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**IMECE**  
**WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
*Providing advocacy & support since 1982*



Annual Report  
2013 - 2014



- **Reflections**
- **Highlights of the year**
  - Project and Services
  - Events, Training, Workshops & Campaign
  - Socials and Trips
- **Financial Statement 2013 / 2014**
- **Special Thanks**

## IMECE Women's Centre

Our strength and success lies in our committed Trustee Board, staff and volunteers and the resilience of the women we support.

### Trustee Board

<b>Akgül Baylav</b>	
<b>Ayşe Bircan</b>	
<b>Cemaliye Salih</b>	Resigned November 2013
<b>Deniz Uğur</b>	Co-opted December 2013
<b>Emel Hakkı</b>	
<b>Fatma Şahin</b>	Co-opted December 2013
<b>Gül Heptinsall</b>	Vice Chair & Secretary
<b>Macide Yüksel</b>	
<b>Mercan Balcı</b>	Co-opted December 2013
<b>Olcay Aniker</b>	Resigned November 2013
<b>Rana Aksaç</b>	Resigned December 2013
<b>Seher Kayıkçı</b>	Treasurer
<b>Selen Cavcav</b>	
<b>Semra O'Reilly</b>	Chair

### Volunteers

<b>Bilge Şahin</b>	<b>Havva Çetingök</b>
<b>Canan Akın</b>	<b>Hilal Arslantaş</b>
<b>Candan Kaya</b>	<b>Merve Yavuz</b>
<b>Ceren Beydilli</b>	<b>Nazlı Tuğçe Başbüyük</b>
<b>Ceyda Cihan</b>	<b>Neriman Kalaycı</b>
<b>Demet Çelik</b>	<b>Nihan Sakarya</b>
<b>Dilek Kaykılar</b>	<b>Özge Enez</b>
<b>Emel Yüksel</b>	<b>Pervin Ergül</b>
<b>Emine Erdoğan</b>	<b>Selin Ergezer</b>
<b>Esra Kuşçu</b>	<b>Simge Vural</b>
<b>Ezgi Aslan</b>	<b>Sultan Ayduğan</b>
<b>Ferya Taş</b>	<b>Tuba Devocioğlu</b>
<b>Filiz Benli</b>	<b>Zeynep Selimova</b>
<b>Gamze Erdoğan</b>	<b>Zübeyde Behjat</b>

### Staff List

<b>Ahu Şükür</b>	ESOL + Advice Worker
<b>Aliye Reilly</b>	DV Specialist Family Support Worker
<b>Aysel Kırmızıkan</b>	VAW&G Advice Worker
<b>A. Işıl Sensoy</b>	Counsellor
<b>Diren Yılmaz</b>	Haringey Outreach DV Worker
<b>Döndü Karul</b>	Cleaning Assistant
<b>Emel Yüksel</b>	Information Line & Volunteer Coordinator
<b>Emine Yoca</b>	Lead Counsellor
<b>Eylem Yağbasan</b>	Advice & Volunteer Manager
<b>Fadime Polat</b>	VAW&G Advice Worker
<b>Feride Kumbasar</b>	Director
<b>Münevver Humphreys</b>	VAW&G Advice Worker
<b>Özlem Hangül</b>	VAW&G Advice Worker
<b>Özlem Alpşen</b>	Samira Project & Advice Worker
<b>Sibel Koçak</b>	DV Specialist Family Support Worker
<b>Sevgi Florence</b>	Finance Officer
<b>Şenay Dur</b>	VAW&G & Advice Manager
<b>Vangül Demirkan</b>	Finance & Centre Manager

### Erasmus Internship

<b>Büşra Uğurcan</b>
<b>Fatma Arıcı</b>
<b>Meltem Tercan Özyurt</b>





## Who Are We?

IMECE Women's Centre is a user-led women only centre working to improve quality of life and empower Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee women (BAMER), and in particular women of Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot (TKTC) origins living in London.

We offer holistic seamless services addressing gender, cultural and linguistic needs in a safe, women-only environment.

IMECE sets out to achieve the above aims through the provision of:

- Specialist information, advice and advocacy
- Violence Against Women and Girls intervention support
- Health and mental health support
- Parenting support and links with local services and children centres
- Volunteering opportunities and specialist workforce development
- Awareness raising, capacity building and training
- Strategic engagement with local, national and European policy makers
- Campaigning
- Research
- Trips and Social Gatherings





## Chair's Report

# IMECE is committed to creating lasting changes in attitudes towards women

This has been a busy but rewarding year for IMECE. The changes that took place in the welfare system last year have had a particular effect on the women that IMECE supports. Refugee, migrant women and those facing domestic violence experience multiple barriers to accessing employment and are trapped in the welfare system, These women lack self-esteem and the confidence to build their employability skills as a direct result of their experiences. IMECE continues to play an active role in supporting women by providing excellent culture and gender sensitive support and advice.

IMECE is committed to creating lasting changes in attitudes towards women. Last year we delivered and participated in campaigns to raise awareness of issues that undermine women's equality included campaigns against No recourse to Public Fund (NRPF), forced marriage and child abuse. We also participated in the Islington Fairness Commission consultations which looked into how to make Islington a fairer place through improving social justice, and the lives and opportunities of Islington's most deprived and vulnerable people.

We are excited to be part of a consortium with 22 other London Violence Against Women Service providers. The London Council's funding enabled us to set up satellite services to support women fleeing violence in inner and outer London boroughs.

We were sad to say good-bye to a number of staff and trustees this year. IMECE is grateful for their invaluable contributions. We also welcomed new staff and co-opted trustees. I wish them all the very best in their work at IMECE.

