



# Uncovering Women's Inequality in the UK: Statistics

Women's  
Resource  
Centre

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## About The Women's Resource Centre

The Women's Resource Centre is a charity that supports women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable. We provide training, information, resources and one-to-one support on a range of organisational development issues. We also lobby decision makers on behalf of the women's not-for-profit sector for improved representation and funding.

Our members work in a wide range of fields including violence against women, employment, education, rights and equality, the criminal justice system and the environment. They deliver services to and campaign on behalf of some of the most marginalised communities of women including lesbians, bisexual and transgender, disabled, Black and minority ethnic, older and younger women.

There are over ten thousand people working or volunteering for our members who support almost half a million individuals each year.

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**Please note: This is not an exhaustive list of statistics about women in the UK. Whilst we have endeavoured to ensure accuracy of all statistics, please check before use.**

This fact sheet was compiled and designed by WRC Policy Intern Maxi & other WRC members.



## Prisons

The number of women in prison has been steadily rising in England and Wales, from 1,998 in 1995 to 4,392 in 2006.<sup>1</sup>

Between 1992 and 2002 there has been a 190% increase in the female prison population and the rate of increase is accelerating at a higher rate than the male population.<sup>2</sup>

One survey from 2002 revealed that 25% of women prisoners had been taken into local authority care as a child. The equivalent figure for the general population is just 2%.<sup>3</sup>

Women tend to place a greater demand on medical services than men with approximately 20% of women prisoners asking to see a doctor or nurse each day, almost twice as many as male prisoners.<sup>4</sup>

More than 60% of women prisoners are mothers and 45% had children living with them at the time of imprisonment.<sup>5</sup>

17,700 children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment each year.<sup>6</sup>

In 2000, 38% of women prisoners questioned said they were expecting to be homeless on release, and 31% who were in owned or rented property before custody, lost it while they were in prison.<sup>7</sup>

In 2004, over 75% of women's offences are non-violent or minor (such as shoplifting) and 71% of women had never received a prison sentence before.<sup>8</sup>

Six out of ten women are eventually acquitted or given non-custodial sentences.<sup>9</sup>

In 2003, young women prisoners account for 12% of the total female prison population and over 5% of the total young prisoners' population.<sup>10</sup>

The reconviction rate of young women within two years of release (during 1995) was 55% compared to 45% for adult women.<sup>11</sup>

In 2003, 31% of women in custody were from minority ethnic groups compared to 24% of men.<sup>12</sup>

Foreign national women represent 20% of the women in prison, compared to about 11% of the male prison population. Almost half of this group is Jamaican women who have been convicted of drug offences and the majority of these women are single parents and first-time offenders.<sup>13</sup>

Two-thirds of women prisoners are mothers and each year up to 17,000 children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment.<sup>14</sup>

Around 55% of women in prison have children under 16 and over one-third have a child under five years of age<sup>15</sup> and 20% are lone parents.<sup>16</sup>

In 2003 forty-two women in Holloway prison had no idea who was looking after their children and 19 children under 16 years were looking after themselves.<sup>17</sup>

At least 52% of mothers surveyed in police stations were lone parents. In addition, 80% of mothers had poor mental health (statistic from 2003).<sup>18</sup>

4% of women prisoners in 2003 were of no fixed abode and over 40% were experiencing housing related problems, such as being declared 'intentionally homeless', incurring rent arrears and lapsed benefit.<sup>19</sup>

In 2003 over 40% of women in prison had not worked for at least five years before their imprisonment.<sup>20</sup>

Only 39% of women in prison had any qualifications, compared with 82% of the general population.<sup>21</sup>

Over 66% of women in prison were assessed as having a neurotic disorder such as depression, anxiety or phobias compared to 20% in the general community.<sup>22</sup>

A study at Holloway Prison in 2002 revealed that 33% of women were taking medication on arrival, but this rises to 90-95% during sentence.<sup>23</sup>

The number of suicides for women in prisons have increased in the past ten years from 1 in 1993 to 9 in 2002.<sup>24</sup>

Attempted suicide rates in the prison service are substantially higher - one in three women attempted suicide in prison and 37% had previously attempted to take their own lives.<sup>25</sup>

Women account for over 25% of self-harm incidents in prison but are only 6% of the prison population.<sup>26</sup>

