IMECE
WOMEN'S CENTRE
Providing advocacy & support since 1982

Annual Report
2023 - 2024

About Us

IMECE Women's Centre stands against all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). We support and empower Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish women as well as women from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee backgrounds (BAMER) women to improve the quality of their lives. Established in 1982, IMECE Women's Centre is a women-only space.

We believe BAMER women's needs are multi-faceted and interrelated. We therefore adopt a holistic approach to service delivery where we aim to achieve the most positive impact possible by responding to women's practical, social, emotional, intellectual, financial and aspirational needs simultaneously.

Advice Line: 020 7354 1359
2 Newington Green Road, London N1 4RX
info@imece.org.uk
www.imece.org.uk
Company Reg No 4262910 Charity Reg No 1101882

twitter: @imecewomen

facebook.com/imece

Chair's Report

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Supporters,

As we reflect on another busy and demanding year, I am once again reminded of the incredible work Imece does to support women and girls experiencing violence and abuse. Seeing our impact in numbers is always powerful, but what truly stands out is the dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our team.
Imece remains a vital source of support for women, providing essential, specialist services to those in need.

Despite a growing number of referrals and the many challenges we have faced in recent years, our commitment to delivering high-quality, life-changing support has never wavered. We are one united team, dedicated to empowering all BAMER women, with a particular focus on Turkish, Kurdish, and Cypriot women across London.

Our Achievements
In 2023-24, we have:
• Provided direct support, advice and accommodation to hundreds of women and girls facing violence and abuse across the London boroughs.
• Responded to an increasing number of referrals, ensuring no woman is left without the help she needs.
• Delivered specialist services tailored to the needs of women, addressing domestic abuse, racism, and inequality.
• Continued to empower women through advocacy, education, and community support.

A Heartfelt Thank You
This work would not be possible without our staff, volunteers, and supporters. Despite a huge increase in workload, our team has remained dedicated, working together to provide vital services to women who need us the most. To our service users, thank you for your trust in us and for your invaluable feedback, which helps us improve and adapt our services. You are the reason we do what we do, and your strength inspires us to keep pushing forward.

To our commissioners, partners, funders, and trustees, your support enables us to continue our mission. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Imece and the women we serve.

Looking Ahead
While we are proud of what we have achieved, there is still so much to do. Domestic abuse, racism, and inequality continue to impact the lives of many women, and we must remain relentless in our efforts to combat them. We cannot take progress for granted, we must push forward every single day in our fight for justice and empowerment.

I am confident that Imece will continue to deliver this vital service for years to come. With our strong team, dedicated partners, and unwavering commitment, we will keep working towards a world where all women can live free from violence, discrimination, and fear.

Thank you for everything you do to support Imece.

Yasemin Pinar
Chair, Imece Women's Centre

Director's Report

As we reflect on the financial year 2023–24, I want to begin by paying tribute to the Black and minoritised women and girls who have survived violence and abuse. Your courage, resilience and determination continue to shape our work and reaffirm the vital role of specialist Black and minoritised women's organisations across the UK. Your journeys toward safety and justice inspire countless others who are still navigating systems that too often fail to protect them.

This year has taken place against a deeply challenging social and economic backdrop. Black and minoritised women have been disproportionately impacted by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, rising housing insecurity, hostile immigration policies and widening racial and gender inequalities. For survivors of violence against women and girls, these pressures have compounded existing risks, making it harder to leave abusive situations and access timely, culturally competent support.

For specialist Black and minoritised women's organisations, 2023–24 has been marked by significant funding challenges. Short-term funding cycles, increased competition for shrinking resources, and a continued lack of sustainable core funding have placed immense strain on organisations already operating beyond capacity. Despite clear evidence that specialist "by and for" services achieve better outcomes for Black and minoritised women, funding structures have too often favoured large, generic providers, limiting our ability to meet rising demand.

