

# IMECE WOMEN'S CENTRE

Providing advocacy & support since 1982



Special edition for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
*Annual report 2011-12*

# Imece Women's Centre

## Staff List

Ahu Sukur *Esol + Advice Worker*  
Aliye Reilly *DV & Foss Worker*  
Alev Erdogan *Advice Worker*  
Aygul Ozdemir *WTAA Project Worker*  
Belaynesh Hailemariam *Finance Worker*  
Diren Yilmaz *Advice & Info - DV Worker*  
Emine Yoca *Lead Counsellor*  
Eylem Yagbasan *Advice & Volunteer Manager*  
Feride Kumbasar *Director*  
Hatice Kucuk *Centre Coordinator*  
Isil Sansoy *Counsellor*  
Meral Halkaci *Advice & DV & Volunteer Manager*  
Meram Aydin *Advice & Info Worker - Until 2012*  
Nihal Ates *Samira Project Worker*  
Ozlem Alpsen *Advice & Info - DV Worker*  
Ozlem Hangul *Advice & DV Worker*  
Ozlem Ozen *Advice Worker*  
Perihan Ozbolat *Community Link Worker*  
Sema Moussa *Community Link Worker*  
Senay Dur *Vaw Manager*  
Sevil Kotan *Community Link Worker*  
Sirvan Tepe *Counsellor*  
Yasemin Cengiz *Advice Worker*

## Management Comitee Members

Akgul Baylav  
Ayse Bircan  
Cemaliye Salih  
Emel Hakki  
Macide Yuksel  
Olca Aniker  
Rana Aksac  
Seher Kayikci  
Selen Cavcav  
Semra O'Reilly  
Ummgulsum Hepinstall

## Volunteers

Asalet Tulaz  
Burcu Dogan  
Burcu Pala  
Ceyda Cihan *Still Volunteers*  
Damla Til  
Diren Yilmaz  
Duygu Gokyildirim  
Ela Ural  
Ezgi Aslan *Still Volunteers*  
Filiz Benli *Still Volunteers*  
Sibel Kocak  
Gul Erdogan  
Gulayse Celik  
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Isil Sansoy  
Leyla Ozdemir  
Meltem Tercan *Ozyurt*  
Merve Yavuz *Still Volunteers*  
Neriman Kalayci *Still Volunteers*  
Ozge Enez *Still Volunteers*  
Ozge Pinar  
Sibel Ceylan  
Sibel Kocak  
Sibel Tezgel  
Tugba Devecioglu - *Still Volunteers*  
Ummu Putgul  
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# Who are we?

IMECE's aim is to empower Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) women, particularly those of Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot origin and to improve the quality of their lives.

IMECE sets out to achieve these aims through the provision of

- Specialist information, advice and advocacy
- Domestic violence intervention and resettlement support
- Health and mental health support
- Family Support
- Volunteering opportunities and specialist workforce development
- Awareness raising, capacity building and training
- Strategic engagement with local, national and European policy makers
- Research
- Trips and social gatherings

IMECE provides holistic support to women. Once a woman's needs are identified by assessment, she may benefit from the services listed above through internal referrals.

Our strength and success lie in our Executive Committee members, staff and volunteers and the resilience of the women we support.



# Chair's Report

Our AGM marks the end of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of our organisation.

Last year we celebrated with various events and activities 30 glorious years of hard work, commitment, development, expansion and success.

In this time we have touched the lives of thousands of Turkish and Kurdish speaking women from various parts of the world. We have created a centre of help, support, safety and security for them and for their children, coming from diverse backgrounds and having different needs.

And we are very proud of that.

During the 30 years we have had wonderful moments of success, sad moments of loss as well as frustrating moments of difficulties. We have been through dire straits due to funding cuts and changing legislation for supporting women going through difficult times in their lives, ranging from various forms of violence to poverty and mental health issues.

We have survived the biting, almost wounding cuts and financial difficulties in IMECE's life of 30 years. Despite our difficulties due to economic and political restrictions in the women's sector, I can confidently say that IMECE remains one of the key stakeholders in the women's sector, particularly focusing on domestic violence – an area where our contributions to BAMER communities are highly acclaimed throughout UK.

We are proud to be part of various European projects on the same and similar issues. Our work in respect of this was crowned by a series of multi-disciplinary conferences and wide ranging positive publicity including the short film entitled "The Mirror" highlighting domestic violence issues. The added beauty of this short film was that its screenplay was written by an anonymous user of IMECE's services, a survivor of domestic violence herself

Our mental health and counselling project provides great support to our users, aiming to give them a vision for the future and the confidence to recreate their lives towards this vision.

Throughout the years, we were well able to respond to the ongoing changes in public services as well as changes in the make up of the Turkish and Kurdish communities in London and beyond. We are committed to turn our relationships with external agencies and other women's organisations into positive and productive partnerships.