In 2003, 30% of all women prisoners had harmed themselves, compared with 6% of men.<sup>27</sup>

Incidents of self-harm almost doubled in 2003 (to 4,344) from 2001.<sup>28</sup>

During 2004 there had been more than 1,500 self-harm incidents at New Hall Prison - a 200% rise from 2003.<sup>29</sup>

70% of women prisoners experience mental health problems and half have been victims of sexual abuse.<sup>30</sup>

27 women killed themselves in prison in 2003-2004 alone.<sup>31</sup>

# Prostitution

Of the estimated 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK, up to 5,000 children may be involved at any one time, with a female to male ratio of four to one.<sup>32</sup>

Up to 75% of women involved in prostitution began when they were under 18 years of age and most teenager prostitutes are involved in street prostitution, which is estimated to be ten times more dangerous than working from houses or flats.<sup>33</sup>

Girls and young women are almost twice as likely to be on the child protection register for sexual abuse as boys and young men.<sup>34</sup>

75% of children who become involved in prostitution have interrupted or prematurely terminated educational careers.<sup>35</sup>

It is estimated that 100,000 young people under the age of 16 run away from home or care each year. Children in care are more likely to abscond, with girls being twice as likely to run away than boys.<sup>36</sup>

Despite the fact that a criminal record can have life-long consequences for young women, the Government maintains there are "compelling arguments" for maintaining criminal offences for sex workers under 18 years.<sup>37</sup>

74% of women involved in prostitution cited poverty, the need to pay household expenses and support their children, as a primary motivator for entering sex work.<sup>38</sup>

It is estimated that as many as 95% of women involved in prostitution have a drug or alcohol addiction.<sup>39</sup>

The Government's own figures for 2002 show that there were 2,678 convictions for soliciting in comparison to only 993 convictions for kerb crawling.<sup>40</sup>



## Political and public life

41% of parliamentary candidates have said that selection committees in their parties look more favourably on male than female candidates.<sup>41</sup>

In 2006 only 20% of MPs, 35% of the Cabinet, and 19% of the House of Lords were female, along with only 10% of high court judges and 10% of executive directors of top FTSE 100 companies (0.4% from BME groups).<sup>42</sup> The Labour party had 27% women politicians; the Liberal Democrats had 14% and the Conservatives had 9% among their ranks.<sup>43</sup> Also only 13% of British university heads were female.<sup>44</sup>

Only 0.3% of female MPs are from ethnic minority background.<sup>45</sup> 26% of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are women; only one of them is from a BME group (2006).<sup>46</sup>

Just over a quarter of local authority councillors are women and, to date, no region has reached the threshold of one-third female councillors. Only 2% of local councilors were BME women in 2006.<sup>47</sup>

There is significant disparity between individual councils, for example the Redcar district and Cleveland district has more female councilors than male, while North West Leicestershire has just 13% female councilors (2006 figures).<sup>48</sup>

Black women are 8% less likely to vote than black men (2005 figure).<sup>49</sup>

Forty-two per cent say there is only a 50-50 chance or less that they would vote in a Proportional Representation (PR) referendum despite strong support for a PR system amongst young women (with 79% in favour).<sup>50</sup>

In 2006 women made up 1% in senior ranks in the armed forces, 26% in civil service top management, 18% of trade union General Secretaries or equivalent, and only 21% of local authority women are Chief Executives.<sup>51</sup>

While nearly half of appointments and re-appointments in the National Health Service in 2006 were women, only 38% of women are executives and women are less likely than men to be appointed Chair.<sup>52</sup>

There were 1,890 women in the public sector and civil service in 2005, earning over £45,000 per annum and only 100 are minority ethnic women. This is compared with 5,960 men.<sup>53</sup>

There are 220 men with disabilities in the public sector and civil service, compared to 110 women with disabilities, who earn over £45,000 (2005 figure).<sup>54</sup>

In 2003, women make up 7% of senior police officers in England and Wales. In London's Metropolitan Police, there are just 900 black police officers, 15% of whom are minority ethnic women (1% of the total number of police officers). None of these women are in the senior levels, despite the fact that there are almost 900,000 minority ethnic women over 16 years of age in London.<sup>55</sup>



## Nationality

In 2003, 63% of migrant domestic workers' passports were withheld by their employers.<sup>56</sup>

