

Rape Crisis *news*

The newsletter of **RAPE CRISIS Scotland**



issue **2** Summer 2004

TWO NEW RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Two new rape crisis centres will open this year in the Western Isles and in Lanarkshire.

They will provide a much needed service for women and girls who have experienced sexual violence.

The need for locally based services had been identified in both areas and plans can now proceed rapidly following the decision by the Scottish Executive to allocate £200,000 per year for two years to support the development of two new centres.

It is hoped a further two will open in 2005 with budgets of £100,000 each for that year. The money was part of the total of £1.96 million additional funds for rape crisis centres and related services which was announced by Communities Minister Margaret Curran in January. (see p10 for details)

In the Western Isles a steering group comprised of representatives from Rape Crisis Scotland and Women's Aid, along with individual women, is developing the plan.

They were expecting to start recruiting for staff this April and hope to have some level of service up and running by the summer.

The Rape Crisis Centre in Glasgow has historically covered the North and South Lanarkshire areas, but the service provided has been



significantly limited due to lack of resources.

Given the size of the local authority areas and the rural nature of much of Lanarkshire, it was felt that a more local service was desperately needed.

A steering group has been set up with members from local agencies such as the EVA Project, Victim Support, Women's Aid and Rape Crisis.

They hope to be able to recruit for staff this summer, and to begin to provide some level of rape crisis service by the autumn.

Sandy Brindley, national development worker with Rape Crisis Scotland, said: "Both initiatives are very exciting, and should fill some of the clear gaps in the support available for women and girls in Scotland who have been raped, sexually assaulted and/or sexually abused."

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SOLICITOR GENERAL MEETS RAPE CRISIS WORKERS

Solicitor General Elish Angiolini QC has promised to fully consult with rape crisis workers alongside her review of the way rape and other sexual offences are prosecuted in Scotland. She met with centre workers in Glasgow in March to hear first-hand what problems women are reporting with the way their cases are handled – and was pleased to hear some feedback from workers praising good practice where it happens.

Workers from around Scotland welcomed the Solicitor General talking about her personal commitment to ensuring that complainers in sex offences are treated with compassion and respect. She praised the new Victim Information and Advice Service, noting that it marked a major and fundamental shift in attitudes within the prosecution service.

She discussed a little about the pros and cons of specialist rape prosecutors and described changes made at Crown Office to create a pool of 10 Senior Advocates Depute who can see particularly sensitive or difficult cases through from beginning to end.

Other topics covered included: sexual history and character evidence; attrition (cases which don't make it to court); and the use of expert testimony in sexual offences cases – a new option open to the prosecution introduced by the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Bill. Everyone agreed the need for improved statistics about the criminal justice response to sexual offences.

Rape Crisis Scotland has expressed concerns that the use of expert testimony could in some cases be detrimental to women and Elish said she understood some of the reservations. It would need to be carefully thought out and introduced only in cases where it was felt that the jury would struggle with the significance of a witness's factual evidence. Neither she, nor rape crisis, see any value in a 'battle of the experts' dominating trials.

One rape crisis worker queried the police practice in her area of having CID deal with rape complainers, only handing it to female and child unit

officers if the rape had happened more than two weeks ago – at which stage it was deemed 'historical'. This was not the case in other divisions of the same police force. Workers worried that CID had not necessarily had specialised training in issues around rape and sexual assault in the way that female and child unit staff have.

The Solicitor General stressed that the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service cannot instruct police forces how to employ their resources. However, she pointed out that police forensic skills are vital in sex offence cases and much more is being recognised than was in the past about what forms of other evidence could be crucial. Search warrants are used much more nowadays, particularly in child sexual abuse cases as the knowledge and skills of police and prosecutors has grown around grooming and links with pornography including internet child pornography. Finding evidence of pornography or of items in the house, which may have been used in the abuse, can help support a case.

She said: "There have been big improvements in the ways police investigate over the last 10 years... Easier communication and empathy are important but the forensic skills are absolutely crucial as well so the investigation doesn't focus exclusively on the victim themselves but looks outwards for other evidence."

There was discussion about the distress caused by court delay for complainers and their families. Elish explained that she was confident that the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Scotland Bill currently going through the Scottish



Solicitor General, Elish Angiolini QC

Parliament should help cut delays dramatically and increase certainty for victims. She also promised to act on some other examples provided to her of women's bad experiences of the system. Updated instructions will soon be issued to procurators fiscal to reinforce existing guidance about letting women know, in a sensitive manner, if their case is not proceeding to court.

On sexual history evidence, Elish said it should only ever be admitted into court if it has a direct bearing on the case and gave examples of where it might be brought in and where it should not be allowed.

