IMECE

WOMEN'S CENTRE

Providing advocacy & support since 1982

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Chair's Report

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we reflect on another impactful year at Imece, I am immensely proud to serve as the chairperson of this extraordinary organization.

IMECE's humble beginnings 40 years ago saw the seeds of empowerment being sown. Over four decades, these seeds flourished, culminating in the establishment of an independent entity that has grown exponentially in strength and stature.

The dedication and hard work of our team shine through in the statistics, highlighting the increasing number of women we reach annually, and the vital impact of our services. In a time marked by global challenges, years -long conflicts, economic turmoil, the devastating effects of climate change, natural disasters and, ongoing violence against women and girls the inspiration drawn from these individuals has been instrumental in keeping Imece's mission alive.

Imece has navigated recent challenges with resilience and commitment. Despite a rising workload, our team has gone above and beyond, delivering high-quality, life-saving services to empower women from Turkish, Kurdish, and Cypriot Turkish backgrounds, as well as Black and Minoritised, refugee, and migrant communities.

A heartfelt thank you to our remarkable staff. Your collaborative efforts, even in the face of increased demands, have ensured the continued provision of advice, support, and accommodation to those in need. The statistics serve as a testament to your excellence and the immense impact we've had across the London Boroughs.

Our journey toward empowerment and justice must persist daily, addressing domestic abuse, racism, and inequality in society. Progress cannot be taken for granted, and there is much left to achieve.

A special commendation is due to our service users, whose courage in sharing their stories has allowed Imece to be part of their journeys, witnessing real strength and resilience. Your trust and valuable feedback drive our commitment. You are the reason we tirelessly work to combat inequality and abuse of power.

I extend gratitude to our commissioners, partners, funders, trustees, service users, and our dedicated team of staff members and volunteers. Imece's mission will endure, and with your ongoing support, we will continue delivering this vital service for years to come.

As a member of the Trustee Board, I share in the collective pride of being part of Imece's extraordinary work, impact, and its ever-evolving positive journey into the future.

Thank you for everything you do every day.

Warm regards,

Yasemin Pinar
Chairperson

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40th Anniversary

Director's Report

This year has marked some great milestones for Imece as well as being an exciting, yet challenging and heartbreaking year.

Imece has celebrated its 40th year anniversary which enabled us all to reflect on 40 years of achievements, challenges and celebrate where Imece has arrived. Thousands of great women wrote and continue to write the history of Imece and its great contribution to the women's cause. I would like to thank all women who played a part and contributed in the making of Imece in the 40 years of fight for justice for women and a life free of violence, discrimination, and injustice. I wanted to say a big thank you to all survivors of violence against women for reinforcing our strength, resilience, and the very reason for our existence as Imece. Your fight in reclaiming your life and freedom from violence is truly inspirational and encouraging to thousands of other survivors who have yet to reach safety and women around the world in the fight for a liberated life free of violence and gender inequalities.

We, as women, are very familiar with injustices, fighting challenges and dealing with trauma. Our strength is undeniable, and we always raise from our ashes, strengthen our resilience, and rebuild our lives. This year was a year of natural disasters, wars, and crises. Whilst the earthquake in Turkey in Feb 2023 broke all our hearts, the wars in different countries in the world, particularly dire situation in Gaza, once again shown us the ugly side of state aggression and oppression and selective justice notion world powers hold. In addition to the global traumas we have faced, the cost-of-living crises in the UK had and continue to have catastrophic effect on our and or service users' lives. Adding the disproportionate impact of crises, structural racism, and inequalities on Black & Minoritised communities it has been a year of fighting battles in many fronts. Nevertheless, we refuse to give in to any of these injustices and difficulties and continue to fight it until they become history.

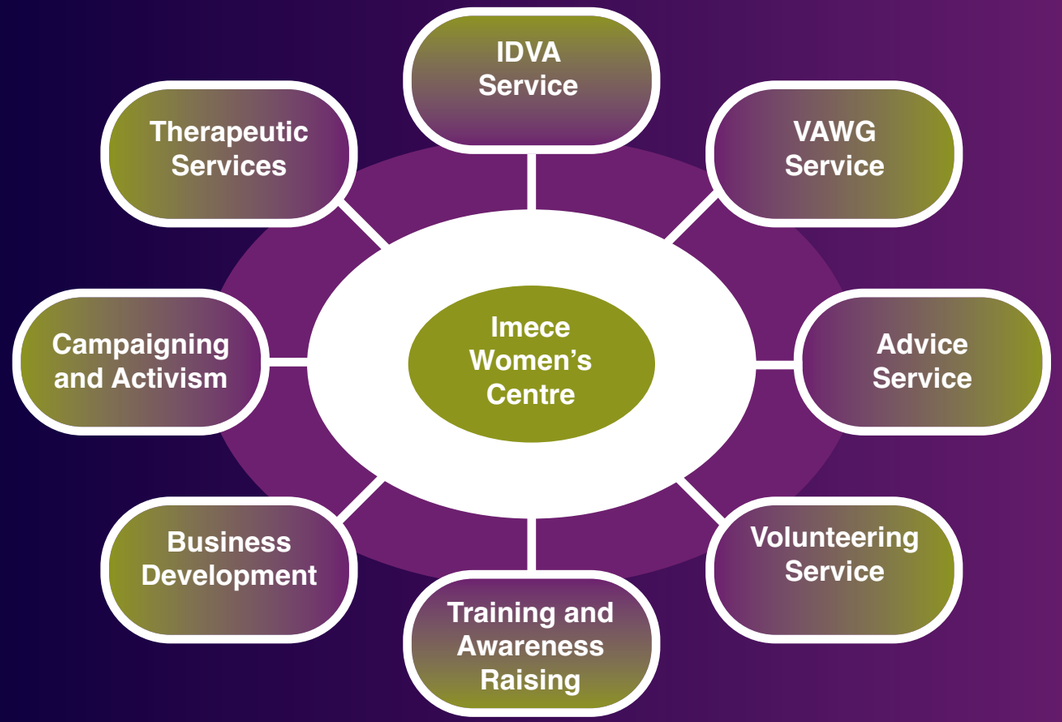
This year however was also another milestone year for us. We not only celebrated our 40th anniversary, but we have also completed our new 3 year strategy focusing on the core mission and principles of Imece whilst ensuring our priorities reflected the dire needs of service users. Also, our budget and workforce reached the highest levels in Imece's history, with diversifying sources of income and diverse workforce representing our service users.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank the remarkable Imece staff and volunteers who made it possible to support hundreds of survivors to reach safety, working above and beyond our capacity with great integrity, dedication to ending violence against women and all inequalities against Black & Minoritised women.

And finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all our trustees, supporters, sister organisations, project partners and stakeholders and funders who we have worked with during this year.

In solidarity and sisterhood,

Senay Dur
Director



Strategy 2023-2026
Moving forward: safety prevention & lasting change

Executive Summary

This year, Imece has celebrated its 40th anniversary. Over the past 40 years we have come a long way, but we are not complacent. There is still so much more that needs to be done. In the UK, Black and Minoritized women and girls are still experiencing gender inequalities, discrimination and are subject to violence and harmful practices every day.

The last few years have brought incredible challenges and change to each of our lives, with disruptions to our way of living and day to day life. Violence against women and girls has been a global issue for centuries and with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the cost living crisis, the scale of need have increased. Throughout, it has been our priority to ensure that women and girls receive holistic support that to reach safety, live independently and free of violence and abuse. Imece not only maintained existing provisions but expanded its services and workforce.

This strategy sets out our vision for Imece - a way of communicating who we are and what we want to achieve whilst tackling the impact of the pandemic and economic hardship. It details our long-term agenda for the future of Imece and for the best outcomes for our service users. Our key priorities and objectives include aspirations of service users, staff, trustees and volunteers.

Over the strategy period from 2023-2026, we will:
1. Provide survivors and their families with a trauma informed response for a lasting change and prevent violence and abuse: Protection, Prevention and Lasting Change
2. Maintain existing partnerships, collaboration, and sisterhood and build new ones
3. Challenge inequalities and address intersectional needs
4. Continue to develop staff as well as helping to improve their wellbeing
5. Continue to priorities organizational development, growth, and sustainability

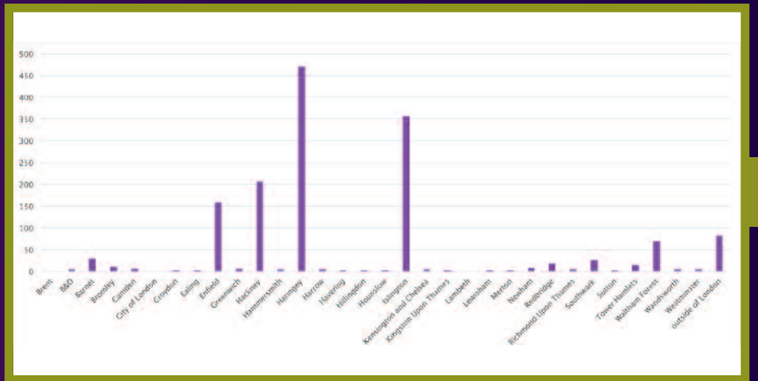
The strategy captures a wide range of services delivered at Imece as well helping staff and trustees to plan resourcing in the future. It is vital that we continue to measure and monitor progress and set out ambitious actions that will tackle future challenges as they arise.

New Strategy Overview

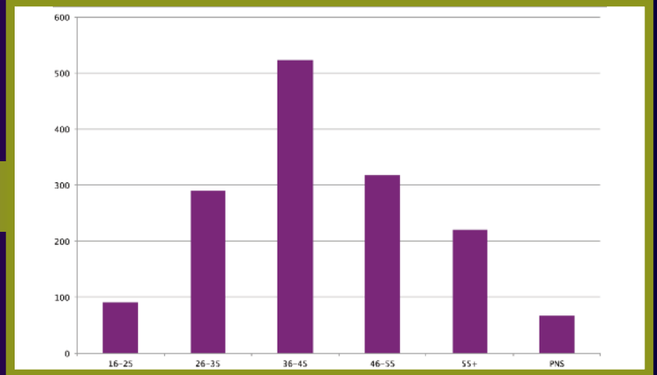
Impact & Reach

- We provided VAWG crises intervention and case work to **1514** women across our VAWG services.
- We supported **1190** children through prevention, intervention, and case work to across all services.
- We delivered **2193** therapy sessions.
- We delivered **2829** one to one telephone advice, information, and navigation sessions.
- We have supported **186** women with No Recourse to Public Funds.
- We gave VAWG trainings to **475** professionals.
- We gave Therapeutic **18** support groups in house.
- We gave VAWG **10** community awareness sessions to **21** women.
- **127** women attended to **48** teatime groups.
- We delivered Healthy Relationships Workshops to **294** young people and **75** parents.
- We delivered **19649** Interventions to **1652** unique women across **30** London Boroughs.