An estimated 50% of women seeking asylum in the UK are rape survivors.<sup>57</sup>

A study conducted in 2003 found that refugee and asylum seeking women lived in constant fear of violence in the UK and feel so unsafe that 83% lived under self-imposed curfew. A third of interviewees walked everywhere because they could not afford public transport, adding to their feeling of vulnerability, and a further third had been verbally or physically abused, including being spat on or shouted at.<sup>58</sup>

Although women's claims make up one third of all applications for asylum in Europe, gender issues have yet to be fully addressed when dealing with female asylum seekers and refugees.<sup>59</sup>

## Education

In a 2003 study it was found that less than half of young pregnant women and young mothers were able to access a full curriculum.<sup>60</sup>

60% of teenage mothers had no qualifications by their early 20s compared with 25% of women who had become mothers after their teenage years.<sup>61</sup>

Only 6% of schools had bullying policies that specifically mentioned homophobic bullying.<sup>62</sup>

Because girls comprise just 17% of permanent exclusions, they have been largely overlooked in school exclusion prevention strategies and research. However, recorded permanent exclusions are a small proportion of the total number of girls excluded as many more are excluded either informally or for a fixed period. The remedial actions of many educational authorities are male based.<sup>63</sup>

In 2006, female graduates earned, on average, 15% less than their male counterparts at the age of 24, with this gender pay gap widening with age (increasing to 40.5% for women graduates aged 41–45).<sup>64</sup>

If graduate debt rises to £26,000 (which is likely under the Government's proposals for 'top-up' fees) it would take a woman earning £36,000 with two children, 19 years to pay back her student loan. In contrast, a man earning the same salary would take 15 years to repay this debt.<sup>65</sup>

In 2004, of the 170 heads of higher education institutions – which include universities as well as specialist colleges – only 13% were women and there were only ten women vice-chancellors of universities (8% of the total).<sup>66</sup>

In 2002 women were under-represented in management positions in schools, only 31% of secondary heads are female.<sup>67</sup>

Disabled teachers were more likely than any other group to think about leaving the profession (72%) compared to other teachers (54%).<sup>68</sup>

Forty-three per cent of teachers surveyed believe that a disability would negatively influence promotion prospects.<sup>69</sup>

Estimates of the number of disabled teachers who become head teachers vary from 0.05% to 1%.<sup>70</sup>

A research report from 2002 showed that 22% of survey respondents regarded sexual orientation to be of some importance in promotion prospects.<sup>71</sup>

There is also considerable evidence that lesbian teachers do not feel comfortable in the workplace with 30% of lesbians reporting discrimination and 41% reporting harassment. These figures are above those for heterosexual women (26% and 30%).<sup>72</sup>



## Employment

In 1990 only 46% of minority ethnic women were in paid employment compared to 61% of minority ethnic men and 68% of white women.<sup>73</sup>

In 2004, BME women represented 44% of all unemployed women in London, yet comprised 30% of the female population in the capital.<sup>74</sup>

In a 2003 study of lesbian, gay and bisexual trade unionists, 44% reported discrimination due to their sexuality.<sup>75</sup>

In another study conducted in 2004, two-thirds of lesbians and gay men surveyed reported workplace discrimination including dismissal, physical and sexual assault, ridicule and verbal abuse.<sup>76</sup>

In 2005, women represented 50% of rural employees and 31% of the self-employed. There is no single strategic initiative to enable rural women to enter the labour market, although 40% of rural women of working age not in paid employment have said they would like to be.<sup>77</sup>

In 2004, nearly half of all teenage mothers were in the bottom fifth of income distributions. There are different minimum wage levels for young people.<sup>78</sup>

Lone parents in London (92% of whom are women) are most vulnerable to poverty for a range of reasons and they are not necessarily better off in paid employment.<sup>79</sup>

The cost per year in inner London for day nursery, for a child under two years is typically £8,700 or around £197 per week – compared with an average of £142 per week in Great Britain. Yet the extra costs associated with living in London are not reflected in tax credits (2006 figure).<sup>80</sup>

The childcare sector, overwhelmingly female, is the worst paid occupation in the UK – for example, nursery workers in private nurseries earned, on average, £8,000 per year in 2005.<sup>81</sup>