Elish said the informal roundtable discussion would be the first of regular twice-yearly meetings she would like to have to ensure the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service is delivering the best service it can.

Rape Crisis Scotland will be invited later this year to join a Reference Group providing advice and information as the review of prosecution of rape (announced in November) progresses.

the national office for rape crisis and sexual abuse centres



Good news on funding

It is exciting to be reporting in these pages on the funding increases for rape crisis centres announced earlier this year – a boost which Communities Minister Margaret Curran promised in our first issue.

The additional funds will lead to a significant improvement in services for women survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Over coming issues we shall bring you news of the various ways they are being used to develop a range of support services around Scotland. An immediate example of the difference this will make is the launch of two new centres, in the

Western Isles and in Lanarkshire, as well as the dramatic increase in the budget of the Aberdeen centre, whose financial struggles we documented in issue one.

But all centres receiving funds will make the most of the opportunity to build on their existing service for the benefit of survivors. As will the range of organisations receiving grants from the Violence Against Women Service Development Fund (the new fund reported on in the last issue). This newsletter carries the list of recipients, while full details of their successful proposals are on our website.

Bad news on press attitudes to allegations of rape

Despite progress in many areas of our work, it is sad that the ongoing need to campaign to change attitudes towards women who report rape has been highlighted yet again.

Some of the recent press coverage of a number of allegations of rape against footballers has amounted to nothing less than a smear campaign against the women involved.

Newspaper reports have featured suggestions of promiscuity, of behaviour which supposedly is out of line with how a woman who has been raped might be 'expected' to behave. They have published photos of 'raunchy' dancing, made allegations about involvement in prostitution and the

tone has frequently been to promote rape myths, such as that by agreeing to sex with one man, a woman has less of a right to refuse sex with him or a different man/men.

Such press coverage basically implies that these were women whose behaviour made it unlikely they would or could be raped. This is all too reminiscent of the kind of innuendo used by defence lawyers in sexual offence trials.

We believe that this out-dated approach to women's sexuality – based as it is on the notion that if we behave in a certain way, or consent to sex with one person then we must be available for sex with everyone – has no place in our society or our courts.

Disappointment over Vulnerable Witnesses Bill

The Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Bill was approved by MSPs in early March.

The Bill aims to widen the number of witnesses classed as vulnerable to enable them to access special measures such as screens, the use of a supporter and giving evidence via a live television link. While Rape Crisis Scotland and children's charities have welcomed some of the provisions of the Bill there are many ways in which those campaigning for vulnerable witnesses feel it did not go far enough.

Rape Crisis Scotland has been lobbying the Scottish Parliament to try to obtain changes to the Bill which would have given automatic entitlement to special measures for complainants in sexual offence cases. The Executive had promised to look at the arguments for giving automatic entitlement to complainants in sexual offence and domestic abuse related cases, following a request from the Justice 2 Committee. A number of MSPs supported amending the Bill to give automatic entitlement in these circumstances.

Unfortunately, despite these efforts, the Bill as passed gives complainants in sexual offences cases only discretionary entitlement to special measures. This means that women may only find out whether or not they can access special measures shortly before the case goes to court.

The Scottish Executive has, however, made a commitment to promoting training and providing guidance around identifying people who may be in need of special measures. The Lord Advocate will also be issuing instructions to the police on the identification and reporting of vulnerable witnesses. The Crown Office has also made a commitment to working with organisations such as Rape Crisis and Women's Aid in relation to identifying potential vulnerability.

The Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Bill will be implemented in 2005.

The full Bill as passed is on the Scottish Parliament website at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/bills/pdfs/b5bs2.pdf>

women's voices women's lives

"Please no," I said, my head slowly moving from side to side. I seemed to drift in and out of consciousness. I could feel him on top of me but I could do nothing - then blackness.

I woke up the next morning having celebrated my 35th birthday the night before. I was dazed and confused and ran to the toilet to be sick. I was naked but had no recollection of taking my clothes off. I later found my clothing folded up on a pile of clean washing in my bedroom. I looked down at my body. I was covered in bruises. My hip was scraped and bleeding. I tried to remember the previous night. I remember saying goodbye to my guests at about 11pm. I hadn't had that much to drink. It was a small informal gathering of friends and their children.

I remember being left with two people. A family friend and her older boyfriend. The following day I felt sick and frightened. I had no memory. I spent the entire day huddled on the couch unable to move. My friends described me as vague. I went to bed that night and that was the beginning of my hell. I woke up screaming "please no". I was wet with perspiration. I had just had the first flashback of my rape.

The feeling of guilt due to poor memory is all-consuming. Not being able to cope with the facts because I don't know what the facts are.