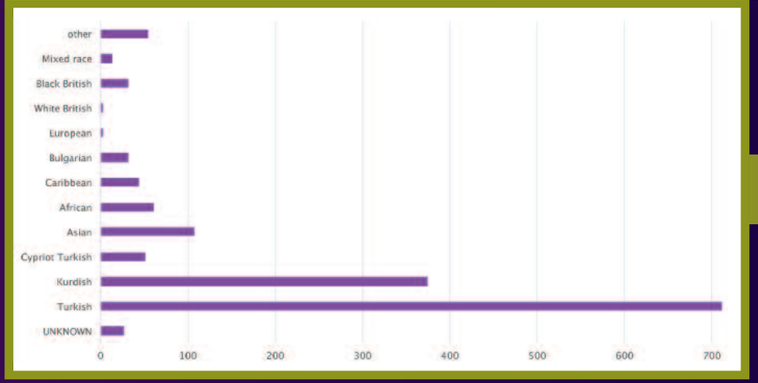
Boroughs



Age



Ethnicity



VAWG Advocacy Service

Ascent Advice and Counselling

Ascent Advice Plus

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices (EHP)

GLA Pan London

No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF FS)

Healthy London Healthy Relationships London Councils (HLHR)

Women's Safe Engagement and Recovery (WISER) Project

Prevention and Action Through Community Engagement and Training (P&ACT)

VAWG Advocacy service delivered service user-centred, holistic and culturally sensitive one-to-one case work support to Black and Minoritised women with a focus on Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish women with complex range of issues. Our crisis intervention support is for low and medium risk survivors of VAWG and Harmful Practices. We worked very closely with Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Social Services, Housing Departments, DWP as well as other voluntary and statuary agencies. Many of the women we supported did not speak English and required language specific support to enable them to make informed decisions. VAWG Advocacy Service also carried out holistic risk/needs assessments and devised support plans to help women rebuild their life and achieve positive outcomes: stay safe, improve mental, physical, and economic wellbeing.

We made sure that assessment and support planning were carried out, reviewed, and that processes were responsive and flexible to meet the changing needs and choices of the women. We have successfully supported many women to access information on their rights and options; move to safe accommodations, increase safety by getting injunctions; secure their immigration status (DDVC & ILR); access benefits and health services. We supported women and children through safeguarding referral to children and social care. We also supported women to register to GPs, ESOL classes and get employment.

The projects supported under this service are as follows:

ASCENT ADVICE and COUNSELLING

This project is a partnership within the London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium, funded by London Councils. By providing front-line services and holistic advice, counselling, and support, Imece enabled greater numbers of BAMER women and girls affected by VAWG to:

- access coordinated and specialist support
- increase their safety
- aid recovery into independence

The services provided under this project include specialist one-to-one support, drop-ins, specialist group work activities and confidence building workshops. The project has been huge success and work supported hundreds of women and girls in their safety and recovery in London Boroughs of Hackney, Islington, Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Newham, Southwark, and Havering.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;

89% of service users reported that they reduced fear and feeling safety,

%69 of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives,

%65 of service users who feel able to rebuild their lives and move on to independence.

Quotation from Service user

"No matter how much I thank you, I still cannot express my gratitude to you".

ASCENT ADVICE PLUS

Ascent Advice Plus, funded by MOPAC, has increased the capacity of the Ascent Advice services, extended the time services can provide advice to 26 weeks. We provide specialist advice and support to Black and Minoritised women and girls affected by all forms of VAWG as well as support to professionals. Ascent's long-term support project aims to support women with additional vulnerabilities and require longer intervention support. The service aims to reach those BAMER survivors who may have received crisis intervention casework support however require additional support for housing, immigration, safeguarding and empowerment.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;

91% of service user reported feeling safe,

80% of service-users received case work in support health and wellbeing,

85% of service user reported they feel empowered to self-advocate or access services.

Quotation from Service user

"Thanks to you my son and I saw the light and got rid of all the bad people in our lives. We are now able to sleep without being scared; self-sufficient and independent. Your place is sacred and precious".

ASCENT ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES (EHP)

This project is funded by London Councils to improve service provision for those affected by VAWG, with a particular focus on harmful practices (including Female Genital Mutilation, so-called 'honour'-based violence, forced marriage among others. Advice and support offered by the project included accommodation / refuge, emotional support/counselling, welfare and benefits advice, language support, advice around appropriate action to take, risk assessment and safety planning, signposting to other services/professionals, no recourse to public funds, immigration, and legal matters, and outreach including visits alongside other practitioners. We provide this service in the following London's boroughs, Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Lewisham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, and Waltham Forest.

