

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



Who we are

Scottish Women's Aid (SWA) is the lead organisation in Scotland working to prevent 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.

We provide information, advice, training and publications to members and non members.

What we do

We work to end violence against women by tackling its root cause: 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

Scottish Women's Aid
is the lead organisation in
Scotland working to prevent
domestic abuse

Introducing SWA

This report covers the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and describes some of the year's highlights: a period in which we have gone from strength to strength in demonstrating the importance and value of specialist services provided by Women's Aid.

We launched a major report of our unique research project in which nearly 400 women from across Scotland explored the difference Women's Aid made to their lives; we produced service standards for our members; and campaigned to protect vital services. We still, however, have a tremendous amount of work to do in order to improve the safety, well-being and access to justice still unavailable to many women, children and young people. Our annual census day showed that there was no refuge space available for 40% of women approaching our services. Many Women's Aid groups have sustained funding cuts and have had to make 'efficiency savings'. This, coupled with uncertainty about future funding, means that there are widespread concerns about reduced capacity and we will continue to actively challenge the threats to such crucial services for abused women and their children.

Feedback from our annual conference included some of the highest praise ever, and we were delighted by the support of the Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini and the Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, who both underlined that abused women and their children deserve safety and justice.

We are committed to partnership working because we believe that no single organisation can prevent and tackle domestic abuse on its own and that we must all work together. This is the fundamental principle of 'together we can stop it', a campaign which is steadily growing and encouraging people from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds to join with us and do what they can to stop domestic abuse.

Amanda Jones
Chair of the SWA Directors' Group

Directors

Amanda Jones
Lorraine McKenzie
Lynne Porteous
Liz Watson
Janice Webster
Patrice Williams

Company secretary

Lily Greenan

Access to justice

SWA advocates for improved legal protection for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Highlights over the year included:

- Working to ensure that reforms to protective orders, children's welfare hearings and child contact fully reflect the needs of those experiencing domestic abuse
- Contributing to Scottish Government policy development on victims and witnesses through participation in the Witness Review and consultation on a draft revised strategy for victims
- Working with the Inspectorate of Prosecution Scotland and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland on their thematic inspection into victims' experiences within the criminal justice system
- Contributing to the Scottish Government's guidance and training materials for implementing the Protection of Vulnerable Groups legislation
- Responding to the consultation on updated child protection guidance
- Submitting recommendations for a national strategy on supported accommodation to assist people at risk of homelessness

New legislation

We were closely involved in important new legislation at all stages of the process. The Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction)(Scotland) Act 2011 aims to protect people who have been, or are threatened with, forced marriage. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011 simplifies the process for applying for non-harassment orders and introduces a new criminal offence for breach of a civil protective interdict with a power of arrest.

We successfully lobbied for amendments to the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 to include vital reforms to the crimes of breach of the peace, stalking and harassment and, similarly, the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011.

There is a lack of awareness [of exclusion orders] and because it is not being used, there is not the build up of experience – like a muscle not being used over the years.

SWA manager, Lily Greenan and Chief Constable Stephen House, Strathclyde Police, at the SWA 2010 conference.

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We believe that
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Exclusion orders

Exclusion orders, originally established by the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) Scotland Act 1981, enable some women experiencing domestic abuse to remain in their homes and have an abusive partner excluded. The orders are not used as fully as they might be, so to find out why, we commissioned and published research based on a survey of Women's Aid groups and sheriff court data, and interviews with women who had tried to use the orders. The researchers concluded that women

do not always get advice and information about all their options; that the number of solicitors offering civil legal aid has declined; and highlighted a general pessimism about the courts' response to domestic abuse and the value of protective orders. The report, which is available at www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk, recommends making the orders better understood, more accessible and more effective.

I thought from day one,
why should we be leaving?
It should have been him.

No recourse to public funds

Some women experiencing domestic abuse are not entitled to welfare benefits because of their immigration status. Since 2009, a UK pilot, the Sojourner Project, has provided funding for housing and essential living costs for women leaving abusive partners. After continued work with government, we were delighted to learn that the pilot would be extended until April 2012 with a view to a permanent plan. From April 2012 such women are entitled to welfare benefits when applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain using the Domestic Violence Concession, (for ten weeks only). We are working with the Department for Work and Pensions and the UK Border Agency on the detail.