The emotional effects of drug rape are devastating. The unknown 'what did they do to me' caused me tremendous anxiety. I was left to fill in the gaps with my imagination. The feeling of guilt due to poor memory is all-consuming. Not being able to cope with the facts because I don't know what the facts are. I have spent a year living with panic attacks and severe night sweats. I have had nightmares and flashbacks.

From the moment I reported my rape to the time I was told no proceedings would be taken, I was treated badly. The urine sample I handed over to the police surgeon was thrown away. This was after the police were initially unable to find a surgeon. It was close to 10 hours before I was examined. There was a complete lack of urgency and consideration shown in a case where time is precious and thorough investigation essential to a successful prosecution.

When the police surgeon did examine me, I asked if he could see any semen. He couldn't. Four months later I was told by the fiscal depute that semen had been recovered. It matched the DNA of the suspect. I felt like I'd been hit in the stomach. The cold realisation finally hit me. I drove for hours, with no idea where I was going. I sobbed for the first time since it happened. I was raped. Heart-wrenching sobs came from nowhere.

The Fiscal's office was less than helpful. I spent months trying to get information. Finally, the Procurator Fiscal started to

Drugged and Raped

by Juanita Berry



***"I will never be who I was yesterday
and I don't know who I'll be tomorrow***

***Today I grieve for all my losses;
I grieve for having lost me.***

***I feel the pain, I shed the tears
and I live with this never-ending rage.***

***Today I grieve for me and for you,
for all we've lost."***

communicate with me. In his first e-mail he said: "It follows that I owe you an apology for the fact that we have not kept you sufficiently in touch in this case and I now offer that apology without reservation". The lack of communication over almost a year added to my anxiety.

I was unable to get counselling because of a waiting list. The police gave me a leaflet on sexual assault with a telephone number on the back. But when I called in

desperation, the number had been discontinued. I'm currently on a six-month waiting list to see a clinical psychologist. After 18 months I still have the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

The law as it stands makes the prosecution of drug rape almost impossible. There are four things to prove in a rape case: The first is that intercourse took place; the second is that it was without the consent of the victim; the third is that the accused is the guilty party; and the fourth is that the accused knew that the victim was not consenting (or at least not in a position to consent) Each of these has to be proved by two sources of evidence.

The law as it stands makes the prosecution of drug rape almost impossible.

In most rape cases the testimony of the victim that she did not consent to intercourse would be taken as one of the two sources of evidence to prove the second of these requirements. However, I was told that because I was not in a lucid enough state to remember not consenting to sex, my testimony could not be taken as persuasive evidence. My case was therefore severely weakened on this crucial point.

The law needs to be changed to reflect the incapacity of a drugged victim.

I was advised by e-mail that no proceedings would be taken - yet another indication of how insensitively my case was handled. In light of my personal experiences, it is not any wonder that 4 out of 5 women don't report being raped. The justice system only prolongs the humiliation.

UPDATE: Juanita recently met with the Chief Constable in Fife and is encouraged by many improvements which police have brought in already, or are due to implement. These include: the appointment of a full time woman police surgeon experienced in dealing with sexual assault; ongoing training for officers in spotting the signs of drug assisted sexual assault and acting quickly, including the importance of urine samples; ongoing training for sexual liaison officers to ensure continuity in supporting women; and an updated pack with details of support organisations is given to all those reporting rape. Juanita is also to speak at a future training event.

Women and girls who have experienced drug assisted sexual assault can find free and confidential support by contacting their nearest rape crisis centre.

news from centres

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre – Dundee

The Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre – Dundee is this year celebrating its 20th anniversary. It was set up in 1984 as Dundee Rape Crisis Centre by a steering group established by Dundee Women's Aid in response to an increasing number of women disclosing rape within marriage. However, over the initial years of the service more and more women started disclosing that they had been sexually abused in childhood. This was part of the reason we changed the Centre name in 1999 to the Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre.

The Centre struggled for funding until 1994 when the Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund provided monies for a young women's project with two part-time workers and a successful Urban Aid funding application led to two full-time community outreach workers being taken on.

This funding has never been long-term, which has been a huge disadvantage for the Centre. Although we still have funding (from what was in 1994 Urban Aid - now Social Inclusion Partnership) for a full-time women's training and support worker and part-time admin and finance, at the end of last year we were very uncertain of the future of the Centre after funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and Domestic Abuse Service Development fund for a volunteer development project came to an end.

Lack of funding led to the suspension of our Saturday helpline and volunteer training was suspended. The demand on our service from women for support however has been continually

increasing. WRASAC- Dundee has seen an increase in service demand of 300% over the last six years. Waiting lists, uncertain funding and time spent working on funding applications made us all feel very uneasy for the Centre's future.