IMECE relies on the skills, abilities and high commitment of its staff, volunteers and supporters, without whom it could not survive. On behalf of all trustees, I thank each and every one of them.

Thank you all

**Semra O'Reilly** Chair





## Director's Report

# Supporting BAMER women fleeing violence is increasingly challenging with resources shrinking and many specialist services disappearing

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW&G) stops women accessing their most basic rights – to safety, health, schooling and work. Violence limits women's ability to take positive, decisive life changing actions, undermines their potential and significantly damages their self-esteem as well as limiting their ability to engage in work, education and community activities. As a result women experience physical injury, and mental health and emotional instability.

The women from BAMER and particularly Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish backgrounds experience various forms of violence that are not always easily identified and appropriately responded. Due to existing public awareness campaigns, forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and honour based violence are now well publicized and as a result recognized as violence against women and even criminalized. There are some support mechanisms in place to support women who experience or at risk of these forms of violence. However there are other forms which are not as widely recognized These practices include breast ironing/flattening, lynching/stoning, acid throwing spirit possession and witchcraft. Some of the comments we hear from VAW&G practitioners at training sessions in response to questions around these forms of violence have included the following: "it is part of their culture", "how can I interfere one's culture".

The women from our communities already have tendency to normalize and justify violence as part of being woman and tend to blame themselves for the violence they are subjected to. In many of their countries of origin, violence against women and girls are part of a social 'norm'. Women are being killed for exercising basic, fundamental rights and freedoms and perpetrators are given very short sentences if charged, however impunity for acts of violence against women is endemic across the globe. The criminal justice system fails to protect women when they report violence or seek protection.

In Turkey, for example, despite recent legislative changes which encourage women to report violence and seek protection, femicide has increased enormously. According to the statistics (collected by Kadin Cinayetleri Izleme Platformu - a women's platform monitoring women killing in Turkey ) between seven and eight women are killed every week by their partners. In 2012, 165 women; in 2013, 214 women and in the first six months of 2014, 162 women were killed by their partners having sought protection from the authorities. These statistics only include the murdered women who had previously reported experiencing violence and were supposed to be under state protection. The statistics above do not include murders where women had never reported domestic abuse before the killing, women who were forced to commit suicide, and women whose cause of death or the murderer were not established. The media's representation of these killings always focus on 'honour' and attempt to justify them by questioning women's chastity.

## Between seven and eight women are killed every week by their male partners and relatives in Turkey

As a specialist women's organization, one of the most important roles we play is to raise awareness of the various forms and impacts of violence, and highlight support mechanisms available for women fleeing violence. The cultural relativist approaches undermine our work with women and ignore the fundamental message that women's rights are human rights.

BAMER women also experience multiple discrimination – on the basis of ethnicity, race, language and immigration status- which prevents them accessing protection. When seeking help to get out of violent relationships, women face a number of barriers. Many women have No Access to Public Fund (NRPF) due to their immigration status which prevents them from reaching safety easily. Many women with limited English language skills are denied refuge on the basis of their English communication skills. Some women withdraw their cases and return to violent relationships when they feel that their words are not trusted.





## Director's Report

Specialist BAMER women's organisations are vital for women from these communities seeking protection. We provide high quality, specialist, accessible and sustainable support to women who experience a wide range of challenges before reaching safety and rebuilding their lives. We also work to challenge cultural relativist approaches and the discrimination our women experience by mainstream and public sector providers. Public Sector cuts in services means that BAMER women are adversely affected more

### 2013-2014 was a period marked by multiple changes at the national and local level

than others and it is increasingly harder for BAMER women to seek the protection they deserve as a basic right.

One solution to the issue of scarce resources for the women's sector is to work collectively rather than competing against one another and bring the sisterhood spirit back to our daily operational and strategic work. It is important for women's organisations to work collaboratively to ensure that every woman receives protection and services. London Violence Against Women & Girls Consortium\* is an important initiative and IMECE is proud to be part of this to secure resources and access for BAMER women.

This partnership and funding enabled IMECE to establish satellite services in Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest and run weekly support and confidence building groups as well as advice and counselling for women fleeing violence including forced marriage and honour-based violence.

2013-2014 was a period marked by multiple changes at the national and local level. Structural changes to the public sector have put pressure IMECE and other community-based voluntary sector organisations to serve more of the population than ever before. Changes to the welfare system have pushed more and more families below the poverty line, whilst also adversely affecting the organisations in place to support them.

Despite these difficulties, IMECE has adapted to the changing environment and continued to positively impact the lives of many Turkish, Kurdish and BAMER women coming from diverse backgrounds with different needs by providing excellent, accessible and sustainable support.

IMECE acquired IMKAAN's Accredited Quality Standards (IAQS) – a quality assurance mechanism which ensures that BAMER VAW&G and Harmful Practices service delivery follows an approved set of high standards. IAQS is part of the Women's Aid Federation of England National Accredited Quality Standards. Only 6 organisations in London have acquired this newly developed BAMER specialist accreditation which IMECE obtained with distinction. This year our Advice and Information service was also audited and our AQS accreditation was successfully renewed.

IMECE has always provided specialist VAW&G training to frontline practitioners including social workers, police officers, youth workers and refuge workers to build their capacity to more effectively respond to the needs of BAMER survivors appropriately. This year we also focused on early prevention and provided a number of VAW&G training sessions for secondary schools student in various boroughs of London.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for their determination and commitment for fighting for protection and equal treatment for our women and children.

In the following pages we will present you with an insight into our work and the impact it has on the lives of the women we work with.

