



Impact Report



We support women who are experiencing domestic abuse and harmful practices.

AWRC was founded in 1980 and, in 2025, celebrated 45 years of supporting survivors of domestic abuse to lead thriving, self determined lives.

Our vision

Our **vision** is for women to live free from the fear of domestic abuse and harmful practices.

Our specialist-led, by-and-for approach delivers holistic, **trauma-informed services** that address the diverse and complex needs of Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) survivors across London.

We provide culturally competent, anti-racist services that recognise the critical role that structural racism plays in shaping BME women's **access to safety, justice and support**.





Message from our Chair

As we mark our 45th anniversary, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment, one filled with renewed energy and opportunity to drive meaningful change in pursuit of our mission.

Over the past year, we have continued to work collaboratively with partners, policymakers, funders, and key stakeholders to address the systemic challenges facing our sector. At the same time, we have remained deeply committed to delivering the high-quality services that define us.

Our working model has been redefined through a new Theory of Change, designed to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. This has allowed us to integrate systems and processes more seamlessly, and to empower our staff to maximise their skills in delivering exceptional support to women.

A highlight of the year was the visit from Her Majesty Queen Camilla, who officially opened our new Healing Garden, a peaceful space for reflection and renewal at the heart of our Centre. As she met with staff, survivors, trustees, volunteers, supporters, and friends, she described AWRC as a *lifeline for women*. Her words reminded us all of the vital role we play, and of the lives we continue to change each and every year.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to this work. Your dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts, especially in such a challenging climate are the foundation of our strength.

With your continued support, our commitment remains unwavering. We will keep pushing forward, upholding our values, championing our principles, and providing strong leadership in the sector, to help achieve the transformative change we all know is possible.

N. Patel

Nithee Patel, Chair of Board of Trustees



Director's statement

I am proud to present AWRC's Annual Report for 2024–2025, marking **45 years** of delivering vital, specialist services for Black and minoritised women and girls affected by domestic abuse and harmful practices.

This year, we supported **over 1,000 women** in **23 community languages**, including many with **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**, through holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services. We also launched the **UK's first accredited Harmful Practices IDVA programme**.

Our work is grounded in a **by-and-for model**, shaped by survivors' voices and an intersectional understanding of violence. Through partnerships with organisations such as London Violence Against Women & Girls consortium and women's sector organisations, we expanded access to housing, legal support, health, and crisis services.

We hosted the **Unlocking Doors Conference** to address housing barriers for NRPF women.

While we've made significant progress, **fundraising continues to be a critical challenge**. Sustained investment is essential to ensure that by-and-for organisations like AWRC can continue meeting rising demand.

We remain committed to building safety, dignity, and justice for BME women. My sincere thanks to our funders, partners, staff, Trustees, and to the women who trust us every day.

Sarbjit Ganger, Director

How we support women:



Direct intervention & prevention

We support women to rebuild their lives, and secure long-term safety and stability.



Specialist training & professional development

We work to build capacity and knowledge within public and voluntary services, so that professionals know how to respond effectively to harmful practices and support women with No Recourse to Public Funds.



Advocacy & policy engagement

We amplify voices of BME survivors and issue informed responses to government policies in a way that is equitable, inclusive, and shaped by lived experiences.

Our impact

In the year 2024-25 we have:



Supported upwards of
+ 1,000 women



Provided services in
23 languages



Supported more than
+250 migrant women
who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)