Welfare reform

As a result of proposed changes to housing and other welfare benefits announced by the UK government, we assessed their impact on women and children. This included briefing our members; surveying them to assess the level of Housing Benefit subsidy by local authorities; providing information to the Scottish Government housing benefit working group; and liaising with housing/homelessness organisations.

Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini, at the Scottish Women's Aid 2010 conference.



Research and influence

SWA raises awareness of domestic abuse and works to prevent it.

Over the past year, we continued to gather evidence about what is needed, both to support those experiencing domestic abuse and to end it. Our research programme included a major outcome evaluation project (see page 13); a survey of Women's Aid funding; a census day; and analysis of the Gender Equality Scheme.

Together we can stop it

This is the message of our powerful campaign to encourage people to join together to stop domestic abuse. Launched at the Scottish Parliament in November, already over 700 people, including several MSPs, have signed a pledge to take action. Trade unions, faith groups and student groups are now spreading the message using campaign posters, information cards and the website. You can also sign the pledge and find out ten things you can do at www.togetherwecanstopit.org



Domestic abuse is very common. You probably know someone: a friend, colleague, neighbour or family member who has directly experienced it. But we are all affected by it in some way. So, that's why we all need to do something about it. And that's why Scottish Women's Aid would like your help.

Funding analysis

We conducted our third annual survey of funding for Women's Aid groups and compared the results over three years. Initially prompted by the Scottish Government's removal of ring-fenced funding under the Concordat agreement with local authorities, the survey indicated, even before the large scale cuts expected in the 2010 spending review, that many Women's Aid groups have experienced funding cuts and have had to make 'efficiency savings'. This, coupled with uncertainty about future funding, means that there are widespread concerns about a serious reduction in resources for Women's Aid services.

Almost half of our members have reported a deficit in their funding at some point during the last three years.

Save our services

Following on from our funding review, and anticipating major funding cuts, we went on the road, jointly with Rape Crisis Scotland, to 'Save Our Services' culminating in a lobby of MSPs in November. We were delighted when the Minister for Housing and Communities announced that three vital funding streams would be retained until 2012. However, the long-term funding of vital frontline services for women and children affected by domestic abuse is yet to be secured.



First Minister, Alex Salmond, signs the 'Save Our Services' pledge with (from left) Heather Coady (SWA), Callum Hendry (White Ribbon Scotland) and Eileen Maitland (Rape Crisis Scotland).



SWA demonstrates against funding cuts outside the Scottish Parliament

Violence against women outcomes framework

In response to increasing demand for evidence of improved outcomes and a gap in how to measure these for violence against women, we convened a working group involving staff from SWA and the network of violence against women multi-agency partnerships (MAPs). Together, we developed a VAW outcomes framework and logic model consistent with the Scottish Government National Performance Framework. The model VAW outcomes framework is a groundbreaking resource which planners, multi-agency partnerships and service providers can use to link their activities with what they want to achieve (their outcomes).

Gender equality

The Equality Act 2006 placed a statutory duty, the Gender Equality Duty (GED), on all public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and to promote equal opportunity between men and women. We analysed all local authority Gender Equality Schemes and reported on an absence of meaningful compliance with the duty. We are using the survey findings to work with local authorities to tackle violence against women within the requirements of the new Equality Act 2010.

Census day

On 22 September, all of our members took part in our second 24-hour Census Day survey to record the demand for, and provision of, help and support to women, children, and young people who experience domestic abuse.

In just one day:

- We gave **737** women and **451** children and young people information and support to help them deal with the impact of domestic abuse, understand their options, and plan for a safer future
- 123** women contacted Women's Aid for the very first time
- 40** women and their **41** children needed a safe place to stay
- 40%** found safety in a refuge that day, but another **40%** were turned away because of lack of refuge space
- 350** women and **351** children and young people were living in a refuge

This day is not unusual or unique... it is just like any other day.



