

OCTOBER 2020

INSIGHTS IN BRIEF

**COVID-19
EMERGENCY FUND**

FOR BME WOMEN'S
ORGANISATIONS

ROSA

**THE UK FUND FOR
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

imkaan





WHAT IS THE FUND AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Covid-19 has exposed the depth of inequality faced by women of colour across the UK and exacerbated violence against women and girls in the home – a combination of events Imkaan describes as a 'dual pandemic'. Rosa and Imkaan's partnership fund is supporting refuges and ending VAWG organisations led 'by and for' Black and minoritised women, helping them to meet the increased needs of their communities.

When we refer to 'Black and minoritised women' we're using the term 'Black' in a policy sense. I.e. women and girls who are defined in policy terms as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME).

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: 53
GRANTS AWARDED: 27
REFUGE PROVIDERS: 11
NON-REFUGE PROVIDERS: 16
TOTAL INVESTED: £633,108

We're incredibly grateful for the financial support of donors including:

- Emmanuel Kaye Foundation
- Esmée Fairbairn
- Oak Foundation
- The Indigo Trust

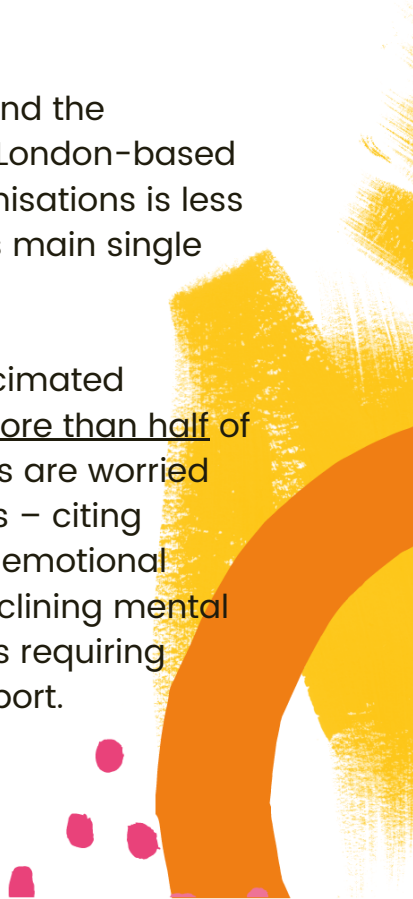
For this partnership fund, Rosa is managing the grant-making process and offering broader grants plus support, while Imkaan is providing a tailored package of support to funded organisations.

Specialist services led 'by and for' Black and minoritised women address the complex nature of discrimination faced by women of colour, providing community-led safe spaces and long-term culturally appropriate support.

But even before the pandemic, these organisations were struggling to sustain funding.

Research by Imkaan found the combined income of 15 London-based BME ending VAWG organisations is less than that of the capital's main single provider.

Covid-19 has further decimated funding for the sector. More than half of 'by and for' organisations are worried about surviving the crisis – citing service users' increased emotional trauma, poverty, and declining mental health as evolving needs requiring complex long-term support.



HOW ARE WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS USING THEIR GRANTS?

"MANY OF THE WOMEN WE SUPPORT HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS, SOME HAVE HAD FLASHBACKS THAT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF FLEEING THEIR COUNTRIES."

Refugee Women of Bristol

RWoB is the only multi-ethnic, multi-faith organisation targeting the needs of refugee women in Bristol. Many of the women and girls the team supports have additional indicators of isolation, including difficulty with the English language, long-term health issues, and a lack of friends and family in the UK.

Funding will employ a new drop-in assistant to encourage women reflect on their experiences of lockdown, as well as access trauma-related workshops and counselling services with childcare facilities.

Many service users also lost their jobs in the care sector during the pandemic. This grant will enable the team to bring in experts from the sector to provide training, with the aim of helping women return to work.

Visit the [website](#) and follow on [Twitter](#).



"THIS GRANT WILL HELP US REACH ISOLATED AFRICAN WOMEN OUTSIDE EDINBURGH WHO CAN'T EASILY ACCESS COMMUNITY SERVICES."

KWISA, Edinburgh

KWISA supports African women and their families, with a specific focus on preventing violence against women and girls – including FGM and related harmful traditional practices. The team's ultimate aim is to enable women and girls to achieve their full potential.

This grant will fund a 'Lifeline Project – A Friendly Voice' to alleviate loneliness and build resilience in women and girls. It will also allow the team to contact particularly isolated women by phone and on social media.

The holistic nature of KWISA's work means funding will also provide basic emergency relief, communications material, and self-care groups to help women and girls cope during and post-pandemic.

Visit the [website](#) and follow on [Twitter](#).

KWISA

HOW ARE WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS USING THEIR GRANTS?

"FUNDING MEANS OUR SERVICE USERS CAN NOW ACCESS ONLINE LEARNING, HOLISTIC THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES, 1-2-1 SUPPORT, COUNSELLING, AND MORE."

Humraaz, Blackburn

Humraaz provides holistic support and refuge accommodation to Black and minoritised women and girls fleeing violence and abuse.

During the pandemic, a lack of IT equipment meant the organisation had a gap in service delivery. Part of the funding has enabled the team to purchase IT equipment and a printer for each of its three sites.