**Feride Kumbasar** Director



## Violence Against Women and Girls Service

From April 2013 to March 2014, VAW&G Service consisted of five different projects that provided specialist Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW&G) support for women fleeing domestic violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour based violence and other forms of VAW&G. All operated with their specific scope and specifications.

Through one-to-one VAW&G advice sessions and group support work we assist women experiencing various forms of violence to reach safety. Our work rebuilding women's lives after they have experienced violence include the following key stages:



Through awareness raising and women's support groups we assist women to develop their understanding of the dynamics of violent relationships and stop self-blaming and re-build their self-esteem.

### What did we provide?

- **One to one VAW&G case work:** risk assessments, safety planning, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals, referrals to other agencies, safeguarding risk reduction, securing safe accommodation, making benefit applications, assistance with immediate resettlement issues for women and children
- **Outreach surgeries:** outreach advice surgeries in Enfield, Haringey, Waltham forest to provide better access for women in need of VAW&G support.
- **Support groups:** support groups in various borough's including Islington, Enfield, Haringey and Hackney and at IMECE, providing a platform for women to share experiences, discuss the issues and difficulties they face, and increase awareness about their rights.
- **Training:** VAW&G training on supporting women from BAMER communities for practitioners and policy makers. We provided specialist training on identifying and responding to forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation.
- **Awareness Raising:** about various forms of violence, rights, services and impact on children in the communities to increase VAW&G reporting by individual women.
- **Integrated working with other providers:** Liaising with other providers, coordinating multi-agency working and guiding frontline workers regarding addressing harmful practices
- **Policy influencing:** attending various strategic forums and networks to raise the profile of issues affecting BAMER women.

### Our VAW&G projects

## ASCENT Partnership

A partnership within the London VAW&G Consortium, delivering a range of services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, under six themes, funded by London Councils. IMECE is funded under 3 strands to provide Advice and Counselling for VAW&G and Harmful Practices survivors, Support and Confidence Building groups for women, and Prevention training and workshops for secondary and primary school students and their teachers.





## Violence Against Women and Girls Service

### VAW&G Advice and Counselling

We provide VAW&G advice and counselling in London boroughs of Enfield, Waltham Forest, Haringey, City and Hackney.

- Offering specialist and generic one-to-one support,
- VAW&G advice drop-in surgeries
- Outreach surgeries in various boroughs

### Ending Harmful Practices

In EHP strand we provide specialist intensive support services for women experiencing harmful practices in London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bromley, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

- One-to-one support for women experiencing harmful practices such as forced marriage, honour based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and dowry related violence
- Outreach surgeries
- Women support groups

**In 2013-14 we ran support groups at IMECE's premises as well as in the following locations;**

- Woodside Children's Centre
- Bozca-Der Community Centre
- Enfield Women's Centre

- **Prevention:** IMECE delivers VAW&G training to children and young people aged between 9 and 25 at schools and out-of-school settings. We also provide training for teachers at School Inset Days and to staff members of youth settings. (see the list of trainings delivered on page 21)

### Samira Project

This is an Islington wide VAW&G service for migrant and refugee women from BAMER communities. We work in partnership with Latin American Women's Aid. We provide case work support, awareness raising, MARAC referral and representation, information on harmful practices to other providers i.e. social workers, nurses, youth workers, police officers. The service is run from IMECE and surgeries at

- Hornsey Road Children's Centre
- City and Islington College Finsbury Park Campus

### Hearthstone-Haringey Outreach DV Support Project

The project in partnership with Hearthstone in Haringey, has provided specialist VAW&G support to women in Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish communities. It ran from the Hearthstone premises and provided one-to-one case work and outreach activities.

#### Our Achievements in 2013-14

- Provided crises intervention to 182 women across London and outer London from the full spectrum of risk levels.
- Assisted 29 women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and no immigration status. Assisted these women in signposting and making Destitute Domestic Violence Concession applications and secured safe accommodation for women until they were granted immigration status.
- Assisted 35 women survivors of Harmful Practices in particular forced marriage and honour based violence.
- Provided training and awareness raising sessions participated by 494 women, children, young people and the members of the community.
- Attended and Contributed to Local Domestic Violence Strategic and Operational/ VAW&G Forums.
- Represented our clients at various MARAC meetings. We are a core member of Islington MARAC.





## Specialist Information, Advice and Advocacy Service

### Advice and Information Line – 020 7354 1359

We run an Advice and Information Line 5 days a week between 9:30-13:00 and 14:00-17:00. The advice and information line is operated by trained volunteers and interns who conduct initial need-screening and transfer callers to qualified advisors or make appointments for face to face interventions.

The Advice and Information Line is one of the most important services at IMECE because:

- Initial contact is generally made through this service
- Women from all over the UK contact us and get quality and relevant information in both Turkish and English
- Women receive a wide variety of information including on welfare, violence against women, employment, childcare, parenting, education, volunteering, registering GP, complaints and housing
- Calls can be completely confidential should the user request, this has no impact on the information provided
- We receive third party reporting from concerned neighbours and other local people regarding vulnerable women living in their area and quickly alert appropriate agencies for outreach support
- Women fleeing violence reach us via phone to arrange safe journey to our premises or police stations
- Other agencies make referrals and arrange appointments with our advisors for their clients
- Other frontline providers seek advice from our advisors on cultural/gender specific information

**1383 advice and information enquiries were made through our Advice and Information Line in 2013-14**

## Face to face advice provision

IMECE has increased the number of face to face advice slots from 22 in 2013-14 to 40 to cope with the demand, providing advice services 5 days a week. Improved access to face to face advice provision has been facilitated by considering delivery according to the specific needs of older women, women with disabilities, single mothers and working women among others.