The key project outcomes are;

%89 of people who have a better understanding of the options available to them and are more aware of their rights.

% 92 of people with enhanced coping strategies through risk assessment and planning.

% 87 of people who have improved life skills, helping them to rebuild their lives and move to independence.

Quotation from Service user

'Without Imece, everything would have been very difficult for me. I will never forget your support for me'.

PREVENTION and ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and TRAINING (P&ACT)

The Pan London P&ACT Ending Harmful Practices Partnership funded by MOPAC is a specialist Violence Against women and girl (VAWG) partnership 'by and for' services to provide support to BME women and children at risk of violence; community-based advice and advocacy over 18 community languages across to partnership. We work with women multiple disadvantages and complex needs, including no recourse to public fund.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;

91% of service users report improved feelings of safety.

91% of service users feel empowered and are more aware of their rights and options to enable them to access appropriate services.

91% of service users report an increased understanding of abuse and options to report.

FLOATING SUPPORT - NRPF

The overall aim of the service is to increase and maintain the safety of survivors who are NRPF, spouse visa; help them gain independence through long term support. This partnership, which is run by 11 specialist DA organisations, delivers trauma-informed, wrap-around, service user-led support for those in safe accommodation, across London.

GLA PAN LONDON FLOATING SUPPORT

The overall aim of the service is to increase and maintain survivor safety over time, to reduce and remove harm for survivors through ongoing long-term support. This partnership, which is run by 11 specialist DA organisations, delivers trauma-informed, wrap-around, service user-led support for those in safe accommodation across London.

Quotation from Service user

"It was only after I came to IMECE, I got help that made change in my life. Noone helped me like you did. I feel like I have another sister now. We don't speak the same language and I don't speak English well but if you know how to talk you can talk a lot."

HEALTHY LONDON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS LONDON COUNCILS (HLHR)

Healthy London Healthy Relationships funded by London Councils aims to strengthen schools' responses to tackle gender-based violence by embedding a Whole School Approach to prevention. The project runs in various educational settings such as secondary schools and youth centres reaching to pupils, teachers, and parents to build environments efficiently equipped in supporting young people on VAWG. We provided workshops and trainings to 367 individuals.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;

72 % of participants who can identify the components of healthy relationships.

65 % of participants who can identify at least one warning sign of domestic or sexual abuse.

65 % of participants reporting increased confidence in addressing issues with children and young people.

WOMEN's SAFE ENGAGEMENT and RECOVERY (WiSER)

The WiSER Project is a specialist service for women and girls aged 16+ experiencing VAWG and severe and multiple disadvantages, providing targeted and tailored services to women who have not engaged with support services for an extended period and whose experience of VAWG intersects with severe disadvantage, increasing their vulnerability and risk. IMECE is a participating partner alongside Solace Women's Aid, Nia, FLIC, and Hopscotch.

Top project outcomes and % of achievement reported of this project is over 100 % of service-users reported they are happy with the service they received.

SERVICE USER CASE STUDY

I am a 39-year-old Turkish woman. I married my husband with religious marriage in 2015 whilst I was residing in Switzerland. I don't have any children.

I used to come to the UK to visit my husband often. On one of those visit he prevented me from going back to Switzerland by emotionally blackmailing me saying that he would kill himself if I went back. For this reason, I lost my settlement opportunity there. He promised that we would get legally married but never actually acted on it.

He started being physically and sexually abusive to me, but I couldn't seek help as I didn't know how to. He controlled everything including finances and continuously threatened to kill himself and me if I left him.

He would often say things like; "I will send you to Turkey and finish you there. They'd pick you up straight away from the airport and tear you apart and bury somewhere; no one could find you. I tell your family that we broke up and you left me." I got really scared because honour killings took place within my extended family before. After one of his physical assaults, I ended up at a hospital in May 2022. I was then referred to IMECE Women's Centre on 19th of May by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

I reached out for support, I contacted IMECE Women's Centre. With the support of Imece I was referred to MARAC after the risk assessment as I was at a very high risk of Honour Based Violence as well as suffering coercive-controlling behaviour, emotional, verbal, sexual and financial abuse. The case was allocated to one of IMECE's specialist BME IDVAs who supported me. I moved into a safe accommodation: Staying at Missionaries of Church. This was crucial as my tourist visa prevented my applying to DDVC visa. I was then referred to a BAMER Specialist Organisation who offers specialist Immigration Advice for Asylum. Changing my Tourist Visa to Asylum Seeking was very crucial for me to be able to access services, public funds, and legal aid. I am still waiting for my application outcome. I also got Provision of 50-pound Tesco voucher and Counselling support at Imece Women's Centre".

NMO was explored but due to her immigration status this was not possible to obtain. Also, she feared the possible retaliation from the extended family members, so she withdrew her complaint against the perpetrator.

Imece continues to provide ongoing floating support to SD to ensure all her needs are met and she has a smooth transition to an abuse free life. Risk & Needs Assessment; Safety and Support Plan made.