Supported
216 women
via our **No Recourse to Public Funds Helpline**



Provided **emergency financial aid** to

40 women



Delivered training to

116 MARAC coordinators

across England & Wales



Delivered accredited

Harmful Practices Training

to Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

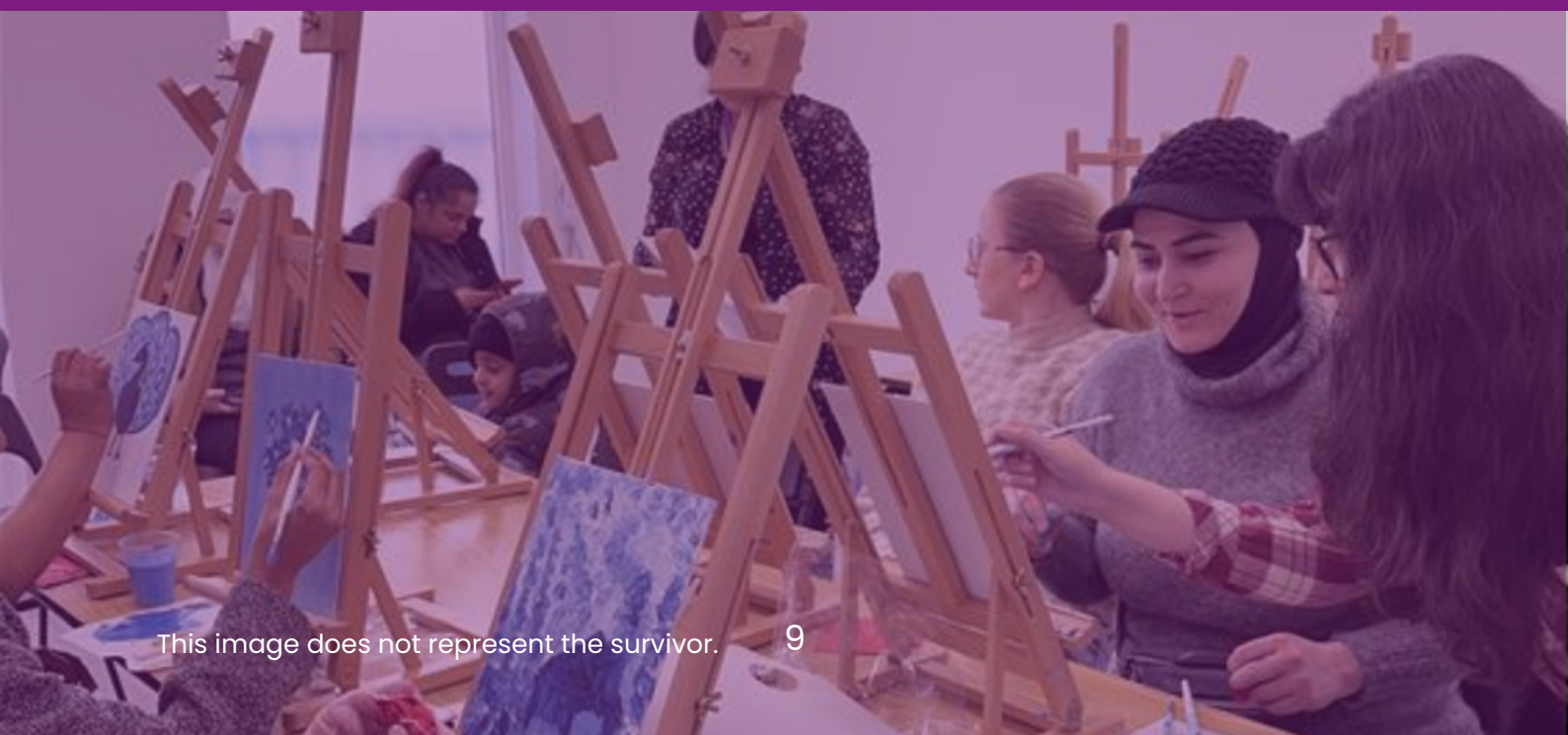
Our work in action

*"After leaving a domestic violence situation two years ago, I felt completely lost but, with my caseworker's help, **I was able to slowly rebuild my life.***

*They guided me through every step, from accessing benefits, managing homelessness, and securing stable accommodation, to getting **support with my immigration status.** Their knowledge, patience, and compassion made a huge difference at a time when I didn't know where to turn.*

Thanks to their support, I am now settled and in a much better place emotionally and physically."

– **Survivor who received support from AWRC**



Frontline services

Our frontline services and partnerships focus on preventing homelessness and providing women with access to safe accommodation, support and the resources they need to escape domestic abuse and harmful practices.

Supporting women with No Recourse to Public Funds

Facing homelessness is one of the biggest barriers to escaping abuse, as many BME survivors have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRFP).

We help women secure safe accommodation, take steps to manage visas and immigration status, and access the essentials needed for a safe escape.

"Thanks to my case worker's exceptional support, I am now able to focus on my future and am thrilled to share that I will be starting university this September."

– Ms H, a survivor supported by AWRC

Tackling harmful practices

Harmful practices are forms of gender-based violence and domestic abuse. In these cases, religion, culture and perceived ideas of 'honour' are used as an excuse for coercive control, threats and abuse.

We offer survivors tailored, trauma-informed support within a **culturally competent framework**, addressing gaps often left by mainstream services.

A Survivor's Story

Ms. B, a 22-year-old woman from Turkey, arrived in the UK in September 2024. She immediately experienced emotional, physical and financial abuse from her husband and his family. She was also a victim of modern-day slavery and forced into marriage.

As the abuse worsened, she eventually fled the family home in April 2025 and was referred to AWRC where her case was assessed as high risk due to threats to kill her.

Support provided:

- One-to-one case worker support to manage her immigration status and financial needs
- Asda vouchers for necessities and financial support
- A comprehensive safety plan and referrals to other support services

Outcome:

With AWRC's support Ms. B was given safe emergency accommodation and her Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession was approved.

"I am really pleased with the support I have received – I can't thank you enough. I don't know what I would have done in this country without your service. Thank you for checking in on me regularly."