5 days a week

- Drop-in Service
- Booked Drop-in Slots – for women travelling long distance and special needs
- Families First Drop-in
- Appointments

**What did we provide?**

**911 women were assisted through 4677 interventions through face to face advice, appointments, drop-ins and by telephone**

We provided information and advice and advocated on behalf of women to increase their access to their rights and entitlements.

- Welfare benefits
- Housing
- Family matters
- Homelessness applications
- Health issues
- Children and education
- Marital issues
- Debt management
- Employment and income maximisation





## Specialist Information, Advice and Advocacy Service

### Income Maximization

492 families were supported on income maximization by assisting them to complete 396 various income benefit applications which included;

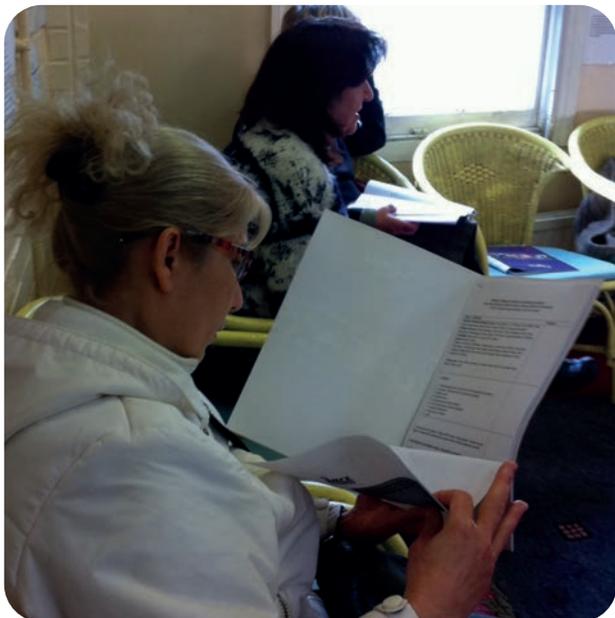
- 52 DLA Applications
- 4 DLA Appeals
- 20 ESA Applications
- 99 ESA Benefit Related Interventions
- 47 Council Tax/Benefit related application and/or disputes
- 58 Housing Benefit related application and/or dispute
- 31 Income Support Applications
- 9 JSA Applications
- 52 Tax Credit related application and/or dispute
- 12 Pension Credit applications and renewals
- 12 Social Funds Applications

**The above interventions successfully maximised the income of 497 families.**

**We generated about £37,500 per week and a total over £2 million in 2013-14 financial year**

## Islington Housing Aid Surgeries at IMECE

Once a month we host a surgery run by Islington Housing Aid to increase our service users' access to housing services especially repairs and home improvement needs ensuring the best living conditions for women in need.





## Family Support

### Families First Service

IMECE is partnered with Family Action and Parents House to run two of the Families First hubs in Islington to support families with multiple and complex needs. IMECE has two DV specialist Family Support Outreach Workers (FSOW). The service is providing locally-based advice, information and support to the families who need it most by tackling challenges early and stopping them from escalating and providing support to families with domestic violence issues, particularly from Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot community.

As well as one-to-one work, our FSOW's also undertook outreach work. Between April 2013 and March 2014 we provided the following surgeries, drop-ins and workshops in various intervals;

- Weekly surgeries at IMECE
- Weekly coffee morning drop-ins at Copenhagen Primary School
- Fortnightly drop-ins at Newington Green Primary School
- Moreland Children's Centre, DV Awareness Workshop, Islington (13/11/2013)

#### Our Achievements

- DV Specialist FSOW's had 28 on-going cases, the majority had domestic violence elements.
- 85 different outreach points were visited or contacted.
- FSOW's also worked with 78 distinctive families through outreach and worked with those families with up to 3 separate interactions and made 100 contacts in total with clients for outreach.
- FSOW's made 60 contacts with professionals for outreach, to promote services and generate referrals.



## Mental Health Counselling Service

We provide a welcoming, professional, safe and supportive therapeutic environment in which women can work with a counsellor to address traumatic experiences around relationships, family, health, employment, and self-esteem, or other major life challenges such as depression, anxiety, abuse, loss or grief they have experienced as a result of domestic violence.

IMECE Counselling Service stringently carried out the code of ethics and practice of British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). In order to develop and sustain the highest standard of our service provision, the Counselling Service is carried out using CORE, beneficiary satisfaction forms and evaluations forms to evaluate the development of our client group throughout the year.

### What did we provide?

- Holistic mental health assessment
- Short-term 15 week individual counselling sessions
- 20 weeks of intensive individual counselling for women experiencing harmful practices
- 6 weekly confidence building support and group work
- Psycho-educational group sessions on various mental health related topics
- Networking and integrated working

### Referring agencies

We received referrals through GP surgeries, Psychological Services; including Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services, Psychiatric Units, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Community Mental Health Teams (CMHCT), Social Service, Refugee Community Organizations, Voluntary Organisations, Statutory Services as well as self-referrals.

### Our achievements

In 2013-14 financial year we

- Received 134 referrals (not including referrals from outside our catchment area)
- Provided 856 counselling sessions
- Provided one-to-one counselling to 89 women
- Four six weekly confidence building support groups attended by 48 women
- Organised 12 psycho-educational group sessions in various boroughs and at IMECE for 120 women.





## Volunteering

### Volunteer and Internship Project

Our volunteer project aims to empower Turkish/Kurdish/Turkish Cypriot women who are unemployed and are looking for work by putting them in touch with agencies which are looking to recruit bi-lingual BAMER women.