It would not be an exaggeration to state that none of this would have been possible without our funders, our Trustees, our staff and our volunteers – they all have placed their trust in IMECE and supported us in their areas of expertise. I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all of them.

Their dedication, perseverance and relentless hard work have helped us to be here where we are today and to look to the future with hope and enthusiasm...

Thank you all  
*Cemaliye Salih Chair*



# Director's Report

I am very proud of leading IMECE and contributing towards the work of an organisation that is genuinely committed to making a difference in the lives of women and children.

How?

We might not be able to 'fix everything' that women and children are going through but we will do everything within our power and capacity to create a safe environment for those whose life is at serious risk and assist them with their resettlement and the actualisation of their aspirations.

Over the years, IMECE has come to be a vital organisation for the Turkish/ Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish communities, particularly women. It provides high quality, relevant, accessible and sustainable support to women who experience a wide range of challenges as a result of gender inequalities, poverty and racism.

IMECE also provides a space to women for political self-expression. Refugee and immigrant women lose their political self along with other aspects in their lives (status, family, job etc) until they regain it in the new country they come to live in.

This process would take many years if we did not have an organisation like IMECE. It is through IMECE that we all play our parts in helping to shape the policies and institutional frameworks to address the needs of women and children in our communities. IMECE has been and is the voice of women who are determined to take the control of their lives.

Everyone who is involved in IMECE, be it as a user, a volunteer, worker or Management Committee member, as a partner or, indeed, as someone who merely passes the word around about its existence and its services have all made invaluable contributions to the making of today's IMECE. My sincere congratulations to everyone for their dedication and commitment.

In the following pages you will find a summary of last year's activities. Our staff and volunteers work with women and children who are caught up in cycles of deprivation and exclusion. Many who come to IMECE are traumatised or have survived great losses. They have complex and multiple needs. Addressing their needs on a daily basis can be very challenging. It imposes on us a constant battle with service providers not only from the public sector but also from the women's sector. Many refugees deny granting a refuge for women whose English language skills are limited. Being denied a refuge place on the basis of their lack of English skills while they are on the run, fleeing violence at home can be very humiliating and discouraging. It would lead to women to hopelessness and many might consider returning to their violent partner as a result. I would like to thank my colleagues for their determination and commitment for fighting for equal access for our women and children.

Above all my heartfelt thanks go to the most courageous people on the planet - our users - for their trust in IMECE.

*Feride Kumbasar* Director



# From local service provision to European

## Our Achievements in the last 30 years

### We

- Assisted over 10,000 women and children to flee from various forms of violence including Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV);
- Supported more than 100,000 women and children to have better life chances and access and practice their rights and entitlements;
- Advocated on behalf of women with No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) refugee and women asylum seekers to ensure that they gain access to protection;
- Addressed social and economic inequalities experienced by our users by providing quality information, practical support and opportunities for women to achieve their aspirations;
- Secured resources to maintain our core services and develop new services to meet the various of needs of women from our communities;
- Adopted a flexible, culture- and gender-sensitive and user-centred approach for our service provision and have always looked for better practices;
- Campaigned against issues affecting women and children in our communities and succeeded to change some attitudes and perceptions within the community;
- Developed effective partnership working practices with other women's organisations, statutory service providers and the police;
- Carried out various research projects to identify needs and gaps and develop sustainable solutions;
- Over the years we went beyond our communities in service provision and started supported women from other Black Minority Ethnic communities;



## level policy influencing

- Provided intensive capacity building programmes and training for 16 organisations to set up their domestic violence service to support women in their own communities i.e. Somali, Eritrean, Kurdish, Iranian;
- Made a remarkable contribution to work force development through our successful volunteering project – Many of our volunteers are subsequently recruited by mainstream service providers;
- Achieved relatively stable financial position under very difficult economic climate;
- Consistently searched for better practices and quality assurance systems. Achieved and retained the Advice Quality Standard (formerly Community Legal Service Quality Mark) and OICS. Recently (2012) received the Inspiring Non-Profit Organisation Award from the Centre for Turkish Studies. Nominee for 2013 awards;
- Shared our expertise with other frontline practitioners by providing specialist training, workshops and conferences; and shaped local and regional VAW service provision for the women from BME communities;
- Led a European-wide project to highlight the VAW experience of BME women in European member states (Germany, Hungary and Poland as well as the UK) and demonstrated how states are failing to protect them due to racism and discrimination;



# Personal is political

## What we remember...

“There have been many significant achievements over the years, but the main accomplishment starts with the actual establishment of a very unique organisation. IMECE was, and still is, the only Turkish speaking women-only organisation which is run solely by women for the benefit of women, and despite many challenges, IMECE has gained recognition and status as an organisation in its own right when we secured permanent premises for ourselves at our current location.