– Ms B on receiving support from AWRC

Professional training

Through our professional training programmes, including the Harmful Practice Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Training Programme (HP IDVA), we equip practitioners with a detailed understanding of the needs of BME and NRPF survivors, teaching them to take an intersectional approach and to spot the signs of domestic and harmful practice abuses.

Discussions around intersectionality and how it affects people, ourselves and our clients [...] made me realise the value of reflecting on my own experiences and biases, and how I can use this lens to apply in my own practice."

– Feedback from HP IDVA Training Programme Learner

Providing opportunities

We provide a healing environment, workshops and volunteering opportunities to build survivors' confidence and aid recovery from the trauma of domestic abuse.



Research: Influencing policy & prevention

We work to influence government policy to better recognise the needs of BME survivors, raise awareness of training opportunities and strengthen commitment to providing better support.

"Thank you so much for organising these wonderful workshops – they've been incredibly helpful and inspiring. Through them I have been able to evolve and realise my potential."

– Workshop participant

A Survivor's Story

AWRC supported a 25-year-old woman who arrived in the UK on a spousal visa to join her husband. She spoke very little English and had a one-year-old son.

She was subjected to physical, verbal and emotional abuse by her husband who isolated her from her family and friends, cutting her off from any support network.

Support provided:

- Advising and assisting in obtaining a court injunction for protection
- Enabling access to legal representation to initiate divorce proceedings
- Supporting her to secure safe accommodation through a housing association

Outcome:

Although this took place nearly 30 years ago, the woman continues to have strong ties to AWRC.

“Thanks to AWRC, today I am emotionally and physically in a much better place. And my son, once a toddler, now has a successful career with Goldman Sachs.

The AWRC community helped me to find strength, stability, and belonging.”

– Survivor on receiving support from AWRC

Milestones

This year we celebrated a series of landmark moments with events which recognised and celebrated our achievements and looked ahead to how we can continue meeting the needs of BME women.

A visit from Her Majesty the Queen

On 20th February 2025 Her Majesty Queen Camilla visited our newly renovated Centre to mark our 45th anniversary and to open our Healing Garden, a safe space for survivors to spend time in nature and help support recovery.

The Queen met staff, volunteers, supporters and survivors who shared their stories of resilience.

AWRC Conference 2025

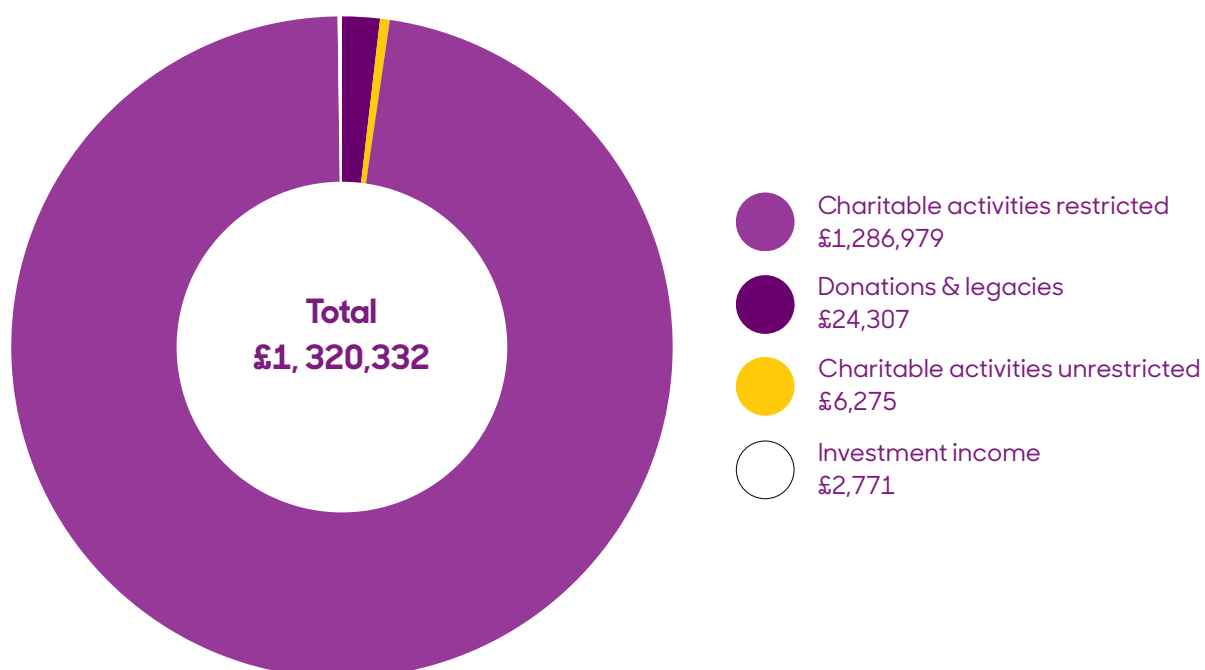
In March 2025, AWRC convened a landmark 'Unlocking Doors' conference to highlight the housing crisis faced by the many BME survivors who lack access to government funds due to their immigration status.