#### What did we provide?

- Volunteering opportunities at IMECE for up to a year
- Intensive Supervision and support and free training to improve their employability skills
- CV development, Job search and interview techniques support
- Development of advice, DV response, helpline response skills through one-to one training and shadowing

Our volunteers and Erasmus Interns participated in following tasks

- Welcoming women, responding to their needs and advising them accordingly and/or directing them to the appropriate staff members where necessary,
- Looking after our advice and information line under the supervision of Information and Volunteer Coordinator
- Organising bookings, appointments, recruitments and drop-in sessions
- Responding to the enquiries from other professionals
- Providing supportive company to women waiting to be seen by an advisor,
- Collecting and uploading baseline information about newly registered women to Advice Pro and opening case files
- Assisting advisers providing general advice on welfare, housing, health and domestic violence
- Translating material for IMECE's website, social media and publicity
- Participating in IMECE's AGM and 8th March International Women's Day and running information stalls at various local events
- Managing social media pages
- Run letter reading and translating sessions for women on Wednesdays

#### Our achievements

- 28 volunteers and 3 Erasmus Interns were recruited, trained, supervised, assessed and closely supported to achieve the objectives set for themselves.
- 14 volunteers secured sustainable employment as interpreter, pharmacy assistant, volunteer coordinator, teaching assistant, online marketing assistant, English teacher, book keeper and nanny among others.
- 15 volunteers returned to further education to pursue their career.

#### Community benefits

- 1542 women benefited from the volunteers support through 2718 interactions
- Some of our volunteers who are qualified as counsellors and are working towards BACP registration provided one-to-one counselling under the supervision of our lead counsellor.
- One of our Erasmus Interns designed and co-facilitated six weekly Art Therapy sessions entitled "A work of art: Self-discovery and powerful lives" (*see page 13 for further info*)

*Becoming a volunteer at IMECE was a fantastic opportunity to gain experience. Before I was a full-time mother and housewife. But now this volunteering job gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning. All the training I received here is good opportunity for me to improve my career, and I appreciate every part of it. I receive regular sufficient feedback on my performance in this volunteer position, also at IMECE volunteers are trusted to do important things.*

**Sultan Ayduğan** Volunteer at IMECE 01 November 2013 - 10 September 2014





## Campaign

# Campaign Against Child Abuse

It was a final year of two years funded project to raise the issue of child abuse in the community and support parents, community members and practitioners with provision of information and training to better understand the issue and respond effectively. We also focused on sharing some of the project learning with practitioners and policy makers. Child abuse is a 'taboo' issue and it is difficult to break the silence about it. It is about the power of anxiety which silences us. It can take place in various forms, some of which are traditional practices or spiritual rituals such as forced marriage, 'molybdomancy' (involves pouting hot melted lead over cold water. This is done over the child's head to free her/him from 'evil spirits' ). Challenging some of the traditional child bearing practices need continuous awareness raising on the risk and harm that may be inflicted.

### Our Achievements

- Our workshops on Parenting and VAW&G, held in various community centres as well as at IMECE, attended by 157 women.
- 355 Children and young people attended our training on VAW&G and Harmful Practices at schools
- 23 professionals, who work with children and young people, received training on VAW&G and Harmful practices.





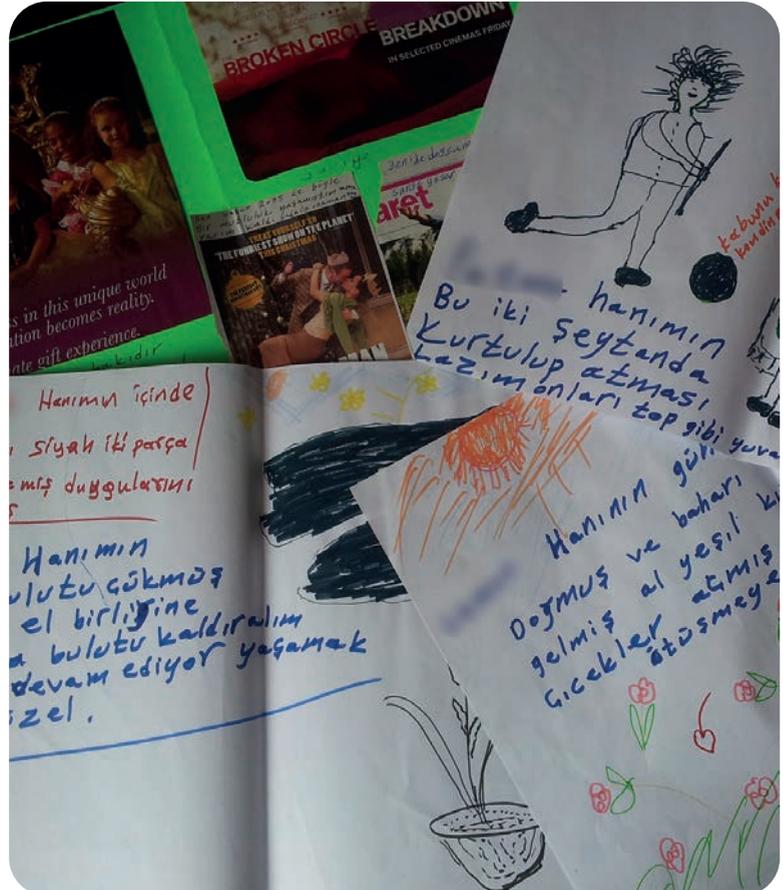
## Workshops

### Art Therapy Sessions

In January and February 2014 IMECE organised six weeks art therapy sessions which were co-facilitated by Emine Yoca, our lead Counsellor, and Fatma Arıcı (PhD student at Hacettepe University in Turkey) who was on her Erasmus Work Placement Programme at IMECE.