Children and young people

As a key children and young people's rights organisation, we aim to promote a consistent national response to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

We actively participated on the implementation board for the National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People; advocated for specialist children's services through the government's Children's Services Women's Aid Fund; and influenced the provisions of the new Children's Hearings Act.

Cedar pilot

SWA has been a lead partner in developing and implementing the Cedar (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) project: a multi-agency groupwork initiative for children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a consequence of domestic abuse. The three-year pilot of the project ended in March 2011 and we have worked to secure ongoing funding to support the roll-out of this approach across Scotland. During this time we developed a four-part toolkit including a comprehensive evaluation report, a website and a short animation for use in groups to help children to talk about their experiences and to promote safety planning. The Cedar National Partnership has also developed and started to run training for those wishing to adopt the approach.

Cedar helped us understand what domestic abuse can do to people and how we felt going through it. It helped us realise that the hurting and the shouting hadn't just happened in our families.



Participation

We continue to promote young people's participation, contributing to the Scottish Government participation steering group and the working group developing a domestic abuse resource for schools education.

Over the summer of 2010, we supported a group of young people from across Scotland to plan a national event for their peers. The event gave 80 children and young people the chance to explore children's rights in the context of domestic abuse, through creative workshops, including drama, animation and song writing. Many organisations supported children and young people to engage with these issues. This has helped us expand our networks in the youth and children's sectors, and thus extend opportunities for children and young people to participate. What children and young people told us through the project continues to inform many aspects of our work.



Safe contact

Our work to promote safe contact continued. This included presenting and chairing a seminar in Perth for 70 participants and developing leaflets for children and young people. We have also worked closely with the Scottish Government, through the National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People, for improved and safer contact arrangements.

'Bystanders' speak up on and off campus

Most people are unhappy about sexism and homophobia, but many lack the confidence, knowledge or skills to challenge it, remaining silent bystanders. The GET SAVI (Students Against Violence Initiative) programme equips people to speak out against all forms of gender-based violence. We are coordinating the UK's first bystander programme with LGBT Youth, Rape Crisis Scotland, White Ribbon Scotland and Zero Tolerance and, with the support of NUS Scotland and Edinburgh University Students Association, launched the pilot at Edinburgh University. Attracting UK-wide and international attention, the programme complements our work with higher education institutions to tackle 'dating abuse'. Participants tell us that the course has helped them to take action. You can find out more at www.togetherwecanstopit.org/get-savi

Once I started saying it was wrong, other people felt OK to say the same thing.

Quality and practice

SWA ensures a high quality national and local Women's Aid response by providing support, consultancy and training to our members. We also influence public, voluntary and private sector services through our training and information services.

Learning and development

Our extensive learning and development programme equips both Women's Aid workers and external practitioners to understand the dynamics of violence against women and gain practical skills for an effective response. We work across four broad areas: policy development; further and higher education; bespoke training; and a rolling national learning and development programme. Significant developments included supporting the Gender Justice 10-credit module at Queen Margaret University and participating in a Scottish Government training resource linked to the National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan 'core messages'. We gave lectures to all police probationers at the Scottish Police College (every five/six weeks throughout the year); and to nursing and midwifery staff at Stirling University.

SWA offers excellent training courses, which are always very informative, well facilitated and incorporate a good mix of theory and discussion. I would recommend their training to anyone who wishes to further their knowledge of domestic abuse and its impacts on women and children.

NHS training facilitator

LGBT friendly organisation award

We were delighted to win LGBT Youth Scotland's 'Most LGBT Friendly Organisation Award 2010' in recognition of our contribution to championing the rights of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people in our work policy and practice. This included our work on Scotland's first 'bystander' programme (see previous page); promoting training on LGBT domestic abuse; and developing guidance on good practice in working with transgender women.

National Occupational Standards for domestic and/or sexual abuse/violence work

National Occupational Standards have been developed by Skills for Justice (SfJ) to specify the skills and knowledge required by staff working in the domestic and sexual abuse/violence area. We have worked closely with SfJ and the Scottish Qualifications Authority to embed these into qualifications. They are now optional units in SVQ level 3 – working with victims, survivors and witnesses – which is relevant for housing support workers in Women’s Aid groups for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council.