The need for such an organisation was justified with the rapid growth in the number of women using the organisation. However, it was of utmost importance that the organisation was inclusive of all Turkish speaking women and that its name was reflective of this; therefore, the initial name of “The Turkish Women's Group” was changed and became “IMECE, Turkish Speaking Women's Group” This had a positive impact on the organisation, and the increase in the number of service users was evidence of this. IMECE provided advocacy and support services to 'hundreds' of women every week with incredibly limited resources, but securing additional funding enabled the organisation to continue its growth and quest to move forward in line with the needs of the organisation's service users.

The additional funding enabled the organisation to more than triple in staff numbers, maximising the support services provided. It was during this time that new concepts and practices of support services such as; therapy/counselling, workshops, working in partnership with other organisations, providing outreach etc. were included, increasing the profile of the organisation. Lastly, due to the growth in service users, staff numbers and expansion in the provision of services, extra space was needed and we were able to successfully secure the ground floor premises in our present location.,,

*Cemaliye Salih Coordinator between 1995-2000*

“Just like today, in early 1990’s London, there was a great need for a independent women’s group providing services to Turkish speaking community coming from different backgrounds.

When I first joined to the establishment process of Imece, there were only two part time workers, and the funding was suspended by the council. Women’s group had to meet many conditions to be able to continue their services.

As far as I remember, these were the conditions; democratically elected management committee, a new constitution, and most importantly convincing the funding committee about the necessity of such a group.

With the support of Women’s Unit and community link workers of Islington Council and specifically the active contribution of the service users (petitions, signatures, protests in front of the council etc), finally the commission decided to give another chance to the women’s group.

I remember these women with great love, they made various sacrifices to be involved in this difficult process, coming to the council and management committee meetings after work, picking their kids from school,

Imece, as its name reveals, is a group which has emerged by the collective work of women in that period.,,

*Hazal Ciftci Chair between 1993-2000*



“I started working for IMECE when it was a small community organisation that was doing wonderful work with Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot women. Times were good; there were a lot of opportunities around for the organisation to grow. With the help and support of the management committee and dedicated staff, we took the organisation with 4 staff members to a new level. By the time I left IMECE it employed seventeen members of staff and enjoyed formidable recognition throughout London. During my seven years with IMECE, I recruited and became friends with a number of brilliant women who shared the organisation's vision and values under which we all worked. Together we expanded existing projects and launched many new ones such as mental health, capacity building, training and outreach focusing on issues relating to domestic violence. I enjoyed every minute of my work at IMECE and am proud of everyone who contributed to the development of the organisation. I know IMECE will continue to be there for many years in order to serve the needs of our women and girls.,,

*Nezahat Cihan Coordinator between 2000-2008*

# Inspiring Non-Profit Organisation Award

Imece was awarded to be Inspiring Community Organisation 2012 by The Centre for Turkey Studies and Development. The Awards Ceremony's opening speech was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clerk.





# 30<sup>th</sup> year celebrations

## 7<sup>th</sup> February: User Consultation Event

We organised a user consultation event at the Mayville Community Centre on Over 25 service users, 7 volunteers and 9 staff participated in this event. Users were representative in terms of age, disability, faith, ethnicity, frequency of using IMECE.

The attendees were divided into 3 groups; each group was co-facilitated by a user and a volunteer. The staff only joined the group to hear the feedback from discussions and address the issues raised. The groups discussed all services of IMECE, in terms of good and poor practices, satisfactions and expectations and also they provided their suggestions for improvements.

## 8<sup>th</sup> March: Conference “Women in the World of Work”

Islington Town Hall. IMECE actively participated in this borough wide conference with its users. We run information stall and delivered a workshop on “Employment issues for refugee and migrant women”

## 28<sup>th</sup> March: CONFERENCE

“The Silent Voice”, Islington Town Hall. As part of WTAA partnership IMECE took part as speaker and presented the experiences of women survivors with NRPF and raised the gaps and barriers faced by such women.



## 30<sup>th</sup> March: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

Magnolia Banqueting, Stoke Newington. The event brought together, founders of IMECE, users, volunteers, staff and MC members along with representatives of partner organisations.

## May Farm and Park Trip

IMECE took mothers and children to local parks and Hackney City Farm to give them the opportunity to explore new sites. Mothers found these expeditions very useful as it provided a very entertaining and learning atmosphere for Turkish & Kurdish speaking mothers together with their children. They all enjoyed the occasion to socialise with one and other and the experience of outing with their children without getting bored and shared their food.

## 15<sup>th</sup> June: Parent's Forum

Our CLW Team carried out a Parents Forum and Children's play for the Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot parents. The aim of the Parents forum was to gather parents to discuss and exchange ideas about services in Islington, particularly Children's Centres.