Now, women and girls can access online learning programmes and the children have been able to access online school work. The grant has also funded an advocacy worker and an education worker to support women to adapt, learn, heal and recover.

Visit the [website](#) and follow on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



"IT'S BEEN A CHALLENGE TO FIND HOUSING FOR WOMEN READY TO LEAVE OUR REFUGE, AND COVID-19 IS WORSENING THE SITUATION."

Latin American Women's Aid, London

LAWA runs the only refuges 'by and for' Latin American women fleeing violence in the UK. The team welcomes women of all abilities and from any cultural context, ethnicity, social class, religion, and sexuality and is proud to be LGBTQ+ inclusive.

Funding will provide extra support and legal housing advice to help LAWA find long-term move-on accommodation for refuge families.

It will also help to purchase PPE and cleaning provisions to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in the refuges, ultimately supporting women to move forward in their recovery journey and take control of their lives.

Visit the [website](#) and follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

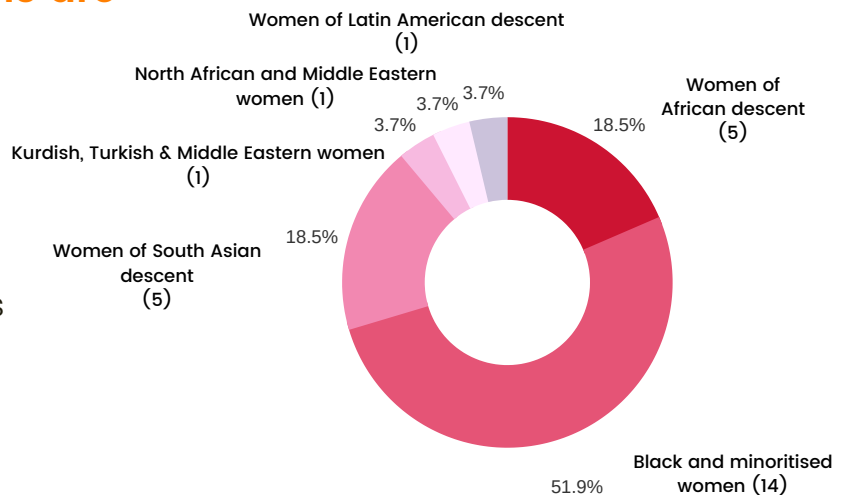


WHAT WORK WAS FUNDED?

Organisations led 'by and for' Black and minoritised women are severely impacted by the increased demand and case complexity they're currently experiencing. This fund provided financial and non-financial support to help these small and medium-sized specialist women's organisations meet those immediate and evolving needs.

Who the organisations are reaching

Some organisations support a broad range of Black and minoritised women, while others target their support towards particular communities. This chart breaks down the different groups of women and girls supported by the funded organisations.



How the organisations plan to use their money

Ending VAWG organisations led by and for Black and minoritised women provide a huge spectrum of support for women and girls in their communities.

Many work holistically and bilingually, and provide support to women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The key areas of work supported by this fund include, but aren't limited to:

-  Practical support, including extra staffing in a refuge, specialist DV advocates, accessing entitlements, resettlement, and translation.
-  IT support, including IT provision for organisations to improve their reach and online services, as well as IT equipment for women experiencing VAWG.
-  Emotional support, including individual, group and specialised therapeutic support.

FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

African Women's Care	Kensington and Chelsea	£14,562
African Youth Development Association	Croydon	£7,302
Anah Project	Bradford	£34,922
The Angelou Centre	Newcastle upon Tyne	£33,893
Apna Haq	Rotherham	£18,748
Baobab Women's Project C.I.C.	Birmingham	£20,000
Granby Somali Women's Group	Liverpool	£20,000
Halo Project	Middlesbrough	£26,600
Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid	Glasgow City	£20,000
Humraaz	Blackburn with Darwen	£32,344
Kiran Support Services	Waltham Forest	£35,000
KWISA	City of Edinburgh	£19,000
Latin American Women's Aid Refuge	Hackney	£34,900
Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation	Islington	£19,968
Nottingham Muslim Women's Network	Nottingham	£19,703
Panahghar	Coventry	£34,250
Phoebe	Ipswich	£20,000
Refugee Women of Bristol	Bristol, City of	£15,142
Rochdale Womens Welfare Association	Rochdale	£18,750
Roj Women Association	Haringey	£19,880
Roshni Birmingham	Birmingham	£31,470
Saheli	Manchester	£34,890
Shakti Women's Aid	City of Edinburgh	£35,000
The Sharan Project	Westminster	£19,492
Sistah Space	Hackney	£20,000
Sister System	Haringey	£7,292
Utulivu Women's Group	Reading	£20,000

LOOKING FORWARDS

As Imkaan has consistently stated, "the effect of VAWG is cumulative, it will require sustainable long-term resourcing for the specialist Black and minoritised women's sector to address the immediate and long-term consequences of the two pandemics."

The need for this fund cannot be overstated. We're therefore continuing to listen to the sector and mobilise resources, with the aim of helping organisations to adapt and increase their provision in the long-term.