IDVA Service

Islington Samira Project

Haringey BAMER Specialist

Imece Women's Centre's specialist BAMER IDVA service provides crisis intervention one to one casework support to women at all risk levels. IDVA's offer information, advocacy, and specialist services to increase safety and meet a range of needs – these can include ongoing safety concerns, emotional or housing support, legal options, reporting to the police, help around child contact, benefits, and financial advice.

The projects are supported under this service are as follows:

ISLINGTON SAMIRA

The Samira Project is a Funded by Islington council the Samira Project is a partnership project in Islington between Imece Women's Centre, Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) and Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO) supporting Black and Minoritised women aged 16+ who have been subjected to VAWG including, domestic violence (DV) & harmful practices.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;

39% of service users secured safe accommodation,
69% of service users with improved financial situation
78% of service users reported having better knowledge of their rights & options (including immigration)
32% of service users obtained civil remedies (NMO, occupation orders, PSO etc.)

Quotation from Service user
"I would like to thank you for helping me and my daughter during our bad situation really, I know you worked hard to helping us thank you for your time and you called and your energy you spend on my case.

On the other hand, I want to appreciate the information and advice you have shared and assistance me. Many thanks for your assistance also you are helping me with Councill tax in my previous address and with the home office too I know this is a hard work you did for us thank you very much.

I don't know what I can say to thank you for protect our life by helping us to moved out from our flat and helping us to start new life. Please accept my daughter thanks you know you be part of our family we are happy because of you.".

HARINGEY IDVA
Haringey IDVA Project is funded by Haringey and MOPAC council the Haringey BAMER Specialist IDVA service supports with casework crisis intervention support Haringey resident women effected by VAWG and Harmful Practices at all risk levels. Specialist BAMER IDVAs follow an intersectional approach to meeting the complex/multiple needs of BAMER survivors seeking support.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are ;

27% of service users secured safe accommodation.
53% of service users with improved financial situation
94% of service users reported being better able to recognise abusive behaviour.

Quotation from Service user
"My IDVA reached out to me to offer support. At the time, I thought what can be done if he just doesn't listen, but she empowered me to take the steps I needed to start a new life, a safe life".

SERVICE USER CASE STUDY

I was at my end trying to do the best I can to escape my husband, but it seemed like he would always come back, he would always find me.

He would hit me, he would force me to have sex with him, he didn't let me learn English or make friends with anyone; his excessive jealousy mean that I was isolated, I couldn't make a single friend. He made me feel like I was being watched all the time, especially after I found tracking devices and cameras in our home. At the time he wouldn't want me to even speak to my family back home and he would listen into my conversations with them on the telephone when he wasn't home. The control was unbearable, it stopped me from being able to be me. I feel like I realised too late that he wouldn't change, that he wouldn't be the father he needed to be for our 3 children.

Eventually we did separate, somehow, I was able to call the police and have him removed from our home. This didn't stop him from continuing to invade my home and my peace. He was relentless, he didn't like the fact that I was now trying to protect myself and my children against him. There were times he broke the front door in after demanding to be let. He would constantly call me, harass me and stalk me, would threaten to throw acid on my face or run me over with a car whenever he got the opportunity. He still believed that I was his property, that I was his honour and that our relationship would not end until he said so.

I felt imprisoned in my own home, too frightened to leave in case he was out there waiting for me to open the door.

Had it not been for IMECE I was not relocated to safe accommodation they arranged me temporary Accommodation. They provided me with application and achieved non-molestation order, welfare check/ Universal credit/ Housing benefit application and emergency funds provided for survivor, assisted me via children's safeguarding to determine additional learning needs previously undiagnosed for children, they provided me emotional support, and receiving continued support from language/cultural specialist support. From the beginning they are assisting me in every step.

Advice, Information and Advocacy Service

The Islington BAMER Advice Alliance (IBAA)

Anka Project, MOPAC VAWG Grassroots Fund, Floating Support

Core Generic Advice

Diverse Communities Health Watch

Whole Person, Whole Community Partnership

Imece's Advice and Information Service and Advocacy Service provided free, confidential and specialist advice to women in many areas including welfare benefits, housing, employment, education, training, and health.
The service is delivered in Kurdish and Turkish, meeting the needs of a wide range of women supporting them in a safe, holistic, culturally sensitive environment through face-to-face appointments as well as telephone advice.
Our advisors work extensively with individual women to support securing positive outcomes that can contribute towards them gaining, re-gaining, and maintaining their self-confidence and independence.

The projects are supported under this service are as follows:

ISLINGTON BAMER ADVICE ALLIANCE (IBAA)
IBAA is a network of Islington-based advice providers which deliver support in housing, welfare benefits, job search, immigration, and other re-settlement issues to the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach BAMER communities in Islington.

Quotation from Service users
'I have learnt very valuable information during the advice sessions, and I am very grateful to Imece as a Womens Centre. I felt empowered and supported.'

ANKA
Project Anka provides recovery, resilience, and settlement support, through enhanced one to one floating support and group work to Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) women survivors of Domestic Abuse & Harmful Practice living in London.

