



imkaan

March 2014

Violence Against Women and Girls Consultation: Women's Focus Groups and Interviews

Invitation and information for interviewees

Imkaan, a national charity that works on violence against women and girls has been asked by Lewisham Council to carry out a series of interviews and focus groups with a diverse range of women and girls based on their life experiences. They want to hear from women and girls who may have recently accessed services and support for different forms of violence including rape/sexual violence, stalking and harassment, sexual exploitation including trafficking and prostitution, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour-based violence.

In particular we want to hear about your thoughts and views on the effectiveness of current support services in Lewisham and what needs to be done to improve women and girls access to services and their protection from violence.

The aim is to strengthen our understanding in the following areas:

- The ways in which women and girls currently access protection and support
- The types of support women and girls find most helpful/unhelpful. For example, this could be the GP, Police, Social services or a specialist women's organisation.
- Identify any gaps and needs and any barriers to accessing support services
- Explore ways of preventing violence.
- Consider how local organisations can work together to provide effective responses to women and girls and hold perpetrators accountable.

Your views will help to shape the way Lewisham Council responds to violence against women and girls in the future and will form part of Lewisham's 3 year strategy on violence against women and girls. To thank you for contributing your time you will receive a twenty-pound voucher. Given the sensitivity of the discussion we will anonymise any details you provide us with to ensure that your safety is central to anything that you may share with us (see the attached consent form). If it helps, to bring someone along to the interview with you to provide moral support e.g. a friend or support worker we are happy to arrange that with you.

We really hope that you can take part, as your voice is important to ensuring that services in the future are the most effective way of responding to violence against women and girls.

The project is being conducted by:

Sumanta Roy (Policy And Research Manager, Imkaan)
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Amena Zaman who is leading on the delivery of the interviews and focus groups will be in touch to discuss whether you can be involved and how we can work with you on this. In the meantime, please do get in touch with us on the emails above if you are interested in participating or if you need further information about the consultation.

Many thanks

For more information about imkaan see www.imkaan.org.uk