## Children's Play 'Rag Doll'

While parents have discussed their issues and expectations from the service, the children enjoyed watching interactive play in Turkish.



The play tells the story of a child who is never satisfied with what she has and always wants more and consequently falls into a state of loneliness.

## 18<sup>th</sup> June: Islington Refugee Week Celebration

IMECE was part of organisation committee of the event. Our users attended and enjoyed the programme which included dans, music, food and exhibition from various cultures and had chance to meet with other service providers and pick up their leaflets from their stalls.

## 5<sup>th</sup> August Picnic

IMECE organised a Picnic in Waterlow Park Centre last summer for a group of mothers with young children. Women and children enjoyed the picnic and shared a fun day playing in the park. These kinds of trips support families to break isolation and practice and discover new activities.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> September Brighton Seaside Trip

IMECE annually organises a seaside trip for the families who normally do not have the resources to go on a summer holiday. Last summer we arranged a day trip to Brighton for the women and children to explore new activities in a different environment. Mother and children enjoyed playing in the beach on a warm, bright and sunny day. They tried out different activities i.e. karaoke competition, picnic, building sand castles collecting pebbles and sea shells. Some mothers enjoyed a stroll along the seaside with children and visited the famous Brighton Pier.

## 29<sup>th</sup> November: IMECE staff and management committee Away Day

Robin Redmond Resource Centre. Staff, volunteers and Management Committee members had a brunch and fun activities to celebrate IMECE's previous year's achievements. Ummuhan Putgul facilitated some team building games and activities.



## Mrs Hayat's story

Mrs Hayat approached our Advice and Information Service as a domestic violence survivor. She left her husband in December 2011 due to domestic violence. She has 3 children living with her. While she was living together with her husband, they were on Working Tax Credit as her husband was working part-time. Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit were being paid to the husband's account, too. Since she separated from her husband she was not on any benefits when she came to IMECE apart from the disability living allowance for her eldest daughter and carer's allowance for her. She needed advice and assistance to sort out her benefits and needed advice on the benefits she was entitled to.

Our intervention included actions such as

- Mrs Hayat was assessed for the benefits she may claim and advised accordingly
- Her Income Support claim was completed;
- Child Benefit claim was dealt with;
- She was assisted to stop the joint Child Tax Credit claim with her husband and helped to make a single Child Tax Credit claim;
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit applications were made for her.

### Impact of our intervention

- She received all the benefit claims she is entitled to
- She is now living free of violence and independently
- She is better aware of all her rights and options and makes informed decision
- She is regularly attending our workshops and events and raises her views confidently.

The background of the page features several dark purple silhouettes of people. On the left, a man and a woman are shown in profile, facing each other. In the center, a woman stands with her back to the camera, looking towards the right. On the right side, a woman is shown in profile, looking down, and another woman stands behind her. The overall scene suggests a group therapy or counseling session.

# Service users say

“I did not have any confidence before I started counselling session and my mind was all over the place. I feel very confident and now able to deal with difficulties since I received counselling; thank you for listening to me.,,”

“IMECE is a life changing and life saving place.,,”

“The support has helped me enough to carry on emotionally and practically and make something of my life. It has impacted on my children as well ... to me that’s the most important thing ... beyond words.,,”

“IMECE became my safest place where I talk my past and present difficulties. I did not know talking can be helpful. I was able to empty my chest to release the pain which was disturbing my entire life.,,”

“From the time I came I was made to feel welcome ... I now feel like a new person – ready for a challenge in life.,,”

“I would be dead or near death without the support I have received. I have learned a lot of survival skills.,,”

“Group therapy was an eye-opener and made me stand back and assess myself ... Has made me feel stronger in myself.,,”

# Activities between April

## Specialist information, Advice and Advocacy Service

Our advice and information service provides women-centred support through, drop-in, appointments and telephone advice to enable our users to make informed decisions regarding their lives. In the financial year (April 2012-March 2013), the Advice and Information team assisted 3212 women, 1777 of whom received face to face support for various services, including welfare benefits, housing, homelessness applications, health, education, debt management.



# 2011 – March 2012

## Reducing poverty maximising income

The total income maximisation achieved is £28,126 per week, over 1 million in the last year by assisting

- 514 families with their benefit applications
- 360 income benefit applications some of which included Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support, pension credit and appeals;
- 25 child related benefit applications
- 92 housing related benefit application
- 24 travel related benefit applications, e.g. freedom pass
- 108 Home Access Grant, Community Care Grant, Cripplegate Foundation, Family Fund applications
- 2 crisis loans and budgeting loans for immediate financial difficulties.