In January the Centre welcomed the Scottish Executive's announcement of £50,000 core monies. This money will prevent staff redundancies and the consequences for women survivors. We were also granted two years funding from the Violence Against Women Service Development Fund, announced on International Women's Day this year. This will pay for a Support Services Co-ordinator. We have also secured two years funding from the Choose Life Fund (Dundee and Perth) for a Self-harm/injury and Suicide support worker.

The exciting prospect of recruiting two new workers (an increase in the workforce of 66%) will lead to being able to re-introduce volunteer training, our Saturday helpline, and increase the amount of women we are able to support. This will in the long-term decrease waiting times for appointments. The funding is going to allow us to further develop the service and good practice.

This year is definitely a year of celebrating our success. We are planning to hold a Civic Reception to celebrate in style with all those individuals and workers in the community who have supported us over the years and to share the good news as widely as we can.

Why Scottish Rape Crisis Network centres are women only

member of the



Scottish Rape
Crisis Network

The rape crisis and sexual abuse centres which are part of the Scottish Rape Crisis Network are all women only. Our ethos is that of women working with women to end rape and sexual abuse.

There is a range of very important reasons why centres operate on a women-only basis.

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- Women survivors of sexual violence tell us consistently that they want the security that a women-only environment offers.
 - Women and girls want to speak to other women about their experience.
 - Women who use the support services offered by centres can go on to be trained to support others.
 - Rape crisis centres work from a feminist perspective with a strong and proud history of campaigning against sexual violence and raising awareness about the extent and impact of rape and sexual abuse.
 - We support survivors working from an ethos that women are the experts on our own lives and we know best what we need.
 - A women-only space offers a safe, welcoming and supportive atmosphere which is something that survivors say is extremely important.
 - Staff and unpaid workers also value the benefits of a women-only environment – they find it empowering, stimulating and rewarding.
 - The policy helps promote the sharing of experiences and the development of skills and knowledge in ways that further the work of the rape crisis movement in supporting survivors and changing public attitudes.
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Frequently Asked Questions About the SRCN Women-only Policy

Men and boys are also raped, sexually assaulted and sexually abused. Why won't you help them?

We strongly support the development of services for men and boys. We do offer information to male callers – whether survivors or partners/friends/relatives of survivors – and refer them to other appropriate services. We believe there should be more services addressing their needs and have provided information and advice to those developing such services.

But the importance of providing services for men and boys does not in any way diminish the arguments for, need for, and demand for women-only services.

Is it not discriminating against men to run women-only centres?

The Sex Discrimination Act has a range of exemptions where it is widely recognised that some services benefit from being single-sex. Few would have a stronger claim than rape crisis to the need to be women-only. The overwhelming majority of sex offenders are men. People understand that women who have been sexually abused or assaulted, whether in childhood or very recently, will frequently feel traumatised coming into contact with men, particularly in the context of speaking about their experience.

While this is not the case for all women, many stress that they would nearly always prefer to speak to, or see, a woman in relation to a sexual assault. They make this point time and again to other agencies as well as to rape crisis centres. For example, they say they would prefer to have the option of a woman doctor and/or women police officers. Most people can understand this preference and would not, for example, suggest in the context of domestic abuse, that Women's Aid refuges should be anything other than women-only.

Isn't a feminist women-only approach very outdated? We have equal rights now and a mixed environment would surely be healthier for everyone.

We wish the need for strong, challenging feminist analysis of male violence against women was in the past, but the statistics on rape and sexual abuse clearly show that is not the case. While the abuse of men and boys is rightly being recognised, the majority of sexual violence is directed against women and girls. And the vast majority of offenders against both sexes are men, although women sex offenders do exist.

A mixed environment may suit some people but male survivors have often also expressed a preference to speak to a woman and services for men recognise this. Arguing the case for women-only services for those women who want to access them in no way detracts from arguing for the need for services for men. Both are valid.

So-called gender neutral services have been criticised for often ending up being very male-focused, which is another reason to protect women-only space as there is very little of it in the modern world. Another crucial part of our ethos is that survivors, if they wish, can go on and do training to offer support to other women. If our centres offered support to men, this opportunity would not be an option for male survivors without changing the whole nature of the way the centre operates. Some groups who have tried adding-on services for men have still recognised that the women survivors they support want only women to answer helplines. Such groups have also sometimes placed the support work for men in different buildings entirely to allow maintenance of a women-only space.

Men could also offer support and information. Women don't have a monopoly on empathy.

Of course men are able to provide empathy and support and information. We applaud men who want to support survivors and campaign against sexual violence. We would welcome more doing so.

speaking personally

cool feminism

The young student activist walked into the room and I flinched. Her headband read "Porn Star". My mind raced about whether, and how, to ask why she, a student union rep, found it fun to wear such a thing.

