



SAFETY4SISTERS

**Anti racist, Feminist,
Holistic & Specialist service
supporting migrant women fleeing
Gender-based abuse
under NRPF condition**

Vicky Marsh -
vicky@safety4sisters.org
Safety4Sisters North West,
Zion centre
339 Stretford rd
M15 4ZY
0161 4649505



S4S: What We Do

Refuge & Emergency
Accommodation

Advocacy

Voice and Representation
Specialist Group Work



Policy Influencing Networks
eg DA Bill, Step up Migrant
Women

Local & National Strategic
Development

Specialist Training

PRINCIPLES IN SUPPORTING MIGRANT WOMEN TO SAFETY



- All women have **the right to live a life free of violence**. This is an inalienable right and a basic human right. It is a right to which all measures to address gender-based violence refer.
- There should always be help for those who need it. To overcome challenges to report violence, measures have been introduced to ensure women are treated in a secure and appropriate manner. Informed and impartial safeguards have been developed to tackle impunity and bring perpetrators to justice.
- Women are told by the state **that violence against them is wrong and that they will receive immediate assistance and support** when making the difficult decision to come forward.
- For migrant women who have no recourse to public fund this is not their experience

1) Barriers to leaving:

- Immigration tied to abuser & Perpetrators threats ('illegal')
- Children (fear of social services, lack of info on education)
- Fear of authorities (police , unsafe reporting)
- Language barriers to support- husband prevented women learning English, may not be long in UK.
- Isolation , doesn't know what services there are if she leaves
- Woman never had any independence or been out alone either COO or in UK.
- Unsafe to leave in tight community- surveillance
- Presumes Destitution and poverty & homelessness- nrpf
- Threats from extended family in UK or abroad or to her relatives (mothers, sisters)
- Woman doesn't want to get her husband/ abuser into probable with the HO.
- Heightened exposure to racism and exploitative living/labour conditions, hostile environment
- Unsure of their rights as women
- Shame and isolation from the community

2) Barriers to accessing support:

Immigration;

- services turn women because they think she maybe nrpf
- or because she is nrpf
- or because she doesn't know,
- pr she cant prove it
- or services don't know what her immigration entitles her to.
- Eg Police don't support the woman to leave the house because they don't know where to take her because she is nrpf and have been told no refuge will take her or don't know what services there are there for her

Language barriers

- Police listen to the perp as he has better English, perp talks to the police as woman cant understand.
- Services un accessible in English only

Police & Lack of safe reporting

- Threats from family in UK & abroad , misunderstood/ ignored & police mis read womnes reluctance to report as not needing help.
- Woman fears consequences of involving the police and services don't explain her rights and she thinks they will report her to the HO

Lack of recourses

Safe accommodation

No accommodation for women who are nrpf (if she doesn't have children) and refuges cant take women if no HB

Only one nrpf refuge in North West

BEN has only 4 spaces for women

Services don't know her entitlements if she does have children & is nrpf

Some Refuges reluctant to take more than one "woman who is nrpf " because they perceive her case will be complicated and they don't have enough staff.

Or staff are not trained to deal with nrpf & issues for women

Legal advice & representation

Lack of legal aid immigration lawyers or long waiting lists

Interpreters

Services lack the recourses to use interpreters or don't include it in their commissioning bids

