



izzy's promise

1 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1EL. Tel 01382 206222
www.izzyspromise.org.uk. Charity No SC033706

APRIL 2010 UPDATE

Over the past month we carried out a mailing to over 400 support organisations in the UK to make them aware of all the services we offer to survivors and agencies. We have provided consultancy for 4 rape crisis centres, a psychiatric hospital and 1 women's aid agency in regard to how to support survivors and how to increase their awareness. Several of these agencies are also requesting training from us. We provided 2-day training on ritual abuse for 15 workers from some Women's Aid organisations and found them to be very receptive to supporting survivors. We delivered an in house intermediate training to 8 volunteers and support workers for organisations in Dundee on how to support ritual abuse survivors. There is also an upcoming training on 19th May 2010 on the subject of safeguarding trafficked and exploited young people in Scotland at Izzy's Promise premises in Dundee which you are all welcome to sign on via our website (www.izzyspromise.org.uk).

There were 6 new survivors contacted us for support by e-mail and phone over the month and all of them are now in regular contact with us for support. 8 other survivors are in receipt of regular e-mail support. 3 survivors have been coming to Dundee for regular face to face support.

We have had several survivors in very difficult circumstances with a range of agencies unable or unwilling to offer appropriate support to meet their needs. There have also been 3 child protection cases one of which led to us contacting Interpol for advice. 3 survivors have gone to police, 2 survivors are contemplating reporting their abuse to police, and 1 survivor is planning to go to a solicitor, while 2 survivors reported their abuse to the police but unfortunately they not believed.

Web sites are currently being updated. The website (www.izzyspromise.org.uk) was visited by a total of 906 people from all over the world. A consultation of survivors and agencies is well underway. We have a survey on all websites, which can be accessed anonymously by survivors and agencies to give their views about what they need and want from services. So far 18 abuse survivors and 34 support agencies have taken part in the consultations. The survivor's message board is being used regularly by 30 survivors for peer support and is monitored by staff and volunteers.

We are well underway with planning a conference for later in the year. This conference will focus on the successful work being carried out by Izzy's Promise. We are in the process of identifying the venue, the list of speakers and the date for Izzy's Promise conference.

Our Newsletter was produced with input from many volunteers and other interested people. This Newsletter is available on the web site and is sent out to over 500 statutory and voluntary organisations throughout the UK.

We recently received additional funding for the Africa project. This project is to raise awareness about the needs of abused people from Africa who are living in this country. We intend to create a training and awareness pack, which we can deliver to others to increase their awareness and understanding. One of Izzy's Promise workers has played an important role in raising £9500 from trusts and charities to expand our support service.

We have supported 3 trafficked young asylum seekers referred to us by agencies such as TARA and LSA in commissioning specialist reports aimed at assisting them with their immigration cases. To continue supporting such victims we have been busy fundraising from trusts and charities to develop a dedicated support service for trafficked and exploited young persons, Asylum seekers and refugees and awareness raising on issues around ritual abuse among Black Ethnic Minority (BME) communities in the UK.

One of our workers is currently offering Swahili lessons weekly. These lessons are in good demand by young people, staff and volunteers. They are open to anyone and are free of charge.

Workers have attended meetings and trainings about volunteer development and are seeking to build quality volunteering opportunities. We have 6 potential volunteers every day who are interested in what we can offer them. We have actively participated in TEA IN THE CENTRE on every Thursday from 6 pm which has been a good opportunity for our support workers to engage with volunteers and service users on a wide range of issues such as equality, diversity, human rights and violence prevention programs.

We are building our paid workers' skills and level of qualifications and intend to put our workers on a range of accredited training courses. One of our paid workers will be starting a Postgraduate Certificate in Child protection at Dundee University, while the other worker will be starting a course on volunteer recruitment and management.

We pride ourselves in the production of resources for support workers, volunteers and service users. To date we have 6 books and a training DVD aimed at equipping support workers with the best skills on how to support ritual abuse survivors. We have sold 492 books and 40 DVDs to support workers, service users and abuse support agencies.

We attended the Cross Party Group on Men's Violence against Women and Children, several network and partnership meetings and we have networked with organisations like Violence Against Women (VAW), Black & Ethnic Minorities in Scotland (BEMIS), End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT UK), Association of Child Abuse Lawyers (ACAL), Fife Rape And Sexual Assault Centre (FRASAC), Trauma and Abuse Group (TAG), The Survivors Trust (TST), Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO), Positive Action in Housing Ltd (PAIH), Legal Services Agency (LSA), Dignity Alert Research Forum, Womankind World Wide Organisation, Extreme Abuse Survey Net sharing the literature on support of ritual abuse survivors and referrals for support of abuse survivors.