In response, this year has required us to rethink how we use limited resources, prioritise survivor safety, and advocate more strongly for equitable funding models. We have invested time in redesigning resources and delivery models to ensure women facing intersecting barriers—including language, immigration status, disability and poverty—can still access life-saving support. Collaboration with sister organisations and community partners has been essential in filling gaps created by underfunding and statutory service failures.

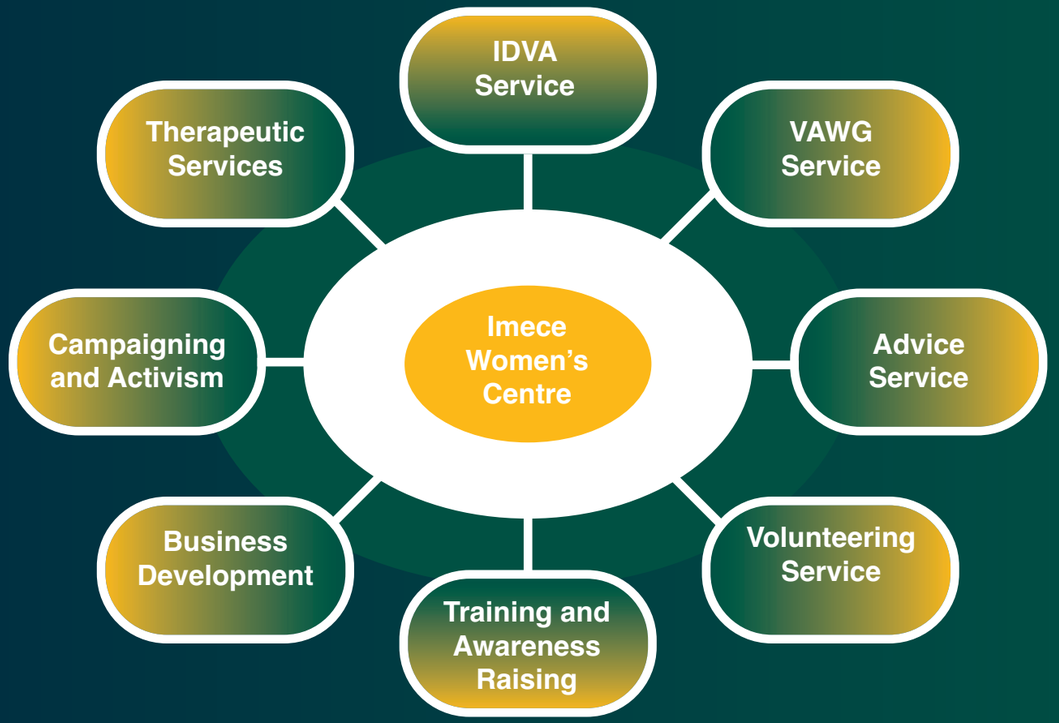
Despite these challenges, we are proud of what has been achieved. Through determination, careful financial management and the trust of our funders, we have continued to deliver specialist support to women and children affected by gender-based violence. Where possible, we have protected frontline roles, recognising that staff wellbeing and retention are critical in a sector experiencing high levels of burnout and emotional labour.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our staff and volunteers, who have worked with extraordinary commitment, often in the face of uncertainty, to support survivors with compassion and expertise. I also thank our Board of Trustees for their leadership, governance and steadfast support during a particularly difficult financial year.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our members, supporters, partner organisations and funders who have stood in solidarity with us. Your belief in the importance of specialist Black and minoritised women's services has enabled us to continue this essential work. As we move forward, we remain committed to advocating for sustainable funding, systemic change and a future where all women can live free from violence, injustice and inequality.

