

# Supporting BME Survivors of GBV through Housing and Legal Advice

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# London Black Women's Project

For black women means that we are a specialist and dedicated project for BME women.

We are here to support women and girls. We can help with legal information, housing and homelessness, safe space, healing and recovery through art, advice and advocacy, keyworking and therapeutic support.

**Typically how many different contacts are made by women experiencing domestic violence before they receive a positive response?**

- A. 1-5 contacts
- B. 5-12 contacts
- C. 12 -17 contacts

B. 5-12 contacts

**According to Women's Aid women  
experience 35 incidents of DV on average  
before reporting to the Police**

Typically how many different contacts are made by **BME** women experiencing DV before they receive a positive response?

- A. 1-5 contacts
- B. 5-12 contacts
- C. 12 -17 contacts

## C. 12 -17 contacts

**BME women experience higher rates of domestic homicide and are three times more likely to die by suicide than other women in the UK.**

# Intersectional Approach

- Addressing race, class, gender, sexuality, caste, homophobia and all other oppressions.
- Intersectionality as a central theme as it helps us to understand that different forms and experiences of oppression exist together and are interconnected for BME women and girls

**Negative Responses from the  
Police, Social Services and  
other Public Bodies**

**Increased Immigration  
Surveillance - Fear of being  
Deported**

**Threatened Homelessness**

**Loss of Income and 'stability'**

**Racism**

**Barriers that  
BME women  
face**

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# Providing emergency accommodation for BME women fleeing domestic and sexual violence

## Refuges

A refuge is a safe house where women (and children) who are experiencing domestic abuse can stay free from their abusive partner.

LBWP has 7 refuges in East London

## Local Council

Support BME with knowledge and holding the local council accountable

# Single Migrant Women

- 'Undocumented'
- Turned away from social services
  - Fear deportation
- Cannot rely on S17 Support

# The empowerment framework

## Community Advocacy

- **Women in the community are trained as advocates on basic British law, human rights and domestic violence so they can reach out to other BME women with rights-based information.**

# Project Empower

**Project: Empower provides free and confidential legal advice and information and community advocacy to BME women of all ages.**

**Our services are provided in a safe BME women only space.**

Our specialist solicitors cover the following areas of advice:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Injunctions
- Divorce/Separation
- Issues about children
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Other forms of harmful practices
- Immigration
- Housing
- Welfare Benefits and Debt

**Ensuring women have safe access to their rights.**

## How Professionals can support BME Women

- **Demonisation of Culture**
  - **Use of language**
  - **Holistic Approach to Intersectional Issues**
  - **Take racism seriously**
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**Specialist services -**

**By Us, for Us and with Us.**