whether you are an individual supporter, or represent a local or national service, organisation, faith community, trade union or policy department, we ask you to join with us and sign our pledge. You can do this now at [www.togetherwecanstopit.org](http://www.togetherwecanstopit.org)

**“PROSECUTORS ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE, AND WHERE THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN LAW TO PROSECUTE, THERE WILL BE A PROSECUTION. HOWEVER, BEFORE PERPETRATORS CAN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, WOMEN NEED TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO REPORT THE ABUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE.**

**“IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THE WOMEN WHO ARE EXPERIENCING ABUSE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, AS THIS EMPOWERS THEM TO GET THE HELP THEY NEED. THE SWA LEGAL HANDBOOK GIVES THOSE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN SCOTLAND AND HOW THE PROCESS WORKS. I COMMEND THE EXCELLENT WORK WHICH SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID UNDERTAKES IN ARMING VICTIMS WITH THE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE.”**

**RT HON ELISH ANGIOLINI, LORD ADVOCATE**

## RESEARCHING EXCLUSION ORDERS

The need to explore the range of options available to women experiencing domestic abuse prompted us to commission research into the use of Matrimonial Exclusion Orders, a provision originally established by the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) Scotland Act 1981. The interim findings suggest that this research will provide valuable information about why these are not used as fully as they might be.

# FINANCES

## Statement of financial activities for year ended 31 March 2010

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	31.3.10	31.3.09
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES:</b>				
Incoming resources from charitable activities	750,447	96,933	847,380	868,954
Activities for generating funds		34,443	34,443	139,140
Investment income		3,585	3,585	10,156
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>750,447</b>	<b>134,961</b>	<b>885,408</b>	<b>1,018,250</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED:</b>				
Costs of generating funds		28,307	28,307	31,877
Charitable activities	815,689	75,279	890,968	800,776
Governance costs		29,985	29,985	35,782
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>815,689</b>	<b>133,571</b>	<b>949,260</b>	<b>868,435</b>
Nett incoming resources:	(65,242)	1,390	(63,852)	149,815
Fund balances at 1 April	302,934	302,529	605,463	455,648
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>237,692</u></b>	<b><u>303,919</u></b>	<b><u>541,611</u></b>	<b><u>605,463</u></b>

Auditor: Ian Roy, Johnston Carmichael, 66 Tay Street, Perth PH2 8RA  
**Full audited accounts are available from SWA on request.**

# OUR MEMBERSHIP

Angus WA	(01241) 439 457	Grampian WA	(01224) 593 381
Argyll & Bute WA	(0870) 241 3548	Hamilton & Clydesdale WA	(01698) 891498
Borders WA	(01835) 863 514	Hemat Gryffe WA	(0141) 353 0859
Caithness and Sutherland WA	0845 408 0151	Inverclyde WA	(01475) 888 505
Clackmannanshire WA	(01259) 721407	Inverness WA	(01463) 220 719
Clydebank WA	(0141) 952 8118	Lochaber WA	(01397) 705 734
Drumchapel WA	(0141) 944 0201	Monklands WA	(01236) 432 061
Dumbarton District WA	(01389) 751 036	Moray WA	(01343) 548 549
Dundee WA	(01382) 202 525	Motherwell District WA	(01698) 321 000
East Ayrshire WA (Cumnock & Doon Valley)	(01290) 423 434	North Ayrshire WA	(01294) 602 424
East Ayrshire WA (Kilmarnock)	(01563) 536 001	Perthshire WA	(01738) 639 043
East Dunbartonshire WA	(0141) 776 0864	Renfrewshire WA	(0141) 561 7030
East Kilbride WA	(01355) 249 897	Ross-shire WA	(01349) 863 568
East Lothian WA	(0131) 665 9552	Shakti WA	(0131) 475 2399
East Renfrewshire WA	(0845) 180 1323	Shetland WA	(01595) 692 070
Edinburgh WA	(0131) 315 8110	South Ayrshire WA	(01292) 266 482
Fife WA (Dunfermline)	(01383) 732 289	Stirling WA	(01786) 470 897
Fife WA (Kirkcaldy)	(01592) 261 008	WA Orkney	(01856) 877 900
Fife WA (East Fife)	(01334) 657 537	West Lothian WA	(01506) 413721
Glasgow East WA	(0141) 773 3533	Western Isles WA	(01851) 704 750
Glasgow WA	(0141) 553 2022	Wigtownshire WA	(01776) 703 104

For local contact details see online at [www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk)

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Cheryl Sutherland Stewart  
Nel Whiting  
Diane Wilson

Administration Worker  
Children's Policy Worker/Senior Practitioner  
Participation Worker  
Prevention Worker  
Legal Issues Worker  
Learning and Development Coordinator  
Housing Development Worker/Senior Practitioner  
Housing Development Worker/Senior Practitioner  
Member Services Worker  
Senior Administrator  
Children's Services Development Worker  
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Learning and Development Worker  
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# DIRECTORS

Amanda Jones  
Lorraine McKenzie  
Lynne Porteous

Liz Watson  
Janice Webster  
Patrice Williams



Domestic abuse. Together we can stop it.

Find out how you can help at [www.togetherwecanstopit.org](http://www.togetherwecanstopit.org)



# DOMESTIC ABUSE

## TOGETHER WE CAN STOP IT

A Scotland where all adults and children feel safe and respected at home, on the street or at work is a better place for everyone.

There is strength in numbers. Join with the many thousands of people in Scotland who want to take action and **pledge** to do one thing to stop domestic abuse.



stop

**Take the pledge online at [www.togetherwecanstopit.org](http://www.togetherwecanstopit.org)**

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

## TOGETHER WE CAN STOP IT

Become a supporter of Scottish Women's Aid at [www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk)

Join our campaign to stop domestic abuse at [www.togetherwecanstopit.org](http://www.togetherwecanstopit.org)

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Scottish Women's Aid Charity No SC001099. Recognised as a charitable organisation by the Inland Revenue in Scotland