It bothered me, but I said nothing and pushed it to the back of my mind until, a few months later, at the hairdresser, the 16-if-you-were-lucky junior sweeping the floor turned around. The Playboy bunny logo on her pink T-shirt leapt out at me and I felt terribly sad.

"Why do girls want to do that?" I complained back at home, only to see for the first time that the new cover on my 18-year-old daughter's mobile phone had a Playboy logo on it.

"Playboy is about pornography! How can you wear that?" I asked, barely able to contain my shock and hurt. My daughters know I hate porn.

"It's just a fashion thing," was the reply. Clearly I was the over-reacting out-of-touch parent who just hadn't a clue about what was going on in the real world. A few days later I wandered around a couple of high street fashion stores 'checking out' the Porn Star/Playboy type clothes and accessories and feeling utterly depressed about the trend.

I knew that in the media there had been controversies about 'heroin chic' or the use of under-age sexualised models, but 'porno chic' doesn't seem to have been very controversial – more a laugh to those who champion so-called ladette attitudes.

Sure, I'd heard of celebs such as Zoe Ball having poles installed in their bedrooms to practice pole dancing. Others, such as Sting's wife Trudie Styler, were reported as enjoying watching lap dancers. Pop stars feel they have to get more 'raunchy' by the week, with Britney Spears attracting criticism in March for her Onyx Hotel tour being close to pornographic.

But that had seemed out there and far away, in the non-reality of celebrity land. Now, porn is invading life around about me, real life, in ways I utterly resent but feel I have no control over. There are new lap dancing clubs all over the place, satellite and cable television beam porn channels into our living rooms uninvited and here is my daughter with a Playboy phone cover. I have long been anti-porn and have had occasional eruptions of fury about it over the years, but there

nearly always seems something more pressing to campaign about. Now I know I have kept quiet too long and I want to join with other feminists in prioritising changing attitudes about it.

Why does 'porn fashion' bother me so much? To me, it feels akin to drug dealers giving out free samples to get people hooked. Or as bad as the promotion of bottled baby milk and cigarettes in the developing world – commercial exploitation of the worst kind. If we can worry in this country about junk food ads damaging our children's health, what about the all-pervasiveness of sexualised images of women on 'lad's mags' covers in every newsagent, let alone the so-called 'top shelf' and worse.

porn is invading life around about me, real life, in ways I utterly resent but feel I have no control over

The advertising of junk food and cigarettes is seen as a health issue where controls are needed to stop 'money talking' and to protect the young in particular.

I would argue that pornography too is a health and safety issue of the most urgent kind. Money talks big time through the multi-billion dollar worldwide pornography industry, which has been boosted so much by the development of the internet.

We must do what we can to counter that and to encourage young people to see that pornography contributes significantly to a culture of violence against women and girls. It is absolutely not something to be 'light-heartedly ironic' about.

Wearing these labels is being roped into promoting the pornography industry as if there is nothing wrong with it. It is mainstreaming pornography in a much bigger way than a new lap dancing club is because little girls and boys are being told by what they see that this is OK, a feature of every-day life. Clothes their older brothers and sisters wear without a second thought.

Of course, Playboy denies that they promote clothing and accessories to under-18s. However, company founder Hugh Hefner was asked in the Washington Post last summer whether there was any age below which he thinks it's inappropriate to wear the bunny logo.

His answer: "I don't care if a baby holds up a Playboy bunny rattle."

The makers of the Porn Star label, meanwhile, draw a distinction between the words and their meaning. They mean it as a punk, rebellious thing. Their website company information stated: "...you're not likely to see Porn Star in skin flicks. The company founders, while progressive in music and fashion, aren't into that scene."

But if pornography has weaselled its way into being a 'cool' fashion label, what can we do to counter that. Can we convince teenagers it would be much more cool to reject the industry? To say: 'I'm not an object to be leered at. I'll make my own sexual decisions and my body is my own.'

I'm a rebel. I was at 17 and I am at 41. I don't like being told what to do. I understand teenagers and young people needing to assert themselves. But wearing Porn Star and Playboy T-shirts is not assertive, it is being dragooned into being a human pro-pornography billboard.

If we can worry in this country about junk food ads damaging our children's health, what about the all-pervasiveness of sexualised images of women

If heterosexual young women are interested in asserting themselves and/or attracting the opposite sex by coming across as sexually confident, perhaps they should be helped to see that this is not about sexual confidence and freedom but about sexual exploitation. It is not about being a ladette but about claiming our bodies as truly our own.

Young women need respect from potential sexual partners, not to be on the receiving end of guys ogling and leering or worse. We need to explain more clearly the links across the spectrum of sexism, misogyny and violence against women; the links between 'page three', so-called soft porn, lap dancing, prostitution right through to the worst kinds of violent pornography, sex crimes and murders.