In solidarity,

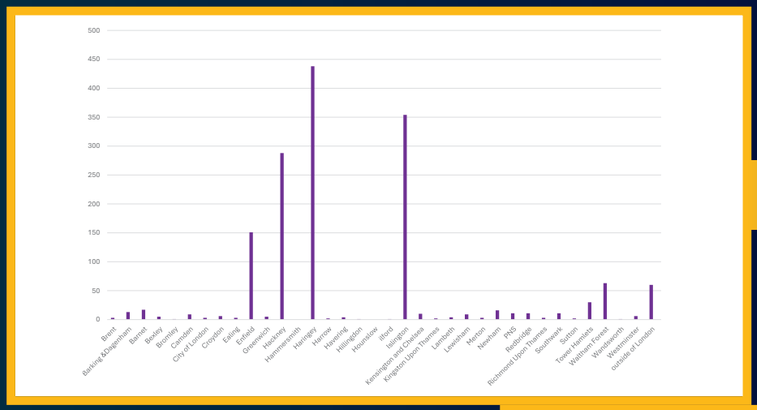
Senay Dur
Director



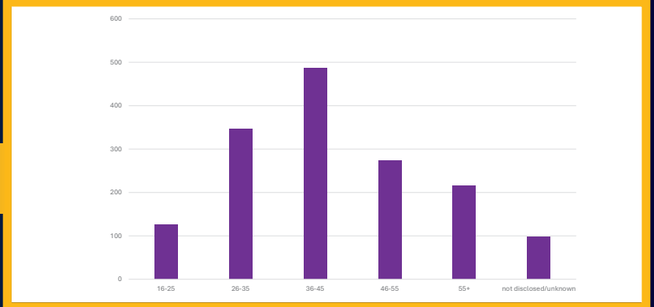
Impact & Reach

- Imece supported **1546** women through crises intervention and case work across our VAWG services.
- **1403** children were supported through prevention, intervention, and case work to across all 4 of our services.
- Imece s therapeutic services have delivered **2649** therapy sessions.
- **3433** women and professionals were supported through our information line calls.
- Imece has supported **188** women with No Recourse to Public Funds.
- Imece Facilitated **10** VAWG trainings to **204** professionals.
- Imece Therapeutic services gave **9** in house psychoeducational support groups to **32** Service users.
- Imece VAWG services gave **4** community awareness sessions to **38** women.
- **48** teatime sessions were facilitated by Imece, **320** women attended.
- Healthy Relationships Workshops were delivered to **280** young people, **356** Professionals and **26** parents reaching a total of **662**.
- In total Imece delivered **15260** Interventions to **1596** unique women across **34** London Boroughs across our **4** services.

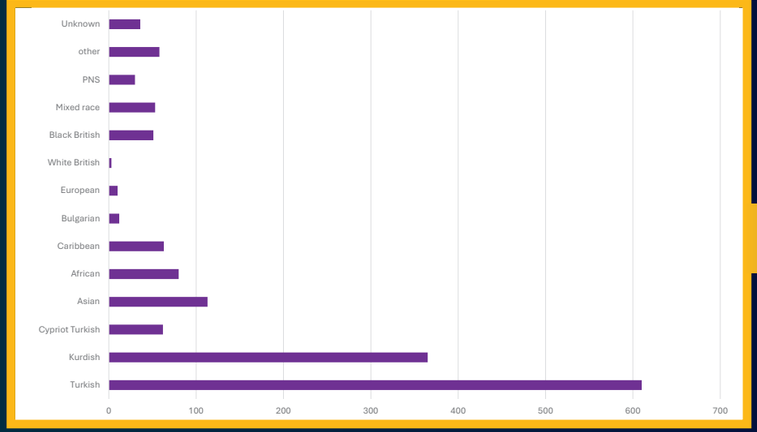
Boroughs



Age



Ethnicity



VAWG Advocacy Service

Ascent Advice and Counselling

Ascent Advice Plus

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices (EHP)

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

No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF FS)

GLA Pan London

Healthy London Healthy Relationships London Councils (HLHR)

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. Imece 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 Imece 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. Imece has 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. Imece supported women and children through safeguarding referral to children and social care.

Imece 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:

94% SU reporting reduced fear/ greater feelings of safety

55% of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives

88% SU have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

Quotation from Service user

"I found the courage to get out of my toxic marriage. I could never have done this, if I hadn't spoken to you and learnt my options and rights. I felt very much supported and strong after speaking to you. Learning my options and rights made me confident enough to talk to my husband and agree on separation."