Women’s Aid in Scotland, National Service Standards

Along with several local Women’s Aid groups, we developed service standards to set out a framework to measure the specialist domestic abuse services which Women’s Aid provides. The standards ensure that the value of the service is clearly defined and that criteria are underpinned by service user feedback, monitoring and evaluation. The standards are available from Scottish Women’s Aid online at www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

National outcome evaluation project

Nearly 400 women from across Scotland participated in a unique research project which explored the difference Women’s Aid made to their lives. The women said that local Women’s Aid groups provided a lifeline which was vital to getting their lives back and rebuilding their identity, confidence and self-worth. They had more ways to keep themselves and their children safe, understood more about the causes and impact of domestic abuse on their lives, knew more about their options, and felt less isolated or cut-off from others. They attributed the positive changes in their lives to the unique support provided by Women’s Aid. The report, *Outcome Evaluation of Women’s Aid Services in Scotland*, is available at www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk



I have got myself almost back. I have gained my self-confidence, my self-esteem, motivation, happiness and above all my life and self-control back. I am a free woman.

Our finances

Summary accounts for year ended 31 March 2011

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	
Incoming resources: Incoming resources from generated funds			
Donations and legacies		156,274	156,274
Activities for generating funds	150	31,083	31,233
Investment income		2,975	2,975
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	150	190,332	190,482
Incoming resources from charitable activities	780,115		780,115
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Total incoming resources	780,265	190,332	970,597
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Resources expended:			
Costs of generating funds		13,271	13,271
Net incoming resources available	780,265	177,061	957,326
Charitable activities	917,030	167,403	1,084,433
Governance costs	76	10,883	10,959
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Total resources expended	917,106	191,557	1,108,663
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Net expenditure for the year	- 136,841	- 1,225	- 138,066
Fund balances at 1 April 2010	237,692	303,919	541,611
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Fund balances at 31 March 2011	100,851	302,694	403,545
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Auditor: Ian Roy, Johnston Carmichael, 66 Tay Street, Perth PH2 8RA. Full audited accounts are available from SWA on request.

Thanks

We would like to thank the Scottish Government, Comic Relief, the Volant Trust and the many generous individuals who have given us financial support.

Our members

Angus WA	01241 439457	Hemat Gryffe WA	0141 353 0859
Argyll & Bute WA	0870 2413548	Inverclyde WA	01475 888505
Borders WA	01835 863514	Inverness WA	01463 220719
Caithness and Sutherland WA	0845 4080151	Lochaber WA	01397 705734
Clackmannanshire WA	01259 721407	Monklands WA	01236 432061
Clydebank WA	0141 952 8118	Moray WA	01343 548549
Drumchapel WA	0141 944 0201	Motherwell District WA	01698 321000
Dumbarton District WA	01389 751036	North Ayrshire WA	01294 602424
Dundee WA	01382 666081	Orkney WA	01856 877900
East Ayrshire WA (Cumnock & Doon Valley)	01290 423434	Perthshire WA	01738 639043
East Ayrshire WA (Kilmarnock)	01563 536001	Renfrewshire WA	0141 561 7030
East Dunbartonshire WA	0141 776 0864	Ross-shire WA	01349 863568
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 266482
Fife WA (Dunfermline)	01383 732289	South Lanarkshire (East Kilbride)	01355 249897
Fife WA (East Fife)	01334 657537	South Lanarkshire (Hamilton & Clydesdale)	01698 891498
Fife WA (Kirkcaldy)	01592 261008	Stirling WA	01786 470897
Glasgow WA	0141 553 2022	West Lothian WA	01506 413721
Glasgow East WA	0141 773 3533	Western Isles WA	01851 704750
Grampian WA	01224 593381	Wigtownshire WA	01776 703104



Have you signed the pledge yet?

Join our campaign to stop domestic abuse at www.togetherwecanstopit.org

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August 2011

 **scottish
women's aid**
changing attitudes changing lives