## We prevented overpayments, rent and council tax arrears by providing advocacy and representation.

- As a result of the changes in the welfare system, especially changes in Incapacity Benefit and Income Support to ESA(Employment Support Allowance), our client group had gaps in their benefits due to lateness in receiving sick notes which is necessary to be entitled to ESA. Our advice workers dealt with backdated payments.

- The advice team assisted an increasing number of users whose Disability Living Allowance applications were refused. Through our efficient advocacy and representation by providing quality DLA review letters we succeeded to reverse many decisions. Otherwise we facilitated their access to credible solicitors for legal representation.

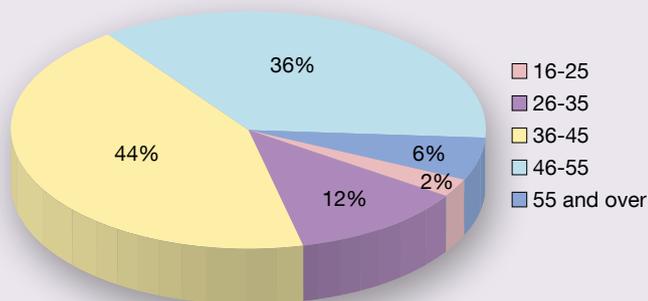
## We provided access to other local advice providers

We hosted monthly surgeries carried out by Islington Housing Aid at IMECE. The surgeries provided increased access to Islington users. We advised on Housing Transfer, homelessness, medical assessment for housing, repairs and home swapping matters and secured improved housing for many women and children.

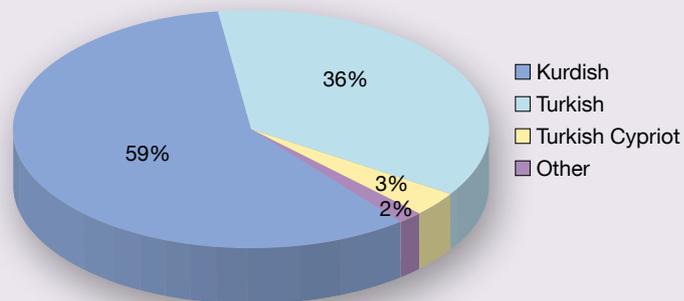
IMECE has been attending to strategic meetings and forums to address the needs of our client group ensuring that their voices are heard and necessary interventions are made to meet their needs. Black Advice Network (BAN) Hackney Advice Forum (HAF), Islington Homelessness Forum are some of these fora.

Advice Quality Standard is successfully renewed in this period until April 2014.

Age Group of Clients



Ethnicities



# ESOL+Advice Project

The project organises ESOL classes at various community settings and adult learning centres to increase refugee women's access to ESOL classes. The service supports learners with information, advice and guidance (IAG) and advocacy support to refugees to aid and respond to their practical needs. The project seeks to develop the capacity of refugee community organisations in Islington and improve the citizenship skills and cultural integration of refugees.

With this project we offer:

- Free certificated and tailored ESOL classes
- Information Advice & Guidance
- Conversation classes
- Employment Support
- Volunteering and Training
- Cultural Activities

The service is delivered through partnership with Islington Council Adult Community Learning and Islington Working for Parents, St Mary Magdalene Centre for Refugees, Back2Basics Somali Group, IMECE and Arab Advice Bureau.

ESOL + Advice Project successfully registered refugee students and placed them into tailored ESOL classes determined via the English Level Assessment Test. We organized flexible conversation classes and successfully had attended by 15 regular users.



# Violence Against Women (VAW) Service



VAW Team consists of four different projects and all operate with their specific scope and specifications. The projects that are within the VAW team are

- Samira Project, BAMER Outreach VAW Service for Islington
- Women Together Against Abuse (WTAA), Pan London Outreach VAW Service for Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot Turkish women
- Hearthstone-Haringey Outreach DV Support Project for Turkish/Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish women
- Families First Project, Family Support Service for Islington families

We believe early crisis intervention is paramount to improving outcomes for women and children subject to domestic violence. We therefore provide an accessible and transparent service to clients to meet their needs as soon as they emerge or are disclosed.

We have provided crisis intervention to women across London and outer London with risk levels varying between “standard” and “high”. Our thorough and intensive crises intervention services reduced the number of repeat victimisations and supported women to move to safety in a short turnaround time.

We have also successfully secured the Commission for Families First project which is a partnership project with Family Action and Parents House to run two of the Families First hubs in Islington since April 2012. The third hub is run directly by Islington Council. We are highly aware that early intervention saves lives both of women who suffer domestic violence and of children who are either subjects of abuse or witnesses of violence. Our role as

Domestic Violence Specialist Family Support Workers will enable us to work with the family unit as a whole around their multiple or complex needs as well as identify any domestic violence or abuse and provide early intervention.