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. Imece provides 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 Black and Minoritised 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:

87% SU reporting reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation

87% SU have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

81% SU have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

Quotation from Service user

"I could never have done any of the things I achieved if Imece hadn't supported me out of my toxic relationship. I felt very much supported and strong after speaking to Imece. Learning my options and rights made me confident enough to talk to go ahead with separation."

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. Imece provides 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:

92% people who have a better understanding of the options available to them and are more aware of their rights.

88% people with enhanced coping strategies through risk

assessment and planning.

83% SU have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

Quotation from Service user

“Just wanted to say thank you so much for all your support and help during this hard process. I am very pleased with all the support and help I have received from your team. This was a stressful period for me, but I felt that I was in a safe space where my queries were heard and understood and most importantly took into action. I got great news today my indefinite application has been approved, and I will be receiving my card soon. I just wanted to say thank you once again for helping me with all my queries.”

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 Black and Minoritised women and children at risk of violence; community-based advice and advocacy over 18 community languages across to partnership. Imece work with women multiple disadvantages and complex needs, including no recourse to public fund.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

83% People from the protected characteristics report increased safety; feel empowered and are more aware of their rights and options to enable them to access appropriate services.

86% SU reporting reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation

76% 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.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

90% SU have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

83 % People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights, especially on immigration

Quotation from Service user

"... I had just separated from my husband. I didn't have a place to stay. I didn't know what to do in life. A person's life can change completely in 1 year... I'm much better now. I wish to become a better version of myself, to get a decent job, as well as love, health and happiness in my life this arrival of spring. I believe that everything can heal in time now."

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.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

93 % People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights, especially on housing, welfare benefits, complex needs

95% SU have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence

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. Imece provided workshops and trainings to 662 individuals.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

95% (147) reported that they can identify the components of healthy relationships

88% (136) reported that they can identify at least one warning sign of domestic or sexual abuse

90% (139) reported that they feel enabled to make positive choices for themselves

SERVICE USER CASE STUDY

“I’m a 68-year-old Turkish woman, living in the UK with my husband suffering from dementia, endured physical, emotional, and verbal abuse. Isolated and controlled by my husband, I struggled to seek help until I was referred to Imece Women’s Centre by St Ann’s Hospital. Imece intervened by conducting a risk and needs assessment, creating a safety and support plan, and making an adult safeguarding alert to the local authority. Imece also assisted me with a homelessness application, provided essential vouchers and food bank support, and helped me with pension claims. I received counselling and DV awareness sessions, ensuring that I understood my options and rights.”

The survivor faced the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, compounded by her vulnerable situation. Ascent Advice Plus provided essential financial support through vouchers and food bank referrals. Additionally, assistance with securing stable accommodation alleviated the immediate financial strain caused by the crisis. The survivor expressed gratitude for the comprehensive support received from IMECE, highlighting that it was the first time she felt truly supported. Despite the challenges she faced at the age of 68, she found solace in knowing she was not alone and felt hopeful about finally finding peace.

IDVA Service

Islington Samira Project

Haringey BAMER Specialist

Hackney by and for IDVA

Women’s Safe Engagement and Recovery (WISER) Project

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:

96% of service users reported feeling safer

95% again reporting increased confidence in recognising abusive behaviour

78% of service users reporting having better knowledge of rights and options

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:

92% again reporting increased confidence in recognising abusive behaviour

75% of service users reporting having better knowledge of rights and options

28% of service users secured safe accommodation upon case closure

Hackney by and for IDVA

Funded by Hackney council the Hackney by and For IDVA service supports with casework crisis intervention support Hackney Black African and Caribbean heritage women effected by VAWG and Harmful Practices who have been deemed high risk and with current MARAC intervention.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

92% again reporting increased confidence in recognising abusive behaviour

75% of service users reporting having better knowledge of rights and options

28% of service users secured safe accommodation upon case closure

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

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 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

'Imece is my family, the service is so great I have full confidence in you.'

