



Newsletter

OCT - DEC 2023
ISSUE 07



Rounding off 2023!

Welcome to Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid organisation newsletter. This issue contains information in relation to referrals, training and development, and service provision between October 2023 and December 2023.

It has been a busy year for our organisation! Looking back at 2023, we are so grateful to our many funders and the women, children and young people who access our services who continue to inspire us.

Impact

A woman's journey in her own words.

"I am really thankful for the support I received from Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid. I have been through a very difficult time because of domestic abuse. When I first contacted the service, I was still living with my husband and I was too afraid to leave. I was scared my children would be taken away from me and I would be deported. I was worried how I would look after my children as I had no money or place to go to. I was afraid my family would cut all ties with me if I left. I did not know who could help me. Eventually I spoke to my doctor, she called Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid and I got to speak to a women's worker. The worker spoke to me in Urdu, she was very compassionate and understanding. She listened to me patiently and put all my fears to rest.

My women's worker supported me during my difficult time and was just a call away. She gave me the courage to leave the abusive relationship I was living in. I got the confidence to take the steps I needed to keep myself and my children safe. She supported me in moving to a safe home, and helped me to apply for benefits and funds for financial support. My worker supported me to report the abuse to police and accompanied me to court during the criminal court proceedings when I had to appear as a witness. She sourced legal help when my husband applied for child contact through the courts. I would have been lost without her help and guidance. She assured me of my capability to look after myself and my child and to manage my home. She listened patiently when I called her with hundreds of questions, answering all of them. She kept in touch regularly to enquire about my wellbeing. Thank you."

Referrals

There were **1334** incoming calls and **1263** outgoing calls between October 2023 - December 2023

In total, we had **sixty-seven** new referrals for support.

Referrals for refuge request	8
Information and advocacy support	52
Outreach support	7

Two of the eight women referred were admitted to refuge and **seven** women accessed the outreach service. **Fifty-eight** women were provided information, advocacy, and crisis support.

The table below identifies support received to **twenty-eight** women who had an insecure immigration status.

Asylum Seeker	3
Dependent Visa	3
EEA Family Member	1
Undocumented Migrant	1
Spouse Visa	12
Student Visa	6
Visitors Visa	1
Work Visa	1

Women's Service

Refuge

Ten women were accommodated during the quarter. Support provided included accompanying women to court, arranging appointments, organising welfare benefits, enrolling children in school and providing crisis support.

Follow On

One woman left refuge and moved into her own accommodation during the quarter. The woman and her children have settled comfortably in their new home and support continues.

Outreach

Forty-four women received an outreach service. Support workers provided crisis support to some of the women who had fled abusive situations.

The women accessed refuge or homeless accommodation. One to one person-centred support continues with women in crisis and those accessing the outreach service. Bilingual language assistance was provided for women as well as practical and emotional support. The women were provided person-centred advocacy to address their immediate concerns such as financial, legal, housing, emotional, and practical needs as well as help with paperwork and appointments. Women are encouraged to meet their key worker to help them to combat the effects of the trauma and abuse they have endured.

Domestic Abuse Animation

In 2022, Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid worked in partnership with Police Scotland to develop a domestic abuse animation for migrant women experiencing domestic abuse. The animation informs migrant women that they are protected from abuse within Scots law as soon as they arrive in the country. This means women can call the police if experiencing domestic abuse. The animation encourages women to phone Police Scotland for help. The animation targets migrant women who may be worried about leaving their abusive partners because of their insecure immigration status and as they have no recourse to public funds.

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid is currently involved in the development of a second animation focused around Honour Based Abuse. This new animation aims to show victim/survivors of honour based abuse how they can access support from Police Scotland.

We will continue to share relevant updates as the project approaches completion.

Training

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid offers information and awareness-raising sessions and training. These sessions inform attendees about our service and how we can support women, barriers BME women face, how agencies can make a referral, forced marriage, NRPf and honour-based abuse. If you are interested and think this would be beneficial for you or for your organisation, please send us an email to book or enquire at the following email address.

womensaid@hematgryffe.org.uk

Vacancies and Recruitment

Throughout the quarter, we have been actively recruiting for various positions.

We have successfully recruited a new Children and Young Persons Community Worker. This post is funded by Glasgow City Council Community Fund until March 2026. The worker will be providing direct support to children and young people in the northeast, northwest and south localities throughout Glasgow. This is a new and exciting project for the organisation and we are delighted to welcome this new staff member to the team!

If you are interested in working with Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid, please continue to check out our website for vacancies.

<https://hematgryffe.org.uk/current-vacancies/>

Message from the Chair, Brij Gandhi.

I would like to this opportunity to wish the staff team a peaceful and restful break over the festive period. Grateful thanks are extended to them from the trustee's for their continued hard work and commitment to our specialised culturally-sensitive service for vulnerable women, children and young people primarily from the Asian, Black and Minority Ethnic communities. This was exemplified by the positive children's service inspection conducted by the care inspectorate in October 2022.

On behalf of the board and staff, we wish our funders, stakeholders and service users a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2024!

CONTACT US

0141 353 0859

womensaid@hematgryffe.org.uk

0/1 24 Willowbank Street,
Glasgow, G3 6LZ



Glasgow City Council
Communities Fund