

Domestic Violence and Migrant Destitution:

Issues highlighted in Sector Discussion

SUMMARY

Although the **sector works well in collaboration** around this issue, work needs to continue in empowering and supporting victims in speaking out. **The majority of cases are women on spousal visas**, but there has been an **increase in cases of women who have not applied to the EUSS scheme** and have been **victims of coercive control** by their partners. **Many cases cross over with Modern Day Slavery issues.**

CHALLENGES

- Ongoing struggles in resolving issues with some statutory agencies.
- Funding in the sector previously available through the Southall Black Sisters Project. This covered a period of 12 weeks however has now expired, leaving some cases unresolved.
- Engagement with some solicitors has highlighted the lack of a holistic outlook in dealing with client issues, with a focus only on immigration matters not on the wider linked problems with settlement.

CURRENT GAPS

- The absence of publicly available guidance in an easily accessible format remains an issue.
- Many groups highlighted the comparative ease in providing support to those with DDV concessions in gaining leave to remain. It was unclear why gaining help for those on other routes was more difficult.
- Delays in the issuing of National Insurance numbers was raised as a significant and ongoing barrier by a number of groups.
- Local Authority Housing provision continues to cause problems, as accommodation is provided to DV victims but not those requiring support under the wider remit of some sector organisations.

The West Midlands Destitution Steering Group exists to provide a forum in which voluntary sector organisations providing crisis support to migrants can discuss current activity, share best practice and highlight issues of concern around capacity and service delivery in order to influence local, regional and national policy.

For further information and to join a future meeting, please contact Andy Hoole – andy@migrationpolicy.org.uk