Anka

Project Anka provides recovery, resilience, and settlement support, through enhanced one to one floating support and group work to 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. 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

'I am grateful! Imece filled in my CWQ with such care and skill to the point that I had such a positive result. I have shared and will continue to share my experience with my friends.'

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 Advice UK 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 single mother with health problems. I have a 16-year-old son who has been going through social and emotional difficulties. He completed his GCSE exams but became depressed and left education. My son spends all his time in his room isolating himself from everyone. He overeats demands food all the time is obese and gets aggressive when not enough food is provided, I was stuck and didn't not know how to help him this causes me to be very emotionally distressed, depressed and anxious. Imece supported me by accessing mental health services for my son and he started receiving support from Barnardo's Islington Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH). I was also referred to counselling services with support being given in my first language this heled with my personal development, awareness about the dynamic of my relationship with my son and to set boundaries for a healthy relationship. I was also invited to Imece s group workshops to overcome isolation. My case worker then informed me of benefits that I could be entitled to and then they helped me apply to these being P.I.P and universal Credit. This intervention meant that my income was maximised. I was also made aware that I could come in at any time to have the amazing volunteers read any email or letters that I receive."

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

"I have learnt to accept myself as I am and not to judge myself too harshly. I have gained some of the confidence I have lost. I will miss these sessions; they were very useful. I feel like I am moving on from my pain and past."

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 am very grateful and happy to have received these sessions and hope to have more in the future."

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.

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

"I am sad the sessions are over; they have helped me a lot through a very difficult time. I will always be grateful to my counsellor."

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.

SERVICE USER CASE-STUDY

"I met my husband when I was 24 years old, and we got married in 2 years. We moved to Turkey after the marriage and lived there for 10 years. I could never get used to living in Turkey, I felt the people in our neighbourhood were disrespectful and two-faced. When I gave birth to my daughter, I didn't get any help from my husband's family who were living in the same city and my husband wasn't supportive either. I had to work and take care of my daughter at the same time.

We moved to the UK 6 years ago right after I gave birth to my son for financial reasons, but my husband couldn't stick to any job and because of that i also had to work to be able to cover the expenses. My husband has a drinking problem, and it effects our relationship because of his inconsistent behaviours.

He had always been accusing me of the unwanted things that happened during our marriage. From the beginning of our marriage, he verbally and psychologically abused me by making me feel like I'm not enough and I am responsible for every negative thing occurred.

I considered divorce several times throughout our marriage but never took the step, I didn't want to destroy our family structure. i do all the household work and take care of the children and deal with their school issues. He only takes care of the children if he wants to and puts pressure on me for the duties."

When we start the sessions, she was hopeless and feeling stuck in that situation. She felt like that's her destiny but with the sessions, she started to feel more confident and realized she has other options. She was taking too much responsibility on her, even her husband's father role. She began to let go of his duties and focus on her life expectancies. She feels more confident about making a decision and act upon it now.

Volunteering Service

Henry Smith Foundation

Henry Smith Foundation

The project supported under this service is as follows:

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.

Imece recruited 57 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.

The key project outcomes achieved in this project are:

91% of our volunteer cohort have experienced notable improvements in their career prospects,

85% of our volunteers gained employment

7 of our 9 VAWG Champions continued their career development through further education.

As part of their volunteer roles, 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 volunteers have supported 179 Professionals as well as 1288 of calls to Imece s information's line. Volunteers completed initial assessments and directed them to the appropriate service according to the needs of the persons calling. Volunteers also assisted in delivering 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: 17 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.

Quotation from Service user

"I called the information line as I could not access the building without support. The volunteers were great they jumped straight into action making sure I was safely in the building and gave me a nice warm cup of Turkish tea."

Volunteer success story

A psychology student at a university in London originally from Turkey, had applied to become a volunteer at Imece as she wanted to gain insight and experience with domestic violence and how women of an ethnic minority are able to get support from a charity like Imece.