Improved health and wellbeing of the service users in adaptation to life in the UK and making them feel that they are a part of the society is one of the main goals we aim to achieve. In this process, we have observed several positive impacts on our service users' mental well-being; for example, the frequency or the intensity of anxiety or related disorders have reduced substantially. They started feeling as part of a community rather than being marginalised. Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life: Most of the service users have reported that they preferred not leaving their houses because they were afraid of not being able to express themselves. We have actively encouraged them to enrol in ESOL courses to overcome this fear. In the long-term, we empowered them to be a part of the community by having better language skills. It will also improve their self-confidence and sense of independence. Increased feeling of safety. Some of the service users felt abandoned, isolated, and lonely due to the domestic violence. The workshops carried out, and the assistance provided by IMECE have supported them feel safe, more confident, less lonely, and well supported. This resulted in them accessing services more readily, knowing that they could have favourable results and, in the long run, overcoming their fear of loneliness, feeling of helplessness and abandonment. The aim is not only to support and empower our service users but also to make them stand on their own feet and to bring safety to their lives. We have achieved excellent results so far, as reported by our service users, who feel safer and stronger.

Quotation from Service Users
'Having a safe space and having someone who listens to me and validates me was something I never had before.'

CORE GENERIC ADVICE
Provides high quality, accessible guidance, information, advice and advocacy on rights and entitlements to enable women to make informed decisions. Service for Turkish, Kurdish, Cypriot Turkish, and any other Turkish-speaking women aged 18+.support, and how that advice and support can be resourced.

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES' HEALTH WATCH
Imece and other 11 Islington-based organisations with collaboration of Islington Health Watch for supporting communities of interest are working together to gather insight by participating in the survey of the Islington residents that our organisations represent so that these surveys can inform service provision and commissioning, increasing equality of access. Projects we were involved in for this year are Cervical cancer screening and Long-Term Conditions.

ADVICE UK MEASURING WHAT MATTERS PARTNERSHIP

Imece is a part of collaboration with AdviceUK and member organisations that advise specific minority ethnic or marginalised communities in London, working together to grow a partnership of organisations with direct experience of applying and developing the Whole Person, Whole Community Approach in their own work. To facilitate this approach, we use communication with people who ask us for help, or getting a fuller understanding of how the advice we give fits into people's wider lives. The approach reflects the values and practices of many of the member organisations: it is fundamentally centred on understanding what matters to people and the communities they live in. It gives very practical ways of improving the experiences people have when they look for advice and support, and how that advice and support can be resourced.

SERVICE USER CASE-STUDY
I am a 73-year-old Turkish woman living with my husband who is older than me, retired and on state/pension credit. I have many health issues. I was struggling with daily living tasks, caring for myself as well as paying the bills. I am vulnerable due to old age, ill health, and poverty. Imece applied for attendance allowance for me. They followed up with my application, made mandatory reconsideration application and turned the decision around. I received extra money. My income is maximised, and I received support with the daily living tasks. I can pay bills which stops me from falling in debt. Now there is improvement in my health, reduction the level of vulnerability and dependency.

Therapeutic Service

Ascent Advice and Counselling

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices (EHP)

MOPAC EHP P&ACT

Big Lottery Fund Partnership

London Borough of Islington (LBI)

Imece's specialist continued to work at full capacity and supported women by offering one to one session. Our counsellors are specialised in a variety of approaches and can offer very effective tailored therapies which are responsive to the specific needs of the users. Imece's counsellors create a safe, confidential, non-judgemental, and woman-centred space which allowed us to explore the impacts of the violence they have experienced, and to support them in establishing a new life. Therapeutic Services delivers these services through the following projects: Ascent Advice and Counselling, Ascent Ending Harmful Practices (EHP), MOPAC EHP P&ACT, Big Lottery Fund Partnership and London Borough of Islington project.
The projects are supported under this service are as follows:

ASCENT ADVICE and COUNSELLING
This project is a partnership within the London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium, funded by London Councils. We provide this service in the following London boroughs, Barking & Dagenham, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlet, Waltham Forest, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Barnet, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster.

Quotation from Service user
"These sessions help me combat isolation. They helped me to learn new things and motivate myself."

ASCENT ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES (EHP)
This project is funded by London Councils to improve service provision for those affected by VAWG, with a particular focus on harmful practices (including Female Genital Mutilation, so-called 'honour'-based violence, forced marriage among others). We provide this service in the following London boroughs, Barking & Dagenham, Hackney, Tower Hamlet, Waltham Forest, Enfield, Haringey, Barnet, Islington.

Quotation from Service user
"I have learnt very valuable lessons during the sessions, and I am very grateful to Imece as a Womens Centre. I felt empowered and supported."

MOPAC EHP P&ACT
This project is funded by MOPAC to improve service provision for those affected by VAWG, with a particular focus on harmful practices. We provide this service in the following London boroughs, Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Islington, and Waltham Forest.

Quotation from Service user
"I am fully satisfied with the therapy sessions I received from the counsellor of Imece, because of her I feel like I came back to life. When I first started with her, I wasn't feeling well, and she made me believe that there is more to life. She gradually helped."

BIG LOTTERY FUND PARTNERSHIP
This project is funded by Big Lottery partnership with Minik Kardes and Derman to provide holistic support provision for those families affected by VAWG, Imece provides specialist counselling to women survivors. We provide this service in London borough of Hackney.