Approximately 1,000 women per year in England and Wales take legal action after being dismissed because of their pregnancy. This is only 3% of all women experiencing discrimination at work when pregnant (2003 figures).<sup>82</sup>

In 2003 EOC research has found that more than 25% of employers cannot refer to a single statutory entitlement for pregnant women.<sup>83</sup>

The average award for injury to feelings in sex discrimination cases involving pregnancy related dismissal is £2,000 lower than in non-pregnancy related dismissal cases.<sup>84</sup>

An EOC's study in 2004 found that nearly 25% of women who made an employment tribunal claim had been dismissed within hours of telling their employer about their pregnancy and one in five women returning from maternity leave were given lower grade jobs.<sup>85</sup>

In a London survey, volunteers in 69 women's groups worked an average of 2,630 hours per week – equivalent to 75 full-time staff. Women's organisations who are working across equality strands are most likely to experience difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers.<sup>86</sup>

With 70% of women in employment, their average earnings are still greatly lagging behind those of men.<sup>87</sup>

The gender pay gap in the UK is one of the highest in Europe: women who work full-time earn 17% less per hour than men and women working part-time earn 39% less per hour than men working full-time.<sup>88</sup>

Even in the voluntary sector, which is generally perceived to lead the way in promoting equality, women earn 87% of men's (full-time) wages with an average salary that lags more than £3,400 behind that of men.<sup>89</sup>

The pay gap, which has changed little in the past 25 years, is not only affecting those women who have few qualifications, but also graduates, who earn 15% less than men who have the same qualifications within five years of graduation.<sup>90</sup>

Black African, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women are at least three times more likely to be unemployed than white women.<sup>91</sup>

Seventy per cent of all people from black and minority ethnic communities live in the 88 most deprived local authority districts in the UK, compared with 40% of the greater population.<sup>92</sup>

Overall, the median total weekly income for white women was £135 per week in 2003, which was only 49% of white men's median weekly earnings of £276.<sup>93</sup> Minority ethnic women earn the least with a total income of £118 per week, or 59% of minority ethnic men's earnings and just 32% of white men's earnings.<sup>94</sup>

52% of working age women with long term disabilities are 'economically inactive' compared to 21% of all working age women.<sup>95</sup>

About 30,000 women in the UK leave their jobs each year because of pregnancy discrimination.<sup>96</sup>

Women in full-time employment spend nearly 30% more time on childcare every day than men in full-time employment.<sup>97</sup>

Only three out of ten women of working age are currently saving towards their retirement, compared with more than half of men; while half of women who were saving, stop doing so when they have children.<sup>98</sup>



## Health

A high proportion of Irish women suffer from various mental health problems and Irish women have the highest rates of suicide and self-harm. Admission rates for depression amongst Irish women are 410 per 100,000, compared with a rate of 166 amongst English women.<sup>99</sup>

People from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities are one and a half times more likely to suffer ill health than the white population and are five times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than white people.<sup>100</sup>

Caribbean women have a higher prevalence of cardio-vascular disease and they and Pakistani women are also 20% more likely to have high blood pressure and to be obese than women in the general population.<sup>101</sup>

In 1992, women made up 12% of people living with HIV and AIDS in the UK. By 1998, the proportion had grown to 35%. An overwhelming majority of those women were black African (at least 80%) and had been infected from a male partner. Violence against women is the common method of exposure to HIV.<sup>102</sup>

A study from 2002 showed that more than half (56%) of refugee and asylum seeking women interviewees suffered from depression, one in five found the first person they spoke to at the doctor's surgery unhelpful and only half had access to interpreters when visiting their doctor. Problems with communication are the main difficulty they experience when visiting health services, with fewer than 17% of the study's participants describing their English as good or fluent.<sup>103</sup>

It is estimated that over 50% of women refugee and asylum seekers in the UK, the majority of whom come from Africa, are fleeing rape - mostly perpetrated by soldiers, police or agents of the state.<sup>104</sup>

At least 20% of people with learning difficulties are said to have depression or other mental health problems.<sup>105</sup>

Research found that of LGBT adults who had been bullied at school, 53% had contemplated self-harm or suicide and 40% had attempted suicide at least once and 75% of this group had attempted suicide more than once.<sup>106</sup>

It is estimated that, on average, gypsy and traveller women live 12 years less than women in the general population.<sup>107</sup>