It can sometimes seem like there are far more important, more urgently-needing-our-campaigning-attention problems. Why get angry about a T-shirt? But it is because of those links that we are justifiably angry.

Who could have predicted just a few years ago, how 'every-day' pornography would become? Online, on

clothes, on TV, on all the time. Ultimately, on women's bodies, using women's bodies, for the sexual gratification of men.

Feminist anti-pornography activist Andrea Dworkin has written for decades about the horror and reality of pornography. In a 1986 testimony she gave to the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography in New York, she described how the harm of pornography was invisible, how part of that invisibility is because the pain and harm are masked by apparent smiles... that women "aren't just made to do the sex acts. We are made to smile while we do them."

Smiling... giving those who won't look deeper the excuse that 'she' loves it. They can then continue to live in the unreal world that sees pornography as harmless, that sees prostitution as being all *Pretty Woman* and not at all like *Lilya 4 Ever* (reviewed in Rape Crisis News issue 1).

To me, the porn fashion trend is asking women and men to smile about porn, to 'have a giggle' about it... to help keep the harm invisible, to smile at our own exploitation.

That is not cool or fun or funny. That is sick.

Thankfully a feminist analysis can and does draw out the reality for women and gives us real insight into violence against women and girls. A feminist analysis asks why so many men want to use and abuse women, and are happy to look at degrading, demeaning dehumanised pictures of women who could be their daughters, sisters, mothers, partners.

A feminist analysis stands up for healthy sexuality for women and men, for lesbians, gay men and heterosexuals. Feminism opposes exploitation and discrimination and is liberating and inspiring. That is cool.

Fiona Montgomery

Information & Admin Worker at Rape Crisis Scotland

*Andrea Dworkin. Pornography is a Civil Rights Issue. Available online at <http://www.nostatusquo.com/ACLU/dworkin/WarZoneChaptIVF1.html> and in the book *LETTERS FROM A WAR ZONE: WRITINGS 1976-1989*.

See Page 11 for contact information about Scottish Women Against Pornography. See

<http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/OctoberNews.htm> for information about the Scottish Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation

NEW FUNDING

SURVIVORS of sexual violence in Scotland will be able to access greatly improved support services thanks to a funding boost of £1.5M for the next two years.

All member centres of the Scottish Rape Crisis Network were successful in their applications to the Violence Against Women Service Development Fund (VAWSDF).

Rape Crisis Scotland national development worker Sandy Brindley said: "We are delighted at the additional funding for rape crisis. It will make a significant difference to the support available to women and girls in Scotland experiencing sexual violence."

Communities Minister Margaret Curran announced the money, along with grants totalling £3M from the Domestic Abuse Services Development Fund, on International Women's Day.

She also announced a one-off £100,000 grant to Rape Crisis Scotland to help the national office increase the capacity of existing and newly developing SRCN rape crisis centres.

The grant will also enable Rape Crisis Scotland to provide a central information and resource service around sexual violence to organisations and individuals throughout Scotland.

The following organisations had their applications to the fund approved:

- Rape and Sexual Abuse (North East), Aberdeen
- Argyll & Bute Council
- The First Base Agency - Safe Haven Project, Dumfries
- Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, Dundee
- East Dunbartonshire Women's Issues Forum
- City of Edinburgh Council - Homelessness Services: Women's Safety Initiative
- The ARK Trust - Working with Homeless Women to Prevent Violence Against Them and Support Them to Cope with Experiences of Violence, Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
- Sexual Abuse Survivors Project - SASSIE Development Project, Edinburgh
- Open Secret - Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Falkirk
- Falkirk Council - Homelessness Resettlement – Violence Against Women
- Castlemilk Law Centre, Women and Children's Rights Project, Glasgow
- SAY Women, Glasgow
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Rape Crisis Centre
- Women's Support Project, Glasgow
- Marriage Counselling Highland/Relate - A Woman's Place
- NHS Lanarkshire EVA Project
- Perthshire Women's Aid
- Renfrewshire Women and Children First
- West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust Psychology Dept

A full list with details of amounts granted and purpose of application is on the March 04 news page of the RCS website www.rapecrisscotland.org.uk

The Violence Against Women Service Development Fund had been announced in November 2003 and rape crisis centres received a further boost in January when Ms Curran announced a total of £1.96 million additional funds for rape crisis centres and related services. These funds included £50,000 per year for 2 years for each of the following 9 organisations:

- Rape Crisis Centre, Glasgow
- Edinburgh Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
- Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre, Dundee
- Fife Rape & Sexual Assault Centre
- Ayr Rape Crisis & Survivors Sexual Abuse Centre
- South West Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre

- Highland Rape & Abuse Line
- Central Scotland Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre
- Rape Counselling & Resource Centre, Kilmarnock.