Quotation from Service user
"It was such a pleasure to come to sessions, I recognized lots of stuff about myself and understood the reasons of my thinking process."

LONDON BOROUGH of ISLINGTON (LBI)
This project is funded by Islington Council partnership with Solace Woman's Aid to improve service provision for those affected by VAWG.

Quotation from Service user
" Thank you for providing these sessions. They really help me cope during difficult times."

SERVICE USER CASE-STUDY
I am 43 years old and was born and raised in Turkey. My mother left me and my 5 other siblings when I was 8–10-year-old. My father got married and started a new family quickly after that and left me and my siblings with their paternal grandfather. I had a difficult childhood, I had to take care of my younger siblings while growing up and was angry towards my parents that they left them in a very difficult life. My father was a drug abuse problem and he used to be abusive towards our mother and to the children. I started working when I was teenager, I worked as a shopkeeper, cleaning personnel, waitress etc. I met my husband while I was working for her husband's uncle. I fell in love with him. We have 3-4 years between them. We got married when I was 18 years old. H was using marijuana since he was a teenager. I thought, he would give up once we were married and more responsible, however he didn't quit. After we got married, I realised his family was very problematic and his mother and sister had mental health issues. His family and he cause a lot of problems over the years, I found a way to endure them because they moved here with her husband.
4 years ago, my husband was taken into prison because he was doing some shady business for his cousin, and he got a sentence for 3 years. He came out of prison when our sessions were ending. The reason I started these sessions were, that I couldn't control her anxiety and worries about my sons. I have 4 sons, aged between 20 to 3 years old. They all got affected by their father going to the prison. The oldest felt like he should take responsibility of the whole family although I didn't expose him to. This didn't put a heavy burden on his shoulders and with the pressure of his friends and gang members in their neighbourhood, his oldest son started abusing drugs. The stress and drug abuse induced a manic attack, and he was hospitalised for 3 months. I wanted to get support after my son returned from the hospital, I realised I was worrying too much and couldn't control my anxiety or stress.
We started working on how to find strategies to control my stress and find solutions to my problems. I also needed to develop strategies to find emotional support from her friends. I started to communicate more with my supportive older sister and a close friend here. Through our sessions we also discovered some of my insecurities that were rooting from my childhood. I gained insight about myself and the reasons I became anxious, I also grasped the importance of self-care.
At the end of our sessions, I started to understand my needs and how to accommodate them. I benefited from our sessions, I felt empathised and understood. My self-awareness is higher now, I have a better understanding of myself and how to deal with my stress.

Volunteering Service

Henry Smith Foundation

Imece recruited 52 women from Kurdish, Turkish and Cypriot Turkish communities who were unemployed and wish to build a career in women's and any other community sector in a safe, confidential environment and to gain employability skills and experience in different practical volunteering settings.
As part of their volunteer roles, they they supported staff in facilitating 48 group sessions (Teatimes at IMECE) with our service users.

VAWG Champions: Volunteers received specialist structured training on VAWG, harmful practices, facilitation skills, mental health, diversity, and equality, confidentially and data protection and welfare advice.

Once trained, VAWG Champions organised & facilitated awareness-raising sessions at colleges, community centres, GP surgeries and other community hubs to identify women with risks of VAWG and HP and gave them practical and emotional support. They also assisted women through advocacy and encouragement and enable them to access specialist service provision.

Advice and Information Line: All our volunteers are trained to covered IMECE's Advice and Information Line – our most demanded and highly consumed service, under the supervision of the Volunteer Coordinator. The service mainly worked with women who self-referred. Volunteers completed initial assessments and directed them to the appropriate service. Volunteers also assisted in delivering 42 advice sessions and running drop –in sessions under supervision.
Finally, volunteers also provided weekly Letter Reading sessions (for users with limited literacy skills in both English and Turkish).

Counselling Team Volunteers: 27 volunteers keen to expand their experience in and focus on counselling, had the opportunity to take on client assessments, provide counselling and practice skills gained by their academic education. Volunteer counsellors also participated in counselling team meetings to improve their knowledge, practice and skills in counselling as well as achieving accreditations.

The project supported under this service is as follows:

HENRY SMITH Foundation
The project recruits Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish women who are looking to gain valuable work experience and build a career in the women's sector.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are;
90.5 % of our volunteer cohort have experienced notable improvements in their career prospects,
75% of our volunteers gained employment,
62% of VAWG Champions continued their career development through further education.

Quotation from Volunteers
"I had been volunteering at Imece in hopes for a career change. Being a volunteer showed me that I have the skills to be able to work within an organisation that supports and empowers women. During my volunteering period I was heavily motivated by my supervisor. Through the support, I felt a lot more confident about pursuing my career ambitions. My experience as volunteer has shaped the way I support and advocate women in my current role at Imece."
Volunteer Project

Trainings, Support Groups and Awareness Raising

Imece delivered VAWG and harmful practices, HBV, Dynamic Support, support planning & referral pathway, CCR Level 1 training to a wide variety of professionals including to refuge staff, adult and children's safeguarding, police, and housing staff to increase awareness and understanding in identifying and responding to harmful practices funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

The course covered all forms of violence against women and girls, including forced marriage, so-called 'honour'-based violence, breast ironing, FGM, faith-based abuse and corrective rape.