Mothers of Gypsy and traveler communities are 20 times more likely to experience the death of a child than the rest of the population.<sup>108</sup>

Research from 2003 showed that eight out of ten doctors said they prescribed more antidepressants than they should, many to women.<sup>109</sup>

Only 19% of Primary Care Trusts have women only community day services and 31% provide women only wards.<sup>110</sup>

At least half of all women in touch with mental health services have experienced violence and abuse, yet the level of awareness amongst mental health professionals appears low and women are rarely asked about their experience of violence or sexual abuse.<sup>111</sup>

## Economic and social benefits

The combination of low wages and the fact that the working tax credit (WTC) does not cover all childcare costs means that many mothers are financially disadvantaged when taking up paid employment. This can, in part, explain the low take up of the WTC in the London region, with only 14% of all families benefiting, compared to an average of 20% in England and Wales.<sup>112</sup>

Less than 25% of lone parent families in London were receiving the WTC in July 2003, compared with an average of over 41% in England and Wales.<sup>113</sup>

Ninety per cent of teenage parents receive some income support from the State. However, benefits are paid at different rates depending on the age of the mother. Currently, the most a young mother under 18 years can claim is £44.05 per week (excluding housing).<sup>114</sup>

Young pregnant women living away from home have less to spend on food than the minimum recommendation by the Food Commission (for a modest but adequate diet) of £20.25 per week.<sup>115</sup>

17% working women in the UK do not earn enough to pay National Insurance compared to 4% of men. This means that they are not entitled to certain benefits, such as the contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and State pensions.<sup>116</sup>

If poverty were measured on the basis of individual income, 52% of married women would be under the income support poverty line as compared to just 11% of men.<sup>117</sup>

Many older people, especially women over 75, experience severe poverty due to institutional failure as levels of state pensions are determined according to years of employment.<sup>118</sup>

In 2006, 64% people living on State pensions were women and they are more likely to rely on these pensions as their sole source of income.<sup>119</sup>

One in five single women pensioners live in poverty. In 2004, almost 1.3 million older women live below the poverty line and suffer significant financial disadvantage - compared with men of the same age their average income in retirement is 57% of mens.<sup>120</sup> Only 16% of recently retired women are entitled to a full basic state pension in their own right.<sup>121</sup>

In London, men's average weekly state pension is £80.42, whereas women received an average of £58.14.<sup>122</sup>

Only 43% of women received a state pension based on their own National Insurance contributions (compared with almost all men) because their National Insurance contribution records are insufficient due to family/childcare interruptions and their low pay.<sup>123</sup>

Women have disproportionately low access to pension schemes with only 65% of full-time workers and 33% of part-timers as members of either an occupational/personal pension scheme, compared to 75% of male full-time workers.<sup>124</sup>

Amongst Bangladeshi households headed by women in London, 40% live in accommodation with more than one person per room (20 times the national average for all female headed households) and 17% live in accommodation with more than 1.5 persons per room (compared with an average of 1% amongst all households headed by women).<sup>125</sup>

Almost half of all Bangladeshi households and a fifth of Pakistani households in London are living below the bedroom standard.<sup>126</sup>

Four in ten Asian (Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi) women and one third of black women nationally are "very worried" about racist attacks, yet racial harassment is seldom addressed in housing policy.<sup>127</sup>

Because their immigration motivations and patterns are different to other BME groups, Irish people are most likely to live in single person households which often exacerbates isolation and social exclusion.<sup>128</sup>

One in four runaway children will sleep rough and 67% of young runaways will stay with a stranger who will abuse them.<sup>129</sup>



## Law

The third Law Society Gazette Legal Aid Survey, undertaken in 2004, found that 74% of solicitors' firms offering legal aid had turned away clients in the last year, with the percentage rising to 86% in London. Almost 75% said they did not expect to be doing the same amount of legal aid work in five years time.<sup>130</sup>

Family law provision is in particularly dire straits – of the 20% of respondents to the survey who had dropped an area of work, 19% had ceased doing family cases. Overall, 91% of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the system, with 88% feeling more pessimistic than they did last year.<sup>131</sup>



## Violence against Women

In a national survey undertaken in 1999, 64% of women surveyed had experienced some form of homophobic violence or harassment.<sup>132</sup>

75% of lesbians who had been assaulted felt unable to report the crime to the Police.<sup>133</sup>