A group of ten women explored their journey to a new life with their immigration stories through using various art forms as a medium of exploration - How they perceive their gender identity and relationship with others, and their feelings and thoughts for future. The art forms included, collage making, painting, music, writing, dance and sculpture.

Many women broke their silence during these sessions. While they started communicating their most painful experiences with others, they also discovered how low their hopes/expectations from the future were due to negative perceptions of themselves. The sessions built their self-esteem and provided opportunities for them to establish an informal social network in which they support and motivate each other for taking positive actions.





## Events and Demonstrations

### International Women's Day Celebration and Women's March

**7 March 2014 Mildmay Community centre**

Like previous year we organised the user consultation event with International Women's Day Celebration. Our users worked hard to give us useful feedback and share their solutions and ideas for improvement in the morning before they join the women from other communities to celebrate their women's hood.

This year the Women's Day celebration was organised in partnership with Islington Council and with other local women's organisations and over 100 women joined members of the council and community groups to celebrate International Women's Day.

By joining with Local Authority and other women's organisations we facilitated our users engagement with the women from other communities. They all enjoyed a range of activities, including massages, ESOL taster sessions, music and dancing. There were also many stalls providing information about the advice and support available for women in the borough to help bridge the inequality gap.

Cllr Janet Burgess, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Health and Wealth Being said: *"I am really impressed by the large turn out, it's great to see so many women coming to an event like this to find out about the support available. We are keen to empower all our residents with the knowledge that if they are ready to take the step, there is enough support out there to help them transform their lives."*

### Million Women Rise March

**8 March 2014**

Our members, trustees, staff and users attended the Million Women Rise march 2014. By joining in the women only march, we added our voice to the campaign that demands that the government takes action against violence against women and children all over the world including in the UK. Through this march we got together with other women to speak out against discrimination and abuse.





## User Participation

IMECE has a strong commitment to run user-centred services. Our users participate in decision making processes for the development of resources, events, services and models of operations through various mechanisms: being a part of the User Steering Group which meets regularly and of the annual user consultation events, providing written evaluation and feedback in an exit questionnaire once they stopped receiving a service, and becoming volunteers and trustees.

## User Consultation

### *7 March 2014 Mildmay Community Centre*

The User Steering Group organised a “User Consultation Event” on 7 March 2014. The event was attended by 55 women who assessed all of IMECE’s services one by one and made suggestions for improvement.

The group discussions were facilitated by our users Leman Doğan, Fitoz Doğan and Hatun Çağlar. Our volunteers Sultan Ayduğan, Zeynep Seliomova and Filiz Benli assisted the facilitators. While feedback was very positive and constructive, older women reiterated their need for more time/longer appointments. They asked for home visits for disabled women; equal access for those living some distance from our office; more social and leisure activities; and specific support in relation to mental health. All concurred that they wanted IMECE to run a dedicated project for older women again as they felt more comfortable among peers.

## Participation in Local Research

Our users participated in a research project on the impacts of the Welfare Reform on families living in Islington. We facilitated engagement of 7 of our users to provide information about their income level, how they experience the Welfare Reform and the impact of these changes on the quality of their lives. The study still continues.

## Participation of Local Events

**Outreach - FSW Network Annual Event** - Laycock Centre (3 October 2013)

**White Ribbon Conference** - Islington Town Hall (28 November 2013)

**International Day of Disabled People** - Islington Assembly Hall (3 December 2013)

**Islington ESOL Learners and tutors event** - Islington Town Hall (5 December 2013)

**Healthy Relationship Conference** - City and Islington College (27 February 2014)





## Outings

### Seaside Trip: Brighton

27 July 2013

Each year IMECE organises at least one coach trip to the seaside for its service users and their families. This year's trip, on 27 July 2013 to Brighton, was attended by 27 women and children.

It was one of the memorable days out for particularly those women and children who could not afford to go on holiday, but needed a break from the grit of their daily lives. Despite wet and windy conditions participants enjoyed the coach journey during which they sang together and told jokes to each other and had a chance to have fun visiting the attractions around Brighton Pier.

All participants thanked us for the event and said that it had been a wonderful and enjoyable getaway for them.





## Art and Awareness

### London Human Rights Watch Film Festival

18-25 March 2014

IMECE presented two films at the London-Human Rights Watch Film Festival 2014.

This was an important event for IMECE, as it was both an event for promoting Human Rights and exposing the injustices in our country. The films IMECE co-presented were of specific relevance and importance for the work IMECE does.

**My Child** exposed the issues faced by LGBT individuals in Turkey and presented their parents' response to their sons and daughters coming out. It also introduced a courageous and inspiring group of parents who are parents of LGBT individuals. **My Child** showed the process these parents went through in accepting their children for who they are. They also took the next step of sharing their experiences as they redefined what it meant to be a parent and activist in a homophobic and transphobic society. **My Child** was screened at Curzon Soho and the Barbican cinemas and both screenings were followed by discussion with filmmakers and film subjects Nilgül and Zeki Yalçinoğulları from LISTAG, a voluntary support and solidarity group for families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people in Istanbul since January 2008.



The other film that was presented by IMECE was **Before Snowfall**, a story of a young girl fleeing from Forced Marriage and Honour Killing from Iraqi Kurdistan to Europe. It showed the extent of violence in the name of 'honour' and how far reaching it could get. Her brother was sent after her with a view to find and kill her to clear the family name and honour. **Before Snowfall** exposed the brutal requirements of 'tradition' and clearly exposed the position of women in male dominated communities as well as women's 'fate' if they chose not to adhere to the "rules and demands" of the society. **Before Snowfall** was screened twice at the Barbican and Ritzy Brixton to full houses of diverse audiences.