She began by covering Imece s advice and information line providing interventions via the phone and making sure that all the needs of the women were correctly met. During this time, she had obtained all the necessary regulations and was given 2 service users who she would provide one to once counselling sessions on the phone as there is a rise in referrals for counselling requests.

The sessions spanned over a period of 6 weeks. During this time our volunteer was supported by a member of the counselling team and was also receiving clinical supervision alongside the therapists. After her allocated sessions were completed our volunteer had applied to work at the NHS and was accepted. She has been successfully working at the NHS since.

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.204 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 320 women attended.
- 9 support groups in house sessions.
- 4 community awareness sessions which 38 women attended.

Finance and Business Development Service

Finance Overview

In the financial year 2023-24, IMECE Women's Centre maintained a strong and stable financial position, ensuring sustainability through effective financial management and diverse income streams. Strategic budget planning and rigorous financial oversight allowed the organisation to adapt to emerging needs while remaining resilient in a challenging funding landscape.

Key financial highlights:

• Sustained Growth: Increased funding opportunities and diversified income sources strengthened financial resilience.

• Strategic Resource Allocation: Ensured efficient use of funds to maximise impact across services and projects.

• Sustainability and Stability: Implemented robust financial planning and risk management strategies to safeguard long-term sustainability.

These financial positions were made possible through strong governance, strategic direction, and the effective collaboration between operational leadership, management, and frontline teams. The dedication of our service managers, staff, and volunteers in delivering high-quality support and maintaining operational efficiency has been instrumental in sustaining financial stability and ensuring the organisation's long-term resilience.

Business Development and Digital Inclusion

IMECE continued to expand its reach and impact through outreach initiatives, and digital engagement.

Social Media and Digital Engagement

Over the past year, our digital strategy focused on increasing community engagement, raising awareness, and amplifying advocacy efforts through targeted content and campaigns. By fostering solidarity with partner organisations, we strengthened collaborative action, expanded our reach, and reinforced collective advocacy on key social justice issues.

Key Achievements:

• Launch of Kurdish Website: Enhanced accessibility, broadening our reach to Kurdish-speaking communities.

• Fundraising Success: The "We Are Not Alone" campaign raised awareness and funds through impactful digital storytelling.

• Social Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns: Increased engagement through posts on key issues such as domestic violence, mental health, and international activism.

• Solidarity Brunch (3 March 2024): A key event that brought together representatives from organisations and platforms with a strong social media presence. This gathering fostered meaningful partnerships, strengthened collaborative efforts, and enhanced outreach to women from our community. By leveraging digital platforms and shared networks, the event played a crucial role in expanding visibility, raising awareness, and amplifying key advocacy messages.

• Million Women Rise (9 March 2024) IMECE actively participated in the Million Women Rise march, a powerful annual demonstration advocating for an end to violence against women and girls. Through our strong social media presence, we amplified key messages, shared impactful images, and reinforced our commitment to gender justice.

Looking Ahead

Building on this year's financial and strategic successes, İMECE aims to further strengthen its sustainability, expand digital advocacy, and enhance accessibility for diverse communities. With continued investment in innovative funding approaches and digital outreach, we remain committed to ensuring long-term impact and growth.