In the current economic climate and with all the cuts in fundamental services our job as IMECE is now even harder. We continuously advocate on behalf of women who were denied refuge space due to their lack of English skills or temporary immigration status.

## Our Achievements

- 196 women fleeing violence received on-going support from our VAW team.
- We carried out 113 full risk assessments and safety planning which were successfully implemented.
- 15% of these interventions had elements of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- 24% of women were with No Recourse to Public Funds.
- In around 95% of the cases repeat victimisation has been reduced via our intervention.
- We carried out a total of 16 DV awareness workshop and trainings for statutory and voluntary sector professionals as well as individual women.
- 106 practitioners have attended training sessions to improve their understanding on issues affecting women from BAMER communities and how to best respond their needs.



## Volunteer project

Our volunteer project aims to empower Turkish/ Kurdish/Turkish Cypriot women who are unemployed and are looking for work, through providing a safe and confidential environment for work experience in the UK and to facilitate their path to employment by putting them in touch with agencies which are looking to recruit Black and ethnic minority women;

In this financial year we had 20 volunteers that were assessed, recruited, trained, supervised and closely supported to achieve their individual development plans.

### As a result of our Volunteer Project:

- 10 volunteers gained employment as advice and information worker, DV support worker, drama teacher, counsellor, waitress, moving to self employment by setting up own business, teaching assistant, interpreter and IT marketing research worker.
- 16 volunteers continued developing their career through further education and vocational training.
- 20 volunteers actively volunteered and received support and supervision: All the volunteers have been volunteering at IMECE, covering range of duties i.e. advice, reception, domestic violence, admin, support, counselling service
- More than 1750 women benefited from the volunteers' support.
- More than 650 telephone calls from other agencies were dealt with by volunteers.

## Some of the feedback we received from our volunteers are

“By being a volunteer worker in a specialized organisation, I found a chance to attend NHS Cognitive Analytical Therapy Team as an honorary therapist. My experience at IMECE and NHS aligned and helped to find a job, again at IMECE. As a candidate I had the advantage of CAT training and my knowledge on IMECE’s specific client group. It if it was not for my previous volunteering experience, I would not be able to find a job as a counsellor.,,”

**Işıl Şansoy**  
*Counsellor at IMECE*

“I have started volunteering at IMECE without any particular experience in this field (in September 2011). I was studying for my PhD which was about immigrant women from Turkey in London and at first I thought it would be a good opportunity to build up a network via IMECE for future field studies. The path of my venture changed after a couple of months' volunteering experience. I have gained enough experience and confidence to apply for a part time ESOL+advice worker position at IMECE. Later I was recruited by my current employer which is a generic women’s organisation, as a full time advice caseworker. I couldn't do this without the guidance of the experienced staff at IMECE, the trainings and the manner of work I have gained at IMECE. I learned a lot by volunteering and I can confidently say that IMECE is not only empowering women as clients but also women as volunteers and staff members like me.,,”

**Asalet Tulaz**  
*Advice Worker at Solace Women’s Aid*

“Counselling team meetings have been very useful for me that I believe I developed my counselling skills by discussing cases of clients, and what therapeutic approach would fit the client best. After a few months in the organisation, I started to see clients in therapy sessions. This chance contributed to me a lot in practical manner. We also have team meetings every week and I am able to discuss my own clients that helps me progress in a more accurate and conceived way with my clients.,,”

**Merve Yavuz**  
*Volunteer Counsellor at IMECE*





# Community Link Project for Islington Children's Centres

Community link was one of most important service which complemented IMECE's other services. The service lasted for 5 years came to an end in August 2012. In the last year of project's life Community link Team had 2 part time and 1 full time workers covering 4 different clusters, with 10 different Children's Centres, IMECE also had a full-time Home Learning project worker in Islington.

## The aim of the project is to:

- reach out Turkish/Kurdish families who are not accessing Islington Children Centre services and facilitate their engagement with Children Centres and other local services;
- contribute to the development of Islington Children Centre services so that they better meet the needs of Turkish/Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot families.

The team have contacted 648 families and made 6418 different types of contact with these families via home visits, phone calls, text messages, mail outs, and meeting them during Children's Centre activities. Number of new Turkish/Kurdish parents with children under 5 years old was 71.

We carried out 80 home visits in total, 31 of these being joint assessment meetings with family support workers, speech therapists, health visitors and social workers. We have also attended.

In partnership with Nia we organised two sets of family learning sessions. First was a 13 weeks programme and second one was 8 week programme started in January 2011, with 57 mothers from our contacts attended at least one session.