In 2001, 1,600 homophobic incidents were reported to Police yet only 18% were cleared up.<sup>134</sup>

In 2002, the Metropolitan Police found that of the 175 domestic sexual assaults recorded in London between January and March 2001, only four perpetrators received a sentence, the maximum of which was 14 months.<sup>135</sup>

The British Crime Survey of 2005 showed that 45% of women in the UK have experienced some form of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.<sup>136</sup>

Domestic violence has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth in 2005.<sup>137</sup>

In 2005, 47% of male victims of domestic violence have experienced single incidents of abuse, compared to only 27% of female victims in the UK.<sup>138</sup>

Despite an effort to overhaul how rape investigations are carried out, a report by the Home Office revealed that the proportion of rape allegations resulting in a conviction has dropped from 24% in 1985 to 5.6% in 2002, and by 2003 it was down to 5.3%.<sup>139</sup>

Two women are killed every week by current or former partners.<sup>140</sup>

Although there are estimated to be 500,000 domestic violence related calls to the police annually, only around 7,000 incidents (1.4%) result in a prosecution.<sup>141</sup>

The cost of domestic violence is estimated to be £22.9 billion per year.<sup>142</sup>

A Home Office study from 2005 estimates the physical and emotional costs of rape, 'the most serious violent crime after homicide', to be £61,440 per incident.<sup>143</sup>

An estimated 500 women every year experience violence from a partner and cannot access Housing Benefit and other support, including places in refuges, because they are subject to immigration control.<sup>144</sup>

40% of all homeless women stated that domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.<sup>145</sup>



# Abortion

In the UK, abortion was not made legal until 1967. However the Abortion Act was never extended to Northern Ireland.<sup>146</sup>

Women in the UK do not have a right to abortion on request, even if she has been raped. A woman in the UK has to convince two doctors that continuing with the pregnancy would have a worse effect on her mental or physical health, or on that of her existing children.<sup>147</sup>

In a study carried out by Marie Stopes International, one in five UK GPs (18%) considered themselves 'broadly anti-abortion' and two in five (39%) said that the decision to abort should lie not with the woman but with a doctor.<sup>148</sup>

There are 180,000 abortions a year in the UK. About 10,000 of these are for women from other parts of the world where abortion is illegal or difficult to obtain.<sup>149</sup>

There is currently no UK law that requires the NHS to provide abortions. There are wide variations within the country of NHS-funded abortion provisions, ranging from more than 90% to less than 60% in others. About 25% of women having an abortion in England and Wales have to pay for them. There are no public funds available, specifically to help poorer women in these circumstances.<sup>150</sup>

In the last few years a rise in bogus pregnancy advice centres has occurred in Ireland. In 2002 alone, Marie Stopes International reported that 10 women a month had fallen victim to these agencies.<sup>151</sup>

Despite much recent media coverage, late abortions are extremely rare in the UK - indeed less than 1 per cent of all abortions are carried out after 22 weeks.<sup>152</sup>

76% of the UK population are pro-choice.<sup>153</sup>

Several research studies have shown that the psychological and social consequences of refused abortion are frequently more serious than the consequence of abortion. Anti-choice organisations claim that abortion causes women to suffer severe psychological effects.<sup>154</sup>



## Alcohol and Drug Abuse

50–90% of women in substance abuse programmes have experienced current or past physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Women experiencing domestic violence are up to 15 times more likely to misuse alcohol than women generally.<sup>155</sup>

New powers were given to the police and courts to close down premises that are associated with the production, supply or use of class A drugs and disorder under the Anti Social Behaviour Act, implemented in 2004. There is no provision for projects working with people who use drugs to be excluded from the exercise of these powers.<sup>156</sup>

42% of Asian women who seek treatment for alcohol misuse are experiencing domestic violence.<sup>157</sup>

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([www.womensaid.org.uk/downloads/Section%20Two%20%20Basic%20Drug%20and%20alcohol%20Information.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/downloads/Section%20Two%20%20Basic%20Drug%20and%20alcohol%20Information.pdf))

<sup>156</sup> Ibid

<sup>157</sup> Women's Aid Federation of England website ([www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-survivors-handbook.asp?section=000100010008000100360003](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-survivors-handbook.asp?section=000100010008000100360003))



