PIE4Shelters
Introduction to Women’s Refuges in the UK

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Co-funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme
Violence Against Women and Girls

- Harmful practices
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment
- Prostitution
- Domestic violence & abuse
- Rape & sexual violence
- Trafficking
- Sexual exploitation

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## Domestic Abuse in London

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Percentage/Figure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28% of women have experienced domestic abuse</td>
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<td>85,000 women are raped in England &amp; Wales every year</td>
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<td>The MET police receive a 999 call relating to domestic abuse every 30 seconds</td>
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<td>59% of girls &amp; young women faced some form of sexual harassment</td>
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<td>1 in 5 children in the UK experience domestic abuse</td>
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<td>66.2% of women in work who’d experienced domestic violence said work couldn’t help</td>
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Our support

150 staff members & 90 volunteers working together for safe lives and strong futures for all women and girls.

Solace supports over 11000 survivors every year

Supported over 700 women & children into safe accommodation

Our advice line answers 100 calls a week

Solace supported 374 women with No Recourse to Public Funds

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Who we help

“There are so many women in London who are living through extraordinarily complex and volatile situations”

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How we help

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Our Supported Accommodation Services

- 16 “generic” refuges
- 3 specialist BME refuges – partnership
- Complex needs refuge – 24hrs, mainly enduring poor mental health
- Housing First model – partnership
- Amari Project – 18 months dispersed accommodation for trafficked/sexually exploited women
- Units of temporary accommodation – partnership with local authority housing department

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Features of Services

- Most women present with low to medium support needs...... initially!
- Average length of stay around 9 months – determined by contract but also other dynamics
- Move on accommodation is a challenge
- Refuges are confidential locations
- Funding – core rents – support element from local authority – value added by Solace – issue of short term funding
- Holistic whole family approach

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Model of Support

- First contact point is of critical importance
- Adult survivor has keyworker – minimum weekly key working – formal support planning and safety
- CYP has own keyworker – Family Support Worker
- CYP sessional workers – provision for older children
- Therapeutic provision for CYP and women – mixture of paid therapists/partnerships/student placements
- Mainly shared facilities/some self-contained – most buildings leased
- PIE approach
Ayesha’s Story

“Now I am confident that I can grow and be a strong woman”

- Ayesha, refuge service user

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"I smile now that Mummy smiles"

- Solace child in play therapy

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