## Other workshops run during the year at Children centres

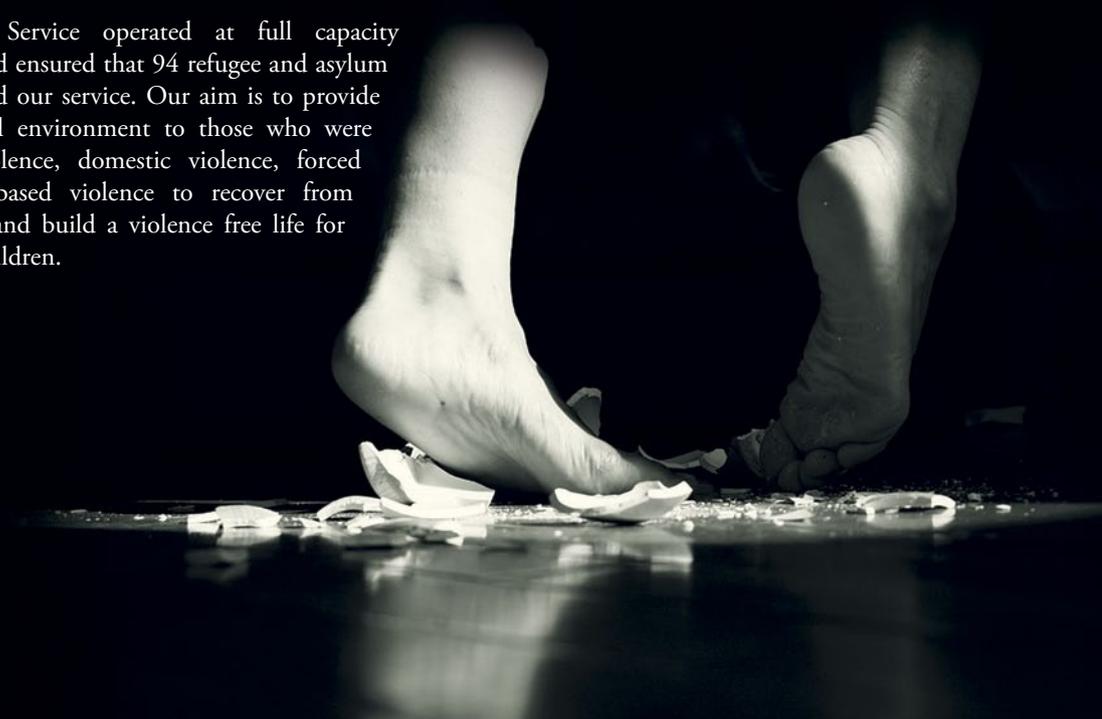
<b>23/06/2011</b>	Healthy eating	Moreland CC
<b>16/05/2011</b>	Education and Transition	Hornsey Road
<b>23/05/2011</b>	Money Talk	North Islington
<b>17/05/2011</b>	Coffee Morning	The New North
<b>3/05/2011</b>	Trip to Hackney City Farm	All CC in islington
<b>12/10/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC
<b>26/10/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC
<b>09/11/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC
<b>23/11/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC
<b>07/11/2011</b>	Learning thorough to play	Paradise Park CC
<b>07/10/2011</b>	Breakfast	Hungerford CC
<b>04/11/2011</b>	Healthy Eating	Hungerford CC
<b>02/12/2011</b>	TV & Child	Hungerford CC
<b>14/10/2011</b>	Methods of Discipline	Moreland CC
<b>12/12/2011</b>	Healthy Eating	Moreland CC
<b>07/11/2011</b>	Healthy Eating 1	Golden Lane CC
<b>05/12/2011</b>	Healthy Eating 2	Golden Lane CC
<b>27/10/2011</b>	Learning thorough to play	Hornsey CC
<b>07/10/2011</b>	Breakfast	Hungerford CC (Holloway Cluster)
<b>12/10/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC (Holloway Cluster)
<b>26/10/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC (Holloway Cluster)
<b>09/11/2011</b>	Child Development	Paradise Park CC (Holloway Cluster)
<b>13/01/2012</b>	Early Years: just Play?	Hornsey Road CC
<b>27/01/2012</b>	Early Year: active- learning through play	Hornsey Road CC
<b>10/02/2012</b>	Early Years: messy play- final session	Hornsey RoadCC
<b>10/02/2012</b>	Breakfast	Hungerford CC
<b>29/02/2012</b>	Breakfast Subject: activity cards for parents	Paradise Park CC (Holloway Cluster)
<b>15/03/2012</b>	Visit to Tate Modern Museum	Holloway Cluster CC
<b>04/02/2012</b>	Film Screening and DV discussion	Gigder
<b>24/02/2012</b>	Welfare Cuts: Impact on women and Children	IMECE
<b>23/05/2011</b>	Islington CAMHS: responding the mental health needs of BME women	Northern Health centre

# Imece Counselling Service

IMECE Counselling service has continued providing counselling during the last 12 months by using cultural, gender sensitive integrative counselling approach in line with BACP (British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy) Ethical Framework for good practice.