Financial Report

IMECE Women's Centre (Private Company Limited by Guarantee)
Detailed Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2023/2024 £
Income	
Grants receivable	**874,861**
Income generation	**58,799**
Interest receivable	**1,015**
Fundraising & donations	**17,418**
	952,093
Direct charitable expenditure	
Staff costs	**614,976**
Staff pensions	**7,999**
Staff training, welfare & other expenses	**11,933**
Health & safety	**3,018**
Clinical supervision	**6,120**
Travel & subsistence	**1,453**
Canteen & office refreshments	**2,220**
Grants payable (Partner Expenses)	**55,868**
Rent, rates & service charges	**17,648**
Volunteer expenses	**6,115**
Interpreting	**3,806**
User expenses	**14,322**
Repairs & maintenance	**16,988**
IT maintenance & web hosting	**10,436**
Equipment hires	**3,664**
Events and functions	**8,909**
Printing, postage & stationery	**717**
Publications and publicity materials	**2,978**
Annual report	**1,000**
Digital Inclusion	**5,385**
Telephone	**8,932**
Membership and subscriptions	**9,177**
Sundry expenses	**-**
Depreciation	**5,270**
	818,934
Management & administration	
Staff costs	**59,336**
Staff Pensions	**1,145**
Accountancy	**6,162**
Legal & professional expenses	**20,195**
	86,838
NET INCOMINGS/(OUTGOINGS) IN YEAR	**46,321**

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

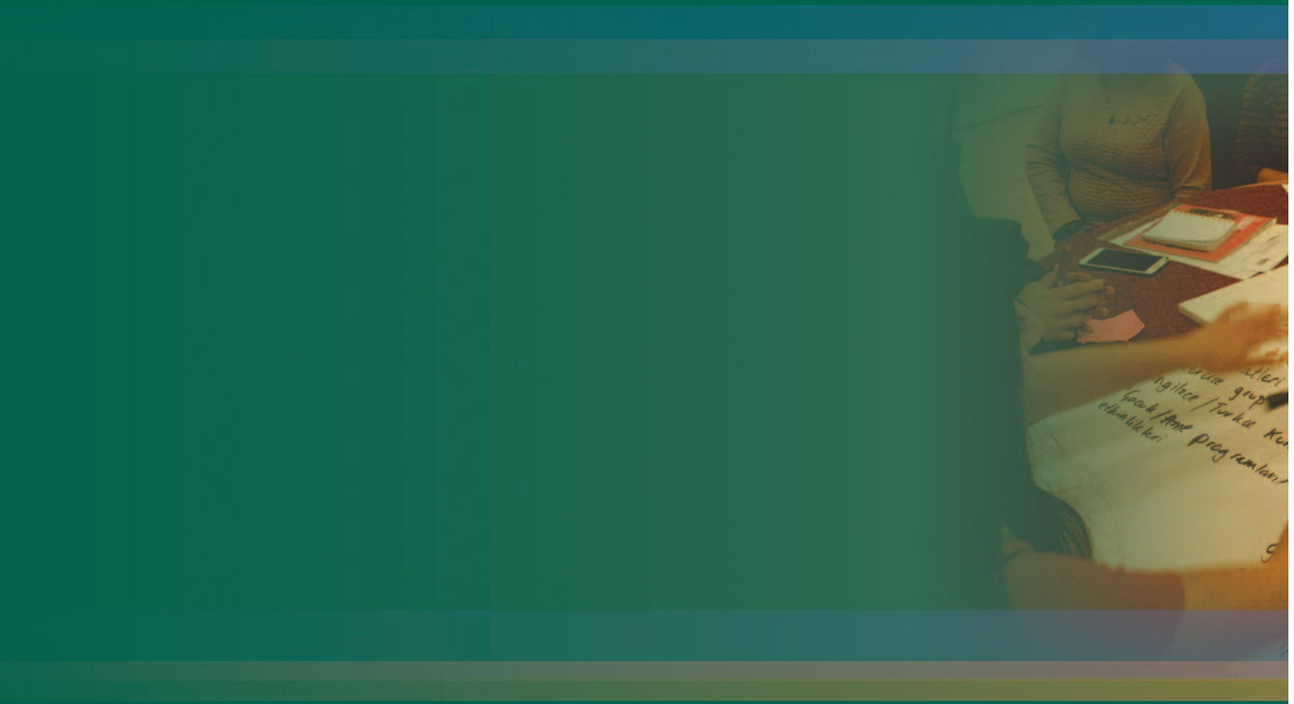
Henry Smith

Big Lottery

IBAA

LB Islington VCS

L B Islington Healthwatch

City Bridge Trust

London Community Foundation