

# IZZY'S PROMISE [SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SCO33706]

## JUNE 2010 UPDATE

This month has been one of the busiest this year with even more survivors dropping in for face-to-face support, phoning, emailing and texting for support and with more referrals from other support agencies. We sent out questionnaires and consultations to more than 700 abuse support organisations in the UK by post and email to make them aware of all the services we offer to ritual/organised abuse survivors. We provided consultancy services to 8 abuse support agencies via email and phone. Some of the agencies needed more information on how to support ritual/organised abuse survivors. We were approached by 2 agencies to deliver awareness training on how to support ritual abuse survivors. We have two upcoming training opportunities for people and organisations working with ritual/organised abuse survivors taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 [www.izzyspromise.org.uk](http://www.izzyspromise.org.uk).

Being the warmest summer for years, and with the summer solstice, there were major crises and issues with most ritual/organised abuse survivors. There were 12 new survivors who contacted Izzy's promise for support by email, phone and text over the month and all of them are in regular contact with us for support. In the same month 6 survivors received face-to-face support, 41 survivors phoned Izzy's Promise 643 times for support, 18 survivors were supported via 3007 emails, 7 ritual abuse survivors supported by 2100 texts and 73 were supported via the RANS Message board. Izzy's Promise responded to 643 phone calls, 3007 emails, and 2100 texts taking up more than 250 hours of support time. Some survivors were faced with very serious challenges such as triggers, flashbacks, suppressed memories, DID and PTSD and other social issues.

There is a ghost-writer available for ritual/organised abuse survivors who wish to write their stories and memoirs (see RANS message board on [www.rans.org.uk](http://www.rans.org.uk)).

Our website ([www.izzyspromise.org.uk](http://www.izzyspromise.org.uk)) was visited by 567 people from all over the world, while the survivors RANS message board was used by 73 people for peer support. They supported each other on issues such as triggers, flashbacks, DID/PTSD, suppressed memories and other issues. There was a debate on the ghost-writer, in which many survivors discussed the positives and negatives of telling their survival stories in the form of memoirs to a ghost-writer. People who

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are interested in telling their stories and journeys to the ghost-writer can get in touch via our RANS message board.

During the month of June we recruited 6 new volunteers in addition to the 8 dedicated volunteers that already work hard with us. Volunteers dropped in 74 times, doing different jobs, reading policies and supporting survivors. We have a new volunteer from Poland training young people, other volunteers, and workers on how to make jewellery. One of our workers is also offering free Swahili lessons to our volunteers and staff every Tuesday evenings. More volunteers are showing interest in volunteering with us by phoning.

In terms of monitoring and evaluating our support services, there is an ongoing consultation with service users and abuse support agencies on our website. Feel free to log on our website and take part in the consultations.

We have been busy fundraising to develop our project further. We have applied to individuals, trusts and foundations to bring in money to expand our support services, update our website and the RANS message board. We have also put our fundraising appeal on the Big Give and there is also a funding appeal to all our service users to enable Izzy's Promise update the RANS message board (go to [www.rans.org.uk](http://www.rans.org.uk)).

In an effort to try and respond to problems affecting Black Ethnic Minority (BME) groups, we are conducting a survey aimed at identifying the support needs by such groups. This project is also aimed at raising awareness and developing a training pack for use by support agencies and statutory agencies in understanding the needs of BME groups in the UK. Please take some time to complete the survey by following this link <http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/v.asp?i=22813xeete>. This will take at least 10 minutes to complete and the results of the survey will be used in designing a training pack on BME awareness. The pack will shed some light on the evidence that rituals are being used in trafficking young people to the UK for prostitution and exploitation. This pack will be useful for voluntary and statutory agencies that are in contact with BME groups.

During the month of June we were represented in Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children (MVAWC), the Cross Party Group on The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group, and the Roundtable on Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Scotland organised by Equality and Human Rights

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Commission (EHRC). The round table is part of the EHRC's inquiry into human trafficking in Scotland an area that Izzy's promise is keen in making a contribution in terms of supporting survivors of organised abuse.

We networked with 5 rape crises centres, 3 mental health agencies, 15 BME organisations, 5 anti-trafficking support agencies, 2 legal support agencies, 3 housing agencies and 2 trauma specialists in supporting ritual/organised abuse survivors in the UK. Some of the organisations we networked with are Shakti women's Aid Edinburgh, Black & Ethnic Minorities Scotland (BEMIS), The Survivors Trust (TST), Positive Action in Housing (PAIH), Lily Walkers Housing Dundee, TARA, Legal Services Agency (LSA), Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), South of England Advocacy Projects (SEAP), SAVANA, and Dundee Volunteer Centre among others on support and referral of abuse survivors.