Between April 2011-2012 we received 101 new referrals. Referrals come mainly through the GP, voluntary sector and health organisations and from self referrals. Despite an increase in referrals the Counselling Team have risen to the challenge by ensuring that there was no a waiting list during the year.

IMECE Counselling Service operated at full capacity throughout the year and ensured that 94 refugee and asylum seeking women accessed our service. Our aim is to provide a safe and confidential environment to those who were subjected to state violence, domestic violence, forced marriage or honour based violence to recover from their past experiences and build a violence free life for themselves and their children.





# One to one counselling & group therapy

## 39 women had 1:1 counselling for 6/12 weeks

Therapy assisted violence survivors to regain a sense of themselves as human beings worthy of compassion, care and dignity. Through this process the individual has come to comprehend that the violence they were subjected to was rooted in deep social and political problems for which they were not to be blamed. Healthy therapeutic rapport has been built between clinicians and survivors who take into account what can sometimes be an unequal relationship

## Group therapy

We facilitated 2x12 week group therapy and 18 women attended which enabled them to share their past traumatic experiences and explore feelings and learn from each other's experiences.

## Psycho educational group

We organised 9 psycho educational groups on mental wellbeing and how to improve our relationship with children and family life. In total 57 women attended.

## Opportunities for volunteer counsellors

We started supporting qualified volunteer counsellors who are working towards achieving BACP registration to build on their existing skills. Some are involved in provision of one-to-one counselling and others to facilitate psycho educational sessions.

## Hosted Feeling Good Sessions carried by ICOPE- Islington NHS

I-cope run 6 weekly Feeling Good programme for IMECE's users at IMECE. The programme provided practical steps and tools for participants to achieve better mental wellbeing.

## Psycho-educational groups 57

women attended the sessions about mental health, having better family relations, parenting, forced marriage and child development.

## Presentation at CAMHS

Our counsellor provided a talk for mental health practitioners regarding the issues affecting women in our communities and how to respond to their needs.

## Seaside Trip



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

### **Funders:**

Trust For London  
 Henry Smith Charity  
 European Commission Daphne Programme  
 European Refugee Fund  
 London Councils  
 Islington Council – VCS Infrastructure  
 Islington Council- Community Safety Partnership  
 Comic Relief  
 Haringey Council- Hearthstone

### **Strategic Forums and Partnerships**

Hearthstone Haringey  
 Islington Safer Communities Partnership  
 Islington Safeguarding Children's Board  
 Islington Children and Young People Executive Board  
 Islington Children and Young People Forum  
 Islington children Trust Board  
 Islington MARAC  
 Islington Refugee Forum  
 Islington harmful Practices  
 Children Centre's Advisory Board  
 Crime Reduction Initiative  
 DV substance Misuse Subgroup  
 DV network  
 BAMER Women's network  
 Case File Review steering Committee  
 Refugee Therapy Practitioners Forum  
 Women Resource Centre- No Recourse Campaign  
 Hackney Advice Forum  
 BAN- Black Advice Network  
 Hackney DVPO  
 Hackney Domestic Violence Forum  
 Asian Women's Resource Centre  
 Chinese Information and Advice Centre  
 Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organization  
 Latin American Women's Association  
 Latin American Women's Rights Service  
 Rape Crises  
 Solace Women's Aid

## Imece Turkish Speaking Women's Group Detailed Income & Expenditure

	2011/12	2010/11
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Grants receivable	313,504	358,125
Interest receivable	903	373
Other income	4,065	169
Fundraising	2,687	260
	<b>321,159</b>	<b>358,927</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	219,627	262,371
Staff training and welfare	4,175	920
Canteen	1,460	3,112
Grants payable	61,615	3,000
Rent, rates & services	5,601	6,896
Repairs and renewals	8,109	3,555
Printing, postage & stationery	1,779	2,456
Telephone	12,231	10,047
Travelling	754	3,927
Transnational travel & subsistence	–	2,451
Volunteer expenses	2,402	1,254
Client expenses	162	341
Hire of equipment	4,431	4,361
Events and functions	3,680	543
Membership & subscriptions	220	80
Publications & publicity materials	518	2,313
Tool Kit (EU Daphney)	–	20,833
Audit & accountancy	10,460	13,448
Legal & Professional	11,300	12,604
Bank charges	81	20
Depreciation	989	1,087
Sundry expenses	276	251
	<b>349,870</b>	<b>355,870</b>
Net Incomings/(Outgoings) in Year	<b>{28,711}</b>	<b>3,057</b>



# “Shout! Break the silence against violence,,



Advice and Information Line: 020 73541359



**IMECE**  
**WOMEN'S CENTRE**

Providing advocacy & support since 1982

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