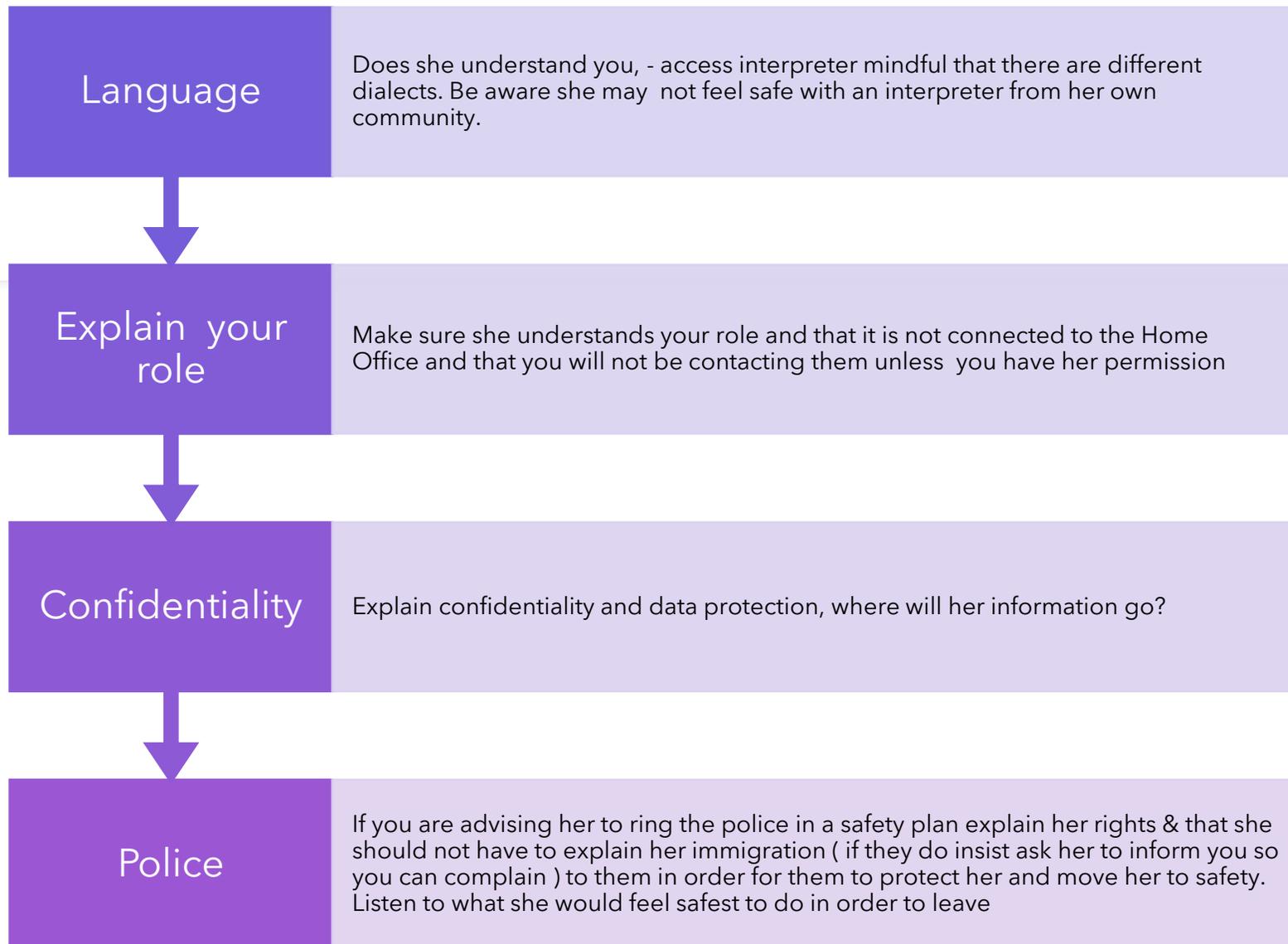
SUPPORTING MIGRANT WOMEN WHO HAVE NRPF

Best Practice

- REMEMBER -She is traumatised and a survivor of domestic abuse and is homeless. She needs safety & support don't let her immigration issues take this away
- She will continue to be traumatised & stressed by the immigration system if she has insecure status
- Remember the effects of racism & the hostile environment may have had or still have in relation to the support you offer and her assessment of her own safety
- Use all the resources you have knowledge of to find her safe accommodation & if you don't, research & network in advance.. so you do -
- **Nrpf is a temporary condition and with support a woman can find a route to moving out of it and it should not be a reason for anyone to go homeless or stay in an abusive situation**



Best working practice



Best working practice

Legal advice

Get her access to immigration advice as quickly as possible, never contact the Home office, don't put in the DDV concession or contact the Home Office unless she has had immigration advice and you have her permission.

Safety planning

If she is in the house and is planning to leave remind her to take her immigration documents or if she cant try and get a picture on her mobile if it is safe.
Be guided by her in relation to where it is safe for her to meet you and give her time to talk about the risks she faces within the home but also in her community or from her COO.

Access to documents

Some perpetrators of domestic violence take their partner's passport and documentation. No one has the right to take some ones documents if this happens you should report them as stolen to the police. The police report / crime reference number is evidence of domestic violence. You must send both your passport and biometric residence permit (if you were issued with one) with your SET (DV) application. If you are unable to do so you must explain why including why you have been unable to get a replacement passport issued

Best working practice

Find out immediate needs

Find out how much money she has on her , she may well be completely destitute, hungry , need sanitary pads, toiletries, nappies .

Clear signposting & safety follow up

If she needs to go to a refuge or other place you have signed posted her to ensure she has bus fare, clear instructions and follow up to ensure she reaches her destination. Better still get her a taxi .
Act as a central point of contact follow up in order to ensure continued safety.

Don't presume

Don't presume she is on the DDv concession or an asylum seeker or nrpf unless you know and have seen her card (wats app photo of her card).