At all screenings, IMECE ran information stalls which were visited by members of the audience.

## Gezi Protests

8 June 2013

IMECE took part in demonstration in London to support the Gezi Park Protests. A 'women chappuller' choir consisted of users, trustees, staff, volunteers and friends of IMECE was set up before the demonstration. The choir practiced some of the Gezi Protest songs. Duygu Camurcuoglu facilitated drumming workshops where participants learned to beat pots and pans along with singing.

Different types of gas masks, Gezi Parki as old as you

Beat your pots and pans, forks and spoons

People rise to find a solution

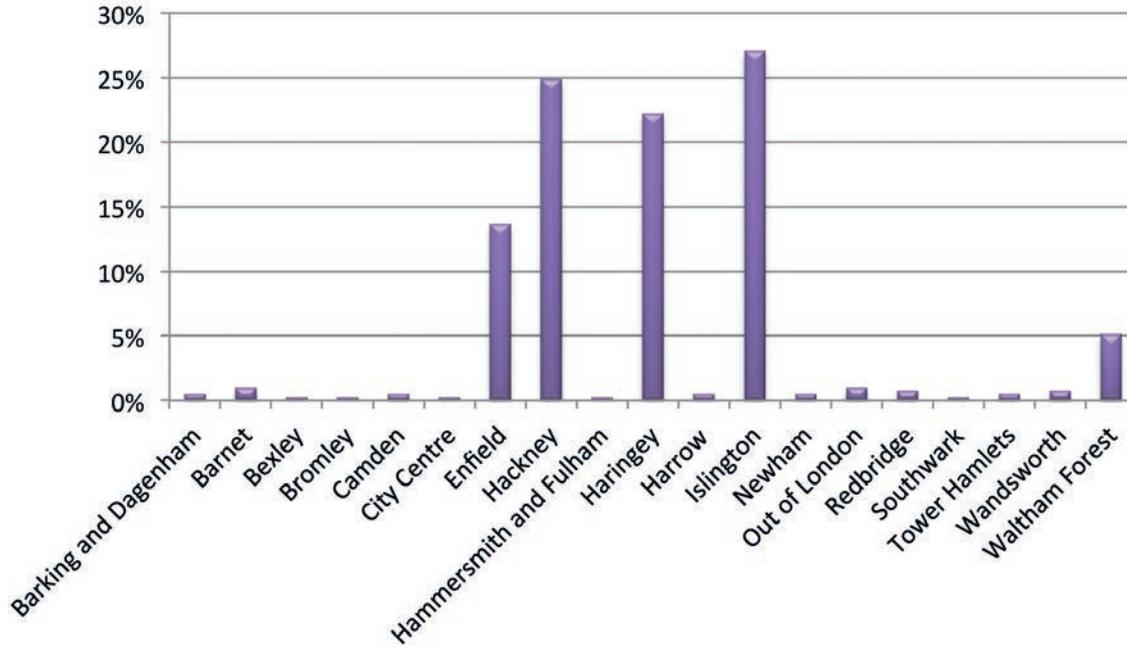
They are on the barricades on the way to Taksim

Gezi Park Protest: In May 2013 thousands of people from diverse background, diverse, age, faith, political belief, gender and other divisions started protesting against the plan according to which the trees in Gezi Park to be destroyed and an Shopping Complex to be built instead. The police became increasingly brutal and used various forms of teargas canisters aiming at people from close margins. Many young people were killed and seriously wounded which left them with disabilities.

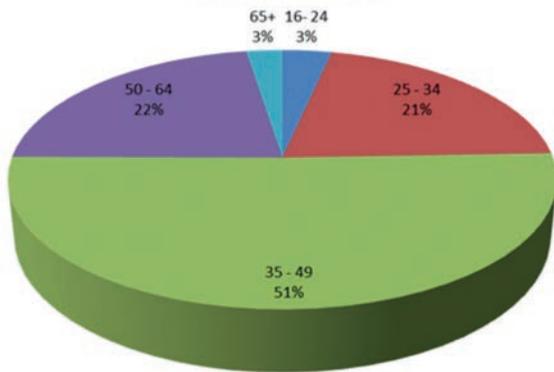


# User Profile

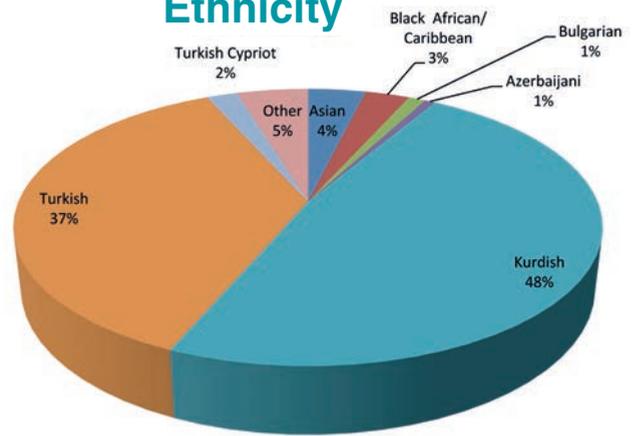
## Borough Spread



## Age Range



## Ethnicity



## Training and Workshops

### Trainings for Practitioners

#### Attended by 43 professionals

- Prevention Harmful Practices Training, Eastbury Comprehensive School, Barking (September 2013)
- Prevention Harmful Practices Training, Hainult Youth Centre, Ilford (October 2013)
- Safer Islington Partnership VAW&G Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Seminar, Islington Town Hall (December 2013)
- Safer Islington Partnership, Forced Marriage Training, Islington Town Hall (January 2014)