A powerful consensus emerged: no woman should be denied safety and support because of her immigration status.

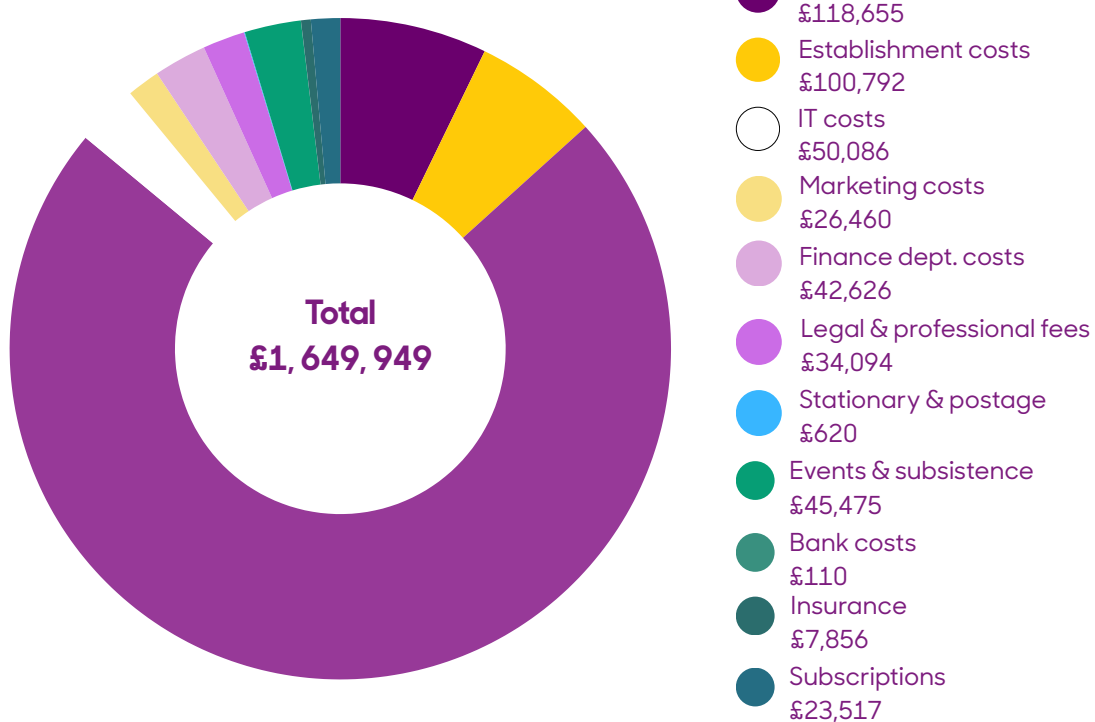


Financials

Income 2024-25



Expenditure 2024-25



Our funders

We gratefully acknowledge our funders for their crucial support to our work in the year 2024-2025.



Our accreditations



Our projects

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices (led by AWRC)

We deliver targeted support to survivors of forced marriage, 'honour'-based abuse, and other harmful practices.

Prevention and Action through Community Transformation (led by AWRC)

A project to strengthen referral pathways, capacity-building, and multi-agency collaboration in order to address harmful practices.

DASA GLA Helpline (led by AWRC)

We provide direct support to migrant women with No Recourse to Public Funds on spouse visas, offer specialist advice, legal navigation, housing assistance, and crisis intervention through our pan-London helpline.

IRIS Project (in partnership with Advance)

Providing domestic abuse training to GP practices and specialist advocacy support within primary care settings across Harrow & Hillingdon, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Westminster.

LHWAS Project (in partnership with Southall Black Sisters)

Delivering tailored support to women with No Recourse to Public Funds, addressing complex legal, housing, and welfare needs.

Ascent Advice and Counselling Partnership (in partnership with Women and Girls Network)

Providing advice, information, and casework to women affected by gender-based violence, ensuring access to specialist, trauma-informed support.

London Whole Housing Partnership (led by Advance)

Delivers a coordinated housing response for survivors of domestic abuse, including access to safe and sustainable accommodation.

Floating Support Services (led by Refuge)

Provides housing-related floating support to women fleeing domestic abuse, helping them to maintain tenancies, rebuild independence, and access wraparound services.

Coaction Hub (in partnership with Standing Together Against Abuse)

We lead in national learning on harmful practices and domestic homicide.



A word from our Patron

"AWRC epitomises the vital and unique role led by-and-for organisations play in supporting BME women experiencing domestic abuse and harmful practice, by addressing inequalities and representing the communities which they serve. I have seen first-hand how women's lives have been transformed."

Baroness Helena Kennedy of The Shaws LT KC