In addition, £95,000 per year has been allocated to Rape and Sexual Abuse North East – formerly Aberdeen Rape Crisis Centre - for two years; the higher funding being in recognition of the particularly poor level of funding they were operating with.

The £1.96 million additional funds also included funding for setting up 4 new rape crisis centres; funding to Rape Crisis Scotland to commission a feasibility study into setting up a national rape crisis helpline and funding to commission a review of rape crisis service provision in Scotland.

international news

MASS RAPE AND 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' IN SUDAN

More than 100 women were raped in a single attack by Arab militias in western Sudan in March. In a BBC interview Mukesh Kapila, United Nations co-ordinator for Sudan, told of the mass rape and other atrocities such as mass killings and abduction of women and children in Darfur. He called the conflict there "the worst humanitarian situation in the world" with more than one million people affected by 'ethnic cleansing'. Mr Kapila compared the situation in character, if not scale, to the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Amnesty International stated: "Men, women and children are being killed and villages are burnt and looted because the central government is allowing militias aligned to it to pursue what amounts to a strategy of forced displacement through the destruction of homes and livelihood of the farming populations of the region." Amnesty warned the conflict was spilling over into neighbouring Chad after over 100,000 fled there. AI criticised the Sudanese government for severely restricting international aid and being unwilling to address the human rights crisis in the region.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DECLARES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN "THE GREATEST HUMAN RIGHTS SCANDAL OF OUR TIMES"

Amnesty International has launched a new worldwide campaign against violence against women. It said that the experience or threat of violence affects the lives of women everywhere, cutting across boundaries of wealth, race, and culture. "From birth to death, in times of peace as well as war, women face discrimination and violence at the hands of the state, the community and the family."

AI UK said: "The Stop Violence Against Women campaign will focus on ending violence against women in the family and in conflict/post conflict situations: two of the most dangerous sites for millions of women throughout the world." Campaign research shows that:

- At least one out of every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in her lifetime.
- More than 60 million women are 'missing' from the world today as a result of sex-selective abortions and female infanticide.
- Every year millions of women are raped by partners, relatives, friends and strangers, by employers and colleagues, soldiers and members of armed groups.
- Violence in the family is endemic all over the world: the overwhelming majority of victims are women and girls.
- The World Health Organisation says up to 70 per cent of female murder victims are killed by their male partners.
- Small arms and light weapons are the main tools of almost every conflict. Women and children account for nearly 80% of the casualties, according to the UN Secretary-General.

Further information on <http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/index-eng>

Amnesty International Scotland
6 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AT
Tel: 0131 466 6200, Fax: 0131 466 6201
E-mail: scotland@amnesty.org.uk

SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING - USA-VIRGIN ATLANTIC'S MISOGYNISTIC URINALS

Congratulations to the National Organisation for Women in America for their successful campaign against Virgin Atlantic airline's urinals, designed in the shape of a woman's lipstick open mouth. The disgusting toilet plan (called 'kisses' and described as 'sexy' on the website of the manufacturer Bathroom Mania) was for the airline's Executive Clubhouse at Kennedy airport in New York. But Virgin Atlantic apologised and ditched the idea on the day NOW arranged a news conference to highlight how offensive the urinals were. However, the airline said that they were surprised the proposal had caused offence.

Rape Crisis Scotland emailed Richard Branson to complain that they had thought it suitable to install urinals where men urinate into a woman's mouth. We argued this represented a real hatred of women. A reply from a customer relations UK manager stated: "We maintain our view that the new JFK urinals are a quirky feature without any pre determined or subversive connotation on our part." But she added that as a company which listens to passengers and the general public, the toilets would not be installed. See the NOW website for further details www.now.org

LOBBYING BANKS - IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Scottish Women Against Pornography is hoping to copy the success of the National Women's Council of Ireland in stopping a bank funding pornography. The Irish women protested successfully about the Bank of Ireland helping to fund a company buying publisher Richard Desmond's porn empire. The Bank of Ireland withdrew from the deal but the Bank of Scotland has admitted that it has extended more than £5 million of debt financing to Remnant Media to buy 45 of Desmond's pornographic magazines - including titles such as Asian Babes, and Readers' Wives.

The Bank of Scotland was forced to apologise for causing offence after publicity included criticism from top businesswomen. It implied to reporters that a review of lending policy would prevent any similar deals in the future. Christine Cook, president of the Association of Scottish Businesswomen, had told Scotland on Sunday: "I always assumed that Bank of Scotland retained very high ethical standards. It is a horrifying fact of life that porn makes a lot of money. But it not only demeans women, it also demeans the men that buy it, as well as everybody that makes money from it."