### Training for children and young people

#### Attended by 355 children and young people

Prevention VAW&G and Harmful Practices

- Eastbury Comprehensive School, Barking (June 2013)
- Gaynes School, Upminster (June 2013)
- The Compton School, Barnet (June 2013)
- Featherstone High School, Southall (July 2013)
- Canons High School, Edgware, (October 2013)
- Hainult Youth Centre, Ilford, (November 2013)
- City and Islington College, Islington (November 2013)
- La Saint Union, Camden (November & December 2013)
- Chingford Foundation School, Chingford (March 2014)
- Lilian Baylis Technology College, Lambeth (March 2014)

### Workshops in the community

#### Attended by 213 women, young people and members of the local community

- Confidence Building, DAYMER Turkish Kurdish Community Centre (between May and December 2013)
- VAW&G awareness, DAYMER Turkish Kurdish Community Centre (May 2013)
- Confidence Building, Alevi Cultural Centre (between October and December 2013)
- VAW&G and how we can protect ourselves, IMECE Women's Centre (October 2013)
- Young Parents and VAW&G, Hornsey Road Children Centre (October 2013)
- Confidence Building, Refugee Workers Cultural Association (November, December 2013)
- The impact of Domestic Violence on children, IMECE Women's Centre (November 2013)
- DV Awareness Workshop, Moreland Children's Centre, Islington (November 2013)
- Honour based violence and force marriage, IMECE Women's Centre (November 2013)
- VAW&G awareness, City and Islington College (November 2013)
- Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Awareness, City and Islington College (February 2014)
- Healthy Relationships and Harmful Practices Awareness, City and Islington College (February 2014)
- Healthy Relationships and DV Awareness, City and Islington College (February 2014)
- VAW&G and Introduction to Samira Project, City and Islington College (March 2014)
- Screening of 'Mirror' and DV Awareness, Gezi Forum (March 2014)
- VAW&G and Introduction to Samira Project, City and Islington College (March 2014)
- VAW&G and Introduction to Samira Project, City and Islington College (March 2014)
- Women's Support Group, Refugee Workers Cultural Association (January, March 2014)

### Teatime Support group at IMECE

IMECE has run regular weekly women's support groups at IMECE on Wednesdays between 12 and 1:30PM since 2013.

## Finance

# Income and Expenditure

IMECE Women's Centre  
 (Private Company Limited by Guarantee)  
 Detailed Income & Expenditure Account  
 For the year ended 31 March 2014

	2013/14
	£
<b>Income</b>	
Grants receivable	322,398
Interest receivable	793
Other Income	825
Fundraising & Donations	1,735
	<hr/>
	<b>325,751</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff costs	229,929
Staff training & welfare	1,757
Canteen	724
Grants payable	-
Rent, rates & services	4,713
Repairs and renewals	6,107
Printing, postage & stationary	2,418
Telephone	6,754
Temps & recruitment	3,526
Travelling & subsistence	2,801
Volunteer expenses	1,188
Client expenses	(50)
Hire of equipment	2,579
Events & functions	2,523
Membership & subscriptions	364
Publications & publicity materials	470
Annual report expenses	-
Audit & accountancy	4,500
Legal & professional	1,767
Consultancy fees	3,959
Bank charges	44
Depreciation	1,894
Sundry expenses	340
	<hr/>
	<b>278,307</b>
	<hr/>
<b>NET INCOMINGS/(OUTGOINGS) IN YEAR</b>	<b>47,444</b>



## Acknowledgements

### Special Thanks

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of all our users, members, funders, partners, supporters, donors and friends of IMECE for the making of today's IMECE.

#### Funders

European Refugee Fund-LBI  
 EU Daphne Project  
 Henry Smith Charity  
 London Borough of Islington  
 London Borough of Haringey-Hearthstone  
 London Councils  
 Safer Islington Partnership  
 Social Investment Business  
 Trust for London

#### Strategic Forums

BAN– Black Advice Network  
 Case File Review Steering Committee  
 Crime Reduction Initiative  
 Hackney Advice Forum  
 Hackney DV Forum  
 Hackney DVPO  
 Hackney Refugee Forum  
 Haringey DV/SV Policy and Operations Forum  
 Islington Children and Young People Executive Board  
 Islington Children and Young People Forum  
 Islington Clinical Commissioning Group-Network  
 Islington DV Network  
 Islington Harmful Practices and  
 Islington MARAC Steering Committee  
 Islington Refugee Forum  
 Islington Safeguarding Children's Board  
 Islington Safer Communities Partnership  
 Islington Substance Misuse Subgroup  
 London VAWG Consortium  
 No Recourse to Public Fund Campaign

#### Partnerships

Advice UK  
 Arab Advice Bureau  
 Ashiana Network  
 Asian Women's Resource Centre  
 AVA Project  
 Bozca Der  
 Cemevi – Alevi Cultural Centre  
 Chinese Information and Advice Centre  
 City and Islington College  
 Daymer –Turkish Kurdish Community Centre  
 Each Counselling  
 ELCOM Haringey  
 Enfield Women's Centre  
 Family Action  
 Forward  
 Hearthstone Haringey  
 IKROW  
 Imkaan  
 Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation  
 Islington Adult Community Learning  
 Islington Children Centres  
 Islington Refugee Forum  
 Islington Working for Parents  
 Jewish Women's Aid  
 Kurdish & Middle East Women's Organisation  
 Latin American Women's Aid  
 Latin American Women's Rights Service  
 Nia  
 Refuge  
 Rights of Women  
 Solace Women's Aid  
 Southall Black Sisters  
 Tender  
 Women and Girls Network  
 Women's Aid  
 Woodside Children Center





**Advice Line: 020 7354 1359**  
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