Analysis of year one of the project highlighted the value in supporting professionals to see harmful practices through a different perspective, giving them the confidence to make decisions. Imece's trainer brought knowledge and experience working with women experiencing harmful practices as well as wider VAWG issues. 475 professionals attended in Haringey, Islington, Pan London this year.

CCR Training, DV and Harmful Practice Training

In many cases, there are no easy solutions to rebuilding your life following abuse. Imece provides support and strategies that can help this process, such as surrounding her with as much positive, encouraging social support through Teatime support group. Women and children who experience abuse often say they felt isolated by their abuser from any outside support. Imece provides a space for women to reduce their isolation, increase their resilience, confidence and empower them through the provision of information using accessible language.

This year Imece ran and facilitated.

- 48 Teatime sessions which 127 women attended.
- 18 support groups in house sessions.
- 10 community awareness sessions which 21 women attended.

Finance and Business Development Service

Digital Inclusion and Social Media Activities
Imece continued to develop and maintain the website by adding three new pages for subscription, donation and 40th Anniversary. Subscription page allows website visitors to get subscribed to receive email updates on Imece's services, events, and activities. 40th Anniversary page includes all the information of our celebration including photos, videos, interviews, and the presentations. It also contributes to feminist collective memory as an archive. The new donation page was set up explaining the many ways of donating to support our work.
After the earthquake in Turkey in February 2023, we launched an appeal and created a separate page for calling people to action. This page lasted active for several months.
The website provides all the information regarding all the services and projects details. All the content was translated to Turkish. The website has been updated regularly.
FUNDRAISING EVENTS
8th March Fundraising Campaign:
We collaborated with Maker's Mark for fundraising on 8th March, International Women's Day. Maker's Mark donated 1 pound for each drink sold between 5-8 March 2023. Our Director Senay Dur attended the campaign event in London and gave a speech on Imece's work tackling domestic violence to UK based female bartenders. Imece and Maker's Mark promoted the fundraising campaign on their social media accounts. Also, bartenders across the UK got involved in the campaign and shared videos and photos on their social media.

10X10 UK Philanthropy Fundraising Campaign:
Our director Şenay Dur and our VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Service Manager Çiğdem Aslan attended the fundraising event organised by 10X10 Uk Philanthropy Ltd.
Million Women's March:
Imece staff and volunteers attended Million Women's March on 4 March 2023. A video from the march was created and shared on social media.
Women's Freedom Ride:
Imece's staff attended the Women's Freedom Ride in London on 5 March 2023. They distributed donation leaflets and scarves with Imece logo on them. A video on the ride was shared on Imece's social media accounts.
SOCIAL MEDIA
We continued creating and sharing social media posts around awareness-raising on domestic violence, types of abuse and supporting women's wellbeing, Imece's services, activities and job opportunities, and special days.
This year, we started working with a Kurdish women translator and sharing social media posts in Kurdish to reach Kurdish women. Also, there will be a Kurdish version of our website, the translator and our consultant are working on this project.
Social Media Network Solidarity Meeting: We contacted social media managers of various Facebook groups on women in London and invited them for a brunch to network and discuss the solidarity on social media. However, we had to cancel the event due to the earthquake.
We have started to create and share more Reels on social as they increase the visibility.
We have developed reaction and cross promotion with sister organisations.

Financial Report

IMECE Women's Centre (Private Company Limited by Guarantee)
Detailed Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022/2023 £
Income	
Grants receivable	**794,434**
Income generation	**3,157**
Interest receivable	**114**
Fundraising & donations	**879**
	798,584
Direct charitable expenditure	
Staff costs	**550,855**
Staff pensions	**8,298**
Staff training & welfare & other expenses	**3,419**
Staff Recruitment	**-**
Health & safety	**1,033**
Clinical Supervision	**8,570**
Travel & subsistence	**1,587**
Canteen & office refreshments	**1,439**
Grants Payable (Partner Expenses)	**80,107**
Rent, rates & service charges	**12,432**
Volunteer expenses	**2,720**
Interpreting	**6,067**
Service-user expenses	**8,201**
Repairs & maintenance	**6,366**
IT maintenance & web hosting	**10,150**
Equipment hires	**2,467**
Events and functions	**6,691**
Printing, postage & stationery	**629**
Publications and publicity materials	**3,618**
Digital Inclusion	**5,058**
Telephone	**8,028**
Membership and subscriptions	**7,758**
Sundry expenses	**-**
Depreciation	**4,444**
	739,937
Management & administration	
Staff costs	**33,437**
Staff Pensions	**846**
Accountancy	**5,880**
Legal & professional expenses	**4,836**
	44,999
NET INCOMINGS/(OUTGOINGS) IN YEAR	**13,648**

Thank you, all our funders who shared, Imece's vision and enabled us to continue to work towards ending VAWG and providing specialist services to BAMER women. Also special thanks to all individuals, organisations, and companies for their generous donations.

L B Islington
L B Camden
London Councils
MOPAC
L B Hackney
L B Haringey
Henry Smith
Big Lottery
ID Relief PRP
IBAA
LB Islington VCS
L B Islington Healthwatch
City Bridge Trust
London Community Foundation