And Isabella Moore, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The deal calls into question whether Bank of Scotland really supports its own women in business agenda."

SWAP is urging women to email or write to protest to the Bank of Scotland and to switch any accounts they have with them or the Halifax and to let the bank know why.

Scottish Women Against Pornography c/o Scottish Women's Coalition, PO Box 23097 Brunswick Road, Edinburgh EH7 4YX. email: ffswap18@yahoo.co.uk

contact

Scottish Rape Crisis Network Member Centres

Aberdeen

Rape and Sexual Abuse North East
1-3 Little Belmont Street
Aberdeen AB10 1JG

Tel (helpline) 01224 620772

Opening hours Mon & Thurs 7pm-9pm,
answermachine at other times

Website

www.rapeandsexualabuse northeast.co.uk

Email

rapecrisis@littlebelmontstreet.fsnet.co.uk

Dundee

Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
PO Box 83, Dundee DD1 4YZ

Tel (helpline) 01382 201291

Opening hours Mon 12noon-2pm, Tues
10am-12noon, Wed & Fri 7pm-9pm, Thurs &
Sat 2pm-4pm, answermachine at all other times

Tel (business/fax) 01382 205556

Textphone 01382 226936

Email wrasac@btconnect.com

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
PO Box 120, Brunswick Road
Edinburgh EH7 5WX

Tel (helpline) 0131 556 9437

Opening hours

Check answermachine for opening times

Tel (business/minicom) 0131 557 6737

Fax 0131 558 1612

Email ewrasac@aol.com

Glasgow

Rape Crisis Centre
PO Box 53, Glasgow G1 1WE
Tel (helpline) 0141 552 3200

Opening hours

Check answermachine for opening times

Tel (business/minicom) 0141 552 3201

Fax 0141 552 3204

Email glasgowrcc@aol.com

published by



Rape Crisis

Scotland

women working with women
to end rape and sexual abuse

Rape Crisis Scotland

1st floor, Central Chambers
93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD
tel/minicom: 0141 248 8848
fax: 0141 248 8748

email: info@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

web: www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

The Scottish Rape Crisis Network receives core
funding for the national office - Rape Crisis Scotland
- from the Scottish Executive under Section 10 of
the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

info & events

JOB ADS/RESEARCH COMING SOON

A number of new posts within the rape crisis movement will be advertised on the Rape Crisis Scotland website in the coming months. Please check the jobs page there for details. Also check the news pages for information about tendering for any relevant research projects. www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

CONFERENCE

TREATMENT OF ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE 23rd April 2004

Dr Judith Lewis Herman, author of *Trauma and Recovery* (Basic Books, 1992) and *Father-Daughter Incest* (Harvard University Press, 1981), is presenting this seminar at the University of Westminster. She will "review the effects of prolonged and repeated trauma and describe the complex syndrome frequently seen in patients with a traumatic history."

Dr Herman, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, will describe the process of individual psychotherapy and the complementary roles of bio-behavioural treatments, group psychotherapy, self-help organisations and social action. Likely to be over-subscribed. Further details from conference@reconstruct.co.uk or 01225 780145

RAPE CRISIS SCOTLAND RESOURCE LIBRARY

A wide range of books and other resources on sexual violence is available from the RCS office. To receive an updated catalogue in May, email info@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk. Recent additions include:

***From Homebreakers To Jail Breakers: Southall Black Sisters, Rahila Gupta.* (ed) Zed Books. 2003**

Against all the odds, Southall Black Sisters, a poorly funded, radical women's group has become synonymous with black British feminism over the last twenty-one years. They have not merely offered welfare advice from their West London base but have spearheaded campaigns on a range of issues from abused women who kill (such as the case of Kiranjit Ahluwalia) to the dangers posed to women by the rise of religious fundamentalism.

She Who Was Lost Is Remembered: Healing From Incest Through Creativity.

Louise Wischild (ed). Seal Press. 1991

Over thirty women artists, writers, musicians, playwrights and poets have joined together in this anthology to tell the story of sexual abuse at the hands of family members and how they used creativity to mend their spirits and their bodies. Their art and writing are accompanied by personal essays that recall and exorcise painful events.



Contributions for the next issue of Rape Crisis News

If you have ideas for articles, news or other items for this newsletter please contact Fiona Montgomery at the Rape Crisis Scotland office. We are particularly keen to hear from feminist cartoonists and to have written contributions or artwork from survivors of rape or sexual abuse. The section *Women's Voices Women's Lives* will regularly feature the work of survivors. Issue three is due out in late summer/early autumn.

Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Scottish Rape Crisis Network or Rape Crisis Scotland.