NB: Don't use immigration system against perpetrator

Best working practice

Record & date & questions

Record everything from the first time you make contact- This may be important evidence in her domestic violence or immigration applications further down the line (eg both physical and mental state, her reactions.)

Make sure you get the details of both hers and her husband/partners immigration status or country of origin (she maybe an EEA dependent & have many more rights) and ask when she came to the UK. Does she have children, has she already got a solicitor , is she working, are there threats from wider family in UK or abroad.

Hostile environment & health.

Ensure she is confident to go to the hospital (some hospitals put women off who have insecure immigration who think they will be charged or report by A&E and other health professionals). Offer to help her complete an HC1 form for free medical care

Best working practice

REMEMBER
context
INTERSECTIONAL
multiple
oppressions,
race, class &
gender, and
resulting in multi-
layered
vulnerabilities,
needs & her
responses

Disbelief discourses - genuine/bogus
Racism/Brexit - fragility of the migrant
Social isolation/exclusion /language barriers- poor mental health
Detachment, movement and transition
Impact of violence = PTSD, depression,
Poverty and destitution- NRPF, & homelessness
Impact on children
Access to justice
Further vulnerability to trafficking exploitation and gender based violence

Safety is a right not a privilege - leave no woman behind

- All women should have: Equal access to safety and protection especially to women's refuges -regardless of immigration status.
- Justice - protection should be delinked from immigration control
- Safe reporting



Information links & support

Asylum seekers support

Refugee- [Action.org.uk/project/asylum-crisis-project-2/](https://www.action.org.uk/project/asylum-crisis-project-2/)

WAST - Women asylum seekers together wastwomencontact@gmail.com

ASAP - Asylum seekers support & domestic abuse fact sheet to rights asaproject.org/uploads/DA_factsheet_final_18.

No Recourse to Public funds information;

nrpfnetwork.org.uk/information-and-resources/rights-and-entitlements

No Recourse to Public funds, domestic abuse, migrant women rights:

southallblacksisters.org.uk/no-recourse-fund/

angelou-centre.org.uk/?page_id=94

rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-information/immigration-and-asylum-law

lawrs.org.uk/policy/

safety4sisters.org/s4sguide ; S4S Practitioners guide has page of services & contacts

Immigration advice

gmiau.org/help-and-advice/services/#women-at-risk*

Organisations funded to provide EU Settlement Scheme advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-schemecommunity-support-for-vulnerable-citizens>

Europaia; (Manchester) <https://europia.org.uk/>

Information links & support - European women

European women

- **NRPF Network factsheet: supporting EEA nationals**
<https://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/-/media/microsites/nrpf/documents/guidance/factsheet-eu-settlementscheme.pdf>

CPAG case (Universal Credit and pre-settled status):

- <https://cpag.org.uk/welfare-rights/legal-test-cases/current-testcases/eu-pre-settled-status>
- **Organisations funded to provide EU Settlement Scheme advice:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-schemecommunity-support-for-vulnerable-citizens>

Europaia; (Manchester) <https://europia.org.uk/>

Rights of Women <https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice/immigration-and-asylum-law/>

Aire centre <https://www.airecentre.org/advice-1>

Safety4Sisters Northwest

- info@safety4sisters.org
- www.Safety4sisters.org
- @safety4sisters

S4S REPORTS:

-Locked in abuse, Locked out of safety- October 2020

<https://www.safety4sisters.org/blog>

Migrant Women's Rights To Safety – Pilot project Report 2016

<https://www.safety4sisters.org/about>



'This Is We' - Safety4Sisters migrant women's anthology 2022

THIS IS WE

Safety4Sisters Migrant Women's Writing Collection

This is a collection of writings from the Safety4Sisters Migrant Women's Writing Project that ran during the end of 2020 to Autumn 2021 with many sessions being delivered during the height of the pandemic. This collection is a real testimony to the conviction of migrant women survivors to tell their realities and stories in their own words. As survivors from black and minoritised communities their lives have been disrupted and shaped by migration, gender-based violence, racism, and the hostile environment. They speak of journeys navigating a brutal and cruel terrain of oppression but also of resilience, hope, enjoyment, sisterhood, and a deep yearning for better futures

"It's beautiful to see the voices of so many who have suffered so much, rise up against the very thing that can hold a mind and spirit captive. This collection speaks volumes about the lived experience of women from all over the world. The poems and stories take you on a journey and are filled with their compassion, healing and hopefulness."

Shirley May

£7.99
ISBN 978-1-3999-0854-2

THIS IS WE

Safety4Sisters Migrant Women's Writing Collection



THIS IS WE

Safety4Sisters Migrant Women's Writing

Edited by
Amber Lone and
Sandhya Sharma

<https://www.safety4sisters.org/new-page-1>